

Torah v'Tarbut



Guide to Cultural and Educational Programs

2011-2012

5772



REFORM CONGREGATION
KENESETH ISRAEL

FOUNDED 1847
ELKINS PARK • BLUE BELL

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Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present this *Guide to Cultural and Educational Programs, 2011-2012* to you on behalf of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel. This *Guide* clearly and fully documents the incredible vitality of our synagogue. The course and program selection here are nothing short of remarkable for an institution of our size. It indicates the level of commitment to excellence and enrichment which resides both among our educational leaders as well as the whole congregation's interest in life long learning.

At least ten different Program departments at KI participate in offering the special programs and events presented in this book. They include our Adult Education Program, Cultural Council 60+, Israel Committee, WRJ/Sisterhood, KI Library, Sacred Music, Music Arts, Theater at KI and the Temple Judea Museum. Each department offer a wide variety of high quality offerings which in the aggregate helps make our congregation unique both in the quantity and quality of adult learning and cultural opportunities. There is literally something here for everybody.

I, too, am very proud to participate in KI's adult educational programming. As in years past, I will be rotating on Saturday mornings with Rabbi Kleinman at Torah Study Havurah. For this year's Lunch N'Learn, I will be giving ten talks on "Israelite Prophecy" from a historical perspective as well as some discussion of the artistic representation of the prophets in our sanctuary. For the Fall Rabbi's Forum, I have prepared a three part series on the history of the Palestinian people to serve as background reports around the time when the UN will be taking up the very controversial topic of Palestinian statehood. In the Spring, the Rabbi's Forum will focus on Judaism's relationship with three other religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. How we have and continue to interact with our neighbor's traditions is a topic of endless fascina-

tion for me.

I am also working on three new historical sermons on the Jews and Napoleon, Stalin and Martin Luther King, Jr. These talks will add to the corpus of the first twelve historical talks I have developed for KI from Benjamin Franklin to LBJ and lots of stops in between. Finally, I am developing a pilot program with Dr. Marc Rabinowitz entitled "L'Chaim: Judaism and Preventative Medicine," a brand new area for me. Can you imagine a healthy approach to eating during Passover or recasting Shabbat as a way of improving your mental health? Come and learn the basics of Judaism and good health at our opening program on Wed, October 12 at 10AM.

And, all of this is just the tip of the iceberg of cultural and educational opportunities at KI from grand concerts to exciting discussions by young authors to the incredible art displayed by our Museum. Its all here and all waiting for you to enjoy. So, sign up and come often to KI, your life long learning synagogue.

Shana Tova,

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D.

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