Interfaith marriage historian Keren McGinity
Scholar-in-Residence at Beth El

OZZIE NOGG
In her two provocative books, Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America (2009) and Marrying Out: Jewish Men, Intermarriage and Fatherhood (2014), Dr. Keren R. McGinity asks, "What does Jewish intermarriage mean for the intermarried couples and for the entire Jewish community in 2018?" Dr. McGinity will address this question and many more during three learning sessions when she visits Beth El Synagogue as Scholar-in-Residence, Friday, April 27 to Sunday, April 29. A historian and educator who specializes in Jewish intermarriage and gender, Keren McGinity describes herself as "neither for nor against intermarriage, rather a knowledgeable witness to it."

The weekend schedule includes these topics:
Friday, April 27 during 6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat services. Gender Matters: A Fresh Perspective on Intermarriage and Jewish Identity. This talk explains how the evolving history of gender roles influences the meaning of interfaith marriage and identity, a power dynamic that goes beyond descent in shaping the Jewish present and future.
Saturday, April 28. Still Jewish and Newly Jewish: Two Histories of Women and Intermarriage in America. Dr. McGinity will deliver Part One of this topic as a d’var Torah during Shabbat morning services, and Part Two after kiddush lunch. These presentations highlight the narratives of intermarried women who were born Jewish and those who married Jewish men, demonstrating how change over time provides new insights.
Sunday, April 29 at 11 a.m. Adult Education Session. Curbing Your Enthusiasm: Interfaith Love, Lust, and Popular Culture. Using a wide range of visuals, this entertaining presentation looks at the ways stage and screen have represented Jewish intermarriage, suggesting that ‘sex in the city’ is about more than meets the eye.

Keren R. McGinity is the inaugural director of the Interfaith Families Jewish Engagement Program at Hebrew College’s Shoshnan Graduate School of Jewish Education, the founding director of the Love & Tradition Institute, and teaches American Studies at Brandeis University. Her advice and opinions have appeared in the Forward, Lilith, Moment, Ritual, Rabbis Who Marry, and JewishPhilanthropy, among other publications. Dr. McGinity earned her PhD from Brown University, where she subsequently held an appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of History. Though her last name might suggest otherwise, Keren McGinity was born to New York Jews, attended a Hebrew school for many years, observed her Bat Mitzvah, has traveled to Israel multiple times, and is named in memory of a woman who perished in the Holocaust. She lives in Boston with her daughter, Shirah, a graduate of Solomon Schechter Day School. Dr. McGinity is considered a sensitive and astute historian and interviewer who is able to uncover the deeper and more nuanced complexities of interfaith marriage. Reviewers of Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America (which was selected as a National Jewish Book Award Finalist) suggest the work should be required reading for pulpit rabbis, teachers, parents and Jewish community leaders who want to be fully informed on the latest research and analytical ways to think about interfaith marriage. The Keren McGinity Scholar-in-Residence weekend is open to the community at no charge. For more information, please visit the Beth El website: http://bethel-omaha.org.

ADL urges Supreme Court to uphold rulings blocking Muslim ban

New York, Ny
The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), along with a number of Jewish civil rights organizations, last Friday filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court urging the Court to uphold lower court rulings that have blocked President Trump’s third attempt to prohibit travel to the United States from six majority-Muslim nations. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals largely affirmed the injunction put in place, which now protects foreign nationals with a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.

“As the Jewish community celebrates Passover this week, we are reminded of the experience of being exiled and becoming strangers in a strange land,” ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said. “And, more recently, we recall how the United States turned away Jews aboard the SS St. Louis who were fleeing the Nazi Holocaust during World War II, or when the United States passed laws that excluded and discriminated against the Chinese, or when our nation rounded up more than 100,000 Japanese Americans and interned them in prison camps in the 1940s. In each of these instances, America let prejudice and fear predominate in closing its doors and allowing its core values to be compromised, only to realize too late why those actions were wrong.”

John B. Harris, ADL Legal Affairs Committee Chair and primary author of the brief added, “Virtual every court that has reviewed iterations of the President’s travel ban has found it to be discriminatory and ill-advised. The Supreme Court has the opportunity to ensure that our nation stands as a beacon of hope for those seeking a better life, free from persecution and extreme violence, consistent with our Constitution and our core values.”

ADL’s brief traces America’s history as a nation dedicated to ideals of equality, liberty and justice, and warns against repeating the shameful past in our past when America has turned against those ideals. The brief also argues that even worse, the Government now tries to justify its travel ban on immigration laws that were enacted for the purpose of reinforcing our nation’s commitment to immigrants and to families and ends with a call to action that "inspires the Court to act on behalf of the American people, and their families and friends, by preventing the United States from enacting a policy that separates families and harms our nation’s national interests and values.”

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Women of Reform Judaism and T’ruah all joined the brief. The law firm Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, PC prepared the brief on behalf of ADL.

The Anti-Defamation League was founded in 1913 to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. Today it is the world’s leading organization combating anti-Semitism, exposing hate groups, training law enforcement on hate crimes, developing anti-bias education programs for students, countering cyber-hate and relentlessly pursuing equal rights for all. Follow us on Twitter @ADL_National.