

*This is My Prayer -- Va'ani Tefillati: Jewish Women in Prayer*  
Sunday, March 1, 2009  
Abraham Joshua Heschel High School  
20 West End Avenue, New York City

**PROGRAM**

**9:15 am Registration**

**9:45 am Welcome: Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner**, Founding Director, Program in Jewish Women's Studies,  
Jewish Theological Seminary

**Plenary Keynote Address – JTS Jack and Lewis Rudin Lecture**  
“Jewish Women’s Prayers Are Coming Home!”

**Dr. Aliza Lavie**, Department of Political Studies, Bar-Ilan University, and Research Associate, The  
Hadassah- Brandeis Institute

**11:00-11:50 am Simultaneous Learning Sessions**

**I History of Women's Prayer**

**Dr. Chava Weissler**, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization, Lehigh University,  
with **Dr. Aliza Lavie**

**II Creating Prayer**

**Merle Feld**, Founding Director, The Rabbinic Writing Institute

**Cantor Benjie-Ellen Schiller**, Professor of Cantorial Arts, Hebrew Union College School of Sacred  
Music

**Rabbi Susan Schnur**, Senior Editor, *Lilith Magazine*

**III Creating Ritual**

**Dr. Vanessa Ochs**, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia

**IV Traditional and Non-Traditional Mikveh Rituals**

**Anita Diamant**, Author and Founder/President, Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh  
and Paula J Brody & Family Education Center

**V Prayer Quilting**

**Heather Stoltz**, Fiber artist, <http://www.sewingstories.com/>

**VI The Theology of Personal Prayer**

**Rivka Haut**, Faculty, Academy for Jewish Religion

**Rabbi Joy Levitt**, Executive Director of the JCC in Manhattan

**Rabbi Abby Sosland**, Solomon Schechter High School, Hartsdale, NY

**VII Halakhic Considerations in Innovating Prayer**

**Rabbi Judith Hauptman**, Author of *Rereading the Rabbis, A Woman's Voice*  
**Lisa Schlaff**, Curriculum Coordinator of Judaic Studies, SAR High School  
**Devorah Zlochower**, JOFA (Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance)

**12:00-12:45 pm Lunch and networking**

**1:00– 1:50 pm Simultaneous Learning Sessions**

**I History of Women's Prayer**

**Dr. Chava Weissler**, Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization, Lehigh University,  
with **Dr. Aliza Lavie**

**II Prayer as Healing**

**Hazzan Danielle Ben Simhon**, Midway Jewish Center, Syosset, NY  
**Rabbi Rachel Cowan**, Executive Director, Institute for Jewish Spirituality  
**Renée Septimus**, Educator, 92nd Street Y Adult Jewish Education

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**V Prayer Quilting, Heather Stoltz**, Fiber artist, <http://www.sewingstories.com>

**VI The Theology of Personal Prayer**

**Arlene Agus**, Executive Consultant to Jewish family foundations  
**Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin**, Author and editor of *Tears of Sorrow, Seeds of Hope* and *Out of the Depths I Call to You*  
**Dr. Lori Lefkowitz**, Gottesman Professor of Gender and Judaism, and Director, Kolot,  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

**VII Halakhic Considerations in Innovating Prayer**

**Dr. Adena Berkowitz**, Founder, Kol HaNeshamah: the Center for Jewish Life and Enrichment  
**Rabbi Judith Hauptman**, Author of *Rereading the Rabbis, A Woman's Voice*  
**Rosh Kehila Dina Najman**, Mara D'atra, Kehilat Orach Eliezer, New York, NY

**2:00 – 2:30 pm Intra-group Meetings**

**2:40 – 3:30 pm Plenary: Prayer & Community**

**An Interdenominational Conversation**

**Moderator: Blu Greenberg**, Founding president of JOFA (Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance)

**Panelists: Rabbi Debra Cantor**, Congregation Bnai Sholom, Newington, CT  
**Madrichah Ruhanit (Religious Mentor) Sara Hurwitz**, Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, NY  
**Rabbi Shira Milgrom**, Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains, NY  
**Rabbi Yael Ridberg**, West End Synagogue, New York, NY

**3:30 Closing Celebration: Hazzan Debbie Friedman**

**Closing Words: Dr. Anne Lapidus Lerner**