

**Petrie Oration 2014**

# **HOLY LAND ARCHAEOLOGY:**

**Where the Past Meets the Present**

**Professor Carol L. Meyers**

Mary Grace Wilson Professor in Religion, Duke University



**6:30 pm, Friday 28 March 2014**

**Australian Institute of Archaeology, Building EC 11, La Trobe University**

**Terrace Way, MacLeod, (Melways 873-4)**

**The Lecture:** Archaeology is commonly understood as the study of human life in the past by analyzing the material remains of the past. But it is not usually recognized that the archaeological quest for the past is inevitably shaped by the excavators' present. Professor C. Meyers will use four case studies to illustrate the intersection between the discoveries at ancient sites and the pressures of the modern world. She will present the stunning mosaics of the Beth Alpha synagogue in the context of the early Jewish settlement of the "Promised Land", the excavations of Hazor will be discussed against the background of the early days of the State of Israel, Masada near the Dead Sea will be considered in light of the nationalist loyalties of the excavators, and finally, the discoveries at Sepphoris, a major Galilean city in the Roman and Byzantine periods, are viewed in relation to the turmoil in the Holy Land since the first intifada.

**Carol Meyers:** A specialist in biblical studies and archaeology, she is a prominent scholar in the study of women in the biblical world. She has authored or co-authored eleven books and commentaries and has edited or co-edited five others. In collaboration with Dr Eric Meyers, she has published three major archaeological reports. Her book *Discovering Eve* is a landmark study of women in ancient Israel; and her reference book, *Women in Scripture*, is the most comprehensive study ever made of women in Jewish and Christian scriptures. She is a trustee of the American Schools of Oriental Research and of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. She also serves on the board of directors of the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation and has for the last two years been President of the Society of Biblical Literature.

**Sponsored by the Australian Institute of Archaeology**

**Admission Free**

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