

## Rabbi Laurence L. Edwards, Ph.D.

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### Education

- Chicago Theological Seminary** 1998-2005  
Ph.D. Bible, Culture, and Hermeneutics, with distinction  
Dissertation: “Resurrecting the Pharisees: Ideology and Identity between Christians and Jews”  
(Committee: Tat-Siong Benny Liew, Michael Fishbane, Ken Stone)
- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion,** 1970-1975  
Jerusalem and New York  
M.A.H.L., with honors, 1973; Rabbinic Ordination, 1975. Awards in Hebrew, Jewish Religious Thought, and Human Relations. Thesis: “The Life and Contribution of Rabbi Jacob Sasportas” (17<sup>th</sup> century)
- University of Chicago** 1966-1970  
A.B., General Studies in the Humanities; thesis on the novels of Edward Lewis Wallant

### Professional Experience

- Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago, IL** 2013-2014  
Rabbi in Residence
- Congregation Or Chadash, Chicago, IL** 2003-2013  
Rabbi (part-time); now Emeritus  
Or Chadash was founded in 1976 by members of the LGBTQ community.
- American Jewish Committee** 2000-2002  
Associate National Director for Interreligious Affairs  
National oversight of the Catholic/Jewish Educational Enrichment Program and various other programmatic responsibilities. Attendance at International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee, Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Annual Convention of the Muslim American Society, etc.
- Congregation B'nai Abraham, Beloit, WI** 1998-2001  
Rabbi (part-time)
- Catholic/Jewish Educational Enrichment Project, American Jewish Committee** 1998-2002  
Teaching Judaism in Catholic high schools
- Union for Reform Judaism, Chicago** 1999-  
Instructor, Introduction to Judaism
- K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation, Chicago, IL** 1997-1998  
Associate Rabbi & Director of Religious Education (Interim)  
Direct operation of 160-student religious school in close collaboration with an active Schools Committee, teaching (7<sup>th</sup> grade and adult), various rabbinic responsibilities.

**Cornell University, Ithaca, New York**

1981-1997

**University Jewish Chaplain and Director of Hillel**

Responsibility for program and administration. Religious services, informal teaching, counseling, budget, fundraising. Staff, budget, program roughly tripled during my tenure. Staff supervision: Associate Director, Outreach Fellow, Development Director, Office Manager, Bookkeeper. Began creating new Governing Board. As part of Cornell United Religious Work (CURW), met regularly with fellow chaplains, worked on joint projects. Served on Board of CURW and as Co-Chair of the Center for Religion, Ethics and Social Policy.

**Coolidge Research Colloquium of the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life**

A four-week academic research seminar for Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, academics and non-academics, clergy and non-clergy

Fellow (1991), Jewish Resource Theologian (1992), Co-Director (1993-94)

**Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel**

Faculty member (1995, 1996, 2005, 2006, 2014)

An intensive five-week summer seminar for 26 outstanding high school seniors

**Dartmouth College; Upper Valley Jewish Community, Hanover, NH**

1975-1981

Associate Chaplain and Hillel Director; Community Rabbi

Programming, religious services, informal teaching, counseling, budget, fundraising, joint programming with other chaplains. As community Rabbi, involved with communal organizing, life cycle events, Hebrew school.

**Academic Teaching**

**Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH**

Hebrew (1978)

**Wells College, Aurora, NY**

“Jews and Judaism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” (1984) and “Judaism” (1986).

**State University of New York, Cortland**

“Introduction to Judaism” (1991, 1992, 1995, 1997).

**Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL**

“Introduction to Judaism” (2002, 2003, 2004, 2007)

“Abraham’s Children: Judaism, Christianity and Islam” (2005)

Summer Institute: “Deutero-Isaiah: Prophet of Diaspora Jewry” (2000); “Jewish Readers of Paul” (2001); “An Introduction to Midrash” (2002, 2006); “Pharisees, Judaism and the Church” (2003, 2005, 2008); “Tradition and Interpretation” and “Reading Torah” (2007)

**Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL**

“Book of Books: Jewish Readers/Christian Readers” (2003)

“Torah: Tradition and Interpretation” (2008)

“Hebrew Bible II: Prophets and Writings” (2016,2018)

**Loyola University, Chicago, IL**

“Classical Judaism” (2007)

“Judaism in the Modern Period” (2008, 2009)

“Kabbalah: The Jewish Mystical Tradition” (Spring 2009)

## **DePaul University, Chicago, IL**

- “Kabbalah: The Jewish Mystical Tradition” (Spring 2009)
- “Ancient Israel” (2011-2015)
- “The Jewish Experience” (2011, 2014, 2016)
- “Jewish and Christian Theology and the Holocaust” (2012, 2013)
- “Modern Judaism” (2013, 2015, 2017, 2018)

## **Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf, Skokie, IL**

- “Prophets” (Fall 2010, Spring 2017)
- “Writings” (Spring 2011)
- “Isaiah” (Summer 2011)
- “Modern Jewish History” (2012-13)
- “Modern Jewish Thought” (Fall 2011)
- “Jewish History” (Spring 2012, Fall 2015)
- “Maimonides” (Summer 2012)
- “History & Literature of the Bible” (2013-14)

## **University of Illinois Chicago**

- “Introduction to Jewish History” (2012-2019)
- “Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths” (Spring 2014)
- “Two Thousand Years of Jewish-Christian Encounter” (Spring 2015)

## **Selected Conferences, Seminars, Lectures**

- National Hillel Summer Institute (1979, 1980)
- Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, “Sources of Jewish Humor,” “Martin Buber and Rav Kook” (1986)
- Hillel Professional Conferences: “Midrash,” “Buber & Rosenzweig,” “Jewish Heresies,” “Levinas”
- Chicago Theological Seminary, “Psalms and Liturgy” (1993)
- Purdue University, “Kabbalah,” “Modern Jewish Thought” (1998)
- Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL
  - Co-facilitator, Workshop for Catholic and Jewish Educators (Spring 2000)
- Workshops for Catholic and Jewish educators in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati (2000- )
- Chicago Theological Seminary Ministerial Institute, “A Rabbi Reads the New Testament” (2001)
- Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, “Judaism and the Non-Jewish World” (March 2002)
- The Santa Fe Jewish and Christian Dialogue, “Sharing Our Faith in Difficult Times” Co-presenter with Sr. Mary C. Boys (April 2003)
- Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, “The Pharisees” (May 2003)
- Midwest Jewish Studies Association, “The Resurrection of the Pharisees: The Liberal Narrative of the 1920’s” (October 2004)
- Clergy Institute, Temple Beth-El, Munster, IN (2005)
- Ft. Wayne, IN Catholic-Jewish Dialogue, “40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nostra Aetate” Co-presenter with Fr. John Pawlikowski (November 2005)
- Third International Conference on Lutheran Hermeneutics: The Gospel of Matthew, Chicago. Paper on “Matthew’s Pharisees: Seven Woes and Seven Warnings” (September, 2014)
- National Havurah Institute, 2018, “Not Your Great-Grandparents’ Judaism: (Four Ways We Don’t Believe What Our Ancestors Believed)”
- Jewish Ghosts, Conference at Columbia University & CUNY Graduate Center, October 30-31, 2019. Presented paper, “The Haunting of Julius Wellhausen”

## Fellowships

- Coolidge Research Colloquium, Association for Religion and Intellectual Life, Cambridge, MA (Summer, 1991)
- Christianity and the Holocaust: Teaching the Tough Questions - Seminar for Seminary Faculty and Professors of Religious Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (June, 2008)

## Publications

**Book Review Editor**, *CCAR Journal / Reform Jewish Quarterly* (2008-2013)

Book Review Editor, *Newsletter* of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (2003-2008)

**Translations** of Hebrew articles:

“Wondrous Golda” and “Another Story” by Ephraim Keshon; “Those Who Remained” by Butress Dalah in *Worldview*, May & November 1973.

**Articles/Chapters:**

“The Concept of Justice in Judaism” in Barazangi, Zaman, & Afzal, eds., *Islamic Identity and the Struggle for Justice* (University Press of Florida, 1996).

“Maimonidean Controversy” in Michael Terry, ed., *Reader’s Guide to Judaism* (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000)

“Rabbi Akiba’s Crowns: Postmodern Discourse and the Cost of Rabbinic Reading” in *Judaism*, Fall, 2000

“How Do You Read?: Jesus in Conversation with his Colleagues” in Beatrice Bruteau, ed., *Jesus Through Jewish Eyes*, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001)

“If There Were a Jewish Biblical Theology, Would it be Postmodern?” in *Chicago Theological Seminary Register*, Vol. 93, No. 3, Fall 2003.

“Luke’s Pharisees: Emerging Communities” in Melody Knowles, Esther Menn, John Pawlikowski, Timothy J. Sandoval, eds. *Contesting Texts: Jews and Christians in Conversation about the Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007)

“Extreme Attention to the Real: Levinas and Religious Hermeneutics” in *Shofar*, Summer 2008.

“Parashat P’kudei: A Knack for Design” (with Lisa Edwards) in David Shneer, Josh Lesser, and Gregg Drinkwater, eds., *Torah Queeries: Reading the Bible Through a Bent Lens* (New York: New York University Press, 2009)

“Matthew’s Pharisees: Seven Woes and Seven Warnings” in Kenneth Mtata and Craig Koester, eds. *To All the Nations: Lutheran Hermeneutics and the Gospel of Matthew* (The Lutheran World Federation, LWF Studies, 2015/2)

S. Y. Agnon, “The Great Synagogue,” Translation and Commentary in *CCAR Journal/The Reform Jewish Quarterly*, Winter 2016. Translation reprinted in S.Y. Agnon, *Forevermore & Other Stories*, ed. Jeffrey Saks (Toby Press, 2016)

**Reviews:**

“Jews Talking about G-D” review of Robert Goldy, The Emergence of Jewish Theology in America in *Cross Currents: Religion & Intellectual Life*, Vol. 41, No. 1, Spring 1991.

“Facing Scripture and Each Other” review of Peter Ochs, ed., The Return to Scripture in Judaism and Christianity in *Cross Currents*, Vol. 45, No. 2, Summer 1995.

Christian Wiese, Challenging Colonial Discourse: Jewish Studies and Protestant Theology in Wilhelmine Germany (Brill, 2007) in *Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations*, Vol. 2, No. 2  
<http://escholarship.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1077&context=scjr>

Naomi Seidman, Faithful Renderings: Jewish-Christian Difference and the Politics of Translation (University of Chicago, 2006) in *CCAR Journal*, Spring 2011

Michael Fishbane, Sacred Attunement: A Jewish Theology (University of Chicago, 2008) in *CCAR Journal*, Summer 2011

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, Stories of the Babylonian Talmud (Johns Hopkins, 2010) in *Shofar*, Fall 2012

Roberta Rosenthal Kwall, The Myth of the Cultural Jew (Oxford University Press, 2015) in *CCAR Journal*, Winter 2016

Other reviews in: *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, *Journal of Religion and Intellectual Life*, *Newsletter of the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Coalition*, *The Bookpress*