

Rabbi Lucy H. F. Dinner

Sichat Rabbanim Learning Partner 2012



Rabbi Lucy Dinner graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a degree in Public Policy Analysis, and she received her Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Dinner has served Temple Beth Or as Senior Rabbi since 1993. Whether in teaching adults or youth, preaching, celebrating Shabbat and holidays, or participating in community action, Rabbi Dinner's love of Judaism permeates her service.

Jewish education is at the heart of Rabbi Dinner's vision for bringing Judaism to life at Temple Beth Or. In 2012 Rabbi Dinner contributed a commentary on Exodus for the Union for Reform Judaism's (URJ) "Ten Minutes of Torah." <http://tmt.urj.net/archives/1torahstudy/020612.html>.

In her local community Rabbi Dinner has been active in the Urban Ministries advisory board, the Medical Ethics Committee of Rex Hospital. She currently serves on the Board of "Stop Hunger Now." She has also served on the URJ Committee on the Jewish Family, the Rabbinic Mentoring Committee, and currently is a member of the Reform Rabbi's Committee on Resolutions. In 2011 she joined the "Rabbinic Vision Initiative," a group of 27 Reform rabbis collaborating to work for the future of the Reform Movement.

Rabbi Dinner was named "Woman of Achievement" by the Woman's Club of Raleigh in 2010, and to the "Academy of Women" by the YWCA in 1998.

Dreaming, Wrestling, Gazing: Life in the (Divine) Presence (by Rabbi Lucy Dinner)

In the Torah, Jacob's character develops through dreaming and wrestling. For Moses, gazing into the burning bush leads to a profound revelation of self and mission. For most of us, dreaming, wrestling/struggling, and gazing prompt us towards deeper self understanding.

For my Sichat Rabbanim project, I would like to study ancient commentaries and interpretations of Jacob's dreaming and wrestling and of Moses' gazing in order to understand how these heroes provide examples for modern day dreamers, wrestlers and for those who fix their gaze on what is wondrous, curious, strange or frightening.