

Best-Selling Author Liz Murray Featured at NCJW/Cleveland Opening Fall Meeting

From Homeless to Harvard to Inspirational Role Model



Liz Murray, a homeless child of addicted parents, who became a Harvard graduate

and best-selling author, is the inspirational featured speaker at National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland's Opening Fall Meeting on Wednesday, September 13. She will bring to life her best-selling memoir, *Breaking Night*, a story of forgiveness and survival.

The event will take place at 1 pm at The Temple-Tifereth Israel, 26000 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members and includes a dessert reception.

Prior to Murray's keynote address, she will briefly recount personal anecdotes and stories at an 11 am luncheon. The luncheon price is \$75 for patrons and \$125 for benefactors.

Born in the Bronx to cocaine-addicted, poverty-stricken parents, Liz Murray's life is a triumph over adversity and a testament to the power of dreams. Living in filth and a drug-infested home where welfare checks went for cocaine instead of food, Murray was motherless and homeless by age 15. Living on the streets, riding the subway all night and eating from dumpsters, she nonetheless graduated from high school in just two years and attended Harvard on a full scholarship.

Captivated by her fairy-tale-like story, Lifetime Television produced *Homeless to Harvard*, a movie about Murray's life, which was nominated for three Emmy Awards.

Her memoir, *Breaking Night*, landed on the *New York Times* best seller list within a week of its release and quickly became an international best seller published in twelve countries, in eight languages.

Murray is the recipient of the White House "National Role Model Project" award and Oprah Winfrey's first-ever "The Chutzpah Award."

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She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Harvard University and is pursuing her Master's degree in Psychology at Columbia University. Affiliated with the Washington Speakers Bureau, Murray frequently presents dynamic talks to companies, including Coca-Cola, Microsoft, United Way, and numerous colleges and universities across the United States.

Betty Naft and Beth Milstein are co-chairs for the program. For information, visit www.ncjwcleveland.org. To register, call 216.378.2204, ext. 100.