



CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

Community Conversations:

What is the Role of the American Family Today?

Sunday, Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m., Chace Forum, Downtown Waterville

Dinner, Dessert, and Compelling Conversation

The Center for Small Town Jewish Life will host the second in a series of Community Conversations on Sunday, Jan. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Chace Forum in the Bill & Joan Alfond Commons, 150 Main Street, Waterville. This event is free and open to the public; dinner from Portland Pie and dessert by Acadia Cakes will be served.

The program will feature thought leaders Naomi Schaefer Riley, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute; Beth Cooper Benjamin, associate director of the Joseph Stern Center for Social Responsibility, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan; and Adrienne Carmack, Colby class of 2018, speaking on "What is the role of the American family today?"

The idea of the American nuclear family has informed decades of policy, culture, and national identity. And yet, the demographic and cultural predominance of the married, heterosexual, two-parent family has waned in contemporary America. In this program, we explore the changing nature of the American family, and look at what impact these new paradigms may have on national policy and culture.

Following this public conversation there will be the opportunity for further facilitated discussion in smaller groups.

Community Conversations is a series of three discussions bringing together Waterville faith and community institutions with Colby faculty and students to discuss major issues of common concern. The theme for 2018-19 is Home. Each program features Jewish and secular thought leaders in conversation with each other, followed by group discussions with members of both the Colby and Waterville communities.

The program is sponsored by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life and the Maine Humanities Council, and co-sponsored by the Colby Religious Studies and Jewish

Studies departments, the Center for Arts and Humanities, the Cultural Events Committee, and the Office of the Provost.

The third conversation in the series is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, and asks “Who Calls Waterville Home?”, with featured speakers David Greene, president of Colby College, and Rabbi Rachel Isaacs of Beth Israel Congregation, Waterville.

For more information, contact The Center for Small Town Jewish Life, jewishlife@colby.edu or visit <http://www.colby.edu/jewishlife/>.

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