



**Scholar-in-Residence Lecture Series**  
**presented by Beth El Congregation and**  
**Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University**  
 a research unit of the College and Liberal Arts and Sciences



**Dr. Fred Astren**  
**November 2 - 3, 2012**

Join us for **Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, November 2 at 5:45 p.m.**  
 followed by a special Shabbat dinner (\$18)

**Karaite Judaism: A Jewish Alternative to Rabbis and the Talmud, from the Middle Ages to the Present**  
 during service and discussion following dinner

Karaite Judaism, which originated in the Muslim Middle Ages, offered a competitive alternative to rabbinic Judaism. Karaites focused on the Hebrew Bible, while rejecting the Mishna and Talmud, to develop their own religious law and interpretations. In the Middle Ages, their Judaism can be characterized as anti-rabbinic, legally strict, and focused on Scripture, with a messianic emphasis on the Land of Israel. There is a sharp divide in their later history between Karaites of Islamic lands and Karaites of Christian Europe.

**Saturday, November 3 at 9:00 a.m.**

Shabbat morning, beginning during services with discussion continuing after *Kiddush*  
**Judaism and Islam: Roots, Relationships, and Perceptions**

The seeds of Islam were germinated in the same Near Eastern soil as that of Judaism. The perspective of the Koran, the holy book of Islam, assumes much about the world that is common to the Hebrew Bible. Within both traditions, believers understand God as a creator and final judge, who offers reward and punishment, and who reveals Himself through His prophets and His books. Abraham is a central figure in both traditions. Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, probably saw himself as a prophet in ways similar to the prophets of the Bible. Parallels and similarities found in the two traditions are extremely helpful for understanding their differences and intertwined histories.

**I/we would be honored to be supporters of the Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Dr. Fred Astren**

\$100 Hillel Level    \$250 Shamai Level    \$500 Akiva Level    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Shabbat Dinner @\_\_\_\$18

I/we wish to sponsor a person for Shabbat Dinner whose cost might be a hardship \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Be a part of this special weekend by volunteering to:**  Set and/or clear tables    Help cook

Number attending Kiddush Lunch\_\_\_\_\_ (No Charge)    Contribution to Kiddush Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please send with your check, made payable to: Beth El Congregation   \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed**

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