

## Come to the conversation

Often, I find that followers of a religious way do not consider themselves to be worthy conversation partners with the foundational sources of their religious traditions.

But it is the conversation between ancient sources and lived experiences that best enables rich and relevant religious life.

It was precisely to energize such conversations across the generations in the Jewish community that I founded Sicha.

Sicha, Hebrew for “conversation,” helps individuals, communities and their leaders to bring their own experiences into dialogue with ancient sources. In such conversations, the timely and the timeless meet. At that intersection, voices of the past and the present conspire toward a creative future. Contemporary participants learn to respectfully listen and speak with the assurance that their voices matter.

Throughout the Carolinas and beyond, Sicha prompts conversations about living with loss, about the morality of speech, and about religious language in households with multiple religious traditions. Thanks to Sicha, topics like “blessing,” “hospitality,” “prayer,” and “holy space” bring together the voices of ancient and contemporary fellow traveler towards the goal of enriching religious life.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, 4:30 p.m. at the Levin Jewish Community Center, 1937 W. Cornwallis Road, in Durham, Sicha will celebrate two years of enabling conversations that strengthen Jewish community life in the southeastern United States. Our celebration will feature a conversation on “The State of Faith” featuring Frank Stasio, (host of WUNC’s “The State of Things.”) and myself. By sharing and comparing our own faith journeys, we will offer some insights into how a life of faith develops from an ongoing conversation between a religious tradition and one’s own personal experiences.

Through our faith journeys along different religious paths, we hope to celebrate the conversation that engages us all. The program is free and all are welcome.

Rabbi Steven Sager  
Director of Sicha

**[Triangle Member Newspapers:](#)** [The News & Observer](#) | [The Chapel Hill News](#) | [The Cary News](#) | [The Durham News](#) | [Eastern Wake News](#) | [The Herald](#) | [North Raleigh News](#)

© Copyright 2012, The News & Observer Publishing Company, a subsidiary of [The McClatchy Company](#) 