



**Jewish Reconstructionist Communities**  
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

## Reconstructionist Education Day

For Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and surrounding areas

**A Day of Learning around the themes of “Reconstructionism 101” and *Tikkun Olam***

**Sunday, February 1, 2015**  
**9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Society for the Advancement of Judaism**  
**15 West 86th Street**  
**New York, NY 10024**

**Phone: 212.724.7000**

**Register now at <http://www.JewishRecon.org/registration>.**

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**Morning Workshops: 10-11:15 a.m.**

**[“You Were Slaves in the Land of Egypt:” Self-Awareness, Empathy and Racial Inequality](#)**

**Presenter: Elsie Stern, Ph.D.**

This biblical refrain served as a rallying cry for many Jewish civil rights activists in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this session we will explore how reflection on particular episodes in Jewish and African-American history can foster self-awareness and empathy that will help us be allies and advocates in the contemporary struggle for racial equality.

**[The View of the Outsider](#)**

**Presenter: Rabbi Michael Strassfeld**

There are a number of stories that the rabbis tell about themselves that suggest they understood the danger of self-righteousness. We will look at how the Talmudic rabbis use the vantage point of those on the margins to critique themselves. We will also look at the question of how to balance the rights of those on the inside (the have's) with the claims for assistance of those on the margins (the have not's).

**[Living by Our Values: A Reconstructionist Approach to Making Personal Decisions](#)**

**Presenter: Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D.**

For Jews who do not consider ourselves bound by *halakha* (Jewish law), integrating Jewish tradition with our contemporary sensibilities is an ongoing challenge. This session explores that challenge and outlines key elements in a successful approach to meeting it.



11:25 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

**Keynote: [A Most Welcome Minority: The Challenges and Opportunities of Being Jewish in America in the 21st Century](#)**

**Rabbi Deborah Waxman**

**LUNCH – 12:45-1:30 p.m.**

**Afternoon Workshops: 1:45 p.m.-3 p.m.**

**[Who Is Jewish Enough? The Inclusion of Non-Jews in Synagogue Ritual Practice](#)**

**Presenter: Rabbi Lee Friedlander**

A Study of one Reconstructionist Synagogue's Journey

**[Midrash on Happiness: Literature through a Reconstructionist Lens](#)**

**Presenter: Tresa Grauer, Ph.D.**

Grace Paley's short story, *Midrash on Happiness*, will be the starting point for a discussion of how we can use literature to explore questions of contemporary Jewish American identity.

**[Between A Rock and a Hard Place: Battlefield Ethics as a Model for Interpersonal Relationships](#)**

**Presenter: Rabbi Marc Margolius**

Israel's periodic, ongoing engagement with Hamas in Gaza represents a classic ethical quandary-- how to effectively protect oneself while avoiding harm to innocent third parties. We'll look at some ancient and modern sources in looking at this ethical challenge, and explore how the matrix of Jewish values involved in this scenario plays out in our own lives as well.

**[Tikkun Olam in 200 CE - Radical Changes and Subtle Maneuvering](#)**

**Presenter: Rabbi Ariann Weitzman**

What did the rabbis originally mean when they coined the term *tikkun olam* and established it as a Jewish value by which to change communal norms and shift Jewish law? We will look at the oldest references to *tikkun olam*, and parse their meaning and application to our own contexts.

**Register now at <http://www.JewishRecon.org/registration>.**

The cost is \$25 per person, which will cover food and materials.

We hope you will attend this great program!

**For more information, please contact Jackie Land at [jland@rrc.edu](mailto:jland@rrc.edu) or 302.500.0863.**