



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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JUDITH PERKINS, PH.D., BOOK TALK AND RECEPTION FOR *EARLY CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH NARRATIVE: THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN SHAPING NARRATIVE FORMS*



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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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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