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Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy is Professor of Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies at UConn and founding Director of the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies at the UConn, Stamford campus. Author of three books and numerous book chapters and articles in Judaic studies, women in literature, Israeli literature, and comparative literature, she is recipient of several awards, has served as guest scholar at many academic institutions and community study retreats in the US and Canada, and as TV commentator on Israel and Middle Eastern politics and culture.

The Rev. Dr. Blaine Edele is currently Pastor of Union Memorial Church in Stamford, CT. He has a Ph.D. from the Department of Religion at Duke University; the topic of his doctoral dissertation was A Critical Edition of Genesis in Ethiopic. Rev. Edele serves as Chair of the Interfaith Advisory Committee for the Center for Judaic & Middle Eastern Studies and as Guest Professor in Dr. Aschkenasy’s courses in Bible and the Center’s Lunch & Learn programs.

Dr. James Shapiro is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. A Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in Israeli universities and a Wannamaker Fellow at the Globe Theatre in London. A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Henry E. Huntington Library, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and a prolific author, his book Oberammergau: The Troubling Story of the World’s Most Famous Passion Play was selected by The New York Times Book Review as one of the “notable books” of 2000.
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