

Thoughtful Thursdays: Exploring the Landscape of Jewish Learning presents....

The Evolution of Jewish Thought across the millennia regarding Women and Rape, with Rabbi Gavi Ruit

Thursday, March 11
7:00-8:00pm

We will be discussing Rabbi Ruit's recent book, ***The Story of Dinah: Rape and Rape Myth in Jewish Tradition***. This book examines the intersection of rape culture and Jewish tradition by tracing over two thousand years of Jewish commentary on Genesis 34. Using a definition of rape derived from the Hebrew Bible, Rabbi Ruit scrutinizes the commentaries on the text for reflections of what would be deemed "rape myths" today.

This book journeys through time and tradition as it uncovers the evolution of Jewish thought regarding women, rape, and women who have been violated. Every period examined, from the biblical account and the intertestamental writings all the way through to present day, reveals surprising and powerful insights about Jewish tradition and its attitudes towards women and sexual violation.

About Rabbi Ruit: Rabbi Gavi S. Ruit was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Los Angeles and did post-ordination graduate work in Medieval & Modern Jewish Thought at HUC-Cincinnati. Prior to entering the rabbinate, Rabbi Ruit worked as a developmental specialist with troubled children and teens, and that psychology background continues to aid her in her rabbinate. One of her greatest joys as a rabbi is teaching sometimes neglected aspects of Jewish tradition (Mussar, Kabbalah, Talmud, liturgy) through a modern progressive lens.

Much of Rabbi Ruit's writing and teaching focuses on Jewish ethics – including sexual ethics. Her recent book, *The Story of Dinah: Rape and Rape Myth in Jewish Tradition*, has been praised in both rabbinic and academic circles.