



**FELS**  
**FALL 2020**  
**PROGRAM BROCHURE**

FELS is a non-profit organization  
whose mission focuses on education

**FELS, in conjunction with the Margate City Library, offers a unique selection of entertaining, interactive and educational programs.**

Our South Jersey community, and the world, has faced unprecedented challenges this year. The health and safety of our members are of primary consideration. Therefore the FELS Board has decided to offer only virtual classes this fall. The Board hopes that, as the coronavirus situation improves, in-person classes can be added to the schedule.

Courses meet on Zoom once each month October through March.

If you would like a personal session on how to use Zoom, note that on your registration form or contact Meryl Baer: 717-951-3656 or [mcbaer620@comcast.net](mailto:mcbaer620@comcast.net). (Meryl is not the Zoom instructor but will put you in contact with our tech guy.).

**CONTACT  
INFORMATION:**

**Co-Presidents:**

Marilyn Casel – 609-822-1065  
Esther Steele – 609-348-8722

**Board contact:**

Sharon Harris  
[sharonhar@aol.com](mailto:sharonhar@aol.com)

**Program Information:**

Meryl Baer  
[mcbaer620@comcast.net](mailto:mcbaer620@comcast.net)  
717-951-3656

***Brochure and registration form  
available on our website:***

[www.felstockton.com](http://www.felstockton.com)

**Facebook:**

FELS Friends of Encore  
Learning of Stockton

Complete the attached registration form  
and mail with payment,  
check payable to **FELS:**

**FELS**  
**PO BOX 3380**  
**MARGATE NJ 08402**

*Program fees and special events  
raise funds for  
Stockton University Foundation scholarships.*

**DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS  
CHANGES MAY HAVE TO BE MADE  
TO THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE.**

**WE WILL KEEP OUR FELS  
COMMUNITY INFORMED.  
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE  
TO CONTACT A  
FELS BOARD MEMBER  
WITH YOUR QUESTIONS,  
CONCERNS AND COMMENTS.**

# TUESDAY CLASSES

## NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

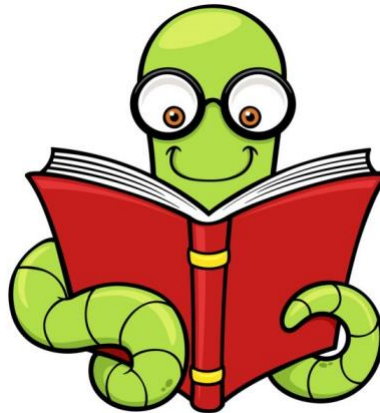
Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30 AM

October 6, November 10, December 1, January 5, February 2, March 2

Join **Elaine Geller's** book discussion group that examines intriguing, sometimes humorous, sometimes dark, always provocative prose. Books are available on amazon and abebooks.com. The Margate Library also has books available as well as kindle editions.

October's book:

**The Splendid and the Vile:**  
**A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz**  
by Erik Larson



## FABLES: OLD AND NEW

Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30 AM

October 13, November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9

Delve into the art of storytelling and tall tales – a story that may or may not be true, with elements of truth and fiction interwoven into the tale and often incorporates elements that are hard to believe. The stories, passed down through generations, not only entertained listeners, but taught lessons of life. Genres such as superstition and Gothic horror frequently fall into this category.

Moderator **John Alvarez** is a former Professor of Theater History and Acting at Atlantic Cape Community College, journalist and editorial columnist under the pen name 'Johnny Wawa', and Associate Producer/Manager of Cape May Stage (1992-2008).

# WEDNESDAY CLASSES

## Stepchildren of the Shtetl: The Destitute, Disabled, and Mad of Jewish Eastern Europe 1800-1939

book by Natan M. Meir

Wednesday mornings 10:00-11:30 AM

October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3

The course is based on the book, *Stepchildren of the Shtetl*, by Natan Meir. Shining a light into the darkest corners of Jewish society in Eastern Europe - from the often squalid poorhouse of the shtetl to the slums of Odessa, "*Stepchildren of the Shtetl* reconsiders the place of the lowliest members of an already stigmatized minority" (*Stanford University Press Back Cover Quote*). Meir evokes the experience of Jewish society's outcasts and reveals the central role they came to play in the transformation of Jewish life. A copy of the book is not necessary to participate in lively class discussions, but books will be available for a discounted price of \$24. The Margate Library also has copies of the book.

**Meryl Rodgers**, Docent Educator at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, has organized and moderated numerous book discussion groups.

## PSYCHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS

Wednesday mornings 10:30-12:00 PM

October 14, November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10

Moderator **Phyliss Merion Shanken** will guide you through interactive experiences. Practice being a helper to others, share and receive support for your challenges, hone listening skills, become more assertive without pushing people away, learn tools to overcome stress and healing behaviors, enhance conversational skills, discuss when to be totally honest or when it's better to tell 'white' lies, and more.



# THURSDAY CLASSES

## CREATIVE WRITING: IT'S HOW YOU TELL THE STORY EDITING, CRITIQUING, AND WRITING

Thursday mornings 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

October 15, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11

Instructor **Phylliss Merion Shanken** will help participants go *beyond* submitting work to have others critique it. Participants will work on how to paint a picture with words; write authentic dialogue; condense wordy prose to “tight” descriptions; how to structure your essay or story; decide what to cut and what to include. Develop a respect for grammar, punctuation and word choice, discuss the misuse of pronouns; what it really means to “show-not-tell”; overcome your writer’s block; determine when to use literary license. Use exercises to tap into your creativity; how to make use of feedback; enhance respect for your reader; how to love the editorial process as opposed to avoiding it; how to submit your work, and more.

***Beginning writers: Please do not feel intimidated. You are most welcome to attend.***

## GREAT DECISIONS

Thursday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 AM

October 8, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4

Great Decisions is a program of the Foreign Policy Association, the aim to increase awareness of international issues with the American public. The class will evaluate significant issues facing American foreign policymakers. Each topic considers the historical, current relevance, and strategic value to the United States. Everyone is encouraged to participate in a spirited discussion of the month’s topic.

Each month a YouTube link to a 25-minute video about the month’s topic will be emailed to class participants. The video can be previewed before class. It will not be viewed during the Zoom class.

**Registrants will be contacted when the reading material  
for each class is available at the Margate Library.**

Discussion moderator **Steven Baer** participated in Great Decisions courses over the past few years and brings a unique perspective to discussions from his experience traveling for business in Europe and Asia.

# FRIDAY

## SHORT STORIES

Friday mornings 10:30-12:00 PM

October 9, November 6, December 4, January 8, February 5, March 5

The book *100 Years of the Best American Short Stories* by Lorrie Moore and Heidi Pitlor will be used in this course. New and used books available on amazon.com and abebooks.com. **Meryl Baer** will moderate discussions October, November, and December, and **Sondra Mandel** will lead discussions January, February, and March.

**The following stories will be reviewed at the October class:**

*I Stand Here Ironing* by Tillie Olsen (1957) Pg. 173

*The Girl On The Plane* by Mary Gaitskill (1993) Pg. 472

*By the River* by Joyce Carol Oates (1969) Pg. 287



**FELS FALL 2020  
PROGRAM  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE THE PROGRAMS YOU ARE REGISTERING FOR  
\*\*\* YOU ARE ENROLLED IN A CLASS UNLESS CONTACTED BY FELS\*\*\***

CREATIVE WRITING	\$30
FABLES: OLD AND NEW	\$30
GREAT DECISIONS	\$30
NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY	\$30
PSYCHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS	\$30
SHORT STORIES	\$30
STEPCHILDREN OF THE SHTETL	\$30
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	

**SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO FELS TO:  
FELS  
P.O. BOX 3380  
MARGATE NJ 08402**

An email with a Zoom link will be sent prior to the first class.