

# Pathways to Education at Temple Beth El in January

**Jerusalem - Holy City of Three Religions: A Lecture by Rabbi David Forman, Thursday, February 12**  
 Jerusalem is the spiritual home

to Jews, Christians and Moslems. These religions have shaped the history, geography, demography and theological bent of the city throughout the centuries. The lit-



Rabbi David Forman

erature of each religion is filled with earthly and mystical musings about Jerusalem. Yet, it is also a city of strife. Ethnic, political, social and ideological conflicts are constant elements in its history. Sadly, division is the standard emblem of the holy city.

Rabbi David Forman, founding chairperson of Israeli Rabbis for Human Rights and director of the Israel office of the Union for Reform Judaism, will be the guest of Temple Beth El's American Reform Zionist Association (ARZA) committee. Rabbi Forman will speak on the place of Jerusalem in the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Having lectured internationally on this subject, Rabbi Forman will address the topic: "Jerusalem - Holy City of Three Religions."

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Rabbi Forman moved to Israel over thirty years ago. As the director of the Israel office in Jerusalem of the Union for Reform Judaism, he has been instrumental in building programs that bridge the Israel-Diaspora divide. Rabbi Forman has been active in human rights and peace movements in Israel. He was the founding chairperson of the Jerusalem Council for Soviet Jewry (1973), was chairperson if Interns for Peace (1984-1986) and founding and current chairperson of Israeli Rabbis for Human Rights (1988-1992, 2002-), on whose behalf he accepted the prestigious Knesset Peace Prize (1993). He served as a deputy commander in the Israeli army, receiving a medal for distinguished service. Writing regularly for both the Israeli Hebrew and English press on social, political and religious issues, he has lectured internationally on Human Rights, including as the keynote speaker at the Nobel Institute in Oslo. He has authored three books: Israel-America: Jews in the New Millennium (1998), Jewish Schizophrenia in the Land of Israel (2000) and Fifty Ways to be Jewish (2002).

Please join Rabbi Forman on Thursday, February 12 at Temple Beth El. For more information, call Temple Beth El, 704-366-1948, or see the February issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News*.

**Comparative Religion Classes Start Fifth Year**  
 A six-week comparative religion program hosted by Temple Beth El begins January 7, 2004. In its fifth year, this series will explore a wide variety of religions including a few we seldom hear discussed.

This popular program has invited speakers from at least 25 different religious organizations over the past years. The lecture series again will be free and open to the public. All programs will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 PM. Reservations are not necessary.

In this series, clergy, staff members and associates from their respective houses of worship will share the basic premises of their religions helping to give participants a better understanding of the similarities and uniqueness. There will be time for socializing prior to the lecture beginning and an opportunity for questions and answers before the programs conclude each week.

This year, the comparative religion committee has worked hard to invite speakers representing a wide diversity of cultures, perspectives and religions to help broaden our knowledge base and appreciation of other religions. Hopefully, this series will help to spark interest in learning more by reading, visiting and exploring these different religions.

On **January 7, 2004**, Dr. Lora Hurley will speak on the Wicca/Celtic path. Dr. Hurley is a Traditional Naturopath and

follows the Celtic Path. She learned the Old Religion from her grandmother and is active in the local Coven. Her Coven has members from different paths and she has spoken on Wicca, Pagan and Celtic beliefs before. She is known and respected in the local community. She lives and practices healing in Locust, NC.

**January 21, 2004** our speaker will be Dr. Wayne Poplin, Senior Pastor at Carmel Baptist Church. This large church is well known for its outreach, school, and ministry. Since its move to its new home several years ago, the church has continued to grow.

**January 28, 2004** the new interim Pastor, Dr. Nicholas Griffin and Nancy Ennis, Minister of Education will discuss Unity Church. This is a non-denominational Christian Church established in the late 1800's. Unity has worldwide membership and has ministered to members in its Charlotte congregation for the past 29 years.



Temple Beth El

**February 11, 2004** Dr. Jessica Saxe will discuss Jewish Reconstruction.

**February 18, 2004** Mahesh and Bonnie Chavada founders and pastors will share the podium to enlightened participants about All Nations Church. Mahesh Chavada, Senior Pastor, is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University with a graduate work at Texas Tech University. Bonnie Chavada attended Lubbock Christian College. Mahesh has served as a pastor for 25 years and is internationally recognized for his writing and speaking. He has been a regular guest on the Christian Broadcasting Network. All Nations Church is a gathering of God's family devoted to an apostolic and prophetic vision.

**February 25, 2004** Ramona Big Eagle, representing Native American religions will share her wisdom and knowledge. Ramona Big Eagle is a well-known storyteller and captivates audiences of all ages with her wonderful and creative stories.

After the final presenter of the Comparative Religion Series, religious education will move into a two week Comparative Judaism overview. **March 3, 2004** the topic will be the Modern Orthodox Jewish religion shared by Rabbi Mordecai Roizman and **March 10, 2004**, Cantor Elias Rochvarg will discuss Conservative Judaism. **Introduction to Judaism, 8-9:15 PM**

Wednesdays, January 7 - March 3; \$75 per person, \$125 per couple. Pre-registration is required. Please call 704-366-1948 for further information.

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