

# Announcing the creation of the LA Jewish Feminist Center.



a project of  
The Commission on Women's Rights  
**AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS**  
Pacific Southwest Region

We are delighted to announce the creation of the Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Center. The Center offers a wide range of programs, classes, and holiday and life cycle celebrations bringing together the insights of feminism and the wisdom of Judaism. Our Center is unique in creating opportunities for women and men to study and grow in a non-sexist, pluralistic Jewish environment.

As Jewish feminists, we are committed to a Judaism that acknowledges and celebrates the contributions and experiences of Jewish women and men, and integrates women's wisdom into our rich tradition of study and practice.

The American Jewish Congress is a multi-issue Jewish affairs organization committed to speaking out and taking action on issues related to civil rights, civil liberties, peace, and justice in Southern California, the United States, and Israel.

## THE PROGRAMS OF THE CENTER

### **The Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Institute**

We offer a series of continuing education courses for adults with leading Jewish scholars and teachers.

### **A Speaker's Bureau**

The Center provides access to speakers, panelists, and discussion leaders on topics such as making the transition towards non-sexist liturgy, integrating women's studies into Jewish school curricula, and bringing women into positions of leadership in Jewish organizations.

### **Life Cycle Consultants**

Rabbis, cantors, and other experienced

leaders are available for consultation on creating life cycle ceremonies and rituals.

### **Rosh Hodesh Groups**

The Center provides resources for coordinating groups to celebrate Rosh Hodesh (the new moon), Tu B'Shevat and Passover seders, and other annual and life cycle events.

### **Jewish Feminist Research Group**

The Center sponsors an ongoing group of scholars and teachers who share their research on the intersection of Judaism and feminism. This group is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Women and Men of the University of Southern California.

## **LA JEWISH FEMINIST CENTER**



*Illustration: Lisa Rauchweger*

## Come Celebrate Our Creation.

Thursday, 18 October 1990  
1 Heshvan 5751  
7:00 p.m.

Temple Israel of Hollywood  
7300 Hollywood Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Join us for an evening of song, study, and dance to celebrate the opening of the L.A. Jewish Feminist Center. Together we will welcome the month of Heshvan and have an opportunity to meet the scholars, teachers, and leaders with whom we will build our Center.

\$6. donation requested  
RSVP: (213) 655-5619

Sign language interpreter  
available.



### THE LOS ANGELES JEWISH FEMINIST INSTITUTE FALL 1990/5751

#### 1. Beginning at the Beginning: Claiming Judaism

*Rabbi Emily Feigenson*

This class will give participants the tools to feel strong and confident as Jews in the synagogue and at home.

We will confront our feelings of exclusion from areas of Jewish life and practice, and by studying about and practicing Jewish rituals and customs, we will discover ways to claim a Judaism that is authentic and empowering. (6 sessions.)

*Emily Feigenson, who has a rich background in Jewish education and a special interest in informal education, serves as assistant rabbi of University Synagogue.*

#### 2. Talmud for Beginners

*Rachel Adler*

An introduction to the essential text of rabbinic Judaism from a feminist perspective. We will use the Soncino English translation and Steinsaltz' Hebrew edition. No prerequisites. (8 sessions.) The class is limited to seven students.

*Rachel Adler, a prominent Jewish feminist theologian, is completing her doctorate in Social Ethics at the University of Southern California and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.*

#### 3. Introduction to Jewish Mysticism

*Olivia Schwartz*

Together we will enter the rich world of Jewish mysticism interpreted through the feminine perspective of a follower of this tradition. We will begin our study with mystical approaches to God, Torah, and the levels of the soul. (6 sessions.)

*Olivia Schwartz, a teacher who has studied many spiritual traditions, is the co-director of the Los Angeles Chai Center.*

#### 4. Jewish Parenting: Confronting New Challenges, Creating New Models

*Rabbi Jacqueline Koch Ellenson*

As we raise our Jewish children in this complex world, we confront changing notions of family, community, and Jewish parenting. Topics discussed in this class may include: talking about God and prayer, incorporating Jewish rituals into family life, non-traditional families in the Jewish community, and encouraging a positive Jewish identity in a non-Jewish world. (6 sessions.)

*Jackie Ellenson, who has worked in a variety of Jewish educational settings, parents Ruth, Micah, Chana, and Nomi in her blended family.*

#### 5. Introduction to Jewish Feminism

*Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell*

What are some of the ways that feminism challenges traditional notions of Judaism? How do feminists approach traditional Jewish texts? How have Jewish feminists looked for a language of prayer that both acknowledges our experiences of God and enables us to pray within a community? How do Jewish feminists envision community? This six-week course will introduce some of the topics that will be examined in greater depth in Institute courses offered in the Winter and Spring. (6 sessions.)

*Sue Levi Elwell, rabbi of the Irvine Jewish Community, is the coordinator of the L.A. Jewish Feminist Center.*

#### Where?

All classes will be held at University Synagogue, 11960 Sunset Boulevard (at Saltair), Los Angeles

#### When?

Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Followed by coffee and discussion. All classes begin **Tuesday, October 23**. Child care available. Sign language interpreter available. If you have special needs, please let us know.

#### How?

Child care available. Sign language interpreter available. If you have special needs, please let us know.

**Registration:** Use enclosed card or call the Center at (213) 655-5619



We are grateful to University Synagogue for providing space and for co-sponsoring the Fall semester of the Jewish Feminist Institute.

### INSTITUTE FACULTY

Rachel Adler  
Rabbi Leslie Alexander  
Isa Aron, Ph.D.  
Rabbi Lewis Barth, Ph.D.  
Rabbi Deborah Bronstein  
Rabbi William Cutter, Ph.D.  
Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D.  
Rabbi Jacqueline Koch Ellenson  
Rabbi Denise L. Eger  
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, Ph.D.  
Tamara C. Eskenazi, Ph.D.  
Rabbi Mordecai Finley  
Rabbi Karen L. Fox  
Gelya Frank, Ph.D.

Rabbi Laura Geller  
Shoshanna Gershenson, D.H.L.  
Judith Glass, Ph.D.  
Miriya Glazer, Ph.D.  
Jael Greenleaf  
Rabbi Naomi Levy  
Rabbi Richard N. Levy  
Rabbi Jane Litman  
Rita Lowenthal  
Judith Margolis  
Rabbi Janet Marder  
Rabbi Carole Meyers  
Jody Myers, Ph.D.  
Rabbi Jonathan Omer-Man

Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom  
Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller  
Olivia Schwartz  
Esther A. Shapiro  
Rabbi Michael A. Signer, Ph.D.  
Lesley Silverstone  
Fredelle Z. Spiegel, Ph.D.  
Marcia Cohn Spiegel  
Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz  
Savina J. Teubal, Ph.D.  
Linda Thal  
Ruth Weisberg  
Yaffa Weissman  
*(partial list)*

### AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

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WE WISH TO THANK THE NATHAN CUMMINGS FOUNDATION FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT.