



# SUICIDE

## A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO INTERVENTION AND HEALING FOR JEWISH CLERGY

Featuring Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu

**Wednesday, October 29, 2008      8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

*CO-SPONSORED BY*

*New Jersey Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
JCC MetroWest*

**Location:** JCC MetroWest: Leon & Toby Cooperman JCC, Ross Family Campus  
760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052

**Directions:** <http://www.jccmetrowest.org/directions.html>

**Fee:** \$18.00 CHECK ONLY Payable to AFSPNJ

**Registration:** Form is attached

**Note:** Registration closes Wednesday, October 22, 2008.  
Conference materials and kosher continental breakfast are provided.

### *Program Content:*

- Suicide awareness including mental health disorders that put individuals, especially youth, at greater risk
- Risk factors, protective factors, and warning signs of suicide
- How to talk to a person at risk for suicide and increase the likelihood of life saving intervention
- Mental health referral protocol for a suicidal person
- Spiritual counseling with families in the aftermath of suicide
- Memorial services and eulogy planning following a suicidal death

### *Program Objectives:*

- To assist Rabbis and Cantors, religious educators, youth leaders, and bereavement group facilitators in gaining the skills necessary to identify those adults, children and adolescents who are at risk for suicide attempts and completions and to effectively guide them to life saving treatment.
- To equip Rabbis and Cantors, religious educators, youth leaders, and bereavement group facilitators to effectively provide postvention services to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.
- To assist Clergy in planning memorial services and eulogies after a suicidal death in order to: promote healing; reduce stigma, guilt and blame; provide lifesaving information for survivors who may also be at risk; and to reduce the possibility of suicide contagion in youth.

## **FEATURED SPEAKER: Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu**

Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu is known for thinking “outside of the box.” Whether creating a cutting-edge health and healing center, taking a community center to the next level, or training religious leaders in pluralism, she turns ideas into reality, building trust along the way.

As the Director of Rabbis Without Borders for CLAL-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, Rabbi Sirbu is undertaking a new initiative to help rabbis expand their reach and use Jewish wisdom in new ways. The program is designed to build creative, inclusive communities engaged in the issues relevant to contemporary American Jewish life, while bringing the gifts of Jewish wisdom to the wider world.

The Founding Director of both the NJ MetroWest Jewish Health and Healing Center and the Center for Jewish Life at the JCC MetroWest, Rabbi Sirbu has experience taking an idea from seed and nurturing it to grow. In addition to her roles as chief administrator and program developer, she coordinated and facilitated support groups, adult education classes, a women’s group, a program of congregational nursing for Jewish seniors, and provided pastoral and bereavement counseling for individuals.

Rabbi Sirbu has presented on Jewish Healing at several national conferences, and spoken frequently to synagogues and women’s groups on many topics including: Jewish Healing, Spirituality and Jewish Women’s History. A trained hospital chaplain, she has worked at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Beth Israel Hospital in New York City.

Rabbi Sirbu is a partner at the Kalsman Institute for Judaism and Health, a national project of Hebrew Union College. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vassar College, she was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America with a concentration in Jewish Women’s Studies.

## **OTHER PRESENTERS**

### **Frank A. Jones, MD**

*Private Practice*

*Retired Professor of Psychiatry, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and UMDNJ-University Behavioral HealthCare  
Expert in suicide postvention with a special focus on clinicians and family members as survivors*

### **Karen Dunne-Maxim, RN, MS**

*Founder of the Survivors of Suicide Support Group meeting at UMDNJ - University Behavioral HealthCare for the past 25 years  
National and International Consultant in the area of postvention in schools, and with suicide survivors*

### **Donna Amundson, LCSW**

*Program Manager for the state-wide Traumatic Loss Coalitions for Youth Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, University Behavioral HealthCare*

*“Suicide exacts an enormous toll from the American people. Our Nation loses 30,000 lives to this tragedy each year; another 650,000 receive emergency care after attempting to take their own lives. The devastating trauma, loss, and suffering are multiplied in the lives of family members and friends.” Dr. David Satcher, Former U.S. Surgeon General*



UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE - BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE  
TRAUMATIC LOSS COALITIONS FOR YOUTH & TRAINING AND CONSULTATION RESOURCES

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## REGISTRATION FORM

**REGISTRATION CLOSES: Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

Name (Please Print Legibly):

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Email Address (**Mandatory**):

Confirm Email Address

**Note: Confirmation will be sent through Email ONLY. Please bring confirmation to the conference. If you do not receive your confirmation, you are not registered!**

Complete Mailing Address (include professional organizational name if applicable) :

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Phone No.: FAX No.:

Registration Fee: \$18.00 **MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: AFSPNJ**

Mail Registration Form and Payment to:

AFSP NJ Chapter  
C/O Peggy Farrell  
11 Datchet Close  
Freehold, NJ 07728

Special Needs: If you have a special physical or dietary requirement and wish to discuss possible provisions, please contact the TLC at 732-235-2810.

Questions: Call Traumatic Loss Coalitions for Youth Program at (732) 235-2810

***Room temperature can fluctuate, please dress accordingly.***

Seating is Limited – Register Today