

**LECTURE DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL**  
**REDEFINING 21ST CENTURY JEWISH IDENTITY –**  
**CAN WE BE MORALLY GRAND AND SPIRITUALLY AUDACIOUS?**

**In memory of and in honor of Rabbi Leo Trepp.**

**Introduction by esteemed guest, German Consul General Peter Rothen.**



**Susannah Heschel** holds the Eli Black Professorship in Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish-Christian relations in Germany during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the history of biblical scholarship, and the history of anti-Semitism. Prof. Heschel's numerous publications include *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus* (University of Chicago Press), which won a National Jewish Book Award, and *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany* (Princeton University Press). Currently she is writing a book on the history of European Jewish scholarship on Islam from the 1830s to the 1930s. In 2013 she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. She has lectured at conferences and universities around the world, and is the recipient of four honorary doctorates. Prof. Heschel has held visiting professorships at Princeton, the University of Cape Town, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Frankfurt. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Trinity College, on the Visiting Committee of Harvard Divinity School, and on the Beirat of the Zentrum für jüdische Studien, Berlin.

**Rabbi Leo Trepp z'l** (1913 – 2010) was a rabbi, professor and author. Brought up in an orthodox household, he was convinced that Judaism could only remain meaningful by active engagement, constant devotion and progression. Knowledge however was indispensable to him. Among his many publications are 'The Complete Book of Jewish Observance' and the 'History of the Jewish Experience'. After the shoah, where most of his family was murdered, Trepp regularly went back to Germany, taught at universities and gave lectures all over the country. His book 'Das Judentum' became the best-selling book in Germany on this topic. Trepp saw it as a duty to help new Jewish communities and to educate the non-Jewish public about Judaism. In this way he wanted to fight the notion of Jews as 'the others'. He received multiple honors for his work on behalf of a peaceful cooperation between cultures and religions. While God and Torah stood at the center of Trepp's thinking as eternal, he advocated that the practice of Judaism needs to reflect contemporary times.

**Program**

**LECTURE DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL**

**Temple Emanu-El**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014**

Welcome on behalf of Temple Emanu-El

*Rabbi Jonathan Singer*

The legacy of Rabbi Leo Trepp

*German Consul General Peter Rothen*

Introduction of Dr. Susannah Heschel

*Gunda Trepp*

Lecture: Redefining 21st Century Jewish Identity

DR. SUSANNAH HESCHEL

Open Discussion

Reception

When Leo Trepp and Abraham Joshua Heschel met in pre-war Berlin, Trepp was studying at the orthodox seminary, Heschel at the liberal Hochschule. Both had already developed an open-minded curiosity far beyond their professional milieus. They enjoyed each other's knowledge and would on Shabbat take leisurely walks 'Unter den Linden' to discuss their different views.

Thinking about this it felt natural to ask Susannah Heschel, not only the daughter of Abraham Heschel, but a thinker and scholar of highest standard in her own right, to speak in honor of my late husband and to explore a topic both men held so dear. I am happy and honored, Dr. Heschel is here tonight in Leo's beloved shul.

I feel privileged to be able to carry on my husband's legacy and want to thank everybody who helped to make this happen. A special thank you goes to Rabbi Stephen Pearce, to Rabbi Jonathan Singer, to Hannah Gustafson and to Peter Paul, who has been a wonderful friend of ours for years. Gunda Trepp

For further information please go to: [leotrepp.org](http://leotrepp.org)

