Dr. Amy-Jill Levine Is This Year's Alice Lindsay Tate Lecturer Dr. Levine to Spend Several Days Lecturing in the Area

Temple Emanuel of Gastonia, NC, as part of its 100th Anniversary commemorative season, will be bringing Dr. Amy-Jill Levine to the area as a Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Levine, a highly sought after national and international lecturer, is Professor of

New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and College of Arts and Science; she is also Affiliated Professor, Centre

for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations, Cambridge UK. Dr. Levine's scholarship focuses on Jesus within his Jewish context and the role of the Bible in Christian-Jewish relations. She is a selfdescribed "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches New Testa-



ment in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible belt"; she is also member of Congregation Sherith Israel, an Orthodox Synagogue in Nashville, although she is often quite unorthodox.

Her recent books include The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus and The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us (co-authored with Douglas Knight). With Marc Brettler she edited the Jewish Annotated New Testament (Oxford).

Although the New Testament is a book substantially about Jews, written by Jews, and attesting to Jewish practices and beliefs, for nearly two millennia, Jews have customarily distanced themselves from the New Testament. However, some Jewish scholars like Dr. Levine have recognized the great value such study brings for creating a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews. And therein lies a bit of tikkun olam – repair of the world.

Dr. Levine's presentations will be:

December 3, 7 PM, Myers Park Presbyterian Church, the 17th Annual Alice Lindsay Tate Lecture in Jewish Studies, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Department of Religious Studies UNC Charlotte and Myers Park Presbyterian Church: "Jesus the Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of a Jewish Jesus."

December 4, 7:30 PM, Belmont Abbey College, The Haid Auditorium: "Jesus, Mary, and Martha: Choosing the Better Part"

December 5, 7 PM, Unity Place, St. Stephens AME Zion Church, 201 Franklin Blvd, Gastonia NC; (Moskowitz Lecture Series): "Jesus, Judaism, and Jewish-Christian Relations."

Each of these events is free and open to the public. Contributions to Temple Emanuel for this program and in honor of its 100th Anniversary will be accepted.

Temple Emanuel would like to thank all of the individuals who made Dr. Levine's Scholar-in-Residence Week possible, in addition to our major partners: The Glenn Foundation, First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, UNC-Charlotte Deptartment of Religious Studies, and Belmont Abbey College. For questions or contributions, please contact mark.epstein@totalbond-vets.com.

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Congregation Celebrates 25 Years of High Holiday Services

Havurat Tikvah's 5774 High Holiday services marked its 25th anniversary. In a special Mincha service during Yom Kippur, a panel of members shared memories, highlights and stories.

Jessica Schorr Saxe gave a detailed history of Havurat Tikvah beginning with its formation in 1988. Many of the founding members continue to be active. Small, heimishe gatherings were the fare in the early days. In 1989, Allen Saxe proposed that the havurah conduct its own High Holiday services. It took a concerted effort to plan and prepare. Havurat Tikvah was lucky to have the help of George Ackerman, a former holi-

tikvah 🏋

day cantor with Temple Israel who created tapes for those who needed them. Every member of this small group was designated a "chunk" leader for each part of the service. The Saxe family offered their home. Jessica Saxe recalls studying with (Cantor) George during the days after Hurricane Hugo struck when the electricity was still off. "Suddenly, the lights came on. He did not even notice as he was so focused on Jewish study." She added that "God was shining on us."

Over the years, the congregation has grown and has developed its unique style of programming. This included clever plays for Chanukah and Purim; creative art projects and extensive social action programs. A series of Shabbatons and retreats were very popular. The havurah even created its own cooperative religious school with parents serving as the teachers. And, as the children became of age, B'nai Mitzvah were held with members teaching the trope and liturgy. Havurat Tikvah watched with pride as its children

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