**Pop-Up Lesson Sessions for Teens and Adults on Race, Racism and Resistance through a Jewish Lens**

Margot Valles, Director of Congregational Lifelong Learning, invites teens (students in 7th- 1Z h grade) and adults to attend these stand­ alone sessions held via ZOOM. Teens can attend either or both of the lesson sessions designed for them. No preparation or prior knowledge is required. You can find the ZOOM links and meeting information below each session description .

(Teens) Sunday, June 7 at 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.: **Hillel's Three Questions and Current Events**

Led by Dr. Margot Valles

In a famous passage from *Pirkei Avot,* we learn that Rabbi Hillel used to ask, "If I am not for me, who will be for me? And when I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, when?" Sometimes, standing up for oneself is difficult.

Som etim es, standing up for someone else is difficult. Sometimes these obligations even conflict with each-other .

This session will give teenagers the opportunity to explore the way their obligation to care for themselves and for others, and to do the right thing in a timely way, relates to the recent killing of George Floyd, the resulting protests against racism in the criminal justice system, and the violence and destruction that has accompanied some of these protests. In addition to sharing their own

*Des Moines George Floyd Protests by Phil Roeder*

viewpoints, participants will explore some of the different ways that Jewish thinkers have responded to these (sometimes conflicting) obligations.

Meeting ID: 958 2480 1269 Password: lfnotnow?

(Teens) Wednesday, June 10 at 5:00 p.m.: **"You don't deserve my movies anymore.": Seth Rogen's Response to "All Lives Matter"** Led by Dr. Margot Valles

On Tuesday, June 2, Jewish actor, director and producer Seth Rogen *(The 40-Year-Old Virgin, Superbad, The* Interview) posted the message "Black Lives Matter" in large caps on lnstagram. When some of his followers responded with "All Lives Matter," Rogen used strong language (mostly by saying "F\*\*\* off"!) to show his disapproval. He also requested that they stop following him.

What do you think about his response? In what ways might Rogen's behavior reflect Jewish values and teachings? In what ways might they conflict with them?

In this session we'll study the controversy over the phrase "All Lives Matter" from a range of Jewish perspectives. We will also look at some related controversies. Participants will craft their own (expletive free) response to viewpoints on race and politics with which they disagree.

Meeting Link: Jin p s.1/m u z;;om, ,s /1 , 94799206617 Meeting ID: 947 9920 6617 Password: Superbad

(Adults) Wednesday, June 10 at 8:00 p.m.: **Racial Disparities in Our Health and Criminal Justice Systems and Why It's a Jewish Issue**

Co-led by Dr. **Christina DeJong** (Assoc. Professor, School of Criminal Justice, MSU), **Dr. Sean A. Valles** (Assoc. Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Philosophy) and **Dr. Margot Valles** (Assis.

Professor, Religious Studies)

After videos circulated of George Floyd, yet another Black man, being killed by a (White) police officer, protests erupted across our country and internationally. People continue to demonstrate against racial disparities in our criminal justice system despite a pandemic that has been particularly devastating to Black people and other People of Color. How widespread is the problem? What are the causes of racial disparities in our criminal justice and health systems? How are criminal justice and health disparities connected?

How deep do they run? And, what is at stake in these issues for Jews and Jewish organizations?

This session will include short presentations by each of the co-leaders, followed by a moderated Q and A session.

Meeting ID: 952 1563 6673 Password: 1924Cool