

It's (Not) All Academic

CHANGING THE JEWISH WORLD THROUGH STUDY, PAST AND PRESENT

Katz Center Public Programs for Spring 2015

From Europe to America: The Birth of Modern American Jewish Movements

Mirjam Thulin and Lance Sussman

Sunday, March 22 | 2:00 PM



Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Free and open to the public. No registration required.

The most prominent divisions within the Jewish landscape in America today—between the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox movements—are not native to the United States, but rather reflect a crisis of nineteenth-century Judaism, centered in Germany, in which Jews questioned long-held assumptions about Jewish learning, prayer, and community. How did European Jewish immigrants import new models of Jewish life, and how were they transformed on American soil, to shape a new Jewish culture?

Rabbi Lance Sussman, PhD of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, joins **Dr. Mirjam Thulin** of the Leibniz Institute of European History (Mainz, Germany) and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (University of Pennsylvania), in a conversation about the origins and ongoing evolution of the largest American Jewish denominations.

With an appearance by **DUO Stephanie and Saar** performing works by Felix Mendelssohn on piano, and a reception including fine German desserts.

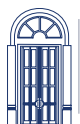
A real taste of nineteenth-century European culture!



Dr. Mirjam Thulin is a research associate at the Institute of European History in Mainz and teaches at Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, in Germany. Her first book, *Kaufmann's News Service: A Scholarly Network in the 19th Century*, was published in German in 2012. At the Katz Center this year, Dr. Thulin is researching the institutionalization of conservative rabbinical seminaries in Europe and North America.



Rabbi Lance Sussman, PhD has been the Senior Rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel since 2001. He has published numerous books and articles including *Isaac Lesser and the Making of American Judaism* and *Sharing Sacred Moments* (a collection of his sermons), and served as an editor of *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook*.



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