World Religions Symposium 2013

Judaism:
Ancient Conversation, Contemporary Voices

Sponsored by:
The Office of the Chaplain, Jewish Student Association, Religious Council, Religion Department, Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Heller Service Corps, James B. Duke Library, Mere Christianity Forum, Muslim Student Association, Presbyterian Student Association, Interfaith Youth Core, and Year of Altruism
Keynote Speakers

**Ms. Cherie R. Brown** is Founder-Executive Director of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit leadership training organization. Ms. Brown has an M.Ed in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from Harvard University and over the last twenty five years, NCBI has trained over 10,000 men, women and young people in cities, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, corporations and on college campuses around the world.

**Rabbi Dr. Steven Sager** is the Rabbi Emeritus of Beth El Synagogue in Durham, NC, where he served as rabbi for 32 years. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) and he earned a Ph.D. in Rabbinic Literature at Duke University. Rabbi Sager is an adjunct faculty member of the Duke Divinity School and has published numerous articles. He now serves as the Director of Sicha/Conversation, a project to stimulate conversations between classical Jewish culture and contemporary Jewish needs.

**Dr. Daniel Matt** served as Professor of Jewish Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California from 1979-2000. He received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University and has also taught at Stanford University and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has published six books, including: *Zohar: The Book of Enlightenment*, *The Essential Kabbalah*, and *God and the Big Bang*.

**Dr. Eric Goldstein** is the Judith London Evans Director of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory University, where he is also Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies, specializing in the history and culture of American Jews. He is author of the award-winning book, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity* and is the former editor of the scholarly journal *American Jewish History*. He is currently finishing a history of Yiddish literature read by Jewish immigrants to America.

**Mrs. Trude Heller** has been an active Holocaust educator, speaking in schools and at public gatherings about the Shoah. Her late husband, Max Heller was the innovative and beloved mayor of Greenville from 1971-1979. In 1999 Furman University awarded Trude an honorary doctorate.

Vision

The world’s religions are as complex, historic, and vast as they are delicate, uncharted, and intimate. In order to become global citizens who engage the world in those complexities and intimacies, it is imperative that we deepen our comprehension and empathy regarding how communities and individuals worship, pray, and handle questions of life, death, suffering, the body politic, and the host of ethical challenges we all face.

_The World Religions Symposium_ seeks to provide space for religious traditions to tell their own story, no matter how complex or challenging that story may be.

This year, the Office of Chaplain, with the support of various departments and organizations, invites the Furman community to focus our attention and conversation on Judaism. Though we cannot address every facet of this rich religion, we can offer room for the academy’s finest scholars and the tradition’s devoted adherents to offer their voices to an ancient, yet truly contemporary, conversation.

Schedule

**Jewish Identity and the Impact of Antisemitism**  
Ms. Cherie Brown  
Tuesday, October 22  
7:00 p.m., Watkins Room, Trone Student Center

**Torah From Heaven, Heaven From Torah**  
Rabbi Steven Sager  
Monday, October 28  
7:00 p.m., Daniel Chapel

**Charles H. Townes Lecture on Faith and Reason**  
Dr. Daniel Matt  
Tuesday, November 5  
7:00 p.m., Younts Conference Center

**What American Jewish History Can Teach Us About the Jewish Future**  
Dr. Eric Goldstein  
Tuesday, November 12  
7:00 p.m., Daniel Chapel

**Rabbi Roundtable**  
Panel Discussion with Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform Rabbis in the Upstate  
Thursday, November 14  
7:00 p.m., Patrick Lecture Hall, Plyler Science Building

**A Personal Story**  
Mrs. Trude Heller  
Introduction by Dr. Courtney Tollison  
Monday, November 18  
7:00 p.m., Daniel Chapel

**Hanukkah Celebration**  
Rabbi Alana Wasserman,  
Campus Rabbi for Jewish Student Association  
Monday, December 2  
7:00 p.m., Chapel Garden Room