



Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
בית המדרש לרבנים ליהדות מתחדשת

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February 2006

Scholarship, Teaching And Faculty Achievements



Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

בית המדרש לרבנים ליהדות מתחדשת



Scholarship and Teaching at RRC

By S. Tamar Kamionkowski, Ph.D.

Vice President, Academic Affairs

Introduction

Scholarship, teaching, learning, and innovation—these are the principal activities of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. We have devoted all of our resources to improving them over the nearly four decades of our existence.

This booklet is a celebration of these endeavors. In the first section are articles that describe our approach to academics and learning and the importance of supporting scholarshi. In the second section, we list the recent achievements of our faculty.

In daily morning prayers immediately preceding the *shema*, Jews recite a prayer called the *ahavah rabbah* (literally, “great love”) praising the virtue of both learning and teaching, described in Hebrew as *lilmod ul'lamed*. Jewish tradition consistently has recognized the importance not only of learning Torah, but also of teaching what we learn. In fact, R. Yohanan wrote in the Babylonian Talmud: “He who studies Torah but does not teach it is like a myrtle in the wilderness (from which nobody benefits).” As scholars, we have a responsibility to teach, and to teach well.

This core Jewish value has been conspicuously absent from modern institutions of higher learning. In the overwhelming number of American universities, faculty evaluation is based primarily on scholarly output and to a much lesser degree on teaching. On the flip side, many community colleges employ their faculty only as teachers, providing little to no support or opportunity for their own learning and scholarship.

It is not an accident that a number of recent publications on pedagogy are focusing on the need for outcomes assessments in colleges and universities, underscoring the importance of using student evaluations that actually reveal what students have learned.

Yet there is much resistance at post-secondary schools to improving pedagogy—so that student learning takes hold. A well-regarded book on learning by Maryellen Weimer, *Learner-Centered Teaching*, devotes an entire section to handling faculty resistance to new teaching methods. Faculty members who experiment with new pedagogic methods are still in the minority and often have to deal with colleagues who regard them with some degree of suspicion. This is not surprising. Professors spend years developing an expertise in a particular field during graduate school, but they are never taught how to communicate their knowledge in effective and compelling ways.

How many of us have experienced the excitement of entering the classroom of a great scholar, only to find out that the scholar is either incapable of or disinterested in teaching. Or how many of us have found that our most inspiring teachers have not extended their wisdom beyond the classroom by publishing their scholarship?

While universities and colleges are just beginning to acknowledge this fissure between teaching and scholarship—or put another way, between teaching and lifelong learning—Judaism has a longstanding tradition of integration, and this is one of the cornerstones of education at RRC. We train our students to be lifelong teachers and learners, and we value our faculty as both.

As I reflect on my own experiences, I believe that my scholarship has benefited from the sparks of wisdom that have been generated communally in my classrooms over the years. And I believe that I am a better teacher because I continue to expose myself to new texts, new ideas and new questions in my field. I may teach some of the same material over and over again from year to year, but if I have not learned something new about the topic before I walk into the classroom, I know that the quality of my teaching will not be at its best.

At RRC, we may be in a particularly unique position to integrate scholarship and teaching. Because all of our text courses are offered only in the original language, and because we offer only graduate level courses, almost every instructor teaches exactly in their area of expertise. Each instructor has great latitude in determining the topics for advanced courses. We encourage our faculty members to teach what most excites them and to share that passion with their students. In this process, instructors engage in ongoing learning, and this learning often leads to the production of new knowledge and publications.

As academic dean, it is important to me that our faculty publish, but it is much more important to me that they are engaged in active learning. When I walk through the library and find our rabbinics faculty in the library studying *gemarah* (rabbinic texts) in *hevrutah* (partnership) for the simple pleasure of learning, or I hear about an instructor who offers an afternoon session of Torah *lishma* (the study of Torah for its own sake) to further her or his own learning, or I witness the energy and stimulation of faculty seminars – these are all indications to me that we are a thriving educational community. The mantra I would encourage our faculty to adopt is not “publish or perish,” but “learn or wither.” In this context, publishing is important because it is our responsibility to disseminate our insights and findings with others. And so we encourage our faculty to present papers at academic conferences and to speak in adult education settings. As we learn, we must share our thoughts with others—so that we help continue to produce knowledge in the world.

This idea governs the content of our scholarship too because we believe that scholars do not conduct research in a vacuum. Just as our teaching must speak to the particular challenges of the world today, our scholarship must also reflect an awareness of the world beyond the academy. Teachers who are willing to be self-reflective about their own teaching and who are open to feedback are likely to be more responsible scholars as well. In both cases, they must reflect on the integrity of their own enterprise and the impact that the work has in the world.

I feel blessed to work with a community of scholars and teachers who daily exhibit a love of learning, a commitment to fine teaching and a passion for life.

Meet Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, RRC’s Curious Innovator

By Gerald S. Cohen

Her interests are broad, her commitment to dialogue is intense and her curiosity is not easily satisfied. In every sense, Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, Ph.D., exemplifies the teacher who is constantly reaching for some new piece of information to inform her work and to teach her something about herself.

Fuchs-Kreimer, associate professor of religious studies, is RRC’s resident expert on interfaith issues. The emir of Qatar invited her and three rabbinic colleagues last summer to attend a widely publicized international conference of Muslims, Christians and Jews, marking the first time Jews had been asked to participate in the event.

But she also recently authored a book intended for popular audiences on how to celebrate and strengthen a relationship through Jewish observance. And she ran a series of faculty seminars at RRC to discuss the nexus between science and religion, examining, for example, the theological implications of discoveries in cognitive neuroscience, evolutionary psychology and mind/body medicine.

“Mordecai Kaplan (the inspiration for Reconstructionist Judaism), thought living in two civilizations would enrich Judaism,” she says. “My life has been about dialogue with others, be they Christians, therapists, scientists or Muslims. Like Kaplan, I think there is more to be gained than lost in moving outside our own little world. It is important to note that RRC has supported me every step of the way.”



Fuchs-Kreimer’s diverse interests come in part from her diverse background. She grew up in an academic setting: Her father, Victor Fuchs, M.D., Ph.D., is a nationally known health economist at Stanford University. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Wesleyan University, a master of arts from the Yale Divinity School, rabbinic ordination from RRC and a Ph.D. in religion from Temple University. She was president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and helped found a Reconstructionist congregation, Mishkan Shalom; has served as rabbinic director of the Jewish Identity Program of Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Philadelphia; has been a board member of the Metanexus Institute, an organization that promotes the dialogue between science and religion; and director of the Kaplan Institute for Adult Jewish Studies.

Although her interests are wide, Fuchs-Kreimer is known these days mostly for her interfaith work. She traces her abiding interest in the field to a night in June 1974 at the cavernous Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where she was listening to Christian theologians discuss the Nazi Holocaust. “The moment was pivotal both for Christian thought and for my life,” she recently reflected in *RRA Connection*, a newsletter of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. “I was inspired to devote many years to studying with Christians who were engaged in anguished self-criticism and creative reconstruction of their faith. I found their enterprise morally compelling, and I wanted to be part of it. I traveled to Germany with Jewish

and Christian scholars. I took part in innumerable dialogues on theology, politics and everything in-between. I earned a Ph.D. in the field.”

But she says her interest in Jewish-Christian dialogue waned over the years because she felt her role had evolved into helping Christians uncover their blind spots about Judaism and acknowledge their sins toward Jews. As more Christians became interested in doing that prophetic task for their own community, she moved on. More recently she reconnected with interfaith dialogue because of the growing presence of Muslims, which she says made the dialogue more complex and interesting. In this case, she feels a calling to address the Jewish community and to help further the work of Jewish/Muslim rapprochement.

In one recent exchange this January at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Fuchs-Kreimer spent a full week cloistered with two other women—a Protestant minister and a Muslim Sudanese-American who is assistant professor at Villanova University. Their assignment was to exchange ideas on how their religions approach the topic of social justice for the disenfranchised—symbolized in the Torah by the phrase widows and orphans. Each was charged with showing up with a knapsack full of texts and engaging in deep dialogue. All three were strangers to each other. Later, they reported their findings to an audience at the Nave of the Cathedral.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Fuchs-Kreimer found herself excited by the opportunity to really get to know her partners in the experiment. “So much of inter-religious dialogue is about talking suits or talking dresses,” she said. “You often meet three minutes before these panels and sit down before your water glasses, and then each person reads a prepared statement. That’s not a dialogue. And after decades of doing that kind of thing, this is thrilling to me.”

Her newest venture, which she will unveil this spring, is a course called Contemporary Manifestations of Islam. The intent of the course is to increase opportunities of Muslim-Jewish dialogue. It is unique in many ways. First, it will be co-taught by Fuchs-Kreimer and Adnan Ahmad Zulfiqar, a Muslim student in his final year of a joint J.D./Ph.D. program at the University of Pennsylvania. It also will include a service-learning component so that students can supplement book learning with community work that teaches them skills in improving Jewish-Muslim relations.

Here’s how it will work: RRC students, who are required to take courses in religions other than Judaism, will attend classes with Fuchs-Kreimer and Zulfiqar. About midway through the semester, they will meet Muslim graduate students from U. Penn over a three-hour kosher/hallal meal at Penn’s Hillel House. The rabbinical and Muslim students will later pair off and plan how they will team-teach a class section at a Jewish and Muslim day school. The class sessions will be offered to middle school students at the Saligman Middle School in suburban Philadelphia and elementary school students at the Foundation for Islamic Education in Villanova.

Finding new twists to such exchanges renews Fuchs-Kreimer. She says she also hopes the course will fulfill the needs of RRC students, who are very interested in serving the community. “They often arrive in rabbinical school with a passion for making the world a better place, for engaging in social change that benefits the society in which they live. They want to do *tikkun olam* work in the community, even while pursuing their studies here. Service learning offers the possibility of integration.”

From the Reconstruction to Reconstructionism

By Robert F. Horowitz, Ph.D.

Vice President, Institutional Advancement

Looking through this booklet and the lists of books, articles, public lectures, presentations and other items of impressive faculty achievements brings back memories of a prior time in my career, before I assumed the position of vice president for institutional advancement at RRC.

For a dozen years I was a college professor teaching history at Brooklyn College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Rutgers University-Camden. I published a book, wrote a number of articles and reviews and presented papers at various academic conferences. Like the individuals listed in this report, I was busy doing research, writing and devoting a substantial amount of time to teaching. It was all part of an effort to further knowledge in my chosen field and to develop the capacity to impart that knowledge to my students.

Reflecting back on that time, I realize that my accomplishments were in many respects due not just to my love of the Civil War and Reconstruction period in American history—which was my original academic field—or the great pleasure I had in being in front of a classroom, but also to the grants, fellowships and scholarships that enabled me to pursue my academic activities. For example, the early stages of research for my book, *The Great Impeacher: A Political Biography of James M. Ashley*, was facilitated by a fellowship I received from the National Society of Colonial Dames. Over the years, while I taught courses on 19th and 20th century American history, I received a few college teaching development grants to further my ability to discover and create innovative and interesting ways to teach complicated subjects to students of varied skill levels.

As I continued on my academic career, my historical interests broadened beyond the Civil War and Reconstruction era. I began to look at the ways that American film’s and American television’s representation of historical events could be used to teach history. I became a member of the Columbia University Seminar on Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation and I wrote a paper, “You Are There: Early Television and American History,” which I presented at a seminar meeting at the Museum of Modern Art. A research grant from Rutgers enabled me to further refine this paper so that it appeared as an article in a book, *American History, American Television*.

I also began to develop interests in the field of American immigration history, and I created a course on the history of immigration to the United States, with specific attention being paid to three immigrant groups—Italians, Jews and Irish. Since I was born in New York City, these were the ethnic groups about which I had the most knowledge. I also was fortunate enough to obtain some summer grant money from Rutgers, which allowed me to further extend my understanding of this subject and increase my ability to teach it to advanced history students.

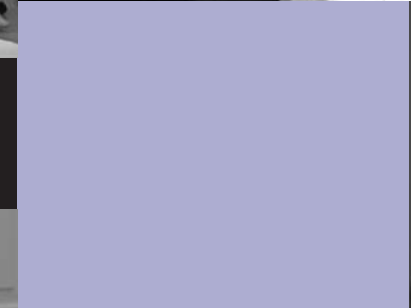
It was from this course that I developed an interest in Jewish communal work, and after 12 years in academia, I left to become a Jewish communal worker. I took a position as a fund-raiser at the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia. During my time at the Federation, where I eventually became the chief fund-raiser, I continued to present a number

Faculty Achievements

of lectures on various aspects of the Jewish American experience. On two occasions, I presented talks under the auspices of grants from the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities. One was on American Jewish short stories and the writer Herbert Gold and the other one was on the film *Hester Street* and how it had related to the Jewish immigrant experience. My research, teaching and lecturing were once again enhanced by grant funds.

In my current role, I am responsible in part for helping RRC ensure that faculty members receive the financial support necessary to pursue their academic research. That is both gratifying and challenging. Like Tamar Kamionkowski, vice president of academic affairs, I believe that RRC's integration of scholarship and teaching is one reason why the College is succeeding in its mission to offer high quality academics. If this work is to continue, we are going to need increased financial resources. As part of the ongoing efforts of the Institutional Advancement Department, the College is seeking funds to endow research activities; to create fellowships for faculty to pursue individual scholarship and to develop innovative teaching techniques; and to have funds to send faculty members to academic conferences. It is at such gatherings that faculty members I can enhance their knowledge about the subjects that they are teaching and studying.

We also need funds to establish programs for visiting scholars and visiting lecturers and to maintain an environment in which our faculty members are encouraged to pursue academic excellence, and to expand the reach and influence of Reconstructionist contributions to scholarship. The essence of RRC's approach to pedagogy is not only that our faculty members publish to be able to disseminate their insights and findings to others, but also to allow our professors to develop teaching methods that enable the College to be constantly innovative in its ongoing efforts to develop Jewish leadership for a changing world.



Our Faculty Leaves an Impression... From Serious Scholarship to Works of Popular Culture

By Eileen Fisher

The list of recent RRC faculty achievements in this booklet showcases our characteristic, though seemingly contradictory, strengths: It is both diverse and thematically unified. Some works are scholarly. Others are written for popular consumption. Still, the total picture reflects our various levels of community—as Reconstructionists, as Jews and as human beings—and how our faculty members help to further knowledge and understanding in each of those contexts.

RRC's faculty members further understanding of every period in the history of the Jewish people, from biblical to medieval to modern. Michael Carasik's translation and annotation of the erudite *Commentators Bible* brings us the perspectives of scholars separated by nearly 1,000 years, all engaged in spirited conversation about the Book of Exodus. Sarra Lev's work on conceptions of the eunuch in various cultures during the rabbinic period found a range of venues; it was presented for the Jewish Feminist Research Group and accepted by the Association for Jewish Studies, for its 2005 annual conference. Joel Hecker's book *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals*, which focuses on the Jewish mystical literature of late-13th-century Spain, is the first book-length study of mystical eating practices and experiences in the Kabbalah. And Reena Friedman served as a consulting historian for the innovative three-volume series *Challenge and Change: History of the Jews in America*, a curriculum for 7th to 9th grade students.

They nurture the common ground that Jews share with other religious groups. Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer's new course—*Tikkun Olam* in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism—shows how the idea of repairing the world is important to all of the world's great religions.

And they broaden understanding of the Reconstructionist movement. As a panelist, Joshua Waxman brought the sole Reconstructionist perspective to the conference "Teaching Bible: Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy," a multi-year initiative of the Brandeis University Mandel Center. Jacob Staub will be writing the entry on Reconstructionist Judaism in the *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*.

One of the College's missions is to help make Jewish tradition more accessible to all people. Lori Lefkowitz directed Kolot, one of RRC's academic centers, in completing a major redesign of Ritualwell.org, its user-friendly Web site for information on Jewish ritual. As director of Hiddur, RRC's academic center devoted to issues of aging, Dayle Friedman saw the launch of the Sacred Seasons Web site, which markets and distributes its kits for guiding elders—especially those in non-Jewish settings—in Jewish holiday celebrations. And *Jewish Pastoral Care: A Practical Handbook from Traditional and Contemporary Sources*, with Friedman as editor, also was published in a revised, expanded second edition.

Reaching out to a popular reading audience, Fuchs-Kreimer co-authored with Nancy H. Wiener a handbook on Jewish observance, *Judaism for Two: A Spiritual Guide for Strengthening and Celebrating Your Loving Relationship*.

RRC's faculty also furthers trends in Jewish practice. Barbara Breitman co-edited with Avrum Addison *Jewish Spiritual Direction*, the first compilation of articles on this emerging field. The forthcoming book also includes several pieces by Breitman. Staub, a contributor, also served on the faculty of the first-ever advanced training week for Jewish spiritual directors at the Elat Chayyim center in New York this past summer.

Finally, the achievements listed within show how the faculty sharpens the cutting edge of Jewish wisdom on contemporary issues, and continually expands Reconstructionists' relationships to the global Jewish community and the wider academic community. Lefkowitz lectured on feminist *midrash* to a national conference of Jewish day school teachers, and taught as part of a week-long seminar in Moscow. Gail Glicksman designed and taught the course Framing Disease and Experiencing Illness: Perspectives from the Social Sciences and the Humanities, at the University of Pennsylvania. David Teutsch added to the Guide to Jewish Practice series with a timely book in bioethics, covering such topics as euthanasia and abortion.

The Center for Jewish Ethics, which Teutsch directs, led in organizing "Medicine, Money and Morals: The Jewish Obligation to Heal Confronts Healthcare Economics." This conference of the Academic Coalition for Jewish Bioethics, one of the few venues for issue-oriented dialogue across Jewish denominational lines, brought together scholars, students, chaplains and healthcare professionals from Israel and across the United States.

BARBARA EVE BREITMAN

Director of Training, Program in Spiritual Direction
Adjunct Instructor of Pastoral Counseling

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Jewish Pastoral Care and Counseling
Interpersonal and Sexual Boundaries for Rabbis and Clergy

COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

Lev Shomea – Spiritual Direction (Professional Training to Become a Jewish Spiritual Director), at Elat Chayyim: The Jewish Retreat Center, Accord, NY
Advanced Practice (class for masters-level students), University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, 2004–05

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

“Foundations of Jewish Pastoral Care.” In Rabbi Dayle Friedman (Ed.), *Jewish Pastoral Care: A Practical Handbook from Traditional and Contemporary Sources* (2nd. ed.). Jewish Lights, 2005.

“Reclaiming ‘Love’ and the Song of Songs as a Center of Jewish Theology: Implications for Spiritual Direction with Jews.” *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (October 2004).

FORTHCOMING

Jewish Spiritual Direction: An Innovative Guide from Contemporary and Traditional Sources (co-editor with Rabbi Avruhm Addison; author of “Introduction” and two chapters: “A Psycho-Spiritual Perspective on Jewish Narratives of Journey” and “Holy Listening: Cultivating a Hearing Heart”). Jewish Lights, 2006.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Scholar-in-residence, Shabbaton, HaMAKOM Community, Cleveland, OH, November 18–19, 2005. *Divrei torah* on Parshat Vayera and presentations on “Spiritual Growth and Development” and “Jewish Spiritual Direction.”

Faculty member, *Lev Shomea* Training Program in Jewish Spiritual Direction at Elat Chayyim: The Jewish Retreat Center, Accord, NY. Third cohort of students began a new training cycle July 18–24, 2005.

Organizer, coordinator and teacher, first Advanced Training Week for Jewish Spiritual Directors at Elat Chayyim: The Jewish Retreat Center, Accord, NY, July 11–17, 2005.

Trainer for professional staff, Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Philadelphia, on “Working with Difficult Clients: Psychological and Spiritual Dimensions of Care,” June 3 and 17, 2005.

Trainer of spiritual directors serving rabbinical students, Rabbinical School of the Boston Hebrew College, June 6–12, 2005.

Presenter (with Carolynne Ervin), “Reflecting on the God Beyond Names: A Jewish-Christian Interfaith Experience,” Spiritual Directors International Regional Meeting, Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia. October 12, 2004.

D’var Torah on First Day Rosh HaShanah, “Teshuvah and the Power of Prayer,” Minyan Dorshei Derekh, Germantown Jewish Center, October 4, 2005.

D’var Torah, “Jewish Spiritual Direction and the Spiritual Journey,” Congregation Mishkan Shalom, Philadelphia, May 14, 2005.

Scholar-in-residence, Congregation Or Chadash, “Jewish Spiritual Direction,” March 13–14, 2005.

Facilitator, pastoral support group for professional staff and volunteers of SOWN: Supportive Older Women’s Network, to help them grieve and honor clients who have died and to find the spiritual sustenance to continue their work, December 2004.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member, task force on “Boundaries and Ethics in Spiritual Direction” under the auspices of Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA, to provide consultation to the faculty and administration of the College. Will meet through spring semester 2006.

Member, Coordinating Council of Spiritual Directors International, a multifaith, international organization of spiritual directors. Three-year term began summer 2005.

Board member, Elat Chayyim: The Jewish Retreat Center, Accord, NY.

MICHAEL CARASIK

Adjunct Instructor of Biblical Studies

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Biblical Poetry Through the Haftarat

COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

Biblical Hebrew, University of Pennsylvania

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

The Commentators’ Bible: Exodus. The JPS Miqra’ot Gedolot, Jewish Publication Society, 2005.

Interpretation Theologies of the Mind in Biblical Israel. Peter Lang, 2006.

FORTHCOMING

“Syntactic Double Translation in the Targumim.” In Eric Meyers, Lucas van Rompay and Paul Flesher (Eds.), *Aramaic Studies in Judaism and Early Christianity*. Eisenbrauns.

“Transcending the Boundary of Death: Ecclesiastes Through a Nabokovian Lens,” *Biblical Interpretation*.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Vice president, Center City Eruv Corporation.

President, Center City Kehillah.

DAYLE A. FRIEDMAN

Director, Hiddur: The Center for Aging and Judaism
Adjunct Instructor of Practical Rabbinics

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Serving a Graying Jewish Community: An Introduction to Aging
End of Life: Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Dimensions
Crown of Glory: Aging in Jewish Thought, Text and Communal Life

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Monthly seminar, Shades of Gray: Exploring Spiritual Dimensions of Aging through Jewish Literature

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

- “Spiritual Care in Israel: A Flowering in the Desert.” *National Association of Jewish Chaplains Newsletter* (January 2006).
- Jewish Pastoral Care: A Practical Handbook from Traditional and Contemporary Sources* (rev. 2nd ed.). Jewish Lights, 2005.
- “*Lilmod u’lilamed: Elders as Learners and Teachers of Torah.*” *Jewish Education News* (Summer-Fall 2005).
- “Aging with Splendor: Hiddur: The Center for Aging and Judaism Allows Elder to Shine.” *Aging and Spirituality*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (Winter 2004).
- L’Dor va-Dor: Planting for the Future.” *UJC Star of David Society Newsletter* (January 2005/Shevat 5765).
- Commentary author for *Guide to Jewish Practice: Bioethics*, David A. Teutsch, ed. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press, 2005.

FORTHCOMING

- “Forsake them Not: The Jewish Community and Elders in Non-Jewish Long-term Care Facilities.” *Journal of Jewish Communal Service* (Winter 2006).
- “Sacred Seasons: Connecting Jewish Elders to the Life of Celebration.” *Aging and Spirituality* (Winter 2006).
- “Balancing Parents’ and Children’s Quality of Life: Dilemmas in Caregiving.” In *Quality of Life in Jewish Bioethics*, Lexington Books.
- Commentary author for *Guide to Jewish Practice: Mourning*, Richard Hirsh, ed. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

- “A Good Death,” plenary address, Dying Well: Medicine and Mortality Through Jewish, Christian and Muslim Eyes, Baltimore, MD, April 2005.
- “The Future of Aging and Religion,” plenary panel, American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging conference, Philadelphia, March 2005.
- “Seeking the Tzelem: Making Sense of Dementia,” plenary presentation, National Association of Jewish Chaplains conference, Philadelphia.

“Caring for the Caregiver,” Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Reisterstown, MD, March 2005.

“Plugging into a Higher Power: Using Technology to Meet the Spiritual Needs of Frail Elders,” American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging conference, Philadelphia, March 2005.

“God’s Waiting Room or a Season of Splendor: Spiritual Challenges and Opportunities of Aging,” UJA-Federation Spiritual Care Task Force, New York City, November 2004.

“Let Them Shine: A Vision for Aging with Splendor,” International Lion of Judah Conference, Washington, DC, October 2004.

“Spiritual Accompaniment with Elders,” Keshet para-chaplaincy training program, Joan Grossman Center for Chaplaincy and Healing, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Philadelphia, June and December 2004.

REENA SIGMAN FRIEDMAN

Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Modern Civilization Seminar

COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

Modern Jewish History, Gratz College
Modern Jewish Thought, Gratz College

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

- Historian and consultant, *Challenge and Change: History of the Jews in America*. Behrman House.
- Book review. *American Judaism: A History*, by Jonathan Sarna. *The Reconstructionist* (Fall 2004).
- “Jewish Orphanages.” In *Encyclopedia Judaica*.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

- Lecturer in American Jewish History in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Jewish presence in North America, The Jewish Federation of New Haven, CT; Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Wynnewood, PA; Congregation Or Hadash, Fort Washington, PA; Congregation Ohev Shalom, Richboro, PA; Yachad, Harrisburg, PA; the BuxMont Kallah; and Martin’s Run.
- Co-facilitator of seminars to train teachers from around the United States in *Challenge and Change: History of the Jews in America*.

NANCY FUCHS-KREIMER

Director, Religious Studies Program
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Reconstructionism 1
Contemporary Thought
Tikkun Olam in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Reconstructionism mini-course
Instructor, RRC's Recruitment Institute
Planner, "Science and Spirit" faculty seminars, spring 2005
Guest lecturer, "Introduction to Reconstructionist Thought and Practice" for RRC nonteaching staff

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

Judaism for Two. Jewish Lights, April 2005.

FORTHCOMING

Reply to Vanessa Ochs, *Journal of Textual Reasoning*.

"Reconstructionism 70 Years After *Judaism as a Civilization*," *Journal of Jewish Social Studies*, accepted for publication.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Auerbach CAJE, Early Childhood Educators' Conference, Workshop, November 2005.
Workshop organizer and facilitator, plenary presenter, JRF Convention, November 2005.
Scholar-in-residence, SAJ, November 2005.
Speaker, All Staff Day, Abington Friends' School, February 2005.
Pearlstone Scholar, Baltimore, March 2005.
Panelist, 35th Annual Conference on Church and Holocaust, Local Day, March 2005.
Speaker, JRF Congregation Beth Tikvah, New Jersey, April 2005.
Workshop leader, JFCS Conference on Care Taking, April 2005.
Speaker, Interfaith Couples Program, Center City Kehillah Program, April 2005.
Speaker and workshop leader, Installation of Melissa Klein, Am Haskalah, Allentown, PA, April 2005.
Instructor, three-session adult education course on parenting, Mishkan Shalom, May 2005.
Speaker, Judaism and Peace, Interfaith Peace Walk, Rodeph Shalom, May 2005.
Interfaith Conference in Doha, Qatar, June 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board member, Metanexus Institute.
Board member, Interfaith Center of Philadelphia.
Partner, Kalsman Institute of HUC.
Advisory Board member, Joan Grossman Center for Chaplaincy and Healing.
Fellow, Seraf (Senior Rabbinic Faculty) National Jewish Healing Center.
Immediate past president (term ended March 2005), RRA Board and Executive Committee.
Chair, Homeless Hospitality Havurah, Mishkan Shalom. Member, Planning Committee, Interfaith Peace Walk.

GAIL G. GLICKSMAN

Dean of Students
Assistant Professor of the Social Sciences

COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

Framing Disease and Experiencing Illness: Perspectives from the Social Sciences and the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, summer 2004

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

Commentary author for *Guide to Jewish Practice: Bioethics*, David A. Teutsch, ed. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press, 2005.

FORTHCOMING

"Apples and Oranges: A Critique of Current Trends in the Study of Religion, Spirituality, and Health" (co-author with Allen Glicksman). In David E. Guinn (Ed.), *Religion and Bioethics: Faith at the Frontiers*, Oxford University Press. Accepted for publication.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Moderator and chair, "When Disaster Strikes! The Impact of Disasters on the Lives of Older Persons," Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 2005.
Moderator and chair, "What Can You Ask, and How Can You Ask It? Developing Data Collection Tools for New Immigrant Populations," Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 2005.
Panelist, "Jewish Practice and Decision Making Related to Health Care," session for second-year students in Bioethics and Community and Preventive Medicine courses, Drexel University School of Medicine, November 2005.
Panelist, "Religion Views of Stem Cell Research and of End-of-Life Issues," for class on Religion, Law, and Medicine, Widener Law School, September 2005.
"Physical Health Status and Jewish Communal and Ritual Life," in session on Aspects of Identity in American Jewish Society, Fourteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, August 2005.

Chair, "Health, Aging and the Reformed Christian Tradition," Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging, Philadelphia, PA, March 2005.
Guest instructor, didactic session on "Health and Suffering in Jewish Tradition," Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Program, St. Mary's Medical Center, Langhorne, PA, February 22, 2005.
"Physical Health Status Among Jews in America," in session on Health Status and Jewish Life and Continuity, Thirty-Sixth Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2004.

Panelist, "Jewish Tradition and Health Care Decision Making," session for Bioethics and Community and Preventive Medicine courses, as part of special program on Culture, Religion, and Health Beliefs, Drexel University School of Medicine, October 2004.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Supervisor, master's thesis, Master of Liberal Arts Program, University of Pennsylvania, fall 2005–spring 2006

JOEL HECKER

Chair, Department of Modern Civilization
Associate Professor of Jewish Mysticism

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

On sabbatical 2004–05

On leave of absence fall 2005

COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

Introduction to Jewish Mysticism, Jewish Theological Seminary, fall 2004

Torment & Ecstasy in the Teachings of R. Nahman of Brazlav, Jewish Theological Seminary, spring 2005

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah. Wayne State University Press, 2005.

FORTHCOMING

"On the Impossibility of Translation: A Review of Daniel Matt's *Zohar* Translation & Arthur Green's *A Guide to the Zohar*" (Hebrew Studies).

"Kissing in the Jewish Tradition." In *Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions.*

"A Kiss Is Just a Kiss: Mystical Perspectives on an Intimate Gesture"
(in progress).

"The Strange Career of the Book of the Angel Raziel" (in progress).

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

"Kissing Kabbalists: Hierarchy, Reciprocity and Equality," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, December 2004.

"Kissing Kabbalists: Hierarchy, Reciprocity and Equality," Klutznick-Harris Conference on *Love—Virtual and Real—in the Jewish Tradition from Biblical Times to the Present*, Creighton University, September 2005.

"Kiss of the Kabbalist: Ritual, Mystical Ecstasy, or Homosocial Interaction?" Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota, September 2005.

"Kissing Kabbalists: Hierarchy, Reciprocity and Equality," Annual Conference of Patristic, Medieval & Renaissance Studies Conference of the Augustinian Institute of Villanova University, October 2005.

"From Mythical Conceit to Magical Amulet: The Case of *Sefer Raziel ha-Mal'akh*," Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, December 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member, Steering Committee of the Mysticism Group of the American Academy of Religion.

Association for Jewish Studies, chair of session on Studies in Kabbalah & Hasidism, Washington, DC, December 2005.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Fellow, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, fall 2005.

BARBARA HIRSH

Dean of Administration

Instructor of Campus Chaplaincy

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Rabbi as Organizational Manager

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Campus Supervision

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

"Values-Based Decision Making: Some Second Thoughts."

The Reconstructionist, Vol. 70, No. 1 (Fall 2005).

RICHARD HIRSH

Adjunct Instructor of Jewish Thought

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Reconstructionism 2: Jewish Identity and the Life Cycle

Reconstructionism 3: The Reconstructionist Rabbinate

Senior Seminar

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

"The Identified Patient: Placing the Reform Movement in Context." *Judaism Journal*, Vol. 53, Nos. 3–4 (Summer–Fall 2004).

FORTHCOMING

"The Journey of Mourning: A Reconstructionist Guide."

LINDA HOLTZMAN

Director, Department of Practical Rabbinics
Associate Professor of Practical Rabbinics

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Contemporary Jewish Worship
Homiletics
Life Cycle
Senior Planning
Senior Seminar
Year Cycle

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Pulpit Supervision
Tahara: Traditional Jewish Preparation for Burial

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Organizer of the Reconstructionist Hevra Kadisha of Philadelphia.

S. TAMAR KAMIONKOWSKI

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean
Chair, Department of Biblical Civilization
Associate Professor of Biblical Studies

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Biblical Civilization Seminar
Biblical Text: Genesis-Exodus
Psalms

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Weekly Parshat Hashavuah study sessions

PUBLICATIONS

FORTHCOMING

“‘In Your Blood Live’: A Reconsideration of Meir Malul’s Adoption Formula.” In *A Festschrift for Stephen A. Geller on the Occasion of the 65th Birthday*.

“I Desire to ‘Drink from the River of Thy Delights’: A Queer Reading of the Book of Psalms.” In Robert Goss, Deryn Guest and Mona West (Eds.), *A Queer Commentary to the Bible*. Continuum Press.

“Shem Theology in the Holiness Writings.” *14th Congress of Jewish Studies*.

“Parashat Kedoshim.” WRJ/URJ Women’s Torah Commentary.

“Parshat Behar—Another View.” WRJ/URJ Women’s Torah Commentary.

Co-editor of a volume tentatively entitled *Bodies, Embodiment and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures*, T & T Clark.

“A Dialogic Model for Jewish Biblical Theology” (in progress).

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

“Shem Theology in the Holiness Writings,” World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 2005.

“The One and the Many,” Installation Talk, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA, September 2005.

“Responses to Rolf Rendtroff’s *The Canonical Hebrew Bible: A Theology of the Old Testament*,” Society for Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA, November 2005.

“The ‘Problem’ of Violence in Prophetic Literature: Definitions and Contexts as the Real Problem,” Religion and Violence: The Biblical Heritage, Boston University and Wellesley College, February 2006.

“Biblical Studies and New Discoveries in Archaeology,” Kol Emet, Yardley, PA, February 2006.

Chair, session on “Bodies, Embodiment and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures,” Society for Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, PA, November 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Co-chair, Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures Section of the Society for Biblical Literature.

Member, Steering Committee, Theological Perspectives of the Book of Ezekiel Section of the Society for Biblical Literature.

AMY KLEIN

Director, RRC Israel Office

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

“Plant in Their Hearts a Love of Zion.” Report of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Israel Task Force. September 2004.

Commentary, *A Guide to Jewish Practice: Tzedaka*.

Contributor to symposium on Reconstructionism,

“The Reconstructionist at Seventy.” *The Reconstructionist*, Vol. 70, No. 1.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board member, Rabbis for Human Rights, Israel.

LORI H. LEFKOVITZ

Director, Kolot: The Center for Jewish Women’s and Gender Studies
Sadie Gottesman and Arlene Gottesman Reff Professor of Gender and Judaism

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Modern and Contemporary Jewish Literature
Advanced Bible 3: Bible and Feminist Imagination

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Demand a Speaking Part: Representations of the Father in Jewish American Literature, faculty seminar, February 2006

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

“Reflections on the Future of Jewish Feminism and Scholarship.” *Nashim*, No. 10 (Fall 2005).

“Ritualwell.org: Loading the Virtual Canon or the Politics and Poetics of Jewish Women’s Spirituality” (with Rona Shapiro). *Nashim*, No. 9 (Spring 2005).

Exhibitor, JWA virtual exhibition, “Feminism, Jewish Women, and the Transformation of the American Jewish Community.” (Fall 2005).

“Reading Torah Through the Lens of Gender,” review essay of Goldstein’s *Women’s Torah and Haftorah Commentaries*. *The Reconstructionist* (Spring 2004).

“On the Return Path: A Kavanah and Blessing.” *Sh’ma Magazine*. (September 2004).

FORTHCOMING

“Contemporary Reflections on Behar,” WRJ/URJ Women’s Torah Commentary.

In Scriptures: Hebrew Bible and the Making of Jewish and Sexual Identities.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

“Bringing Jewish Feminism to Moscow,” RRC Annual Report, 2004–05.

Panelist, “Changing Judaism,” Jewish Women Changing America Conference, Barnard College, October 2005.

Respondent, “Gender and Jewish Identity,” Modern Literature Colloquium, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, May 2005.

“The Coping Strategies of Our Foremothers,” Torah Fund, Har Zion, December 2005.

Keynote, Women of Reform Judaism Annual Luncheon, Scarsdale, NY, December 2005.

Keynote, “Jewish Beauty,” Jewish Museum of Maryland, October 2005.

Participant, Jewish Feminist Scholars Circle, Philadelphia.

Participant, Jewish Feminist Think Tank, New York City, 2004–05.

Benefit Committee, JWA fundraiser honoring Barbara Dobkin.

Presenter honoring Henny Wenkart, National Council of Jewish Women, May 2005.

Consultant and keynoter, “Jewish Women and Social Justice,” retreat, May 2005.

Scholar-in-residence, “Judaism and Feminism: What Now?” Seaside Jewish Community, Rehoboth, DE, July 2005.

Scholar-in-residence, “Lessons from the Book of Ruth” and Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Congregation Dorshei Emet, Montreal Shavuot, June 2005.

Scholar-in-residence, “The Character of God Seminar,” Congregation Kehillat Israel, Pacific Palisades, CA, January 2005.

Panelist, “The Future of Jewish Feminism,” AJS 2004.

Keynote speaker, Hadassah Education Day, “From Sarah’s Tent Until Today: The Coping Strategies of Our Jewish Foremothers,” December 2004.

Keynote speaker, conference on “Insatiable Appetites: Food, Body Image, and Judaism,” Hebrew College, December 2004.

Teacher, Beit Binah, Project Keshet-Moscow Steinsaltz Institute, weeklong seminar and Shabbat, Moscow, November 2004.

“Violence in Jewish Texts” (workshop with Kathleen Peratis), Lishmah, New York City, October 2004.

Lecturer on Feminist Midrash to Teachers in Jewish Day Schools (national), Hartman Tichon Program, October 2004.

Presenter, theory colloquium “Judaism and Postmodern Culture,” Berman Center, Lehigh, June 2004.

“Violence Against Women in Jewish Text and Life” (with Kathleen Peratis), Lishma, 2004.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member, JWA Academic Advisory Board.

Contributing Editor, *Sh’ma*.

Member, Board of Directors, Perelman Schechter Day Schools.

Volunteer Alumna Interviewer, Brown University.

Evaluator, applications to Israel Science Foundation, June 2005.

Reviewer (for gender inclusiveness), Avichai Jewish Day School Benchmarks & Standards, JTSA, 2004.

Evaluator, Israeli applications for Fulbright New Century Scholars (Toward Equality: The Global Empowerment of Women), for 2004–05 grant.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Associate Fellow, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (theme: Modern Jewish Literature), 2004–05.

SARRA LEV

Chair, Rabbinics Department

Assistant Professor of Rabbinics

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Midrash

Talmud 2

Talmud 3

Talmud 4

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Faculty panel on “Approaches to Teaching,” presentation to the Board.

“Genital Trouble: The Figure of the Eunuch in Rabbinic Literature and the Surrounding Cultures of the Period,” Jewish Feminist Research Group.

“When Do Genitals Determine Sex? Rabbinic and Roman Conceptions of the Eunuch,” AJS, 2005.

ADINA NEWBERG

Director, Modern Hebrew Language Program
Associate Professor of Hebrew Language

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Modern Hebrew 3A
Modern Hebrew 5A

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

Consulting with education resource specialist on all courses and all Hebrew learning
Faculty seminar on K'hilot T'filah

PUBLICATIONS

FORTHCOMING

"Hithabrut: (Connecting): Liberal Houses of Study in Israel as Political and Spiritual Expression." *Israel Focus* (Journal of the Association for Israel Studies).

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Presenter on "K'hilot T'fila in Israel," Association for Israel Studies, Tucson, AZ, March 2005.
Presenter on "Batey Midrash as Vehicles for Transformative Learning," "Yardah Hashabbat" Conference on Shabbat in the Secular Sphere. Tel-Aviv, September 2005.

ILAN PELEG

Adjunct Professor of Israeli Society

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Contemporary Civilization Seminar: Israeli Society

COURSES TAUGHT ELSEWHERE

Middle East Politics, Lafayette College, Easton, PA
American Foreign Policy, Lafayette College, Easton, PA
International Relations, Lafayette College, Easton, PA

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

"Transforming Ethnic Orders to Pluralist Regimes." In A. Guelke (Ed.), *Ethnic Conflict and Democracy*. Palgrave, 2004.
"Jewish-Palestinian Relations in Israel." *International Journal of Politics, Culture & Society*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (Spring 2004).
"Israeli Foreign Policy Under Right Wing Governments: A Constructivist Interpretation." *Israel Studies Forum*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (2004).
"Israel as 'Jewish & Democratic': Revising the Sacred Formula." *The Reconstructionist*, Vol. 68, No. 2 (2004).
"The Zionist Right & Constructivist Realism." *Israel Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (Fall 2005).
"Israel's Democracy at the Crossroads." In *Din U'Dvarim: A Legal & Interdisciplinary Journal*, Haifa University School of Law, Volume II (October 2005).

FORTHCOMING

Democratizing the Hegemonic State (tentative title).

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

Papers given at the Association for Israel Studies in Jerusalem (2004) and Tucson (2005), the Research Committee on Ethnicity & Politics (Ottawa, Canada, October 2004), the American Political Science Association (September 2005), and other such forums.

Lectures given at Vassar College, Bowdoin College, Evergreen College, Lafayette College, and other academic institutions.

Series of presentations (mini-courses) on Israeli and Jewish topics at Kehilat Hanaar in New Hope, NJ, and at Bnai Keshet in Montclair, NJ.

Inaugural Doree Cooper Lecture at Temple Sinai in New Jersey.

In March 2006 I will lecture in London, UK, and in Florence, Italy.

JACOB J. STAUB

Chair, Department of Medieval Jewish Civilization
Director, Jewish Spiritual Direction Program
Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Spirituality

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Medieval Civilization Seminar
Medieval Thought
Parshanut Hamikra
Advanced Parshanut Hamikra
Jewish Meditation
Contemplative Readings of Jewish Texts

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

"Spiritual Journeys," at a lunchtime program, "Share Your Torah," February 14, 2005.

RRC Meditation Shabbaton with RRC student Carol Caine, May 7, 2005.

"Writing Our Own Midrash: Reading Our Experience in Light of Our Sacred Texts," for honorary degree candidates/families and board partners, June 5, 2005.

"Parachuting in for the Yamim Nora'im: When High Holidays Are Your Only Connection," High Holy Day Workshop, September 1, 2005.

Taught shi'ur on Hasidic texts on Elul, at opening day program, September 6, 2005.

"Spirituality at RRC," RRC Recruitment Institute, November 3, 2005.

"Prayer and Ritual in Reconstructionism," distance learning project, November 10, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

"Golden Calf" (poem). *Zeek* (July 2005).
http://www.zeek.net/poetry_0507.shtml

"Exploring Judaism and Finding Reconstructionism" (co-authored with Rebecca T. Alpert). *The Reconstructionist*, Vol. 70, No. 1 (Fall 2005).

“Facing You Facing Me” (poem). *Connections: The Newsletter of Spiritual Directors International*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (October/November 2005).

“I Keep God Before Me Perpetually: The Development of a Jewish Spiritual Direction Program.” *Presence*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (December 2005).

“Winter Light Promises” (poem). *Zeek* (Fall/Winter 2005).
http://www.zeek.net/poetry_0512.shtml

FORTHCOMING

“Jewish Theologies for Spiritual Direction.” In Avruhm Addison and Barbara Breitman (Eds.), *Jewish Spiritual Direction: An Innovative Guide from Traditional and Contemporary Sources*. Jewish Lights, 2006.

“Reconstructionist Judaism.” In Eunice Pollack (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*.

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

“Why Medieval Judaism Matters to Us,” “An Introduction to Maimonides,” and “Maimonides on Interpreting the Torah,” Society Hill Synagogue Scholar-in-Residence Program, October 22–24, 2004.

Speaker on “Innovation and Jewish History,” Congregation Sha’ar Zahav, San Francisco, CA, January 21, 2005.

Speaker on “How to Respond to Bible-Based Homophobia,” Congregation Beth Ahavah’s “Weekend of Learning,” April 9, 2005.

Panelist on the Eighth Annual International Religious Colloquy on “Issues Concerning Faith and the GLBT Movement,” Equality Forum, Prince Theater, Philadelphia, PA, April 27, 2005.

Teacher at the Queer Jews Shabbaton sponsored by Nehirim at Elat Chayyim on “Using Midrash to Write Yourself into the Tradition,” May 13–15, 2005.

Teacher of a class on “Hasidic Texts on Discernment” at the Shalem Institute residency program in Pikesville, MD, July 5, 2005.

Faculty member for the first Advanced Training Week for Jewish Spiritual Directors at Elat Chayyim, Accord, NY. I co-taught a course with Amy Eilberg on “Hasidic Texts on Discernment” and taught a course on “Queering Spiritual Direction,” July 11–17, 2005.

Lecturer on “Kaplan’s Image of God,” Melton Program class on *The History of the Concept of God*, Gratz College, Philadelphia, PA, November 17, 2005.

Silent retreat on Metta Meditation (with Jack Kornfeld and Sylvia Boorstein), Spirit Rock Meditation Center, December 7–14, 2004.

Spiritual Directors International Conference, Chicago, April 1–4, 2005. I taught on *Lectio Divina* at the add-on day for Jewish Spiritual Directors, for which I was on the planning committee as well.

Conference on “Spirituality and Formation for Ministry” (annual meeting of the Ministry Development Council), Center for Career Development and Ministry, Dedham, MA, September 23–25, 2005. One of three keynote speakers, I spoke on “Know God in All Your Ways: Spiritual Formation in Rabbinical Training” and served as a panelist on “Cultivating Spirituality.”

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member, Advisory Board, *Anthony’s Place*, a Web site serving GLBT teens.

Member, Editorial Board, *The Reconstructionist*.

Member, Advisory Board, *Reconstructionist Guide to Jewish Ritual*.

Member, Advisory Board, Yedidyah.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Honorable Mention, Spiritual Directors International Annual 2005 Poetry Contest for my poem “Facing You, Facing Me.”

DEBORAH STERN

Director, Mordecai M. Kaplan Library

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

“Building Your Reconstructionist Library: Resources and Strategies for Communities and Individuals,” presentation at the JRF Convention in Portland, OR, November, 2004.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Scholarship chairperson and member of governing council, Association of Jewish Libraries, June 2002–present.

Executive Committee member, Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association, May 2005–present.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Fern Award for outstanding contribution by an RRC employee to the community, June 2005.

DAVID A. TEUTSCH

**Director, Levin-Lieber Program in Jewish Ethics and the Center for Jewish Ethics Chair, Department of Contemporary Jewish Civilization
The Louis and Myra Wiener Professor of Contemporary Jewish Civilization**

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Contemporary American Jewish Civilization

Ethics of Speech

Jewish Family and Sexual Ethics

Jewish Biomedical Ethics

Practical Rabbinics Group Work

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

“Negotiating Boundaries,” RRC staff seminar, October 27, 2005

“The Rabbinate: Vows of Poverty Not Required,” panel during community time, December 13, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

Spiritual Community: The Power to Restore Hope, Commitment and Joy. Jewish Lights, 2005.

Guide to Jewish Practice: Bioethics. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press.

Guide to Jewish Practice: Tzedaka. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press.

“Reconstructionism, Past Present and Future: A Symposium.” *Reconstructionist*, Vol. 70, No. 1 (Fall 2005).

“Values-Based Decision Making: Some Second Thoughts—A Reply.” *Reconstructionist*, Vol. 70, No. 1 (Fall 2005).

“Teach Your Children Well: Tzedaka Restores Justice.” *Forward* (November 11, 2005).

“Reinvigorating the Practice of Contemporary Jewish Ethics: A Justification for Values-Based Decision Making.” *The Reconstructionist*, Vol. 69, No. 2 (Spring 2005).

“Ancient Wisdom, New Challenges: Acting Responsibly.” *One People, Many Voices*, CLAL, 2004.

“Building Bridges: From Learning to Living—An Evaluation.” *Journal of Jewish Communal Service* (Summer–Fall 2004).

“Technological, Organizational and Social Turbulence: Contemporary Jewish Communal Challenges.” *Contemporary Jewry*, Vol. 24 (2003–04).

“Jewish Political Influence.” *Sh'ma* (October 2004).

“The Ethics of Stem-Cell Research.” Jewish chaplains’ newsletter.

FORTHCOMING

A Guide to Jewish Practice: Speech Ethics. (Spring 2006).

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

“Navigating the New Frontier of Science and Technology,” BIO (the largest annual conference in biotechnology), June 20, 2005.

Scholar-in-residence, Los Angeles Board of Rabbis annual sermon seminar; explored the issue of *Mipney Darkhei Shalom* and its contemporary applications, August 23, 2005.

Scholar-facilitator, Bet Am Israel Leadership Retreat, September 10–11, 2005.

Panel convener, featured author, Society of Jewish Ethics Annual Conference, Phoenix AZ, January 6–7, 2006.

Guest lecturer, Administration course.

Guest lecturer, Contemporary Worship class.

Guest lecturer, Introduction to Reconstructionist Thought and Practice.

Rosenzweig on Revelation for the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, June 2004.

“Teaching Ethics” for a panel on teaching for the fall Board of Governors meeting, 2004.

“Imagining the Jewish Future,” Brown Hillel, October 22, 2004.

“Future of Jewish Sexual Ethics: An Unfolding Frontier” and “Teaching Ethics and Values in Jewish Life,” JRF Convention, Portland OR, November 12, 2004.

“Teaching Jewish Ethics to Diverse Learners,” Adult Learning Institute, Portland, OR, November 14, 2004.

“Making Jewish Decisions and Making Decisions Jewishly,” General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, Cleveland OH, November 16, 2004.

“The Impact of Jewish Ethics on the Jewish Community: Issues of Methodology and Dissemination,” Annual Conference, Society of Jewish Ethics, Miami, FL, January 8, 2005.

“Stem-Cell Research: A Challenge for Jewish Bioethics,” Conference of Jewish Chaplains, January 12, 2005.

“Framing Hard Choices: Jewish Concepts and Values That Shape End-of-Life Decision Making,” Society for the Advancement of Judaism, January 29, 2005.

“Values-Based Decision Making: A Model for Conversations with Patients and Their Families,” Spirituality, Religion and Health Interest Group, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, February 2, 2005.

“Healthcare Distribution Ethics,” lunchtime talk at RRC, February 22, 2004.

“Healing vs. Enhancement: A Jewish Perspective,” Beth-Hillel-Beth-El Torathon, February 24, 2005.

“*The Guide to Jewish Practice: A Tool for Teaching and Decision Making*,” RRA Convention, March 14, 2005.

“Jewish Sexual Ethics: Past, Present and Future,” Kol Emet, Yardley, PA, March 20, 2005.

Respondent at RRC faculty seminar to Mitch Marcus, “Computational Metaphors and Human Finiteness,” March 28, 2005.

“Post-Denominationalism and Renewal: Challenges to Business as Usual,” CCAR Convention, Houston, TX, March 30, 2005.

“Jewish Values That Drive Your Life Choices,” Darrell Friedman Institute, Baltimore, MD, April 7, 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Chair, Education Committee, Akiba Hebrew Academy.

Vice president, Society of Jewish Ethics.

Member, Leadership Development Committee of Germantown Jewish Centre, including pro bono training.

President, Academic Coalition for Jewish Bioethics (term ended in January 2006).

Member, Excel Committee, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education.

Member, Nominating Committee, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

Chair, Ethics Code Committee, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (drafting the first comprehensive code of ethics for the RRA).

JOSHUA WAXMAN

Adjunct Instructor of Biblical Studies

COURSES TAUGHT AT RRC

Biblical Text: Genesis-Exodus

Biblical Text: Leviticus-Deuteronomy

PAPERS, LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND TRAININGS

“On the Pedagogy of Bible in the Thought of Solomon Schechter,” at Teach Bible: Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy, Brandeis University.

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