

## ***Rabbi Amy Scheinerman, Visiting Scholar***

*Rabbi Amy Scheinerman is an energetic and engaging speaker and teacher who is available for religiously inspiring and intellectually stimulating scholar-in-residence presentations in your community. Her style of teaching is interactive and she specializes in teaching Talmudic texts that respond to universal human concerns with uniquely Jewish insights. The Oral Tradition comes alive and participants experience its vibrancy and wisdom.*

### **Proposed Topics for Scholar-in-Residence Visit**

#### **1• Getting Relationships Right: Ancient Advice for Modern Living**

It's not a kumbaya world. Our lives are a complex tapestry of relationships. The terrain can be treacherous and there are no easy formulas. We will immerse ourselves in Talmudic sources (in English translation) offering surprising insights and remarkable wisdom for improving our relationships – with community, colleagues, neighbors, friends, family, God, and let us not forget ourselves – the foundation of so much of our happiness.

#### **2• Who learns from whom?**

Torah tells us that God walked through the Garden of Eden and parted the Reed Sea with a “strong hand and an outstretched arm.” Our Rabbis went further; they tell us God prays daily with *tefillin*. Is God our role model? Or are we God's? What happens when God learns from human role models? What does that say about the nature of God and about the nature of humanity? Can we reclaim the colorful texts of our tradition without falling into the pit of literalism? We will explore together some remarkable and radical texts that raise eternal questions about the struggle to be human in a less than humane world.

#### **3 • Jews and Jewish Power: From Pesach to Purim and beyond: Do Jews have power? Do we want power? Do we deserve power?**

Pesach and Purim present two intriguing pictures of the position of Jews in the world and their relation to power, from utterly powerless and completely dependent upon God for redemption, to highly vulnerable but able to affect their own redemption through cunning. Chanukah – a midpoint – depicts Jews relying on God's strength to achieve victory and assert political and military power in the world. Until the creation of the State of Israel, Jews had to accommodate themselves to ruling powers and create for themselves a narrative about the meaning of power and their lack of it. We examine our attitude toward Jewish power through biblical texts, Talmud passages, folklore throughout the ages, and current debate about how Israel wields power.

#### **4 • Siblings: Competitors? Companions? Confidants?**

Got a sibling? Raising siblings? If ever there was a relationship fraught with tension and rivalry, this is it. If ever there was a relationship with the potential for lifelong devotion and companionship, this is it. Torah, midrash, and modern commentaries elucidate the ins-and-outs, highs-and-lows, gut-wrenching potholes, and exalted peaks on the road siblings tread together through life, with some unexpected insights and advice.

#### **5 • Envy: Neutralizing Emotional Toxins**

Envy and jealousy may be natural emotions, but they can be toxic. Healthy envy can inspire us to develop fully our potential unhealthy envy can damage our relationships, our self-image, and stunt our potential for growth. Our tradition provides fascinating models for sorting out the ups and downs of sibling relationships.

#### **Bio**

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman received her bachelor's degree from Brown University, has studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Princeton Theological Seminary, and was ordained in 1984 at HUC-JIR in New York, where she also received a Doctor of Divinity in 2009. Rabbi Scheinerman is the hospice rabbi in Howard County Maryland, teaches in a variety of venues, and serves as president of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis. She has served Conservative, Reform, and unaffiliated congregations. She is a member of the Responsa Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and serves as editor of the Torah Commentary column of the CCAR newsletter. She is a regular columnist for the *Carroll County Times*. She is currently the



president of the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis. Rabbi Scheinerman is married to Dr. Edward Scheinerman, professor of applied mathematics and statistics, and Vice Dean for Education at The Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering. They are the parents of four children.

#### **Contact information**

Email: [rabbi@scheinerman.net](mailto:rabbi@scheinerman.net)

Phone: (410) 599-1159

Website: <http://scheinerman.net/judaism>

Talmud blog: <http://nuviewtalmud.blogspot.com>

Torah blog: <http://taste-of-torah.blogspot.com>