In the past two years, millions of refugees from the Middle East and Africa have fled persecution and war to reach safe havens in Europe. While many reached countries like Germany, where they are being resettled, tens of thousands who crossed the Aegean Sea to Greece in dangerous boats were not so fortunate. In March 2016, some 60,000 men, women, and children were stranded in Greece after the border to the rest of Europe was closed. Many are living in precarious conditions and suffer from significant post-traumatic stress from war, displacement, dangerous migration and loss. Dr. Carla Cassler and five teams of volunteer acupuncturists have provided trauma healing services to thousands of people living in these refugee camps, and are also training Greek doctors to do this work. Join Dr. Cassler for a discussion that will open a personal window onto one of the greatest humanitarian disasters of our time.

Carla Cassler, DAOM, LAc, is Associate Director of Acupuncturists Without Borders (AWB). She has practiced acupuncture and Chinese medicine for over 30 years, specializing in women’s health, pediatric, orthopedic and treatment for traumatic stress. Her interest in trauma treatment began in 1992 when she practiced acupuncture on Kibbutz Gan Shmuel in Israel, where many of her patients suffered from physical and mental health problems experienced during multiple wars and the Holocaust. In 2010, she co-founded the Bay Area Veteran’s Acupuncture Clinic (BAYVAC) which provides free weekly acupuncture treatment to veterans, military personnel and their families for pain and post-traumatic stress. She splits her time between a clinical private practice in Kensington, CA, and her work with AWB where she coordinates trauma healing programs in Greece, Israel and the West Bank. Dr. Cassler is the wife of Temple Beth Hillel’s Rabbi, Dean Kertesz.

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