

You are cordially invited to the spring, 2010
Pastoral Skills Seminar
Sponsored by the Department of Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care
HealthCare Chaplaincy

FORGIVENESS: The Concept and the Pastoral Challenge

Judaism views forgiveness as an attribute of God (Exodus 34:6-7). The concept is a major theme in biblical and rabbinic literature, Jewish theology and in our liturgy. The rabbi – whether in a synagogue or as a chaplain – must deal with many pastoral contexts where forgiveness is sorely needed...but remains a thorny challenge. Can you help the son, at his father's deathbed, extend forgiveness to a father who harmed him emotionally? Can – should – a wife grant pardon to a husband who abused her? How does Judaism approach the practical application of this virtue? How does the field of ethics tackle this challenge, and what are some of the psychiatric components that rabbis should be aware of?

This three-session seminar will explore this topic from the perspectives of a chaplain, ethicist and psychiatrist. Its objective is to enhance your pastoral skills as a rabbi/cantor.

March 8 – From Cheap Grace to Radical Redemption: Clinical and Theological Approaches to Forgiveness and their Implications for Ministry Practice – Rabbi Nathan Goldberg

Rabbi Goldberg is on the Clinical Faculty of HealthCare Chaplaincy. He obtained his Ordination from Yeshiva University and is one of only eleven Jewish ACPE Supervisors in the United States. He completed his supervisory education at Baptist-Lutheran Medical Center in Kansas City, served as Director of Pastoral Care and Education at Beth Israel Medical Center and at Lenox Hill Hospital and in Kansas City. His theory paper won the ACPE theory paper of the year award; he has published in various professional and popular journals. He is currently doing doctoral work at Columbia University.

March 15 – Forgiveness After Bodily Harm: The Ethics of Medical Mistakes and their Implications for Pastoral Caregivers – Dr. Nancy Berlinger

Dr. Berlinger is Deputy Director and Research Scholar at The Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute. Her research interests include clinical ethics, end of life care, conscientious objection and moral distress in health care. Currently, she directs a research project that is revising the influential Hastings Center guidelines on end of life care. She is the author of *After Harm: Medical Error and the Ethics of Forgiveness*. She is a graduate of Smith College and holds the Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Glasgow and the M.Div. in Christian Ethics from Union Theological Seminary.

March 22 – Consequences of Hardened Hearts: A Psychodynamic look at Hatred, Forgiveness and Reconciliation – Dr. Michelle Friedman Belfer

Michelle Friedman Belfer, M.D., did her undergraduate work at Barnard College where she majored in religion. She attended NYU School of Medicine and did her residency in psychiatry at Mt. Sinai where she is on staff as an associate clinical professor of psychiatry. She obtained a certificate in psychoanalysis at the Columbia University Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. Her chief interests are the interface between psychiatry and obstetrics and gynecology, and the interface between psychiatry and religious life. She has published in both fields in the academic and popular press. Currently, in addition to her private practice, she is the director of pastoral counseling at YCT (Yeshivat Chovevei Torah) Rabbinical School in Manhattan.

HealthCare Chaplaincy sponsors this seminar each semester for students from the following seminaries – AJR, HUC-JIR, JTS, YCT and YU.

There is no tuition; a \$25 registration fee is requested.

Each presentation is preceded by a buffet dinner.

Three Monday evenings: March 8, 15 and 22, 2010. 6 – 8 PM.

Students are expected to attend all three sessions.

The seminar takes place at HealthCare Chaplaincy, 307 E. 60th Street (east of 2nd Avenue)

E-registration required by Monday, March 1.

Contact: jsilva@healthcarechaplancy.org 212-644-1111 (x233)

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Rabbi Charles Sheer

Director, Department of Studies in Jewish Pastoral Care

For more information about HealthCare Chaplaincy, please visit our website healthcarechaplancy.org

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