

# The Kitchen

Imagine a place. . .

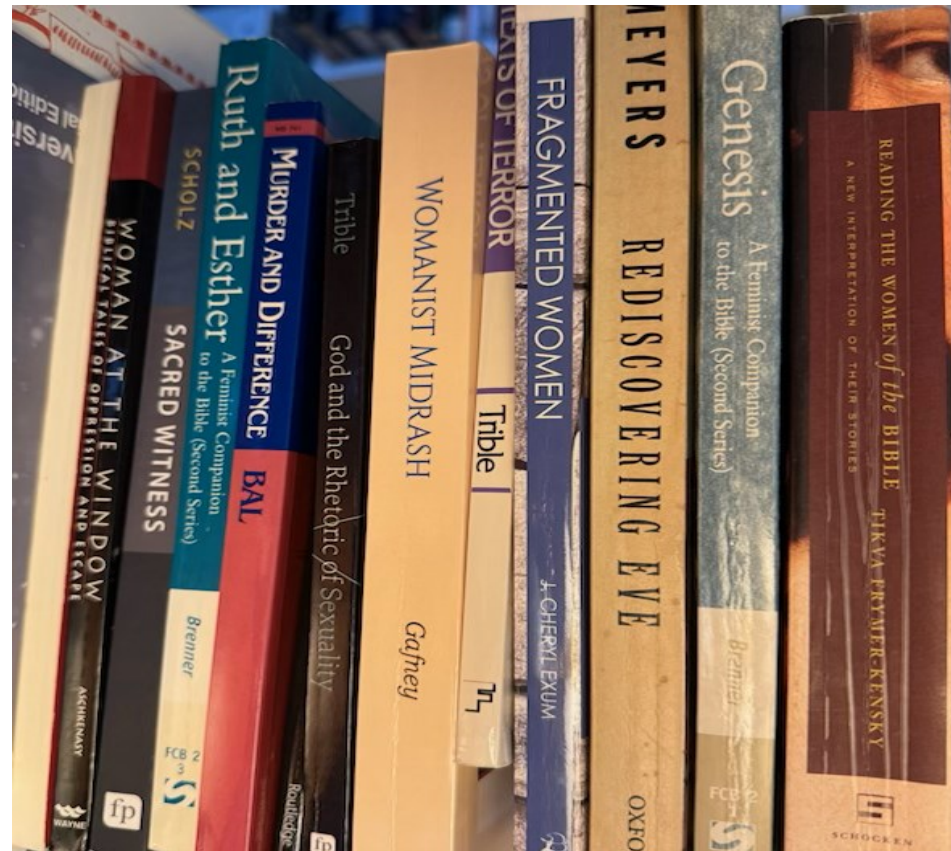
- \* Committed to nurturing community, comfort, and caring; a place that brings together all the right ingredients to nourish your mind, body and spirit;
- \* Centering compassion, collaboration and a life-affirming ethic, where we can learn together how to cook, eat, think, and live more healthfully;
- \* Rooted in the OYR community that connects with and influences the quality of life for area residents through exchanging ideas and serving-up food for thought;
- \* Open to individuals from all faith traditions where you can explore a menu of mindfulness practices, savor new insights, and experience personal growth.

That place is **The Kitchen** at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel.

## A Woman's Place Text Study

Women's voices are often silenced or missing in Jewish texts, or women occupy a space of derision: Sarah "laughed" when she hears she will have a child, Rebecca is deceptive, Rachel steals the household idols, Leah has "weak" eyes. Worse yet, women are raped (Dinah and Tamar), murdered (the *pilegesh* in Judges), offered up for sexual assault (Lot's virgin daughters), and acquired as spoils of war. In order to understand these texts we will reread them through the eyes of women with the insight of feminist scholars who help us to make sense of our present condition and imagine a future in which men and women are partners seeking to achieve the justice our *Torah* espouses.

Our sessions are held on *Rosh Chodesh* (new moon) each month, a time that traditionally has been sacred to women. Each session will include a reading from *Tanakh* and commentary by a feminist scholar. We began with the story of Eve, who in effect, is Every-woman because the negative interpretations of her behavior have impacted all women. Our study has continued, focusing on Hagar, Rahab, Bathsheba, Yael and more.



*"If one of the ways we understand our gendered present is to trace the long cultural history that produced it, it behooves us to strive continually, despite the constraints of inadequate sources, to learn as much as we can about gender in the biblical past."*

Carol Meyers

Rediscovering Eve

## What Participants Are Saying

"I liked that we had a discussion after the readings. It made the material easier to remember and also allowed for more reflection."

"Being with other 'like-minded' women feels very comfortable! I think everyone communicated in some way!"

"Learning about my religion is fascinating!"

"It was painful and difficult to read, but it was necessary. I recognize the big job you did in preparation of this class, and I am grateful."

"Always enlightening to learn about the lives of women in ancient times and make comparisons to our life experiences today."

"Learning the lovely English words are not necessarily the true meaning of the Hebrew! You are blowing my mind!"

"Realizing the parallels between the text and modern society is most valuable part."

## Meeting Dates 2024—2025

11/1/2024 at 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan**, "Women and the Law I: Tamar and Judah"

12/2/2024 at 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Kislev**, "Women and the Law II: The Sotah in the Book of Numbers"

1/2/2025 at 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Tevet**, "Wise Women in the Book of 2nd Samuel"

1/30/2025 at 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat**, "All About Dinah- Red Tent Redux"

2/28/2025 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Adar**, "Queens Virtuous and Vilified I - Esther"

3/31/2025 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Nisan**, "Queens Virtuous and Vilified - Jezebel, Athalia, and Makeda of Sheba"

4/28/2025 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Iyyar**, "Texts of Terror I - Pilegish in the Book of Judges"

5/28/2025 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Sivan**, "Texts of Terror II - Jephthah's Daughter"

6/26/2025 2:00 pm

**Rosh Chodesh Tamuz**, "Texts of Terror III - Cozbi and the Midianite Women"

## Access Our Shared Drive



## RSVP for Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat

