

40 Years of Voices from Women in the Rabbinate Unite to Tell Their Stories

Anthology examines the impact of women in the rabbinate on Jewish life

New York, NY – May 20 2016 – The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Press is releasing the newest part of its Challenge and Change Series, entitled *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*. With writings from over 40 contributors, the anthology brings together rabbis and scholars from across the Jewish world to reflect back on the historic significance of women in the rabbinate and explore issues related to both the professional and personal lives of women rabbis.

This collection examines the ways in which women in the rabbinate have impacted all aspects of Jewish life, from Jewish feminism to congregational culture and beyond. Featuring a historic transcription of an interview with the first officially ordained woman rabbi, Rabbi Sally Priesand, *The Sacred Calling* explores the trajectory and impact of women's leadership in Judaism over the past half century.

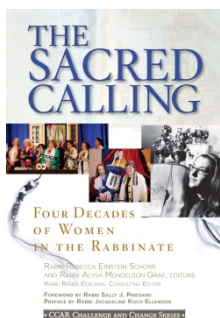
"This book is going to be a very important document forever," says Rabbi Priesand, "because it's so well-rounded, it has so many different views and it talks about so many different topics, not just written by women, but written by men, and that's important too."

Co-edited by Rabbis Rebecca Einstein Schorr and Alysa Mendelson Graf, both involved in social justice and identity-based social work, *The Sacred Calling* celebrates the achievement of women rabbis and the progress that has been made since Rabbi Priesand's ordination, while also taking an honest look at the challenges that are still being dealt with, like the pay gap between male and female rabbis, parental leave, and gender-based expectations.

The collection shows that Jewish communal life has been profoundly changed by the reality of women rabbis, from developments in the area of lifecycle rituals to the way in which congregations are managed and run to how Torah and other Jewish texts are studied to the birth and development of the Jewish healing movement. It features voices of some of the first women rabbis, as well as a timeline of historic 'firsts' by women rabbis.

"I believe it is essential reading," says Rabbi Peter Berg of Atlanta, GA. "It is not only an important historical narrative; it is also a call to action. It's essential reading for rabbis, for cantors, for Jewish Educators and Jewish professionals, but mostly I believe it is required reading for all lay leaders and members of our congregations."

About the CCAR Press: *CCAR Press is the primary publisher of the Reform Movement and a division of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Since 1889, CCAR Press has provided essential resources for the Jewish community of today and tomorrow. Through CCAR Press, and its new imprint Reform Judaism Publishing (RJP), CCAR is the source for liturgy, sacred texts, educational materials, apps, and other content for Reform rabbis, cantors and educators; Reform congregations and Jewish organizations; Reform Jews; and the wider Jewish community.*



The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate

Edited by Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr and Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf

For more information or for review copies:

Ortal Bensky
Marketing and Sales Manager
info@ccarpress.org
P. (212) 972-3636 x243
F. (212) 692-0819