



On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Temple Covenant of Peace will be hosting a talk by Dr. Sara Lipton who will be lecturing on her book *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography*. Prof. Lipton's work traces how the image of the "Jew" evolved into a recognizable iconography whose development and refinement was the result of the social, religious and economic concerns of the Middle Ages. Using medieval illustrations and texts, Dr. Lipton explains how the roots of Jewish caricature began much earlier than the 1500's when it has been assumed to have started.

Please join us for this FREE presentation.

**WHAT:** Lecture - *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography*

**WHO:** Dr. Sara Lipton of the State University of New York, Stony Brook

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 12th at 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Temple Covenant of Peace, 1451 Northampton St., Easton, PA.  
Telephone 610-253-2031

#### **Sara Lipton's article:**

*On est toujours le Juif de quelqu'un.* This French saying – that “everyone is someone’s Jew” – precisely sums up the human propensity for social hierarchy and prejudice. The issue of why Jews got the dubious honor of being central to the saying is a long, complicated story. For medievalist Professor Sara Lipton, however, the question that has occupied much of her work is how representations of Jews in medieval art have made that central position possible.

In both of her books, *Images of Intolerance: The Representation of Jews and Judaism in the Bible moralisée* (University of California Press, 1999) and *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography* (Henry Holt/Metropolitan Books, 2014), Lipton examines medieval texts to track how there came to be a set image of this foreign entity, “a Jew,” and then how that image was used to further propagandize during the Medieval age.

In the days before widespread literacy, information was disseminated through images. Lipton’s work traces how the image of the Jew evolved from pre-12<sup>th</sup> century *Synagoga*, a blindfolded female figure who represented the fact that Jews were blind to the word of Jesus, to a recognizable iconography that is still used today, but was being developed and refined during the Middle Ages.

“For pretty much the whole first half of the Middle Ages, you could not tell a Jewish person visually by looking at one in Medieval Christian art. They didn’t have any identifying physiognomic features, facial features, clothing of any kind,” Lipton notes in an interview with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. That began to change around the mid-thirteenth century.

Tracking how the refinements in the iconography were tied to changes that were happening in the economic and social realities of the day, Lipton shows how by the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Church’s emphasis on Jewish involvement with Christ’s crucifixion causes a growing hostility toward Jews that coincides with an identifiable and unflattering depiction of “the Jew” in medieval art. Her work extends backwards, by several hundred years, the notion that Jewish caricature began in the 1500s, showing instead that the roots of this iconography are deeply buried in the social, religious and economic soil of earlier centuries.

The child of a museum curator, Lipton has combined her childhood interest in art with her love of history, and the Medieval period, in particular. She is a Professor of History and Jewish Studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Both the Medieval Academy of America and the Association for Jewish Studies have recognized her excellence with their John Nicholas Brown Prize for Best First Book and Jordan Schnitzer Book Award, respectively.

Professor Lipton will be giving a presentation on images of Jews in medieval Christian art, based on her award-winning book *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography* at Temple Covenant of Peace in Easton on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This event is free.

What: *Dark Mirror: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography*. A presentation by Professor Sara Lipton of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

When: Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Temple Covenant of Peace, Easton