

*The women of the west side of Chicago & Chicago's near-west suburbs are invited to gather this fall to reflect & converse.*

## **Join Us to Explore Love and Forgiveness....**

Our curriculum derives from **Lessons from Afghanistan**, a collaborative project of the **Afghan Women's Writing Project** and the **Fetzer Institute: Campaign for Love and Forgiveness**

“Lessons from Afghanistan is a compelling exploration of love and forgiveness by Afghan women in a country that has been war-torn for three decades. These writers have borne not only the burden of bloodshed but carry with them the stigma of simply being born female in a deeply patriarchal and conservative society.

If these women—who have been abused, beaten, persecuted because of their gender, threatened because they dare to speak their mind or receive an education—can offer love and forgiveness for their tormentors, it compels us to ask ourselves why we can't forgive the lesser evils, the marginal hurts, the brush of a misdeed, the imagined oversight. These writers may also inspire you to tend to the deep wounds that all of us human beings experience in this life, the traumas that many of us would rather forget or ignore. You may find that in the writing, there is healing.

Afghanistan offers many perspectives. But you will not find in these pages the prose of the downtrodden, the lament of the weak. You will be inspired not only by the resilience of these women, but their courage to love, and not just for their country, but for us all. Their love seeps from the pages of this book into our souls.”

Shelby Boblick will facilitate the sessions and supply the materials each week. ***No need to prepare in advance.*** We'll focus on a different topic each week. It matters *not at all* if you miss a week or several weeks. You are most welcome to join us when your schedule permits.

We'll offer ***duplicate*** sessions each Monday: one at 1 p.m. and another at 7:30 p.m. Please join us at whichever time suits your life. No need to come at the same time each Monday.

We'll meet in the gathering space of St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church, 38 N. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, IL. The Church is accessible by ramp, and assistive listening devices are available. Questions? Call Shelby at 630-240-2765

Monday, Sept. 9	Session 1: Defining Love and Forgiveness
Monday, Sept. 16	Session 2: Self Love
Monday, Oct. 7	Session 3: Discovering Love for Others
Monday, Oct. 14	Session 4: Finding Forgiveness in Our Lives
Monday, Oct. 21	Session 5: Love and Forgiveness that Transcends Boundaries
Monday, Oct. 28	Session 6: Incorporating Love and Forgiveness into Our Lives