

PROGRAM

In Celebration of 40 Years of Women Rabbis and Cantors in the Capital District

An Afternoon of Learning Together: 1:00 – 3:30 Temple Israel, Albany

1:00 - 1:15 Gather and shmooze Small Sanctuary

1:15 - 1:30 Shehehyanu and Program Introduction Small Sanctuary

Session #1 1:30 - 2:20 - First Workshop

Wendy Love Anderson: "Women Rabbis and Spiritual Leaders Before the 20th Century"

Meeting Room

Linda Motzkin: "Sacred Sewing Circle - an opportunity to participate in The Community Torah Project by helping to sew two panels of Torah together"

West Wing

Rena Kieval: "Women Poets on the Bible"

Founders Hall

Julie Wolkoff: "B'Tzelem Elohim: Finding God's Image in the World of Dementia"

Small Sanctuary

2:20 - 2:30 Break and Shmooze

Session #2 2:30 - 3:20 Second Workshop

Debora Gordon: "'Women's Voices at the Sea and at Sinai: Contemporary Midrash'"

Founders Hall

Susan Gulack: "Embodied Prayer: Signing as a Path to Understanding and Embracing Prayer"

West Wing

Beverly W. Magidson: "The History of Women Rabbis' Admission to the Conservative Movement"

Small Sanctuary

Zoe B. Zak: "The Joy of Niggun - A Song Without Words"

Meeting Room

3:20 - 3:30 Conclusion

Women Rabbis and Cantors in the Capital District:

**presenter*

- **Rabbi Wendy Love Anderson**, Temple Israel (Albany) *
- **Rabbi Susan Gulack**, prison and psych center chaplain (Albany and elsewhere) *
- **Rabbi Debora S. Gordon**, Berith Sholom (Troy) *
- **Rabbi Rena Kieval**, retired from Ohav Shalom (Albany) *
- **Rabbi Beverly W. Magidson**, retired community chaplain and Daughters of Sarah (Albany) *
- **Rabbi Nomi Manon**, Hillel at UAlbany (Albany)
- **Rabbi Linda Motzkin** (retired from Temple Sinai, Saratoga) *
- **Rabbi Eleanor Pearlman** (retired from Congregation Gates of Heaven, Schenectady)
- **Rabbi Suzanne Schemerhorn**, Knesseth Israel (Gloversville)
- **Cantor Emily Short**, Beth Emeth (Albany)
- **Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot**, B'nai Sholom (Albany)
- **Rabbi Julie Wolkoff**, hospital chaplain (Boston) *
- **Rabbi Zoe B. Zak**, Temple Israel of Catskill (Catskill) *

In the winter of 1983, Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy hired Rabbi Julie Wolkoff as their interim, part-time Rabbi, making her the first woman rabbi in the Capital District. That summer she was joined by Rabbi Beverly W. Magidson, who was hired by Congregation Beth Shalom in Clifton Park. Rabbi Magidson was the first woman to ever head a Conservative synagogue.

Over the past 40 years the number of women rabbis and cantors has grown to a minyan, plus a few more in outlying areas, each one bringing the unique experience that women bring to their teaching of our tradition. On Monday, January 15, 2024, 11 women rabbis and cantors came together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the arrival of the first female rabbi in the Capital District.

A big “todah rabbah” – thanks - to Temple Israel Albany, Rabbi Wendy Love Anderson, Rachael Schertzer, Executive Director, and the entire staff for hosting this event.