

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nurturing Freedom: a Multi-Faith Seder at GJC Unites the Community

Philadelphia, PA

April 2, 2017

At the beginning of the biblical book of Exodus, a remarkable alliance of women arises to save the life of the infant Moses and ultimately to redeem the people of Israel from bondage. This alliance consists of the disempowered and the powerful, Egyptians and Hebrews, political adversaries turned fellow conspirators. All three Abrahamic traditions recount this remarkable collaboration among women—the Hebrew midwives; Moses's mother and his sister; and Pharaoh's daughter or wife. It is an extraordinary tale of female heroism and cooperation, of the maternal spirit triumphing over ancient Egypt's religion of death. At a time when the three Abrahamic communities struggle to live side by side in peace, it is essential that we remind ourselves of how much we share in common.

Just prior to Passover, Easter, and Ramadan, Germantown Jewish Centre, in partnership with the Women's Sacred Music Project, brings together members of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities in Northwest Philadelphia to focus on the ways in which these different faith traditions imagine the genesis, development, and spread of freedom. The event begins with a performance and discussion of a new chamber work, "Mothers of Moses," a 20-minute piece (music by René Orth, libretto by GJC member Ellen Frankel), which explores the stories from different faith traditions surrounding the birth and saving of Moses by women. The chamber piece will be followed by a panel discussion and Seder, a structured meal-and-conversation, during which participants will discuss and eat foods that symbolize both oppression and freedom. Germantown Jewish Centre is pleased to welcome Rev. Gregory Holston (New Vision United Methodist Church), Rev. Robin Hynicka (Arch Street United Methodist Church), S. Zakiya Hasna Islam (Women's Sacred Music Project), Rev. Jarrett Kerbel (Church of St. Martin-in-the-Field), and Rev. Amy Yoder McGloughlin (Germantown Mennonite Church), who will lead the panel discussion and parts of the Seder with GJC's Rabbi Adam Zeff. We will end by taking on new commitments to act for freedom in our own lives and the life of our communities. The piece will celebrate women's voices and activism, as well as interfaith cooperation.

Nurturing Freedom will be held on Sunday, April 2nd from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Kate Lawn at 215-844-1507.

Germantown Jewish Centre is a diverse and welcoming community that celebrates Jewish tradition in innovative and exciting ways, and embraces multiracial, interfaith and LGBTQ families and individuals. GJC is located at 400 W. Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

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