WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Nov. 1, 2016) – Judith Perkins, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Foreign Languages/Humanities at the University of Saint Joseph, will hold a talk on her essay included in Early Christian and Jewish Narrative: The Role of Religion in Shaping Narrative Forms on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016. A compilation of essays based on groundbreaking research, the publication offers varying viewpoints that illuminate the relationship between narrative and religion and reveal the manner in which religious concerns and agendas shaped narrative forms in Judaism and early Christianity.

Perkins will discuss her comparison between the social message in the Apocryphal Acts of Thomas and that offered in Philostratus’ Life of Apollonius of Tyana. Apollonius, a famous first-century Greek Pythagorean holy man, was a formidable-enough opponent to merit a rebuttal by the famous Christian historian Eusebius of Caesarea in the late third-century – although this too is disputed. Perkins will explain what these so-called apocryphal texts can reveal about the social and religious views of early Christians.

The program will take place from 3-4 p.m. in the Crystal Room, Mercy Hall and will include a talk and reception. Books are available for purchase at the University of Saint Joseph Bookstore. The event is free of charge and open to the public, but please RSVP to allow the staff to plan accordingly. For more information, please contact Christina Flood at cflood@usj.edu or 860.231.5888.

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