

Jewish Women's & Gender Studies Center Established



Dr. Lori Hope Lefkowitz, a senior academic specializing in women's studies and critical theory, has been named Director of the Center.

"Women's and Gender Studies is where many of the most creative and compelling developments in Judaism are taking place," said Dr. Jacob Staub, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the College. "Although programs in Women's and Gender Studies are an integral part of university life, Jewish seminaries have had limited offerings in this area. A great need exists for a well developed program in Jewish Women's and Gender Studies at a Jewish seminary because the theological and programmatic activity in a seminary has an exponential effect on the larger Jewish community

model for similar programs, integrate Jewish women's traditions into Jewish life, recover Jewish women's history and voices, and create Jewish liturgy and ritual appropriate to new visions of gender roles in Judaism. The Center will develop programs and produce publications and curricula that will serve congregations, organizations, and the North American Jewish community as a whole.

The new Center has already begun to hold faculty seminars, community lectures, courses for rabbinical students and adult education classes in the community, and to develop curricular and liturgical resource files devoted to Jewish feminism, Jewish women's creativity, and the history of Jewish women.

Dr. Lefkowitz comes to RRC from ten years as a tenured Associate Professor of English at Kenyon College, and is currently a fellow at the Philadelphia Association for Psychoanalysis. Her awards include a Woodrow Wilson dissertation fellowship in the Women's Studies Division and a Golda Meir post-doctoral fellowship at