

# Theme Song

We are **Marching** in the Light of God (x 4)  
We are marching, Oo, Oo,  
We are marching in the Light of God (x2)

We are **praying** ...

We are **talking** ....

We are **singing** ...

We are **dancing** ...

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## 2018 Conference Committee

Faith Goldman *Temple Menorah*

Misty Jesse *St. John Fisher Catholic Church*

Eve Moir *St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church*

Ellen Orenstein *Congregation Ner Tamid*

Elaine Porzucki *Temple Menorah*

Celia Rothman *Congregation Ner Tamid*

Diane Schneer *Temple Beth El*

Marla Shwarts *Temple Beth El*

Ronnie Silverstone *Congregation Ner Tamid*

Molly Slaughter *St. John Fisher Catholic Church*

Lucie Traxler *St. John Fisher Catholic Church*

# Conference Schedule

8:30am	Doors Open / Hospitality
9:00	Opening Song & Welcome
9:15	Speaker Introductions & Presentations
10:15	Break
10:30	Speakers Dialogue / Questions
11:15	Lunch
12:00pm	Discussion Groups
12:45	Sanctuary for closing
1:00	Closing



[www.cjwdsb.com](http://www.cjwdsb.com)

# Welcome to



*Catholic-Jewish Women's Dialogue  
of the South Bay*



*Providing a supportive venue in which to dialogue, promote friendships, and develop understanding and mutual respect of each other's faith tradition and beliefs.*

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018**

## **CONFERENCE THEME**

**Living Your Faith  
in a Secular World:  
Challenges and Rewards**

# Vision

In 1977, the Catholic-Jewish Women's Conference (CJWC) was founded to promote fellowship and mutual understanding between our two vital traditions, and for forty years their annual conference has drawn women from across the greater Los Angeles region into deeper dialogue and friendship. Catholic and Jewish women friends from the South Bay have attended these conferences, and in 2016, we were inspired to begin a forum of our own -- we decided that a similar gathering was needed in the South Bay where Catholic and Jewish women could meet, hear stimulating speakers from both faith traditions on relevant topics, exchange ideas, learn about our faith traditions, and, best of all, kindle new friendships.



# Speaker



**Rabbi Leah Lewis**

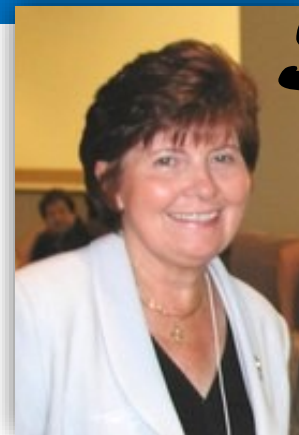
Rabbi Lewis grew up in nearby Riverside. She developed a strong identification with Judaism at an early age, both from her family's influence and from a longstanding involvement with Jewish summer camps and youth groups. She received her undergraduate degrees in Sociology and Religious Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. After graduating from UCSB, Rabbi Lewis spent a year as a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington D.C., researching various public policy issues from a Jewish perspective and advocating for these issues on behalf of Reform Judaism.

After spending time in rabbinical school on the Jerusalem, Los Angeles and New York campuses of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and receiving Masters degrees in Jewish Communal Service and Hebrew Letters, Rabbi Lewis was ordained in the spring of 2002. Along the way, she held positions at the Valley Alliance office of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and the Union for Reform Judaism's Department of Jewish Family Concerns. While at HUC, she also served congregations in Redding, CA, Las Vegas, NV and Scarsdale, NY. She has worked at and spent many summers with Jewish youth at a variety of Reform Jewish camps.

Following ordination, she served for seven years at Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles. From 2009-2011, she served on the faculty at Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School in Irvine, CA as a teacher, Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies and Dean of Jewish Life. From 2011-2017, Rabbi Lewis served as Rabbi and Director of Lifelong Learning at Congregation Shir HaMa'alot in Irvine.

She is married to David Lewis, a fellow professional pursuer of Jewish learning and engagement. On the rare occasion that she is not busy with synagogue life or her three children, Gabriel, Jonah and Nomi, Rabbi Lewis enjoys running, hiking, yoga, cooking and an occasional baseball game.

She is thrilled to call Temple Menorah home.



# Speaker

**Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC**

Sister Edith Prendergast, Religious Sister of Charity, is the former Director of Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. As Director for almost 30 years, she was responsible for the vision and direction of the Annual Religious Education Congress.

In her position as Archdiocesan Director, Sister and her staff developed, initiated and sponsored numerous faith formation programs, social justice in-services and Aids education opportunities for leaders and catechetical ministers. Recognizing the multi-cultural reality of the Archdiocese these programs were developed with a sensitivity to the cultural needs of the participants and were offered in both Spanish and English language.

Sister served on the National Leadership Board of Directors of Religious Education and chaired committees in the area of Catechesis, Family Ministry and Multiculturalism.

She has been involved at the International level in many areas of Adult Education and facilitated the International Symposium on "Adult Formation for Social Transformation" held in Florida. This process was followed up in India, Thailand, and England in 2003.

Sister is a frequent keynote and workshop presenter at National and local Conferences and in parishes of the Archdiocese. She is author of "Grace Abounds: A Call To Awaken and Renew Your Faith," 2011. She has earned several honors for her catechetical ministry including the "Evangelii - Gaudium Joy of the Gospel" award in 2015 and the Angel Award from the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders, 2016.

Sister received a Doctorate in Ministry from Claremont School of Theology, a Master's degree in Theology from Boston College and a Teacher's Credential from Maria Assumpta College, London.

Currently she is involved in leadership development, retreat ministry, and spiritual direction. She enjoys poetry, art and spending time with friends.