READING THE TORAH

CATHARINE CHALIER

December 2, Wednesday, 12:15 pm
Rosenthal Library | President’s Conference Room #2 (fifth floor)

Free and open to the public.

In our own time, readings of the Holy Books pose burning questions, such as those related to the land of Israel and to Jerusalem, to the singular destiny of the Jewish people, and to politics. Here the spiritual reading has its say: “It beckons us to work in the direction of a peace, dedicated to a concern for the fate of others.”

Professor Catherine Chalier will explain how a spiritual reading—in this case according to the Jewish tradition—sheds light on other aspects, suggesting that the language of the texts under scrutiny contains meanings to be unfolded through time.

Catherine Chalier is a French author and a Professor Emerita of Philosophy at the University of Nanterre. Born in Paris, she received a classical French education. She holds an MA in Hebrew and a PhD in philosophy from the University of Paris. Her main interest lies in the Hebraic source of Western culture; she will explain why and how this source may provide new insight on philosophical questions (such as nature, history, the senses, and emotions).

Prof. Chalier has published several books on the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, whom she first met as a student. She also is interested in the dialogue between religions, especially with Christians and Muslims. She has published a book entitled L’écoute en partage with Minister Marc Faessler on the dialogue between Judaism and Christianity (Prize Colladon).

A prolific and award-winning writer, her most recent publications include Des anges et des hommes (Albin Michel, 2007; also translated into Italian); R. Kalonymus Shapiro, Rabbin au Ghetto de Varsovie (Arfuyen, 2011); Présence de l’espoir (Seuil, 2013); Lire la Torah (Seuil, 2014); and Aux sources du hassidisme: le Maggid de Mezeritch (Arfuyen, 2014).

A Kosher lunch will be available. RSVP: 718-997-5730 or 718-997-4530 or email rita.shlishelberg@qc.cuny.edu.

Paid parking is available in the Student Union; for information on parking, call 718-997-3964.