

## **BET AVIV PROCESS**

### **Responsibilities of the Scholar in Residence Chair**

#### **1. Coordinate with Presenter**

- 1.1 Coordinate with Presenter who is available at dates that work for us
- 1.2 Follow through with presenter to determine needs (e.g., travel, lodging, etc)
- 1.3 Coordinate with Presenter on topics to present during the day
- 1.4 Arrange for transportation and lodging, as needed

#### **2. Coordinate with Administrator**

- 2.1 Coordinate with the Administrator to reserve rooms at The Meeting House, or other location for the date
- 2.2 Follow through with Administrator, as needed, on room reservations
- 2.3 Ask Administrator to coordinate meal reservations and notify you of number of RSVPs for any meals

#### **3. Coordinate with Other Bet Aviv Programs (Optional)**

- 3.1 Coordinate with the Other Bet Aviv Programs (e.g., Men's Club)
- 3.2 Discuss responsibilities of the other program with respect to the Scholar in Residence program
- 3.3 Follow through with the other program as necessary to ensure responsibilities are carried out in a timely manner

#### **4. Coordinate with Caterer**

- 4.1 Coordinate with the Caterer for any meals associated with the program – discuss menu, if necessary, discuss fees and provide number of members who will attend
- 4.2 Follow through with Caterer, as needed, to finalize meal plans.

#### **5. Coordinate with Congregation**

- 5.1 Solicit possible presenters and topics from congregation
- 5.2 Notify Congregation of Scholar in Residence date and solicit RSVPs that will go to Administrator for accounting

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#### **6. Coordinate with Webmaster**

- 6.1 Notify webmaster of Scholar in Residence date and descriptions

#### **7. Coordinate with Newsletter**

- 7.1 Write announcement for the Newsletter and send to editor

#### **8. Coordinate with Board**

- 8.1 Send a report to the Board when the presenter, date and topics have been selected
- 8.2 Send an account of the attendees, income and expenses associated with the Scholar in Residence program within 30 days of the completion of the program

#### **9. Skills Needed**

- 9.1 Time Management skills to plan Scholar in Residence programs with a long lead-time
- 9.2 Organizational skills to keep track of discussions with presenters, caterer, administrator and any other programs
- 9.3 Writing skills for announcements to congregation, newsletter and website
- 9.4 Communications skills for negotiating topics with presenters and fees with caterer

#### **10. Time Required (Varies widely)**

- 10.1 Time to coordinate topics with presenter
- 10.2 Time to coordinate with administrator, other programs and caterer
- 10.3 Time to attend full Scholar in Residence Program

#### **11. Current/Previous Scholar in Residence Chairs**

- Larry Bodin
- Howard Caplan

#### **12. Documents Produced**

The following documents are produced in support of the Scholar in Residence role and samples of them for guidance appear in the appendices indicated.

## BET AVIV PROCESS

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#### 12.1 Scholar in Residence Announcement (email, newsletter, website (Appendix A)

#### Appendix A. Scholar in Residence Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Jeffrey Rosen, Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School, legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*, author, essayist and radio commentator, is our 2008 Gene Klein Scholar-in-Residence (SIR). Professor Rosen's program, "**How High the Wall? The Future of the Separation of Church and State**", will take place in Room 200 at the Meeting House, Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, on Saturday, April 12, 2008, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. To attend, please fill out the Registration Form on the last page of this notice and return it to Bet Aviv.

To introduce Professor Rosen's topic, I will draw on a recent newspaper quiz that appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in mid-December, 2007.

*True or False:* As president, Thomas Jefferson established the policy of a "wall of separation" between church and state?

*Answer: False.* Jefferson used the phrase in a letter of 1802 to the Danbury Baptist Association. The famous passage in full is the following: 'I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the building a wall of separation between church and state'. Jefferson is referring to the "no establishment" clause of the First Amendment, ratified in 1791, 11 years before the writing of the letter. This was James Madison's baby like the rest of the Bill of Rights that Madison introduced as a bill in Congress in 1789.

The First Amendment to the Constitution says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise therefore." But what does this mean in America today?

Professor Rosen will outline the fundamental issues, great debates and future directions surrounding this constitutional First Amendment principle in practice and in law. This is a powerful and timely topic that has elicited a lot of discussion among our congregants and the nation as a whole.

In these sessions, Professor Rosen will discuss and analyze the following questions.

- Does the Constitution require the government to be neutral on matters of religious issues, actions and practices?

## BET AVIV PROCESS

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- Conversely, should religious organizations be required to be politically neutral in matters of government and politics? Should issues of faith be allowed to become a major political determiner in the candidate selection process for national elective office?
- Are individuals who believe or do not believe in a religion entitled to equal protection under the Constitution in theory and in practice?
- In the current presidential campaign, leading candidates on both sides of the political divide have discussed the importance of faith to their lives? Does the decline of privacy, and the transformation of religion into a form of identity politics, threaten the wall between church and state? Moreover, what position should the Jewish community take on church-state separation?

For much of the twentieth century, leading Jewish organizations saw strict separation as the safest way of protecting American Jews from a Protestant majority. More recently, however, believing Jews have aligned themselves with believing Protestants and Catholics to support state funding for religion with the condition that this funding goes to all groups on equal terms. The following questions arise.

- Is this historic evolution in “strict separation” thinking and practice a cause for concern or satisfaction?
- Now that the courts, since the 1980s, have been emphasizing religious neutrality, is there a risk that this will lead inevitably to religious supremacy?
- Is there nothing secular today?

This thought-provoking seminar about the historical past and uncertain future of church-state separation in America will be organized as follows:

This thought-provoking seminar about the historical past and uncertain future of church-state separation in America will be organized as follows:

Session	Time	Description
Morning	10:00am – 11:45am	A discussion of the history of church-state separation in the United States. In this session, some of the most important and interesting Supreme Court cases will be discussed.
Lunch	11:45am – 12:45pm	Provided by Richard Tobin and the Men's Club who are co-sponsors of this program
Afternoon	12:45pm - 2:30pm	Discussion of the present and future of church-state separation in the United States

We hope to allow some time at the end of the day for Professor Rosen to discuss an interview that he had with John Roberts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and to do a book signing. The program will end by 3pm.

## BET AVIV PROCESS

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Professor Rosen suggested that we distribute the article, "Is Nothing Secular", that appeared in the NY Times magazine a few years ago. The link to this article is as follows:

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9D07E7D7143CF933A05752C0A9669C8B63>

To get this article, just click on the link or copy and paste this link into your Internet browser. Please let us know if you have any problems accessing this article. We thank Professor Rosen for providing this article to us.

#### Biographical Sketch of Professor Rosen

Jeffrey Rosen is a professor of law at George Washington University and the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*. Professor Rosen earned his B. A. at Harvard College, summa cum laude; his B. A. at Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar; and his J. D. at Yale Law School.

Professor Rosen's most recent book is *The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries that Defined America*, New York: Times Books, 2007. Other books that Professor Rosen has written are the following:

- *The Most Democratic Branch: How the Courts Serve America*, New York : Oxford University Press, 2006.
- *The Naked Crowd: Reclaiming Security and Freedom in an Anxious Age*, New York : Random House, 2004.
- *The Unwanted Gaze: The Destruction of Privacy in America*, New York : Random House, 2000

Professor Rosen's essays and commentaries have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, on National Public Radio, and in *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer. The *Chicago Tribune* named him one of the 10 best magazine journalists in America and the *L.A. Times* called him, "the nation's most widely read and influential legal commentator. " Professor Rosen lives in Washington, D.C. , with his wife Christine Rosen and two sons.

#### COST

The cost for attending the Gene Klein Scholar-in-Residence is \$15 for members of Bet Aviv and \$25 for non-members of Bet Aviv. This cost includes the two sessions and the famous Bet Aviv brunch organized by Richard Tobin and the Men's Club, who are co-sponsors of this event. Please make your reservations by filling out the form below and mailing it to Bet Aviv with the check for the fees.

We are looking forward to a large attendance at our SIR this year. We hope that all of you will be able to attend.

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Larry Bodin and Howard Caplan

Bet Aviv Adult Education