

"Women^{and} Men in Partnership"

CHICAGO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
January 14-15, 2006

PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY:



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LEVINE HILLEL CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

SKOKIE VALLEY AGUDATH JACOB

SATURDAY NIGHT JANUARY 14TH

8:30pm

Social Hall (Downstairs)

MEKUDESHET: SENTENCED TO MARRIAGE

by Anat Zuria

This groundbreaking documentary chronicles the struggle of three Israeli women to obtain a *get*. The *agunah*, the wife trapped in a dead marriage, is one of the most painful challenges facing the Jewish community.

Film screening followed by Q&A with *agunah* activist **Dr. Susan Aranoff**

SUNDAY JANUARY 15th

11am-3:30pm

REGISTRATION OPENS 10:45AM

11am-11:15am

Main Sanctuary

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Robin Bodner, JOFA Executive Director

11:15am-12:45pm

Main Sanctuary

WOMEN IN SYNAGOGUE: ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

In this session we will discuss innovative and practical ways to include women in synagogue leadership roles where *halakhically* permissible.

Sara Hurwitz

12:45pm-1:30pm

Social Hall (Downstairs)

LUNCH

RABBIS PANEL OVER LUNCH:

SHOULD RABBIS BE INNOVATORS, INSTIGATORS, OR JUST SUPPORTERS?

Rabbi Josh Feigelson • Rabbi Shlomo Levin • Rabbi Asher Lopatin

1:30pm-3:15pm

Social Hall (Downstairs)

MIKVAH AND SEXUALITY: RECONCILING LAW AND DESIRE

Including film screening Sheva Brachot: First Night

In this session we will examine a selection of *halakhic* texts pertaining to *niddah* and *mikvah*, as well as discuss how women and men feel about the observance of this *mitzvah*.

Shuli and Ben Sandler

3:15pm-3:30pm

Social Hall (Downstairs)

CLOSING REMARKS:

Rabbi Asher Lopatin

SPEAKER BIOS:

Dr. Susan Aranoff teaches economics and political science at Kingsborough Community College and Yeshiva University's Stern College. She has been an *agunah* activist for well over a decade and her articles dealing with halakhic remedies for freeing *agunot* have been widely published. Dr. Aranoff has held numerous leadership positions in the New York UJA-Federation campaign and is well-known for her classes on Bible, Talmud and political affairs. She is a founding board member of Agunah International Inc., the International Committee for Women at the Wall, and JOFA.

Rabbi Joshua Feigelson is the Campus Rabbi at the Fiedler Hillel Center of Northwestern University. He was ordained by Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in 2005. Rabbi Feigelson is a cum laude graduate of Yale University, where he studied music. His writings have appeared in the Jerusalem Report, the JUF News (Chicago), and Zeek.net. He was an intern at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale under the mentorship of Rabbi Avi Weiss, and served as a personal and research assistant to Rabbi Yitz Greenberg. He lives in Evanston, IL with his wife Natalie Blitt and two sons, Jonah and Micah.

Lorraine Hoffman received her BA from the Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, and her MA from Columbia University Teachers College. She was an Assistant Vice President and Financial Consultant at Merrill Lynch in Chicago for many years. She is now President and CEO of the Harri Hoffmann Company, a manufacturer of leather and shoe care products in Milwaukee. Lorraine was President and a Board Member of the Lake View Citizens' Council and Belmont Harbor Neighbors in Chicago, and is now President of the Lake Park Synagogue in Milwaukee. She is a member of the Board of the Orthodox Union of America, Wisconsin Institute of Torah Studies, Milwaukee School of Engineering, and Goethe House of Milwaukee.

Sara Hurwitz is the *Madricha Ruchanit* (Religious Mentor) at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. She is also the Curricular Researcher and Writer for JOFA's Gender and Orthodoxy Curriculum Project. She graduated from Drisha Institute for Jewish Education's 3-year Scholars Circle Program, received a B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University, studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Israel, and served as a CLAL Fellow. Sara was co-director of Lights in Action, where she wrote curriculum, taught, and directed programs on college campuses. She has also taught at Drisha, the JCC of Manhattan, CLAL, and at various synagogues in the New York area. Sara continues to study *halakha* under the auspices of Rabbi Avi Weiss.

Rabbi Shlomo Levin joined LPS as its Rabbi in September of 2003. He received his Rabbinic ordination from the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and from Rabbis Shlomo Riskin and Chaim Brovender of Yeshivat Hamivtar in Efrat, Israel. He is also a graduate of the Sha'al and Amiel Rabbinic training programs. Prior to coming to Lake Park Synagogue Rabbi Levin served as the Rabbi of Congregation Temple Beth El of Rutherford, NJ, taught Talmud at the Ramaz Upper School in New York, and served as the first director of the Omaha Center for Jewish Learning in Omaha, NE. Rabbi Levin and his wife Noa have 5 children.

Rabbi Asher Lopatin has been the spiritual leader of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation, a leading modern Orthodox synagogue in Chicago, for ten years. A Rhodes Scholar, he has an M.Phil in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford University, as well as ordination from Yeshiva University and Brisk Rabbinical College. He and his wife, Rachel Tessler Lopatin, were both Wexner Graduate Fellows and have three children, Shayna, Cara and Judah. Rabbi Lopatin authors a monthly column in the local Jewish paper and is on the executive committee of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Rachel Tessler Lopatin received her MSW from Columbia University as well as an MA in Judaic Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She was the assistant director of Rama Camp in the Pocomoes as well as the Director of Programming at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago. While she now spends most of her time raising Shayna, Cara and Judah, Rachel also plays a pivotal role at Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation, where her husband Rabbi Asher Lopatin is the rabbi, and in the new multi-denominational day school in Chicago, of which she was one of the founders.

Shuli and Ben Sandler currently teach a premarital class together at Drisha Institute in which engaged couples study the laws of *niddah* before their marriage. Shuli is a 2003 graduate of the Drisha Scholars Circle, and studied at Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim in Israel. She is pursuing a PhD in clinical psychology from Long Island University C.W. Post Campus and works as an adjunct, teaching psychology. She lectures about various Jewish topics throughout the tri-state area. Ben is a software developer for Goldman Sachs, and is pursuing an MA from New York University. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University and studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. He is co-founder of Kumah, an organization which promotes North American *aliyah*.

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