



Rabbi Sally J. Priesand in 1972

Since Rabbi Sally J. Priesand's ordination at HUC-JIR/Cincinnati in 1972 as the first woman ever to become a rabbi, HUC-JIR has ordained 324 women, including 4

Israeli women. In honor of her path-breaking role and the 25th anniversary of women in the rabbinate, the Rabbi Sally J. Priesand Visiting Professorship is being launched this Fall semester at HUC-JIR/NY. The inaugural Priesand Visiting Professor, a noted scholar with a primary focus on women's studies, is Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

The semester-long Professorship will rotate each year at HUC-JIR's stateide schools. "Students at the College-Institute, who are the future leaders of our Movement, must be given the opportunity to hear the voices of women as well as men. They must embrace the experiences of all Jews in the spirit of equality, knowing that every human being is a piece of priceless mosaic in the design of God's universe. And finally, we must move forward together to continue to re-form and refashion our Movement in this light. This Visiting Professorship of Jewish Women's Studies will allow future generations to draw upon the breadth of women's knowledge and experience," remarked Priesand.

Dr. Frymer-Kensky's fields of specialization include Women and Religion, Biblical Studies, Assyriology and Sumerology, and Jewish Studies. She is also the Director of Biblical Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Frymer-Kensky is recognized as a world-class Bible scholar with "tremendous teaching credentials," stated Rabbi Norman Cohen, Provost. He believes that the College-Institute "couldn't find a better person" for this position.

In addition to being available to mentor students on academic projects and feminist concerns, Frymer-Kensky enhances HUC-JIR/NY's academic offerings with the following:

The Inaugural Rabbi Sally J. Priesand Visiting Professor of Jewish Women's Studies:

Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky



Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky (2nd from left), the inaugural Sally J. Priesand Visiting Professor of Jewish Women's Studies, with Rabbi Aaron Panken, Dean of the NY School (left) and students, after delivering a d'var torah at services at the New York School



Rabbi Sally Priesand (third from left) with Rabbi Zimmerman and the women of the New York ordination class of 1997, 25 years after her ordination

- a course on Judaism and Feminism at the New York School (a synthesis of new religious thinking inspired by feminism, but not limited to women);

INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE: JEWISH LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

- a class at New York Kollel: HUC-JIR's Center for Adult Jewish Study entitled *Victors, Victims, Virgins, and Voices: A New Look at Women in the Bible*,
- a cocurricular program for HUC-JIR students and faculty on contemporary liturgy, feminist concerns, and her book *Motherprayer: The Pregnant Woman's Spiritual Companion*,
- and adult educations sessions.

As the Priesand Visiting Professor, Frymer-Kensky serves as a role model to the HUC-JIR community based on her interest in women's studies and concern about feminist issues, her renowned scholarship, and her commitment to Judaism and Jewish education.

The Women's Rabbinic Network led the fundraising efforts for the Rabbi Sally J. Priesand Visiting Professorship of Jewish Women's Studies. Rabbi Rosalind A. Fold and Rabbi Marcia A. Zimmerman, Co-Chairs of the Professorship Campaign, noted, "We look forward to new ways of incorporating Jewish women's voices into the ongoing life of our people. We celebrate the work of all of the more than 300 women who have made history through their rabbinic ordination. This Visiting Professorship honors our friend and role model, Sally Priesand, and the women who have come after her."

As of July 1999, 594 donors have contributed or pledged funds totaling close to \$300,000 for the Professorship. For further information or to contribute to the Rabbi Sally J. Priesand Visiting Professorship in Jewish Women's Studies, please contact Eve Starkman, Director of Development, Eastern Region, HUC-JIR, One West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012-1186, (212) 824-2285.