



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
HOUSTON (Jan. 18, 2010)

University of St. Thomas Hosts the Herzstein Lecture in Judaism

Is the covenant between God and the people of Israel essentially a contractual relationship which rewards fidelity and punishes violations? Or is the covenant essentially God's unconditional bond of love and graciousness to a people without significant merit? Rabbi Samuel E. Karff, the second speaker to deliver the annual Herzstein lecture in Judaism, will show that there is evidence of each view in Jewish sacred texts and that attempts to reconcile them reveals some basic characteristics of Judaism.

The lecture, "Accountability and Grace: A Rabbinic Perspective on God's Covenant with Israel," will be held at the University of St. Thomas at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon.

Rabbi Karff served for 24 years as a Senior Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, and was granted emeritus status in 1999. He was lecturer at Rice University for 24 years and is currently the Associate Director of the John McGovern Center for Health, Humanities and the Human Spirit. Rabbi Karff contributed chapters on Judaism to *Religions of the World*, a text which has been used on more than 200 college campuses. He has lectured extensively in the United States and abroad.

The lecture is sponsored by the University of St. Thomas and the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation. It is free and open to the public. Parking is available for \$2 in the Moran Center, 3807 Graustark. For more information, contact Angelica Luna at 713-942-3491 and aluna@stthom.edu.

The Herzstein Lecture is made possible through a gift from the Herzstein Foundation, which continues the work of Albert and Ethel Herzstein by providing grants to charitable efforts that offer individuals opportunities for advancement through education and enrichment of the human spirit.

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