

Temple Israel University Welcomes Rabbi Batsheva Appel

*Come out my Beloved, the Bride to meet;
The inner light of Shabbat, let us greet.
--as translated from Lecha Dodi*

When a teacher asked nine-year-old Batsheva what she wanted to be when she grew up, the young girl answered “an astronaut...or a rabbi.”

Now, a few moons later, Rabbi Batsheva Appel, will be landing in Memphis instead of on the moon.

Rabbi Appel kicks off the junior year of Temple’s distinguished speaker series, Temple Israel University, on October 22. Her topic, *The Shabbat Bride’s Untold Story: Lessons from Lecha Dodi*, is one that is sure to have great generational appeal and interest.

“Lecha Dodi is a very elegant composition,” said Rabbi Appel. “I am always astonished by the fact that it is composed from quotations for the Tanakh.”

Rabbi Shlomo Halevy Alkabetz composed the poem over 500 years ago.

“Its multiple layers of meaning are trumped only by its beauty,” Rabbi Appel said. “Having studied this for some time, I hope to bring a finer level of appreciation to this beautiful and deep work of poetic art.”

Rabbi Batsheva Appel is currently the Senior Rabbi at KAM Isaiah Israel in Chicago. She is the first woman to lead the synagogue of some 400 households.

In 2006 she was named the Director of Rabbinic Services for the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, Mississippi. There, she was the rabbi for more than 25 underserved congregations in an eight-state area in the southeastern United States.

Rabbi Appel earned her Masters of Arts in Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 1995. She spent nine years in the corporate world of sales and research in biotechnology after graduating from Wellesley College in 1982.

She first served as a sabbatical rabbi, then rabbi-educator at Temple Emanu-El in Lynbrook, New York, where she ran a religious school with over 300 students. She also was the associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Chaim, a congregation of almost 800 families in Princeton Junction, New Jersey

Now, Rabbi Appel reflects on her original choice of career options some 30+ years ago.

“In a way, it can be said that an astronaut and a rabbi have something in common,” she playfully added. “We both deal in things that are not of this world!”

Temple Israel University distinguished speaker series with Rabbi Batsheva Appel, Thursday, October 22, 7:30 pm, refreshments served



Rabbi Appel

UNTO THE SEVENTH GENERATION

This speaking series, which is a product of Temple’s Environmental Task Force chaired by Linda Kaplan, focuses on ways in which we can reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink!

The program’s name, “Unto the Seventh Generation,” comes from The Great Law of The Iroquois Confederacy: “In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”



Charles Haley

Charles Haley, LEED AP with Looney Ricks Kiss Architects, is the first speaker in this year’s lineup.

With a green building accreditation in both new construction and existing

structures, this award-winning architect will speak on the aspects of residential house design that will contribute to a more efficient, healthier environment. He will also talk about house rating systems and the new advances in modular homes.

“Unto the Seventh Generation” with Charles Haley; Sunday, October 4; 10:30 am-Noon, Temple Israel

