

**EXPLORING AMERICAN JUDAISM**  
**Four New Questions for Contemporary American Jews**

Congregation Beth Emek is excited to invite all lifelong learners and seekers of knowledge to join us for a new class series, "EXPLORING AMERICAN JUDAISM."

Each Thursday in March 2010 from 7 – 9 p.m., Patricia Munro, a doctoral candidate in Sociology at UC Berkeley, will explore what it means to be a Jew in America today:

- **Thurs., March 4**, 7 – 9 p.m.: Blood, behavior and belief: Who is a Jew and how do you know?
- **Thurs., March 11**, 7 – 9 p.m.: From Seder to Bar Mitzvah: How do American values shape Jewish ritual?
- **Thurs., March 18**, 7 – 9 p.m.: Wearing a wig or a tallit: How do different groups of American Jews approach gender?
- **Thurs., March 25**, 7 – 9 p.m.: Intermarriage and Israel: What are the dilemmas Jews face in the future?

The 4-class series costs \$35 for Beth Emek members and \$45 for non-members or feel free to attend when you can at a cost of \$10/class.

Register for "Exploring American Judaism" by completing the form below and returning it with a check to the attention of Ellen Kiefer, Administrator at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (Online registration is not available at this time.)

Patricia Munro is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at UC Berkeley, currently working on her dissertation which looks at B'nai Mitzvah in congregational life. Patricia has an extensive background in Jewish communal life, both at the congregational and regional level. She received her Master's degree in Jewish studies from San Francisco State, where she examined the ways in which Jewish texts used Hellenistic thought to construct Jewish identity. In her doctoral work, Patricia turned to modern American Jewish life, where she is examining the way B'nai Mitzvah shapes congregational life on one hand and the lives of the students and families on the other. Her work is shaped by a perspective that includes understanding the sociology of ethnicity, religion, gender and American individualism in shaping the lives of 21<sup>st</sup> century American Jews.

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REGISTRATION FORM – "EXPLORING AMERICAN JUDAISM" – MARCH 2010

Complete one form per attendee or family (registration fee is per person):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_