

## Rabbi Jonathan Lee Seidel PhD

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Ordination: ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal

### EDUCATION

#### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Ph.D Near Eastern Studies, 1996

Dissertation: "Studies in Ancient Jewish Magic"

*Committee:* Daniel Boyarin, Chairman, William Brinner,  
Ann Kilmer, David Cohen

#### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, M.A. Cambridge England

Geniza Text Studies in Jewish Historical Documents

1987-1988 (Hayes-Fulbright Scholarship) and Matriculation

#### GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION, Berkeley

Coursework in Jewish Thought and Mysticism

1982-1985

#### JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, M.A. Judaic Studies 1981

OBERLIN COLLEGE, Oberlin, Ohio B.A. Religion (with Highest Honors)

1977

### TEACHERS IN RELIGION AND JUDAIC STUDIES

OBERLIN: H.T. Frank, Joseph Eliash, Clyde Holbrook,

Grover Zinn, Tzvi Yehuda,

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: Elias Bickerman, Morton Smith,

Yohanan Muffs, Edward Greenstein, Moshe Held, David Marcus, Avi

Reisner, Burton Visotsky, Neil Gilman, Judith Hauptman, Shaye Cohen, Isaiah Gafni, Ann Lerner.

**UC BERKELEY/G.T.U.:** Jacob Milgrom, David Winston, Daniel Matt, Peter Brown, David Ulansey, Martin Swartz, Galit Hasan-Rokem, Moshe Greenberg, Herbert Basser, Eliezer Segal, Ze'ev Falk, Harvey Goldberg, Daniel Boyarin

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY:** Stephan Reif, Shaul Shaked

## **TEACHING RESUME 1983 to Present**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS 1983-1985**

Visiting Lecturer. Taught Religion and Judaic Studies in the Dept. of Religious Studies, including Introductory Courses in Religion, Hebrew Bible, Judaism, Western Religions, Messianism, Judaism in Late Antiquity, Apocalyptic Literature, Seminars in Biblical Studies.

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY 1987-92**

Instructor. Taught courses in postbiblical Hebrew text covering various rabbinic texts in Hebrew and Aramaic. (E.g. Midrash, Talmud, and Dead Sea Scrolls). Reader and Lecturer in Humanities 1993-1995

### **STANFORD UNIVERSITY 1989-1990**

Acting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Courses in Judaism, Islam, Rabbis and Hellenistic Judaism

### **GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION 1993-1994**

Adjunct Prof. In Judaic Studies  
Courses in Midrash, Jewish Liturgy, Hebrew, Ritual

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ 1993-1995**

Lecturer in Humanities and Religion. Courses in Religion and Seminar in Israel and Jewish Studies

**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY 1997-1998****Adjunct Lecturer**

Courses in Holocaust, Hebrew Bible, Women and Religion, Myth, Ritual and Symbolism, Western Religion

**UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA 1997-2001****Adjunct Professor**

Courses in Jewish Mysticism, Ancient Judaism, Rabbinic Literature, Jewish History, Modern Israel.

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON 2003-2012**

Courtesy Visiting Professor in Judaic Studies. Courses in Jewish History, Philosophy, Mysticism, Bible, Hebrew

**WILLAMETTE U. 2006-2007 Visiting Prof. Seminar in the Prophets, Biblical Hebrew and Introduction to Judaism**

**PORTLAND STATE U. 2003- 2009**

Visiting Instructor in Judaic Studies. History, Bible, Modern Israel

**NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE EUGENE 2004-2006 Visiting Prof. in Judaic Studies**

**LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2008- 2017 Instructor**

Bible, Christian Origins, Religions of India, Religions of China and Japan, Buddhism, Judaism, Survey of World Religions, Ecology and Religion

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY 2010-2012 ADJ. INST PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES** General Courses in Religion, including Religion and Ecology, Theology, Bible and Survey of World Religions

**GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY 2014-2018. Visiting Lecturer in Judaic Studies**

**UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND 2015-2018 Visiting Lecturer in Theology**

Rabbi Jonathan Seidel

## Interfaith and Inter-Cultural Work 1973-2018

- Oberlin College Interfaith Dialogue Committee 1973-1977
- National Conference of Christians and Jews: Junior Fellow 1979-1981
- Graduate Theological Union, Center for Jewish Studies Interfaith Programs 1981-1992
- Development of new Adult Education classes in Jesus in Jewish Tradition in Berkeley/Tucson, Eugene
- Taught Classes in Jewish Liturgy, Midrash, and Hebrew to Christians at the Franciscan School, Dominican School, Starr-King and PSR 1985-1993 (i.e. visiting lecturer)
- Interfaith Work with Sanctuary and Social Justice movement in Tucson 1996-2001
- Jewish-Muslim dialogue events, evenings and panels - 1996-2018 Tucson and Eugene.
- Various lectures and classes on Jewish -Christian relations in History 1996-2018. Tucson AZ and Eugene Oregon
- Interfaith planning and programming in Eugene with Two Rivers Interfaith Ministry, Monthly Interfaith Service,
- Guest Rabbi on local interfaith TV shows and Radio Hours in Oregon 2001-2018.
- Presentations on Israel/Holy Land and Zionism throughout Oregon 2001-2018.
- Musical/Cantorial Presentations at Various Christian Churches and Seminaries 1996-2018.
- Lectures on Judaism, Christianity and Islam on various U of Oregon panels and Church educational evenings
- Lectures on Judaism and the Environment throughout Western Oregon sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light

(the Environmental Educational Arm of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon)

- Interfaith Programs and Classes at Lewis and Clark College serving as Jewish Chaplain 2009-2013.
- Interfaith Panel Program Chair for Eugene Monthly Interfaith Meeting. 2016-2018
- Guest lecturer and visiting Rabbi on a variety of topics in comparative religion, Bible and Jewish Studies at various Christian institutions in Oregon: Northwest Christian University, Eugene; George Fox University, Newberg and Portland; Eugene Bible College (now New Hope) ; University of Portland.

## PUBLICATIONS

“Magic” *Cambridge Companion to Judaism* Cambridge U. Press 2010

“Circumcision ” *Encyclopedia Judaica* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2007

"Exorcism in the Geniza Fragments" in *Spirit Possession in Jewish Tradition* (ed. Matt Goldish) Wayne State 2004).

"Whom shall I call up for you? Necromantic Praxis in Early Judaism" in L.Ciraolo and J. Seidel (eds.) *Divination and Magic in the Ancient World* (Leiden: Brill, 2002).

"Charming Criminals: Rabbinic Theoretical Discourse on Magicians" in *Magic in the Ancient World* M. Meyer and P. Mirecki (eds.) (E.J.Brill 1995)

"Release Me and I will Release You: The Rabbinic Encounter with Witches and Witchcraft." *Journal of the Association of Graduate Students in Near Eastern Studies* (UC Berkeley). 1992: 3,1

"Of Amulets, Mystery and Magic" *Geniza Fragments* (Journal of the Taylor-Schechter Geniza Unit at Cambridge University, Cambridge, England) 1989

Review of Meir Benardete, "Hispanic Culture and the Character of the Sephardic Jews" *Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore* 1984:IV (in Hebrew).

Conference papers in Progress for Publication:

**"Technologies of the Visual: Jewish Healing Magic in Iconographic Form"**

**"Gendering Amulets: Embodied Healing and Holiness in the World of Talmudic Culture and the Responsa"**

**"Raphael the Angel in Healing Magic Texts and Jewish History"**

Recent Lectures and Workshops

Jewish Magic: Literature, Love, Anger and Healing (with a Focus on Amulets)

National Havurah Institute (Summer 2018, forthcoming)

"Death and Dying in Modern Judaism"

Roseburg Interfaith Community (hosted by Umpqua Valley Havurah (Fall 2016)

"Messiahs and False Messiahs in Jewish History"

Umpqua Valley Havurah (Spring 2017)

"Food, Commensality and Cuisine in the Talmud"

Umpqua Valley Havurah (Fall 2017)

"New Directions in Dead Sea Scrolls Study"

Temple Beth Israel Adult Ed lecture 2017

"Early Yiddish: Folklore, Linguistics and Cultural Roots"

Temple Beth Israel Adult Ed lecture 2017

Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewish Culture: An Introduction through History, Cuisine and Music

Rabbi's Introduction to Judaism Series 2016/2017

Cong. Beth Israel Portland

"St. Augustine and the Jews"

University of Portland 2017

"Early Jewish Christian and Jewish Exegesis and Original Sin"

University of Portland 2018

"The Psalms and Ancient Jewish Chant"

George Fox University 2017

"Introduction to Rabbinic Theology and the Personhood of God" George Fox University"

"What is Midrash" - Early Jewish Exegesis on Genesis

George Fox University 2017

"What does it mean to serve as a Rabbi today?"

George Fox University 2017

A Contemporary Jewish Perspective on Gun Control

Unitarian Universalist Church, Eugene 2016  
 Rabbinic Perspectives on the Pope's Encyclical on the Environment  
 Unitarian Universalist Church 2016  
 New Religious Movements in America: Burning Man, Rajneesh, and Jewish Renewal  
 Unitarian Universalist Church 2015  
 "A Contemporary Jewish Perspective on Jesus"  
 University of Oregon Panel on Jesus 2016  
 "The Golem: In Literature and Film" 3 lectures, Lewis and Clark College 2014  
 Faith Healing, New Jewish Ritual and the Renewal of Judaism  
 (Interdisciplinary Healing Focus Group, U of Oregon)  
 University of Oregon 2013

## Current Course Offerings (Syllabi or Course Descriptions Available)

- Abrahamic Religions
- Food in Ancient and Medieval Jewish History and Culture
- Modern Jewish Philosophy and Theology
- Jewish Encounter with Modernity 1700-1900
- \*American Judaism: History, Thought, Culture
- \*Survey of American Jewish History 1650-2018
- \*The Religion of North American Judaism: Culture and Spirituality
- \*Contemporary American Judaism - Focus on Religion/Politics/Identity
- Introduction to Moral Philosophy and Ethics
- Peace and War in Classical and Contemporary Zionist Thought
- Jews in the Military: Russian, Europe and North America 1800-1945
- Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
- Religions of the Near East
- New Testament and Christian Origins to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup>. C
- Gnostic Gospels and Christian Apocryphal Literature
- Jesus the Jew: A Jewish Encounter with the NT
- Bible and Leadership: The books of Samuel and Kings
- Second Temple (Early) Judaism
- Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Medicine, Healing and Magic in Jewish History
- Medicine, Healing and Magic in World Religions
- Introduction to the New Testament
- Introduction to Rabbinic Literature and Religion

- Zohar - original Aramaic text and in translation
- Judaism as a Shamanistic Path: Earth Based Spirituality
- Judaism and Buddhism: Dialogue and Difference
- Gender, Magic and Culture in the Ancient World
- Medieval Judaism: History, Literature, Liturgy and Gender
- \*History and Literature of the Sephardim
- History, Literature and Theology of Hasidism 1750-2018
- Jewish Liturgy, Music, and Ritual from the Bible to Today
- Judaism and Buddhism in Dialogue
- Ecology, Nature, Religion /Judaism and Ecology
- Introduction to Islam and Sufism
- Survey of South Asian Religion: Buddhism, Hinduism, Jain, Sikh
- Chinese and Japanese Religion: Introduction
- History and Culture of Zionism and Modern Israel (1840- 2018)
- Modern Israel through Cinema
- Post-Holocaust Theology and Philosophy
- Death, Dying, the Soul and Life after Death in Judaism
- Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
- Introduction to Jewish Law and Jurisprudence
- Medieval Jewish Thought and Political Theory
- Seminars in Hebrew Texts: Biblical/ Second Temple/ Rabbinic

Music Classes: Jewish chant and modes High Holyday and Sabbath Liturgy, Yiddish and Ladino Music

Languages: Reading

Biblical, Rabbinic, Medieval and Modern Hebrew  
 Biblical and Talmudic Aramaic, Classical and Koine Greek, Syriac, French,  
 German, Italian, Spanish, Ladino, Yiddish , working knowledge of Latin

Spoken: Modern Hebrew, French

Current Research and Publication Project:

- Jewish Magic and Healing in History: from late antiquity to early Hasidism
- New Religions, Spirituality and Jewish Life: The Renewal of Judaism and post denominational identity in Modern Jewish Life.



