

Shabbat, November 13-14, 2009

Congregation Shaarei Tefillah
35 Morseland Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts

Judy Klitsner
Shabbat Scholar in Residence

**“Let All the Daughters Live:”
The Midwives of Israel and
the Seeds of Identity**

At first glance, the chronicles of the Tower of Babel and of the heroic midwives of Egypt seem to have very little in common. Yet the use of rare language and themes draw them together, exposing common themes of subjugation and the suppression of identity. We will note the human endeavor to reclaim identity, and then search for a nexus between identity and the beginnings of the redemption process.

**The “Seeing” and “Taking” of Sarah:
The Matriarch as Forbidden Fruit**

What does Sarah the Matriarch have in common with the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden? Through close readings of the two stories, we will note the surprising parallels between the stories. We will then view this comparison in the larger context of gender relations in the Bible.



About Judy Klitsner

A senior faculty member in Bible at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Judy Klitsner weaves together traditional exegesis, modern scholarship, and her own original interpretations that are informed by close readings of the text. She speaks internationally and is the author of the new book, *Subversive Sequels in the Bible* (Jewish Publication Society).
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