

## **Rabbi David M. Freidenreich, Ph.D.**

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David Freidenreich is a dynamic teacher with considerable public speaking experience in college classrooms, synagogues and churches, and professional venues. Dr. Freidenreich teaches courses in Jewish studies and comparative religion and lectures widely on subjects related to Judaism, Islam, and interreligious understanding. Among the only scholars trained in the study of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic law, he is particularly interested in the ways attitudes toward other religions reflect ideas about communal identity. Dr. Freidenreich's forthcoming book explores restrictions on food prepared by or shared with members of other religions; he is also the author of the entry on "Muslim–Jewish Dialogue" in Oxford's *Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, among numerous other scholarly articles. He holds a doctorate in religion from Columbia University and received rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

### Topics for Lectures, Sermons, Study Sessions, and Scholar-in-Residence Weekends

#### **Encountering Islam: An Introduction for American Jews**

*An introduction to Islam's sacred texts, beliefs and practices, and history from Muhammad to modernity, paying particular attention to Islamic attitudes toward Judaism and the experiences of Jews in Muslim lands.*

#### **Food and Jewish Identity: Is Keeping Kosher About Keeping Separate?**

**(or, more broadly—Food and Religious Identity: Who You Aren't Supposed to Eat With, and Why)**

*An exploration of the ways in which religious food practices express ideas about communal identity and shape interactions with members of other religions.*

#### **Abraham in the Abrahamic Traditions**

*Tales about Abraham have evolved over the centuries as Jews, Christians, and Muslims embraced this Biblical hero as their own. What can we learn from these changing stories about the people who tell them?*

#### **Jewish Responses to Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas**

*Ancient texts really can help us grapple with the challenges posed by the latest medical and scientific advances – but the guidance these texts offer depends in no small measure on how we choose to read them.*

#### **Journeys in Jewish Prayer**

*A series of lectures/study sessions examining various prayers and the light they shed on Jewish beliefs past and present. Modules include: Lekha Dodi, Birkat ha-Mazon, the Prayer for Our Country, and Adon Olam and other popular hymns.*

References available upon request.