Announcing the creation of the LA Jewish Feminist Center.

A project of
The Commission on Women’s Rights
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
Pacific Southwest Region

We are delighted to announce the creation of the Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Center. The Center offers a wide range of programs, classes, and holiday and life cycle celebrations bringing together the insights of feminism and the wisdom of Judaism. Our Center is unique in creating opportunities for women and men to study and grow in a non-sexist, pluralistic Jewish environment.

As Jewish feminists, we are committed to a Judaism that acknowledges and celebrates the contributions and experiences of Jewish women and men, and integrates women’s wisdom into our rich tradition of study and practice.

The American Jewish Congress is a multi-issue Jewish affairs organization committed to speaking out and taking action on issues related to civil rights, civil liberties, peace, and justice in Southern California, the United States, and Israel.

THE PROGRAMS OF THE CENTER

The Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Institute
We offer a series of continuing education courses for adults with leading Jewish scholars and teachers.

A Speaker’s Bureau
The Center provides access to speakers, panelists, and discussion leaders on topics such as making the transition towards non-sexist liturgy, integrating women’s studies into Jewish school curricula, and bringing women into positions of leadership in Jewish organizations.

Life Cycle Consultants
Rabbis, cantors, and other experienced leaders are available for consultation on creating life cycle ceremonies and rituals.

Rosh Hodesh Groups
The Center provides resources for coordinating groups to celebrate Rosh Hodesh (the new moon), Tu B’Shevat and Passover seders, and other annual and life cycle events.

Jewish Feminist Research Group
The Center sponsors an ongoing group of scholars and teachers who share their research on the intersection of Judaism and feminism. This group is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Women and Men of the University of Southern California.

LA JEWISH FEMINIST CENTER

Illustration: Lis Buchhagen

Brochure announcing the creation of the LA Jewish Feminist Center, 1990. Courtesy of Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell.
**Come Celebrate Our Creation.**

Thursday, 18 October 1990
1 Heshvan 5751
7:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of song, study, and dance to celebrate the opening of the L.A. Jewish Feminist Center. Together we will welcome the month of Heshvan and have an opportunity to meet the scholars, teachers, and leaders with whom we will build our Center.

$6. donation requested
RSVP: (213) 655-5619

**THE LOS ANGELES JEWISH FEMINIST INSTITUTE**

**FALL 1990/5751**

1. **Beginning at the Beginning: Claiming Judaism**
   Rabbi Emily Feigenman
   This class will give participants the tools to feel strong and confident as Jews in the synagogue and at home. We will confront our feelings of exclusion from areas of Jewish life and practice, and by studying about and practicing Jewish rituals and customs, we will discover ways to claim a Judaism that is authentic and empowering. (6 sessions.)
   Emily Feigenman, who has a rich background in Jewish education and a special interest in informal education, serves as assistant rabbi of University Synagogue.

2. **Talmud for Beginners**
   Rachel Adler
   An introduction to the essential text of rabbinic Judaism from a feminist perspective. We will use the Soncino English translation and Steinsaltz' Hebrew edition. No prerequisites. (6 sessions.) The class is limited to seven students.
   Rachel Adler, a prominent Jewish feminist theologian, is completing her doctorate in Social Ethics at the University of Southern California and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

3. **Introduction to Jewish Mysticism**
   Olivia Schwaartz
   Together we will enter the rich world of Jewish mysticism interpreted through the feminist perspectives of a follower of this tradition. We will begin our study with mystical approaches to God, Torah, and the levels of the soul. (6 sessions.)
   Olivia Schwaartz, a teacher who has studied many spiritual traditions, is the co-director of the Los Angeles Chai Center.

4. **Jewish Parenting: Confronting New Challenges, Creating New Models**
   Rabbi Jacqueline Kach Ellenson
   As we raise our Jewish children in this complex world, we confront changing notions of family, community, and Jewish parenting. Topics discussed in this class may include: talking about God and prayer, incorporating Jewish rituals into family life, non-traditional families in the Jewish community, and encouraging a positive Jewish identity in a non-Jewish world. (6 sessions.)
   Jackie Ellenson, who has worked in a variety of Jewish educational settings, parents Rudi, Michal, Chana, and Nomi in her blended family.

5. **Introduction to Jewish Feminism**
   Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell
   What are some of the ways that feminism challenges traditional notions of Judaism? How do feminists approach traditional Jewish texts? How have Jewish feminists looked for a language of prayer that both acknowledges our experiences of God and enables us to pray within a community? Where do Jewish feminists envision community? This six-week course will introduce some of the topics that will be examined in greater depth in Institute courses offered in the Winter and Spring. (6 sessions.)
   Sue Levi Elwell, rabbi of the Irvine Jewish Community, is the coordinator of the L.A. Jewish Feminist Center.

**Where?**
All classes will be held at University Synagogue, 1160 Sunset Boulevard (at Santa), Los Angeles

**When?**
Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Followed by coffee and discussion. All classes begin Tuesday, October 23

**How?**
Child care available. Sign language interpreter available. If you have special needs, please let us know.

**Registration:**
Use enclosed card or call the Center at (213) 655-5619

We are grateful to University Synagogue for providing space and for co-sponsoring the Fall semester of the Jewish Feminist Institute.

**INSTITUTE FACULTY**

Rabbi Adler
Rabbi Leslie Alexander
Isa Arose, Ph.D.
Rabbi Deborah Brunsman
Rabbi William Center, Ph.D.
Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D.
Rabbi Joceline Koch Ellenson
Rabbi Denise L. Eger
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, Ph.D.
Tamara E. Eskenazi, Ph.D.
Rabbi Marc Fine
Rabbi Karen L. Fox
Gefry Finek, Ph.D.

Rabbi Laura Geller
Shoshanna Gershenson, Ph.D.
Judith Glass, Ph.D.
Miryam Glazer, Ph.D.
Irai Greenleaf
Rabbi Naomi Levy
Rabbi Richard N. Levy
Rabbi Janis Litman
Rita Lowenthal
Judith Marquise
Rabbi Janet Marzulli
Rabbi Carole Meyers
Judy Myers, Ph.D.
Rabbi Jonathan Green-Max

Cantor Ariva Rosenblum
Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller
Olivia Schwartz
Esther A. Shapiro
Rabbi Michael A. Singer, Ph.D.
Leidah Silverstone
Frieda Z. Spigel, Ph.D.
Marilyn H. Spiegel
Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz
Savina J. Teitel, Ph.D.
Linda Thal
Ruth Weissberg
Yaffa Weissman
(partial list)

**AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS**

Sandra Klawsky,
Co-Chair, Comm. on Women's Rights
Susan Jacoby Stein,
Co-Chair, Comm. on Women's Rights

Carol Finekin,
Associate Director
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell,
Coordinator

WE WISH TO THANK THE NATHAN CUMMINGS FOUNDATION FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT.