

AMRAM SCHOLAR SERIES

Thought-Provoking Programs for the WHC Community



Jewish Writers from the Former Soviet Union the Focus of Amram Scholar Series Programs with Professor Jacques Berlinerblau

Sunday, February 5, 10:30am at Temple

**Wednesday evenings, February 15, 29
and March 7, 7:00pm at Temple**

With rise of “immigrant lit” in the past decade, three talented young writers, all refugees from Communism – and anti-Semitism – have burst upon the American literary scene. All examine their newfound American co-religionists with a good deal of curiosity and humor. All juxtapose the Judaism of the Iron Curtain with what they found in a more comfortable, but equally enigmatic, free world.

Join us at Temple on Sunday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m., when Professor Jacques Berlinerblau, director of Georgetown University’s Program for Jewish Civilization, discusses their work in an Amram Scholar Series lecture entitled: *Young, Literary, Far from the Soviet Union and Jewish! The Talented Troika of Lara Vapnyar, Gary Shteyngart and David Bezmozgis*. As he did last year, with a dynamic series that centered on Philip Roth, Professor Berlinerblau will lead us through a closer study of the three writers in evening seminars in the weeks that follow his opening talk.

Professor Berlinerblau holds two doctorates and is the author of many books, including *The Secular Bible: Why Nonbelievers Must Take Religion Seriously* and *Thumpin’ It: The Use and Abuse of the Bible in Today’s Presidential Politics*. His work has been discussed in *The Economist*, *US News and World Report*, and on National Public Radio. He and his wife, Ippolita, and two sons are members of Washington Hebrew Congregation.

For his evening seminars, save Wednesday February 15 and 29 and March 7, beginning at 7 p.m. For pertinent reading ahead of the meetings, Professor Berlinerblau recommends *There Are Jews in My House* by Lara Vapnyar, *Natasha* by David Bezmozgis, and *The Russian Debutante’s Handbook* by Gary Shteyngart.

The Amram Scholar Series thanks the Dr. Samuel M. & Miriam Dodek Annual Memorial Lecture Fund for its support of these programs.

**Washington Hebrew Congregation ♦ www.whctemple.org
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