

## SPECIAL AUTHOR EVENT

### **Maidels and Dreidels and Ladles, Oh My! The Journey of a Jewish Children's Book Writer.**

**Description:** In this lively presentation **Lesléa Newman**, the 2020 Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award Winner, will discuss how her early childhood and books she read growing up inspired her to write children's books with Jewish themes including *Remember That, A Sweet Passover*, and *Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story*.

**Lesléa Newman** is the author of 70 books for readers of all ages, including *A Letter to Harvey Milk*; *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard*; *I Carry My Mother*; *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*; *Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed*; and *Gittel's Journey*. Ms. Newman wrote *Heather Has Two Mommies*, the first children's book to portray lesbian families in a positive way, and has followed up this pioneering work with several more children's books on lesbian and gay families: *Felicia's Favorite Story*, *Too Far Away to Touch*, *Saturday Is Pattyday*, *Mommy, Mama, and Me*, and *Daddy, Papa, and Me*. She is also the author of many books for adults that deal with lesbian identity, Jewish identity and the intersection and collision between the two. Other topics Ms. Newman explores include AIDS, eating disorders, butch/femme relationships, and sexual abuse. Her award-winning short story, *A Letter To Harvey Milk*, has been made into a film and adapted for the stage.