

WOMEN FOR WOMEN

“Together we make a difference”

To the Women of NSTE

We are about to launch our NSTE “Women For Women” Group and we would love it if all of you could come. We have many plans for the coming year and we are sure you will find it interesting and rewarding.

An initial group of women from the congregation have established the Goals, Objectives and Strategies of our group. As we grow and develop we shall be flexible in our initiatives this according to needs and interests of our members

Goals

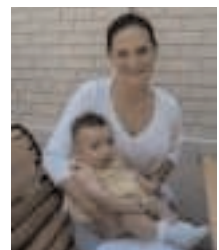
To create a strong, vibrant, community of Jewish women who shall encourage one another towards self-discovery through education and activity, soul and spirit

Objectives

- Create awareness of the establishment of NSTE “Women For Women” Group
- Collect data from women on their interest and what they wish to pursue through the group
- To increase awareness of faith, community and self
- To widen our knowledge on national and international events and phenomena that touch our lives daily
- To participate in activities that are of interest to the women of the group
- To widen social interaction between Jewish women across age groups, social class and geographical regions
- To create a “Caring Community” of our women to support one another in times of joy and sorrow
- Create Mentoring program – external and internal for those that are interested; mentoring one another and others in our fields of strength
- Create smaller optional groups dealing with subject matters needing action by volunteer groups within our community of women
- To reach out to others in our community and beyond
- To be dynamic and flexible as women’s needs and circumstances change

Strategies - 2007/2008

- Plan and run an initial series of 8 seminars considering “Spirituality and Mysticism in Religion - A Comparative Study of Women’s Perspective in Religions in Reflection to Judaism”
- Subsequent to the first event initiate a survey of interests through written survey (given to fill out at facilitated meeting) and facilitation



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- Adopt project approach cycle to meetings; e.g. “Spiritualism and Mysticism in Religions”, “Mentor a Woman” mentoring workshop. “Women in Jewish History and Their Effect on our Life”, “I am Woman- what does it mean?”
- Plan two events for 2008 to enable bonding - fun, carefree, interesting for the soul and the body e.g. a women’s seder, women’s life style day
- Establish internal mentor/mentored groups from those that show interest e.g. mentoring on Jewish way of life, kosher cooking etc. Establish external mentor/mentees groups by finding organizations who use mentors to help its population e.g. refugee women, young mothers in need etc.
- Establish an interfaith volunteer group to research and make recommendations on social issues affecting women living in different cultural/religious environments
- Meet at least once a month (except in first project which shall be once every two weeks)



We have many plans, projects and initiatives for the 2007/2008 the first of these a very exciting and interesting seminar:

“Spirituality and Mysticism in Religion - A Comparative Study of Women’s Perspective in Religions in Reflection to Judaism”

It begins on October 17, 2007 and runs for 9 sessions once every two weeks. Join us it will be interesting, social and thought provoking

Day: Wednesdays

Time: 7.00p.m. – 9.00 p.m.

Where: North Shore Temple Emanuel

Facilitator: Angela Budai

Agenda:

17 October – What is Spirituality? Speaker Avril Alba Director of Education Sydney Jewish Museum

Spirituality - what does it mean to us personally? Facilitation, Conversation and Reflection

31 October - Buddhist Spirituality and Mysticism – Tibetan Buddhist Nun - Ngawang Yangdon and fellow Tibetan leader - Tenpa Dugdak

Facilitation, Conversation and Reflection

14 November – Sparks from the Zohar: An Intro to the classical Kabala and the feminine aspect of the divine. –Merav Carmeli

Facilitation, Conversation and Reflection



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28 November - Muslim Spirituality and Mysticism – Makiz Ansari from the Affinity Group

Muslim Spirituality - Mahboba Rawi founder of Mahboba's Promise

6 February 2008 - “All is Contained Within - Torah as you have never heard it before” - Donna Jacobs Sife – Story Teller, teacher, performer, writer and contemporary interpreter

Facilitation, Conversation and Reflection

20 February – Christian Spirituality and Mysticism – Geraldine Doogue - Australian journalist

and broadcaster – presenter of ABC television program Compass

Facilitation and Conversation and Reflection

5-March - Hindi Spirituality and Mysticism – Hindi lady from the Hare Rama Krishna Temple (TBA)

Facilitation and Conversation and Reflection

19th March - Yoga and Meditation (Bring your mats and comfortable clothes)

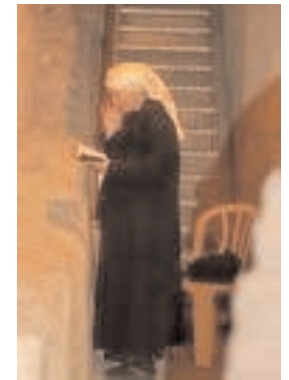
Facilitation and Conversation and Reflection

2-April – Multicultural Dinner

Come join us on our journey by attending this series and future events. For more information and biographies of our speakers please go to the NSTE website

Join “Women For Women”.

To register please call our office at 9419 7011



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BIOS OF SPEAKERS

Angela Budai

Angela Budai has an honours degree in Political Economics from the University of Sydney and works for the Finance Sector Union in a mentoring and training role. She is also a registered civil marriage and funeral celebrant, specialising in interfaith ceremonies. Angela has been an actively involved member of the North Shore Temple Emanuel since 1988, and is a member of the Jews for Social Action committee (JSA). Angela has almost 8 years of professional experience facilitating group discussions, and significantly more experience with informal facilitation through student organisations including Netzer.



Avril Alba

Avril is the Director of Education at the Sydney Jewish Museum. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons)/ Bachelor of Music from Adelaide University and a Masters in Comparative Religion from Harvard University. She teaches for the Melton and MOSAIC programs, and the Depts. of Jewish, Biblical and Hebrew Studies and Continuing Education at Sydney University. She is currently pursuing a doctorate at Sydney University in the History and Jewish Studies. Avril is particularly interested in the issues involved in commemoration, commemorative spaces and the connection between commemoration and activism. Her work at the Museum allows for both theoretical and practical research in all these areas.



Ngawang Yangdon

Ngawang Yangdon was born in Tibet and at the age of 14 took a vow and became nun. She practices Tibetan Buddhism since then. She participates in a peaceful protest against China oppression in 1991 and got arrested and sentenced to 3 years term. But she was released after a week because she was unconscious after a beating.

She could not go back to nunnery because of her peaceful protest and it made her life very hard. She escaped to India in order to get her religious education in 1993. She studied Buddhism extensively since then. She was sent to Australia in 2005 on Humanitarian Visa. She is very happy to be in Sydney.



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Tenpa Dugdak (the one special man we are letting into our forum)

Tenpa Dugdak was born in Tibet; he escaped when he was baby with his mum. She carried him over the Himalayas for a month. He studied in a Tibetan school in India. He migrated here with his family in 2002. He is currently studying community welfare and work as a community health worker for Multicultural department. He has also actively involved in raising awareness on Tibet and organised many peaceful protest.

He would like to let other people know about Tibet's struggle that is based on love, compassion, non-violence and peaceful. He is also elected in the Tibetan Community Committee recently.

Tenpa is assisting Ngawang with her presentation because of her English is not as fluent as she likes.



Merav Carmeli

Merav Carmeli has a Masters degree in Jewish Thought from the Hebrew Univeristy of Jerusalem. She teaches with Darsheini - the community-learning program of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University. She is currently working with Prof. Daniel Matt as manuscript editor on the Zohar translation project. She is also a birth attendant and mother of two.



Makiz Ansari

Makiz Ansari was born in Afghanistan in 1980. Leaving Afghanistan at the age of 8, she along with her family moved to India and lived there for 5 years. She came to Australia in 1994 and has grown and educated here in Sydney ever since.

Makiz has her bachelor's degree in Political Economy and Government & International Studies from Sydney University. She has also taught high school students and is currently undertaking her Masters of teaching from Sydney University.

She is a Director and an Executive member of Affinity Intercultural Foundation and has been socially active in this area of interfaith and intercultural dialogue since 2003. She has been part of many interfaith projects and spoken on different occasions regarding Islam.

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Geraldine Doogue

Geraldine Doogue is a renowned Australian journalist and broadcaster. During her career she has won two Penguin Awards and a United Nations Media Peace Prize. Quite aside from her role in print media and broadcasting, her personal involvement in ethical, spiritual and religious issues is extensive, and ranges from talks on spirituality in pubs to major involvement in conferences for large corporations.

Geraldine was thrilled when she joined **Compass** back in 1998 - and has since been tackling issues often left unaddressed. 'I believe there are gaps in the media's attention on many issues today' she says. '**Compass** recognises those gaps will focus not only on religion and faith, but in the changing focus of many people from economics and technology, to values, morality, and their spiritual growth.'

With a unique approach - making complex issues accessible - Geraldine tackles subject matters with an infectious optimism, humour and warmth. She also currently presents on ABC Radio National.



Mahboba Rawi

Mahboba Rawi is the founder of Mahboba's Promise*, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the women and children of Afghanistan.

Mahboba's life changed forever when the Russians invaded Afghanistan when she was a schoolgirl. In 1984 she was forced to flee Kabul after leading a student demonstration and she walked for ten days over the Kyber Pass to escape the threat of imprisonment. Mahboba lived for two years in a Pakistan refugee camp. As a teenager she married and moved to Australia and settled into the Australian way of life. Further tragedy touched her life in 1992 when she lost her son in a drowning accident at Kiama's blowhole on the NSW coast.

Despite personal hardship, Mahboba began to successfully raise money and awareness among the Australian community for the plight of widows and orphans in Afghanistan.

*Mahboba's Promise is an Australian non-profit voluntary organisation dedicated to the women and children of Afghanistan.

Mahboba's Promise runs projects in several provinces in Afghanistan. Being small and having Mahboba's knowledge of the language and culture, the organisation has been able to respond quickly and with flexibility to meet the needs of widows and children disenfranchised by the decades of war and civil unrest, which have ravaged Afghanistan.



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Donna Jacobs Sife has been involved with Judaism as a teacher, performer, writer and contemporary interpreter with regards to creative, spiritual and ritualistic expression for 20 years. She was regular columnist for the Australian Jewish News for several years, and as one of Australia's leading storytellers, has built a considerable reputation upon her multi-cultural and inter-religious position, and her natural capacity to bridge difference. Her work has taken her from the Woodford Folk Festival, to the United Nations Peace Conference, from the Shalom Institute to the Stern Yeshiva in New York.

