

SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE OPPORTUNITIES 5771

6 Ellul 5770 / August 16, 2010

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this updated list is to provide an opportunity for smaller, more budget-challenged and/or more isolated Jewish communities to provide congregations and community a visiting speaker.

The following members of the Rabbinical Assembly are available to your congregation and your community as a Scholar-In-Residence (SIR).

Speakers are listed alphabetically with the respective page on which each speaker has written their own page describing herself/himself to you, and they represent a wide range of topics, experiences and perspectives. Although I initiated this project and set up an initial “template, I agreed to gather and then post the email self-description colleagues as received; that is the limit of my personal responsibility and obligation as a volunteer. The Foundation For Family Education, Inc. 501c3 has simply provided the website band-width without endorsement of any speaker.

This listing is intended solely to be a voluntary posting as a service to congregational leaders and colleagues. There probably be additions to this list and I will replace this posted list and pdf download with an updated version as newer contributions will be received.

This is an opportunity for you and your congregation/community to consider the various unique ways in which these speakers can work with you: Shabbat – 3 presentations at Friday night/Shabbat morning and Saturday night; Sunday – morning minyan, and/or religious school, and/or youth group or Hebrew High School/Confirmation class, and/or Sisterhood/Mens Club program, and/or Jewish Family Education inter-generational experience; pre-Shabbat or post-Sunday program for the community. Consider the speaker/teacher for a dinner/luncheon or presentation within the service. Consider a combination of the above suggestions and create additional ones with the teacher of your choice.

Please contact directly any listed speaker, ask your questions to formulate your SIR program and negotiate the financial details.

With best wishes for a fulfilling and meaningful New Year 5771,

Rabbi Dov Lerner

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Directory of Available Educators

Rabbi STUART ALTSCHULER Email address: stuartaltshuler9@gmail.com	Telephone: 949-280-6691	Page 4
Rabbi KENNETH BERGER Email address: keberger@aol.com ; kennetheberger@gmail.com	Telephone: 847-374-0338	Page 6
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Rabbi MICHAEL LAXMETER Email address: rebmike@hvc.rr.com	Telephone: 845-787-5018	Page 16
Rabbi BARRY DOV LERNER Email address: bdlerner1@gmail.com Website: www.jewishfreeware.org	Telephone: 215-572-9175	Page 17
Rabbi JACOB MALKI Email address: jmalki3226@aol.com	Telephone: 609-425-5565	Page 19

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Rabbi AVIS D. MILLER

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Telephone: 240-395-0454

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Rabbi JASON A. MILLER

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Rabbi MICHAEL L.RASCOE

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Telephone: 269-208-8897

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Rabbi (Dr.) J.B. SACKS

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Telephone: 323-387-0096

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Rabbi Stuart Altschuler

stuartaltshuler9@gmail.com

Telephone: 949-280-6691

TOPICS AND THEMES:

1) Judaism meets Islam and Christianity: The purpose of this instruction is to understand Judaism in the context of the two other major monotheistic faiths. How can we gain an appreciation of Judaism through the eyes of our fellow monotheisms? How have relations between Jews and Muslims, Jews and Christians changed since the origins of these respective faiths? What are the implications of both history and theology for meeting today's realities in interfaith affairs?

2) The History of the Soviet Jewry movement: Looking back 20 years ago from someone who was there, in the Soviet Union, when the Soviet Empire toppled and almost a million Jews left the USSR for Israel and the United States. How did the greatest exodus in Jewish history occur? Who were the major players? Learn all the inside info about Sharansky, the activities of American Jewry, the grassroots movement, and about President Reagan's role and the role of Congress in the final victory.

3) From Emancipation to Zionism: We will explore the inevitability of the victory of Zionism by looking at the Emancipation process that began for Jews in Western Europe in the 18th Century. What did Voltaire, Napoleon, Montesquieu, Heine, Marx, Engels, Hess, Freud, and others have to say about the situation of the Jews in Europe? Was the Shoah also an inevitable product of the Emancipation in Europe? The participant will come away with an entirely different appreciation of contemporary Jewish history, and why the Holocaust and the birth of the state of Israel occurred.

4) Israel: How did Israel become a state? How did Zionism develop? We will study Hess, Pinsker, Herzl, Ha-am, Borochoy, A.D. Gordon, and other major Zionist thinkers to enable us to understand the heart and chemistry of today's modern state of Israel. How about the problem with Palestinians???? How did that happen? Is Israel to blame for the refugee problems? We will take a closer look at one of today's most volatile and controversial episodes in modern history, 1948 and the creation of Israel and the Palestinian problem.

5) From antisemitism to the Shoah: In this mini-course we will examine the history of antisemitism from its roots in pagan Rome, to its religious antecedents in the Islamic and Christian Empires, to the evolution of racial antisemitism. How is antisemitism different after the Shoah? How is Muslim antisemitism different from its predecessor antisemitisms?

AVAILABLE EITHER DURING THE WEEK OR ON SHABBAT.

\$1000 for Shabbat presentations

Additional remuneration for extended time, depending on distance and time needed.

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Rabbi Stuart Altshuler is an ordained rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary(1980), has served pulpits for the past 30 years, and currently teaches at Chapman University, Orange, CALifornia in its History and RELigious Studies Departments. He is th author of the book, From Exodus to Freedom: A History of the Soviet Jewry Movement in America, and holds a doctorate in Jewish history from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

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Rabbi KENNETH BERGER

Email address: keberger@aol.com; kennetheberger@gmail.com

Telephone: 847-374-0338

Topics:

The focus of my research and teaching has been the history and development of Jewish liturgy, the literary characteristics of our prayer texts and the theological ideas expressed by them. My presentations are interactive and are usually textually-based. Any of the following topics can be combined into a series for a Shabbat scholar-in-residence program. I would also be happy to work with the congregation in developing presentations on aspects of Jewish liturgy that would be of particular interest to its members.

Yedid Nefesh: A Song of Yearning to God

Welcoming the Sabbath Bride: *Lekha Dodi*

Poetry and Midrash in the Shabbat Amidah

Havdalah: Distinctions that Matter

Imagining God: *An'im Zemirot*

The Poetry of Prayer

Hashkiveinu: Protect us from What?

Our Most Disputed Prayer: The Recitation of Kiddush in the Synagogue

Aleinu

The Case of the Disappearing Amen

The Reading of the Torah: *Matan Torah* or *Talmud Torah*?

Kiddush without Wine: The Mystery of *Magen Avot*

Why Wouldn't Rashi Recite *Yismah Moshe*?

Does God Require the Heart? The Importance of Desire, Intention, and Deed in Prayer and other

Mitzvot: Two Rabbinic Stories

Available for the following presentation times:

Friday Evening

Shabbat AM

Lunch 'n Learn

Minhah

Havdalah

Saturday Evening

Sunday Breakfast

Profile:

Rabbi Kenneth Berger served as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom in Teaneck, New Jersey for over thirty years. He recently retired from that position and resettled in his hometown, Chicago, Illinois. Beth Sholom is a congregation which has come to be known for its sense of community, its warmth, its substantial Shabbat morning attendance, and for the commitment of its members to religious growth

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and to Conservative Judaism. Its members include many Jewish professionals, including almost thirty rabbis.

He earned a doctorate in Jewish Liturgy from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He served as an adjunct member of the Seminary's faculty for many years, teaching courses in liturgy in List College, the Graduate School, and in the Rabbinical School, as well as courses in the Rabbinical School's Department of Professional Skills.

Rabbi Berger has also been deeply involved in the Jewish community. For many years he was a member of the Chancellor's Rabbinic Cabinet at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and was awarded the Rabbi Simon Greenberg Rabbinic Achievement Award by the Seminary in October, 1995. He has served as chair or as a member of several Rabbinical Assembly committees, including the Executive Council, the Administrative, Placement, Rabbinic Services, Publications, and Israel Committees.

He is a Past-President of the North Jersey Board of Rabbis and the Teaneck Clergy Council, and was a leader in the UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey, serving on its Executive Committee, its Board of Trustees, and several committees, including Planning and Allocations, Rabbinic Liaison Committee (chair) Chaplaincy (chair), Strategic Planning, and Education Committees.

For many years he served as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Education Committees of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, and was then appointed an honorary member of the Board. Most recently he served as chair of its Rabbinic Advisory Committee.

Rabbi Berger was also a founder and long-time officer and Board member of the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County, now Family Promise of Bergen County, an interfaith organization that provides emergency and transitional housing to homeless families, and maintains a daily walk-in dinner program for the working poor.

Suggested fee schedule:

\$2500 plus transportation. I am willing to negotiate a lower fee for a small congregation with limited resources.

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Rabbi SHAI CHERRY

Email address:* shai.cherry@gmail.com

Telephone:* 858-761-3024

Topics/Themes:

1. Judaism Responses to Darwinism
2. Jewish Biblical Interpretation

Shai Cherry holds a doctorate in Jewish Thought and Theology from Brandeis University (2001) and was subsequently ordained as a Conservative Rabbi by the Ziegler School (2009). His initial research focused on Jewish articulations of creation and evolution. In addition to his publications on these topics, Shai has also written the first user-friendly text book on Jewish biblical commentary: *Torah Through Time: Understanding Bible Commentary from the Rabbinic Period to Modern Times*. Shai is the featured lecturer for The Teaching Company's "Introduction to Judaism." He spent 4 years as an assistant professor of Jewish Thought at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and 4 years as a lecturer at UCLA. Shai most recently served as the Rabbi in Residence at San Diego Jewish Academy. Shai's married to Rebecca Cherry, M.D., a pediatric gastro-enterologist at Rady Children's Hospital. They have 3 children: Tehila (9), Rina (5), and Shalev (2).

<http://shai.cherry.googlepages.com/home>

Suggested fee schedule: \$5000/Shabbaton

Shai Cherry <http://shai.cherry.googlepages.com/home>

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Rabbi DIANE COHEN

Email address: RayDina@aol.com

Telephone: 818-267-9730

Topics/Themes: . . .

1. Mitzvot: They're Good for Your Soul

Why do mitzvot? Just because? How can we make ritual mitzvot more meaningful to us? What is a kavanah and how can we write our own to make observance a spiritual experience?

Shabbat presentation: Participants will leave with a new way to think about rituals.

Sunday morning: Participants will leave with their own newly composed kavanot for specific holiday/Shabbat rituals.

2. When a Child Inter-marries/Converts Out

Participants will leave the program with coping strategies to confront these painful experiences in so many Jewish families.

(As of now, I see a one-time presentation on coping strategies.)

Available for each or all of the suggest following presentation times:

1. Weekday as of now - yes

2. Shabbat YES

Friday Evening

Shabbat AM

Lunch 'n Learn

Mincha,

Havdalah

Saturday Evening

3. Sunday YES

Tallit 'n Tefillen Breakfast

Lunch 'n Learn

Afternoon

Sunday Evening

I am willing to work with any of the following - together or in a series of programs and activities:

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1. Congregation X
2. Sisterhood X
3. Men's Club X
4. Religious School **
5. Hebrew High School **
6. Youth group - Kadimah/USY **
7. Jewish Family Education X
8. Hazak (Seniors) X

**I don't think my programs would be appropriate for kids. If I think the mitzvah program (#1) would work with kids, I will update this template.

A snapshot biographic profile:

ravdina.blogspot.com

Suggested fee schedule:

\$500 per session (i.e., Shabbat morning and Sunday would = \$1000)

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Rabbi MEL GLAZER

Email address: pikespeakrabbi@aol.com

Telephone: 719 444-0430

SPEAKING TOPICS

1. If God Could Forgive Cain, You Can Forgive Anyone

Cain was guilty of The First Murder, killing his brother Abel. God was angry, and at first wanted to punish Cain, but then changed His mind. God decided to forgive Cain, and it worked! Learn how forgiveness is the key to healing from our anger, and what happens when you forgive those who have died.

2. What to say, and what NEVER to say, to someone after a loss

Society has not taught us very well how to accept our losses. We create false responses to death and loss, such as “Just give it time,” “I know just how you feel,” “Be quiet!” and “Get another one!” These societal responses, which attempt to be helpful, are not. Learn how to properly respond to a loss, and why Biblical responses are much more helpful and comforting to those who are grieving.

3. Where was God in the Tragedy-9/11, Job and You

Tragedies happen, and when they do, we wonder why. There are national tragedies, such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, and there are personal tragedies, such as the death of innocent children. Where is God when a tragedy affects us? Why do the righteous suffer and the evil prosper? The Book of Job will help us understand what evil really is, what suffering is all about, and how God wants us to respond.

4. Wandering from Your Desert of Grief to Your Promised Land of Hope

After the loss of a loved one, which is essentially the loss of a way of life, the “old you” can’t enter its new life until it “dies” and is replaced by the “new you.” This process is a form of wandering, and you must go through that phase of grief before you arrive at hope and a new future. That is exactly what happened to the ancient Israelites, they wandered and they reached the Promised Land. You can too!

5. The Empty Chair Around The Holiday Table

At every joyous celebration-Thanksgiving, Passover Seder, wedding feast--there are empty chairs where our loved ones used to sit. Death and divorce have taken them away from us, and from the comfortable familiarity that we had grown to expect. How shall we deal with this new reality? Learn the ways that will help us heal from the pain of emptiness.

Available for each or all of the suggested following presentation times:

My favorite venue is to spend Shabbat with you. We can work together on when and how long, but spending time together helps trust and the creation of community .

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Please check me out at <http://www.griefok.com> for more topics and information.

Suggested fee schedule: \$3000 plus transportation, food and a bed!!

I am happy to speak to the local RA and/or Clergy Association on: “A new look at funerals.”

In addition, I am happy to work with your Hevra Kadisha on any issues they may need to explore.

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Rabbi Avram Kogen

Email address: avkogen@yahoo.com

Telephone: (201) 245-2225

Topics/Themes:

1. Science and Religion: Did rainbows exist before Noah's flood?

This seemingly trivial question has deep implications for the ongoing struggle between scientific knowledge and religious faith. A medieval commentator on the book of Genesis rose to the challenge. His method (and his conclusions) may be an eye-opener for Jews of the twenty-first century.

2. Examining a Value-Concept: a micro approach to macro Jewish thought

In response to the oft-heard rumor that the Talmud and Midrash have no coherent philosophy, the late Professor Max Kadushin (1895-1980) outlined the building blocks of rabbinic thought, which he called value-concepts. In this session, we will get our toes wet by delving into one such building block.

We will examine a value-concept in an area that is familiar to everyone in the room. Each person present has some advance familiarity with a few of the details. Our task together will be to consider the various pieces of the puzzle, which I have seen people contribute when I've presented this material on previous occasions. I will have (up my sleeve) several lesser-known nuggets of information, to be used in the event that people move quickly by identifying all the obvious pieces within the first twenty minutes. This will guarantee that, whether I use my extra "ammunition" or not, everyone will leave with a deeper and broader command of this area than they had at the start of the session.

In addition to a shared downloading of details, we will also achieve a synthesis of the details and their implications. Each participant is likely to retain -- and use -- the enhanced understanding that will result from this process.

3. If I forget thee, O Jerusalem

The destruction of the Second Temple meant an end to Jewish life as it had been practiced up to that time. How did Judaism react to the experience of exile/diaspora? Why did Judaism not disappear, as many might have expected?

In this session, we will explore how Judaism maintained a core of its ancient traditions while developing new modes of religious expression to fill the void created by involuntary exile from our ancestral homeland. We will extract new meaning from one or two time-honored texts that are already familiar to those in attendance. Our ongoing, complex relationship to the Land of Israel will also play a role in our discussion.

As an added bonus, if time permits, we will demonstrate how our relationship with the Land of Israel is so pervasive that it finds expression in every month of the Jewish calendar.

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Available opportunities:

1. Weekday: single or double session

2. Shabbat:

Friday Evening: during the service, or after it

Shabbat AM lecture or discussion before or after the Torah reading

Lunch 'n Learn: an informal study session over lunch

Minchah: before the service, or between Minchah and Maariv

Havdalah: beginning the new week with a dose of spirituality

Saturday Evening: study as an activity for all ages, or just for adults

3. Sunday

Tallit 'n Tefillin Breakfast: building upon the service by sharing Jewish insights

Lunch 'n Learn: an intergenerational opportunity

Afternoon: when not colliding with a major sports event

Sunday Evening: recharging the spiritual batteries before the work-week begins again

Wherever possible, the presentation can be tailored to the particular constituency. I am eager to work with any of the following – together or in a series of programs and activities:

1. Congregation
2. Sisterhood
3. Men's Club
4. Religious School
5. Hebrew High School
6. Youth group - Kadimah/USY
7. Jewish Family Education
8. Hazak (Seniors)

Profile:

Rabbi Avram Kogen, who works in the business world, has extensive experience in adult education as well as formal and informal education for high school and middle school students. In addition to the

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expected rabbinic credentials, he holds a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University. Rabbi Kogen frequently chants the Torah reading in New Jersey.

During his years of rabbinic service, Rabbi Kogen served as a congregational rabbi in York, PA and in Pensacola, FL, where he conceived and executed a strong Adult Education program in close partnership with members of the synagogue, combining study with community-building. When serving as religious school principal, he paid special attention to integrating education and youth programs into the life of the adult congregation.

Rabbi Kogen worked for many summers in leadership roles at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. He also has edited a sourcebook for teenagers through USY and authored Torah Sparks for the USCJ website for the 5767 year. Rabbi Kogen's teaching style can best be characterized as one of exploration and discovery. He is proud that his listening skills are at least as good as his speaking skills.

Honorarium:

Rabbi Kogen enjoys opportunities to help Jews to expand their horizons. His fees are negotiable, depending on various factors such as geography, multiple appearances, and scheduling constraints. Typically, a single session would range from \$600 to \$900, while a full-weekend program might range from \$1,000 to \$1,750, plus expenses.

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Rabbi MICHAEL LAXMETER

Email address: rebmike@hvc.rr.com

Telephone: 845-787-5018

Topics/Themes:

1. Egyptian Language and Literature and the Bible. Participants will leave with a unique and very different understanding of the relationship between Egyptian Language and Literature and the Hebrew text of our Bible.
2. The Rabbi and the Archaeologist. Participants will leave with a new understanding of some very esoteric and seemingly insignificant Biblical texts.

Available for each or all of the suggest following presentation times:

1. Weekday - available
2. Shabbat - unavailable
3. Sunday fully available
Tallit 'n Tefillen Breakfast
Lunch 'n Learn
Afternoon
Sunday Evening

I am willing to work with any of the following - together or in a series of programs and activities:

1. Congregation yes
2. Sisterhood yes
3. Men's Club yes
8. Hazak (Seniors) yes

B.A. Hebrew Language and Literature, City University of New York; M.H.L. JTS; Ordination: JTS; doctoral work at New York University. Active pulpit rabbi for 4 decades.

Suggested fee schedule: \$1000-\$1250 – plus travel and other expenses.

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Rabbi BARRY DOV LERNER

Email address: bdlerner1@gmail.com

Telephone: 215-572-9175

Topics/Themes:

1. MAKING EVERY SYNAGOGUE "PEOPLE-FRIENDLY"

Are there strategies that will insure that the local community, visitors and even your own current and former membership that your synagogue is a warm and welcoming community? You be there are! Virtually all of them are free of monetary cost, equipment purchases or computer software. Of course, we can include methods for using the most modern high-tech tools and opportunities. We will share a workshop - even on Shabbat - that will encourage congregational leadership and members to attempt tactics that will make your "house of worship" a real Jewish "home."

2. "HANDS-ON" LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY AGE

For 10 years I've been providing programs in the Pennsylvania/New York/New Jersey area that convert an audience into participants. These are time-tested formats that I have been developing for decades, and they work today as well as they did in 1967 and thereafter. People of all ages will get involved when they are assured that they can succeed and have fun. These are approaches that work for all ages, from pre-school through senior citizen and everyone in-between. This can be especially effective using my "portable" program-workshops built around the Jewish Calendar Cycle and/or the Jewish Life Cycle.

3. PUBLISHING YOUR OWN MONEY - REALLY!

For many years I've been working with synagogues, day schools, religious schools, youth groups on specific publishing projects. Trust me, once you have computer-friendly people engaged, especially "digital natives" we can pair these skills with raising funds in a meaningful project for the congregation or school. I've been creating and publishing Haggadot, Seder Songbooks, Megillot for millions of downloads in almost 80 countries around the world. NOTE: Downloads can be edited or not, and then they are reproduced, some for entire schools and for community activities. I like to believe that jewishfreeware.org is responsible for more Haggadot in the past 10 years than any other publisher or commercial sponsor. And YOU can do the same thing, year-round.

4. YOUR'E GOING TO *WHERE* FOR YOUR FIRST PULPIT ?

After ordination I arrived in South America, leaving behind an 8 week infant and wife with her parents, where after only 7 weeks in the schul I had to flee for my life! Does that get your attention? Above all, why only 7 weeks – was it the sermons? Why didn't your wife come with you? Why South America - and - now to learn a living Spanish? What were the ups and downs in those weeks, the highlights and the? What is it like to truly encounter a different culture as an American and as a Rabbi? Stories that teach important lessons and should have been a book called "tears and laughter in the pulpit."

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Available for each or all of the following presentation times:

1. Weekday

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons mid-week

2. Shabbat

I am available for a full Shabbat of experiences with your congregation to develop with you and your leadership. These can be inter-active discussions, lunch 'n learn built around a text - the Torah portion of the week, selected Rabbinic legends - or any theme of your choosing.

Friday Evening, Shabbat AM, Lunch 'n Learn, Mincha, Havdalah, Saturday Evening

3. Sunday

I am available to stay with your congregation and community for Sunday to meet with your school/students and perhaps also with your youth group.

Tallit 'n Tefillen Breakfast, Religious School, Lunch 'n Learn, Afternoon and/or Sunday Evening

I am willing to work with any of the following - together or in a series of programs and activities:

I have worked successfully with the full range of ages - from the very youngest in pre-school through senior citizens - throughout my entire Jewish career, in education, the Rabbinate, and on-line writing,

1. Congregation

2. Sisterhood

3. Men's Club

4. Religious School

5. Hebrew High School

6. Youth group - Kadimah/USY

7. Jewish Family Education

8. Hazak (Seniors)

I would encourage you to visit my website, www.jewishfreeware.org for a sense of who I am and what I have been doing for the Jewish community world-wide in addition to being a lead mashgiach for the Rabbinical Assembly, creating a parallel Egalitarian service for an unaffiliated traditional congregation, teaching teens for the Gratz College Jewish Community High School and presenting hands-on experiential programs for all ages. In addition I have used cooking and baking experiences to teach Jewish calendar and life cycles for the past 45 years.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss my background and many more experiences that qualify me as an interesting and engaging facilitator for learning with your congregation and community.

Suggested fee schedule: \$750 for an entire weekend, Shabbat through Sunday for as many presentations/discussions/workshops as are possible. Plus transportation and program materials as needed /wanted.

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Rabbi JACOB MALKI

Email address: jmalki3226@aol.com

Telephone 609-425-5565

Topics:

1. Jews in Italy

I grew up in Italy, I graduated in Physics and Rabbinics in Italy; I am an ABD in Jewish history from JTS, specialization in Italian Jewish History (at the present I am cataloging the Hebrew-Italian manuscripts at JTS, as a volunteer.)

2. Jews in Egypt in the 19th-20th centuries

I was born in Egypt and I taught this topic a few times.

Fees: \$1,000.00 plus expenses is fine.

I can read the Torah in Northern-Italian tropes and I can officiate as a Cantor (I am blessed with an operatic bass-baritone voice.)

Pulpit Rabbi by training with over twenty-five years of experience and Cantor for over thirty years, both in the United States and Italy. Have been particularly effective in various academic research and teaching roles focusing on Jewish history and Jewish Law. Implemented new classes and improving existing ones to create dynamic learning environments. Enhanced inter-confessional dialogue and encouraged communication between communities by applying personal experiences in various cultures around the world.

Rabbinical Experience

Continuum Hospice, Volunteer; New York, New York 2010-

Provided pastoral counseling to patients of all faiths both in hospital and home bound.

The Jewish Theological Seminary, Volunteer; New York, New York Researched and catalogued Hebrew manuscripts. 2010-

Bellevue Hospital Center, Chaplain Intern; New York, New York 2008-2009

Rotated in most of the hospital clinics, in particular in Emergency Room, Addiction, Neurology and Psychiatry.

Beth Judah Temple of Wildwood, Rabbi; Wildwood, New Jersey 2004-2007

Implemented new programs for seniors and developmentally disabled through song and dance that enhanced self-confidence and group contact.

Modernized Hebrew School curriculum through novel use of audio and visual aids to enhance students' educational experience.

Expanded cultural programs and social activities that both fostered new and strengthened existing

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relationships between congregation and community at large.

Initiated weekly column in Cape May County newspaper to improve community understanding of Jewish religion and customs

Public Hospital Center, Supportive Counselor; Turin, Italy September 2003-March 2004

Provided pastoral counseling to patients in preoperative and postoperative stages.

Led group discussions to address patients' health concerns.

Agudas Israel Congregation, Rabbi; Hazleton, Pennsylvania 2001-2003

Initiated daily study session following Services to familiarize the congregants with Biblical and Rabbinic Literature.

Enhanced adult education and initiated a Hebrew class open to Hazleton population at large to foster understanding and friendship among religious communities.

Maintained daily morning and evening Services at time of demographic decline by encouraging open discussion on matters of congregants' concern.

Congregation Sons of Zion, Rabbi; Holyoke, Massachusetts 1995-2001

Enhanced existing adult education programs on various aspects of Jewish culture by developing coherent lesson plans

Increased interest in Jewish identity in the Springfield community by creating and teaching courses in Jewish History and Law through local JCC.

Conducted courses in medieval commentaries on the Bible encouraging youths to appreciate the different understanding of the Scriptures during the past generations.

Initiated the organization of the Congregation historical archive.

Expanded the cantorial aspects of the synagogue Services by performing Sephardic, Italian and Ashkenazi melodies.

Intensified the pastoral care Services on behalf of the seniors and inbound both affiliated and unaffiliated.

Volunteered at senior homes, psychiatric facilities and Hospice engaging the residents in singing and helping them to express their concerns either in group or individually.

Hebrew University, Jerusalem and to deliver papers at the World Union of Jewish Studies from Dorot Foundation, NY, 1992, 1993 and 1994 and from Simon Grinspoon Fund of the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts, in 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2001.

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Rabbi AVIS D. MILLER

Email address: rabbi@opendor.org

Telephone: 240-395-0454

Topics:

1. Female and Jewish in the 21st Century: “Prayer, Practice, and Poetry”

Prayer: looking at issues of female imagery in Jewish liturgy, contemporary feminist challenges to traditional liturgy, and recent contributions of women to Jewish prayer

Practice: traditional differences in halachic/behavioral expectations for Jewish men and Jewish women, and how our generation has added meaning to traditional practices as well as instituting new practices

Poetry: an interactive exploration of new women’s poetic midrashim on traditional texts involving Jewish women.

2. Kiddush HaShem (Jewish Martyrdom)

An exploration of the development of the concept of Jewish martyrdom from its roots in ancient times, the laws and lore dealing with the practice of martyrdom, and its practice in Jewish history, from Maccabees and Masada, to the Crusades and the Shoah

Available for all of the suggested following presentation times:

1. Weekday

2. Shabbat

Friday Evening

Shabbat AM

Lunch 'n Learn

Mincha,

Havdalah

Saturday Evening

3. Sunday

Tallit 'n Tefillen Breakfast

Lunch 'n Learn

Afternoon

Sunday Evening

I am willing to work with any of the following - together or in a series of programs and activities:

1. Congregation yes

2. Sisterhood yes

3. Men's Club yes

4. Religious School no

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5. Hebrew High School yes
6. Youth group - Kadimah/USY yes
7. Jewish Family Education yes
8. Hazak (Seniors) yes

Rabbi Miller is President of the Open Dor Foundation. The purpose of the Open Dor Foundation is to open the door to Jewish involvement through educational programs designed to reach out to unaffiliated and marginally active Jews, as well as to non-Jews who are part of the Jewish family through marriage to a Jew or through Jewish ancestry. She is also Rabbi Emerita at Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, D.C., where she served from her graduation from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in June 1986 until June 2008, the longest pulpit tenure of any woman in the Conservative movement. Rabbi Miller conducts High Holyday services at 6th & I Historic Synagogue in Washington, DC, and teaches classes there as well as at other synagogues in the area.

The first woman in the United States to assume pulpit responsibilities in a major Conservative congregation, Rabbi Miller has served as President of the Washington-Baltimore Region of the Rabbinical Assembly. As chair of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Outreach and Conversion (1992-5, 2004-6), Rabbi Miller was also the first woman to be appointed to head a national committee of the RA, as well as one of the first women to serve on the Rabbinical Assembly's Executive Council.

As a representative of the Rabbinical Assembly and the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, Rabbi Miller was sent to Ethiopia in 1989 to meet with the Ethiopian Jewish Community and Ethiopian leaders to press for the immigration of Ethiopian Jewry. Rabbi Miller designed and led the first Jewish healing service in the Washington area, as well as the area's first Learners' Minyan, and the first local Jewish workshops for engaged and expectant couples. Other programming initiatives at the congregation include Hebrew and Jewish Literacy Courses, programs for singles, couples, and young families, Adult Bat Mitzvah, and Bikkur Holim committee, and outreach to young adults with mixed Jewish/non-Jewish ancestry. Under the auspices of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, she has trained laymen around the country to practice effective keruv.

Rabbi Miller was one of only two women to address the National Dinner -- Celebrate 350, the official celebration of the American Jewish community, held every 50 years, at which the President of the U.S. speaks. She has spoken widely around the country at gatherings including the General Assembly, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, B'nai B'rith Women/Jewish Women International, the American Jewish Committee, the Rabbinical Assembly, and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, as well as at Bar Ilan in Israel, and she has served as a scholar-in-residence in congregations around the country. Her topics have included Jewish martyrdom (the subject of her master's thesis at Georgetown), aspects of outreach and conversion, liturgy, and women's life cycle events and midrashim. A book of her collected sermons was published as *On Wings Of Hope*, and her writing has frequently appeared in publications such as *Moment*, *the Forward*, and *Lilith*.

www.opendor.org

Suggested fee schedule: Negotiable, depending on number of sessions and distance traveled

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Rabbi JASON A. MILLER

Email address: rabbijam@gmail.com

Telephone: 248-535-7090

Topics/Themes:

1. HOW TECHNOLOGY AFFECTS JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- Participants will leave the presentation with an understanding of how new technology (Web 2.0, Internet, Distance Learning, etc.) has transformed the global Jewish community and how the borders have changed to allow for the flow of Jewish wisdom to transcend space and time. Jewish wisdom, once garnered through the rabbi, is now transmitted by bloggers, on Twitter, and in YouTube videos by anyone with an Internet connection. Distance learning means that Jewish wisdom can be delivered to anyone anywhere without limits.

2. NOT EVERYTHING'S KOSHER IN THE POLITICS OF KOSHER CERTIFICATION

- Participants will leave the presentation with an understanding of how the kosher laws of the Torah (don't eat pork or shellfish and don't cook a kid in its mother's milk) have been passed down through the generations to our current era in which tin foil requires a kosher certification, rabbis search broccoli for bugs under a microscope, smoked salmon and NYC tap water are rendered unkosher, and kosher isn't kosher unless it's "Glatt." Rabbi Jason Miller, a Conservative rabbi who founded Kosher Michigan, explains how the Ultra-Orthodox gained a monopoly on kosher certification and supervision and each year add stringencies to the kashrut laws until they become unrecognizable to past generations. Participants will learn about new initiatives launched by Conservative rabbis in several Jewish communities to raise awareness of kosher observance, increase the number of kosher options available, and bring ethics into the kosher marketplace.

3. HOW JEWISH TEENS WILL SHAPE THE JEWISH FUTURE - The times they are a changin' in the American Jewish community and it will be the young people of today (Jewish teens and college students) who determine what that community will look like in the next several decades. Participants will leave the presentation with an understanding of what Jewish teens and college students believe about the role their "Jewishness" plays in their lives, why they don't believe that someone has to actually be Jewish to be Jewish, why denominations and federations don't matter anymore, why this generation will be philanthropic in more creative ways, and what Israel means to the future of our people. Jewish wisdom, to young people, can be gained through media that didn't exist in prior generations and from alternative teachings that are not considered part of the existing Jewish establishment.

Available for each or all of the suggest following presentation times:

1. Weekday - YES

2. Shabbat - YES, with at least 2 months notice

Friday Evening, Shabbat AM, Lunch 'n Learn, Mincha, Havdalah, Saturday Evening

3. Sunday - YES

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Tallit 'n Tefillen Breakfast, Lunch 'n Learn, Afternoon, Sunday Evening

I am willing to work with any of the following - together or in a series of programs and activities:

1. Congregation
2. Sisterhood
3. Men's Club
4. Religious School
5. Hebrew High School
6. Youth group - Kadimah/USY
7. Jewish Family Education
8. Hazak (Seniors)

A snapshot biographic profile:

Bio: <http://rabbijason.com/bio.htm>

Blog: <http://blog.rabbijason.com>

Headshot photo: http://rabbijason.com/images/rabbi_jason_miller.jpg

Rabbi Jason Miller is the rabbi of Tamarack Camps and the part-time spiritual leader of Congregation T'chayah in Oak Park. He earned a master's degree in education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education and participates in the Rabbis Without Borders fellowship through CLAL (The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership), a program seeking to nurture and develop a network of rabbis with a shared vision to make Jewish wisdom available to anyone looking to enrich his or her life. He serves on the boards of several local organizations including JARC, Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation, Family Circle, and COEJL. He is currently on faculty at Oakland University and has taught courses in Judaism and Jewish Thought at Michigan State University as well. He lectures and writes about how modern technology affects Jewish life, particularly the impact of the Internet on Jewish education and the global Jewish community. He is also the founder and rabbinic director of Kosher Michigan - a kashrut certification initiative.

Suggested fee schedule:

Local speaking engagement: \$250-500

Travel speaking engagement: \$250-500 plus transportation and hotel

Shabbaton/Weekend engagement: \$1500-3000

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Rabbi Michael L.Rascoe

Email address: mlrascoe@yahoo.com

Telephone: 269-208-8897

Topics:

- Bible discussion which will develop participants' ability to appreciate what the Bible omits.
- Kashrut and sex: what they say about the world and God.
- Prayer: the inherent logical and emotional structure of the service.
- What we learn from saying the kedushah multiple times and its biological basis.
- Islam's varieties are of crucial importance in understanding the Middle East.
- Jewish thoughts on terrorism.
- Various talks on the mythic meanings of many holidays and rituals, e.g.
 - generations from the Bible to today understand Purim and Esther differently,
 - the Binding of Isaac and the High Holidays,
 - the psychological value of traditional Jewish mourning practices.
- Money, belief and Judaism: and what money teaches of faith.
- Values inherent in the ethics of Jewish business and consumer practices.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls end up saying more about us than them.
- Mysticism in general; overviews of Lurianic Kabbalah and Hasidism and why they remain.
- From Theodicy to Therapy: How a personal view of evil translates into counseling (in progress).
- various other topics available.

Availability: weekdays, Shabbat, weekends.

Can work with any group, am available for multiple group and institution presentations.

I may be willing to chant Torah and lead services.

Biography: Michael L Rascoe has served pulpits in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He has been active in interfaith dialogue, minority relations, and prison religious

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policies. In addition, he has served as a consultant on academic and governmental projects, and been an advisor on counseling and medical issues. He also has taught elementary to college classes. Ordained from The Jewish Theological Seminary, he has an MA and a BA in Jewish Philosophy from JTS and a BA from Columbia University in Political Science.

Fee: I will work with small congregations on reduced budgets. Fee to be determined based on place's budget, number of presentations and institutions, my expenses, and the amount of preparation, (and perhaps service participation).

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Rabbi (Dr.) J.B. SACKS

Email address: rabbijb@aol.com

Telephone: (323) 387-0096

Topics/Themes:

1. Rethinking Leviticus: Why That Verse Poses No Problems for Inclusion of GLBT Jews

This text discussion carefully examines the verse in Leviticus which seems to state that “a man shall not lie with another man; it is an abhorrence.” This has been understood traditionally as precluding an embracing approach to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Jews by the larger Jewish community. Bringing to bear the fruits of modern biblical inquiry, Rabbi Sacks demonstrates why this understanding is only one among a number of ways of reading the text, and that a more inclusive reading may well be the point of the text.

- * Participants will learn that texts often “mean” more than one thing
- * Participants will learn that translations, however “traditional,” may bear a rather inexact correspondence to the Hebrew
- * Participants will learn how what the text does not state often means as much as what it does state
- * Participants will learn a range of literary and other modern approaches to the biblical text
- * Participants will learn how a gay-positive reading of the text is equally plausible, if not more so, to one that is gay-negative.

2. Jewish Values and GLBT Inclusion

Discussions of approaches to gay Jews often focus solely on the meaning of a few verses in Leviticus. This text discussion presents a range of texts, biblical and rabbinic, that highlight Jewish values, asking participants to make a leap of how that value might affect one’s approach to gay Jews. The wide range of values include, among others, lashon hara (gossip), halbanat panim b’rabim (publicly embarrassment of a human being), vachai bahim (all laws must be “live-able”), kahal (“community”) and onah (the right to “sexual fulfillment”).

- * Participants will learn that Judaism speaks not only with a halachic (“legal”) voice but with an aggadic view, that is, what range of Jewish values might be brought to bear on any given issue—or might be challenged by it.
- * Participants will learn to question how aggadic concerns (“meta” issues) affect one’s halachic (“legal”) perspective.
- * Participants will learn to avoid the either/or approach that looking at isolated verses in Leviticus invites in favor of a more nuanced approach.

3. A Parent, a Conservative Rabbi and a Gay Man: A Personal Odyssey

In this lecture, Rabbi Sacks shares his life journey, his descent from seventeen generations of rabbis, his choice to enter the Conservative rabbinate, his work with congregations, his adoption of a son, all within the context of his realization of his awareness of being gay. Why become a rabbi? Why choose the Conservative Movement? How did previous congregations react to him as a gay man? How has parenting affected his view and his constituents’ view of what it means to be a gay rabbi?

- * Participants will hear one gay man’s remarkable journey
- * Participants will learn the complexities of life don’t always match the simplicity of a single verse

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* Participants will learn how the sociological realities sometimes compete with textual or halachic (“legal”) ones

4. Reframing Sexuality: Remarkable G!d-Imagery in a Medieval Hebrew Poem

In a remarkable poem by Solomon ibn Gabirol, redemption to the Jewish people comes through a highly eroticized liaison.

* Participants will learn how medieval Jewish poets built on Arabic models

* Participants will learn how medieval Jewish poets often used and reshaped allusions to biblical material

* Participants will learn how medieval Jewish poets, even in religious poetry, did not shy away from sexually charged imagery

* Participants will question what it means to relate to an eroticized G!d

5. Is the Biblical Deborah the Second Moses?

In this text study, Rabbi Sacks demonstrates that the narrative of the judge Deborah is best understood by seeing it as a retelling of the story of Moses.

* Participants will learn how some biblical texts serve as “intertexts” to others, that is, purposefully allude to other biblical texts, and so cannot be fully understood without reference to that other text.

* Participants will question why an author might want to portray Deborah as a kind of Moses.

6. Our Ongoing Human Journey: Psalm 32

In this text study, Rabbi Sacks contends that the psalmist portrays each person’s human journey as one consisting of three-parts, which repeat themselves throughout one’s life as one continues to evolve emotionally and spiritually. The Vilna Ga’on chose this psalm for Yom Kippur. Participants will evaluate the psalm’s efficacy for the High Holy Days.

* Participants will discover how the psalmist portrays universal human concerns

* Participants will discover the artistry of the psalmist, seeing how structure and language are both employed to serve content.

* Participants will see how liturgical appropriation of biblical material can extend or alter the meaning of the psalm in its original context.

* Participants will see the universal application of the psalm—how the psalmist’s journey is the journey of the person in recovery, the journey of the gay person “coming out,” and, especially, their own personal life journey

7. Hypocrisy and Spirituality: A Look at Selected Texts

Rabbi Sacks leads a text discussion of mostly biblical material dealing with hypocrisy and deceit, relating the material to our own lives.

* Participants will learn how the meaning of texts (in this case, biblical verses) build upon each other when placed in juxtaposition.

* Participants will explore how the Bible understands hypocrisy and deceit.

* Participants will explore how Jewish tradition can impact their own thinking about their own lives.

8. Empathizing with Job Yet Disagreeing with His Complaint against G!d

Rabbi Sacks speaks about the biblical book of Job, particularly analyzing Job’s “complaint” against

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G!d.

* Participants will explore in greater depth a book that is rarely studied (its poetry is difficult) but one whose bare outlines are familiar.

* Participants will hear how biblical books often offer more than one view.

* Participants will hear how texts can be not merely accepted but engaged and challenged.

9. Theodor Herzl and Richard Wagner: The Similarities and Differences in Their Approach to the Jewish Problem

Rabbi Sacks speaks of the sociocultural setting of both Theodor Herzl and Richard Wagner to show how, oddly enough, their discrete approaches to “the Jewish problem” shared common features even as they go in quite different directions.

* Participants will learn more of the historical setting undergirding the works of Herzl and Wagner.

* Participants will come to a more nuanced understanding of both Herzl’s Jewishness and Wagner’s antisemitism.

10. Does Ideology Affect Scholarship? The Case of Mircea Eliade, Romanian Fascism and the History of Religions

Mircea Eliade is considered the major figure in the history of religions and one of the leading interpreters of religious experience. He was also a strong supporter of the Iron Guard, Romania’s fascist political organization that collaborated with Hitler’s Germany, as well as for other far right causes after World War II. Rabbi Sacks raises the questions of how to assess one’s “greatness” when it is “tainted” by one’s personal convictions.

* Participants will be hear of one extraordinary cases of “tainted greatness,” where a person’s honorable work left a clear legacy for humanity but whose personal convictions somewhat “taint” our view of that person’s work.

* Participants will learn of both sides of the debate.

* Participants are urged to make analogies to other cases of “tainted greatness,” such as Richard Wagner and T.S. Eliot.

11. Same-sex Relationships in Jewish Tradition

Rabbi Sacks studies several texts where the assumption of homoerotic undertones greatly changes and, perhaps, enhances one’s understanding of the text. Rabbi Sacks’ take on these timeless texts may surprise all. Texts include biblical stories (Ruth and Naomi; the triangle of Saul, David and Jonathan), a Talmudic passage (an aggadah of Rabbi Yochanan bar Napacha and Resh Lakish) and medieval letters (between Judah Halevi and ibn Ezra).

Participants will see how knowledge of possible homoerotic undertones can deepen one’s understanding of the emotional depth of the text.

Participants will gain an understanding of how same-sex attractions are nothing to literature, as they are not new to life.

Participants are encouraged to see how the meaning of the text is related not only to the words of the text but to the filters each reader uses.

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Available for each or all of the suggest following presentation times:

I am willing to work with any and all time slots that the community feels will be most beneficial.

1. Weekday—

2. Shabbat

Friday Evening

Shabbat AM

Lunch 'n Learn

Mincha

Havdalah

Saturday Evening

3. Sunday

Tallit 'n Tefillen Breakfast

Lunch 'n Learn

Afternoon

Sunday Evening

I am willing to work with any of the following--together or in a series of programs and activities:

1. Congregation

2. Sisterhood

3. Men's Club

4. Religious School

5. Hebrew High School

6. Youth group - Kadimah/USY

7. Jewish Family Education

8. Hazak (Seniors)

9. Interfaith Groups

A snapshot biographic profile:

Rabbi J.B. Sacks serves on the Faculty of the Academy for Jewish Religion, California (AJRCA) and teaches in the Department of Jewish Thought. He was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the intellectual center of the Conservative Movement. Rabbi Sacks has advocated for greater inclusion and diversity in Jewish life and for greater liturgical creativity within the Conservative Movement. He has served as full-time Spiritual Leader of congregations in Jersey City, New Jersey, and in Arcadia, California.

Rabbi J.B. Sacks recently received his Doctor of Ministry from the Claremont School of Theology. His dissertation was entitled: "I Have Something to Tell You": The Importance of Articulation of Acknowledgment and Admission and the Life Journey

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A Meditation and Commentary on Psalm 32

This paper brought together the fields of Bible, Jewish thought, worship studies and mental health to produce a spiritual commentary on Psalm 32, in order to demonstrate the universal appeal, relevance and applicability of the book of Psalms.

He has also completed his course work towards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Hebrew Bible at Claremont Graduate University.

He has served as co-editor of two volumes: *We See Ourselves as Redeemed: A Liberation Haggadah* (1996) and *Ka-Afikim Ba-Negav: A Manual for Rabbis in Engaging Their Communities in Embracing Gay and Lesbian Jews* (1994).

Rabbi Sacks descends from 17 generations of Rabbis. He currently lives in Woodland Hills with his partner, Steven Karash, and their son Evan, who attends El Camino Real High School.

Suggested fee schedule:

My fee is flexible and adjusted according to any number of factors. One of the main factors is to what degree I am utilized during the weekend—how much time I am with the community and how much preparation I will need to put into the various presentations (in some cases I have had no less than 8 separate presentations for a single community within one typical weekend of Shabbat evening through Sunday morning)! Other factors may figure into this. I am more than happy to invite conversation about my participation with any community.