

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Dr. Norman J. Cohen
ADDRESS: 24 Beechwood Way, Scarborough, NY 10510
TELEPHONE: (914) 945-7276
DATE OF BIRTH: October 7, 1943

EDUCATION

1960-64 Columbia College, BA, June '64
1962-63 Hebrew University, Jerusalem
1963-66 Teacher's Institute, Jewish Theological
Seminary
1964-67 Columbia University, Dept. of Near and
Middle Eastern Languages
1967-71 Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute
of Religion, New York School
1970 BHL, HUC-JIR
1971 Rabbinic Ordination, MAHL, with Honors,
HUC-JIR
1971-1977 Graduate Department, HUC-JIR,
Cincinnati School
1977 Ph.D., Midrash, HUC-JIR

FELLOWSHIPS

1960-64 Columbia College Scholarships
1962-63 American Friends of the Hebrew
University Scholarship
1971-75 The J. Clarence Workum and Corale B.
Workum Teaching Fellowship, HUC-JIR,
Cincinnati
1972-75 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
Scholarship
1974-75 National Foundation for Jewish Culture
Scholarship

ACADEMIC AWARDS

1962-64 Dean's List, Columbia College
1968 Rabbi Jerome Malino Award to a Freshman
Student
for General Excellence, HUC-JIR
1968 Alexander Kohut Memorial Prize in
Talmud,
HUC-JIR
1969 Aaron Wise Scholarship Award for
Academic Excellence
1969 Joseph M. Levine Prize in Midrash, HUC-
JIR
1970 Robert and Adele Blank Foundation
Grant, HUC- JIR
1970 Arnold Wolf Prize for Relating
Scholarship to Contemporary Issues, HUC-JIR
1971 MAHL with Honors, HUC-JIR

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

1969-71 HUC-JIR, School of Education,
Instructor in Jewish History
1970-71 HUC-JIR, School of Sacred Music,
Instructor in Hebrew
1971-75 HUC-JIR, Cincinnati, Instructor in
Homiletics
1975- HUC-JIR, New York School
1975-77 Instructor of Midrash
1977-80 Assistant Professor of Midrash
1980-85 Associate Professor of Midrash
1985- Professor of Midrash

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

1986- Director, Rabbinic School in New York
1988- Dean, New York School
1996 - 2009 Provost, Hebrew Union College-
Jewish Institute of Religion

MAJOR SCHOLARLY PAPERS

"Towards a Critical Edition of Midrash Pesikta Rabbati," presented

at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, December 19, 1977

"A Prolegomenon to a Scientific Edition of Midrash Pesikta Rabbati," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, California, December 28, 1977

"Shekhinta ba-Galuta: A Second Century Response to Roman Persecu-

tion," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical

Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 19, 1978

"Leviticus Rabbah, Parashah 3: An Example of a Classical Rabbinic

Homily," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of

Biblical Literature, New York, New York, November 15, 1979

LECTURES

"The Binding of Isaac: An Early Rabbinic Response to Christianity," delivered at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America on October 4, 1983

"Bind the Torah Among My Disciples," Founders Day Address delivered

at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York School on March 7, 1984

"First Century Christianity and Judaism: The Parting of the Ways," Conference Commemorating Nostra Aetate, Fordham University on September 12, 1990

"Judaism and Christianity: A Shared Process of Interpretation, Yet a Parting of the Ways," The Annual Samuel Sandmel Lecture of the Center for Jewish-Christian Studies and Relations of the General Theological Seminary, New York City, on May 1, 1991

"Our Voice: God's Words," Founders Day Address delivered at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York School, on March 19, 1996

PUBLICATIONS

"Structure and Editing in the Homiletic Midrashim," AJS Review

6(1981): 1-20.

"Leviticus Rabbah, Parashah 3: An Example of a Classic Rabbinic

Homily," J.Q.R. 72(1982): 18-31.

"Structural Analysis of a Talmudic Story: Joseph-who-Honors-the-

Sabbaths, B.T. Shabbat 19a," J.Q.R. 72(1982): 161-177.

"Shekhinta ba-Galuta: A Midrashic Response to Destruction and

Persecution," the Journal for the Study of Judaism
13(1982): 147-159.

"Two that are One-Sibling Rivalry in Genesis: Creating Modern

Midrash," Judaism (Summer, 1983): 331-342.

"Heeding the Angel's Cry: A Modern Midrashic Reading of Abraham's

Life," Journal of Reform Judaism 30 (Summer, 1983): 1-15.

"The Leap of Nahshon ben Amminadab: A Rabbinic Redemptive Model,"

Journal of Reform Judaism 30 (Fall, 1983): 30-39.

"The London Manuscript of Midrash Pesiqta Rabbati: A Key Text-

Witness Comes to Light," J.Q.R. 73 (1983): 209-237.

"Miriam's Song: A Modern Midrashic Reading," Judaism 33
(Spring,
1984): 179-190.

Review of Scripture in the Jewish and Christian Traditions,
ed.

Frederick E. Greenspahn (Nashville, 1982), Journal of
Reform
Judaism 31 (Spring, 1984): 101-104.

"Analysis of an Exegetic Tradition: The Meaning of Amanah
in the
Second and Third Centuries," AJS Review 9 (Spring, 1984):
1-25.

Review of Jewish Legends of the Second Commonwealth, ed.
Judah

Nadich (J.P.S.: Phila., 1983), Judaism 33 (Fall, 1984):
499- 500.

"Surviving the Wilderness: A Midrash on Exodus 15:22-27,"
Journal
of Reform Judaism 33 (Summer, 1986): 35-42.

"The Book of Exodus Through a Midrashic Prism," Journal of
Reform
Judaism 35 (Winter, 1988): 27-32.

"Hearing the Voice of One God," Ehad: The Many Meanings of
God is One, ed. Eugene B. Borowitz (New York, 1988),
21-25.

The Fundamentalist Phenomenon: A View from Within; A
Response from Without, edited by Norman J. Cohen, (Wm. B.
Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., 1990).

"Pesiqta Rabbati's Midrash 'Aseret ha-Dibberot (Pisqa'ot
21-24): A Redactional Construction," "Open Thou Mine
Eyes" Essays on Aggadah and Judaica Presented to Rabbi

William G. Braude on his Eightieth Birthday and Dedicated to his Memory (Ktav, Hoboken, 1992): 41-59.

"Judaism and Christianity: The Parting of the Ways," Thought: A Review of Culture and Ideas 67 (Dec., 1992); 410-420.

The Americanization of the Jews, Ed. by Robert M. Seltzer and Norman J. Cohen (New York University Press, 1995).

Self, Struggle & Change: The Family Conflict Stories in Genesis and Their Healing Insights for Our Lives (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, 1995).

"Isaac and Ishmael, Abraham's Progeny (Genesis 21): A Midrashic Paradigm for Modern Jews," in The Jewish Condition: Essays on Contemporary Judaism Honoring Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler (U.A.H.C. Press, New York, 1995): 178-188.

"The Changing Face of Rabbinic Education," in Sh=ma (February 9, 1997): pp. 3-5.

"Etz Hayyim Hi: It is a Tree of Life," in Paths of Faithfulness: Personal Essays on Jewish Spirituality eds. Carol Ochs, Kerry Olitzky and Joshua Saltzman (KTAV Publishing House, New York, 1997), pp. 35-48.

"New Wine in Old Vessels: Creating Contemporary Midrash," Living Text: The Journal of Contemporary Midrash 1 July 1997), pp. 12-16.

"Wrestling with Angels," in Tony Kushner in Conversation, ed. Robert Vorlicky (the University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1997), pp. 217-230.

Voices from Genesis: Guiding Us through the Stages of Life (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, 1998).

"How Could Abraham Take Isaac to Sacrifice Without a Word to Sarah?" Reform Judaism, Winter 1999, Vol. 28, No. 2: 42-44.

The Way Into Torah (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, 2000).

- "The Sabbath: A Taste of the Timeless," The Chronicle (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion) 2001, Issue 59, p.6.
- Hineini in our Lives (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, 2003).
- "Last Chance," Reform Judaism, Summer, 2004, pp. 39-41.
- Moses and the Journey to Leadership: Timeless Lessons of Effective Management from the Bible and Today's Leadership (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, October 2006).
- "The Song at the Sea and the Well at Be'er: Learning about Who We Are as Leaders," in Sh'ma (December, 2006), pp. 8-9.
- "Reforms's Rabbinic Curriculum: The Proverbial Three-Legged Stool," Sh'ma (Nov., 2007), pp. 13-14.
- "Etz Hayyim Hi: It is a Tree of Life," in The Still Small Voice: Reflections on Being a Jewish Man, ed. Michael G. Holzman (URJ Press, New York, 2008), pp. 137-145.
- "Choosing an Ending to the Torah: Moses' Death, or Entrance into the Land of Israel," in Sh'ma (December, 2008): pp. 9-10.
- "Vayishlach: A Time to Embrace," The Modern Men's Torah Commentary, ed. Jeffrey K. Salkin (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2009), pp. 50-55.
- "Surviving the Narrow Places: Judah and Joseph and the Journey to Wholeness," Midrash & Medicine: Healing Body and Soul in the Jewish Interpretive tradition, ed. William Cutter (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2011), pp. 29-42.
- Masking and UnMasking Ourselves: Interpreting Biblical Texts on Clothing & Identity (Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, 2012).
- "Wrestling with Jacob, the Trickster," CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly (Spring, 2013), pp. 61-72.