

RABBI ELLEN W. DREYFUS, D.D.

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BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Rabbi Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus is Rabbi Emerita of Shir Tikvah (formerly called B'nai Yehuda Beth Sholom) in Homewood, Illinois. She is Past-President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the international organization of over 2,000 Reform rabbis. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis. She is a founder and past-president of the Women's Rabbinic Network, and has served on the boards of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. She served as president of the South Suburban Ministerial Association, and chair of the Rabbinic Advisory Committee of the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp. She is a member and past-chair of the Ethics Commission of the Village of Homewood.

Rabbi Dreyfus was born in Chicago and grew up on the South Side. She received a B.A. in History from Fairhaven College in Bellingham, Washington in 1974. Upon entering the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, she spent the first year in Jerusalem, and then studied at the New York campus, where she was ordained in 1979. Rabbi Dreyfus worked as a hospital chaplain at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and at Doctors Hospital in New York City. She was the Educational Coordinator at Temple Emanu-El in Oak Park, Michigan, and served as the rabbi of Temple B'nai Israel in Kankakee, Illinois, and of Congregation Beth Sholom in Park Forest, Illinois. She was the spiritual leader of B'nai Yehuda Beth Sholom in Homewood, Illinois until her retirement in 2013.

Rabbi Dreyfus is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, Israel; one of a select group of rabbis from North America to have completed a 3-year program of study called the Rabbinic Leadership Initiative. In 2004, the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion awarded her the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, for 25 years of service to the Jewish people. Currently, Rabbi Dreyfus chairs the CCAR's Task Force on the Experience of Women in the Rabbinate.

In June 2010, Rabbi Dreyfus was ranked number 17 on Newsweek's list of "50 Influential Rabbis." She has lectured around the world. She delivered the Baccalaureate Address at Dartmouth College in 2010, spoke at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, Germany, and at the Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Doha, Qatar in 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2016. She conducted High Holy Day services for the Reform and Liberal communities in Prague, Czech Republic in 2014, and for the Progressive Jewish community in Bangkok, Thailand in 2015.

Rabbi Dreyfus lives in Homewood, Illinois with her husband, James N. Dreyfus, M.D., a rheumatologist practicing in Munster, Indiana. They are the parents of Benjamin (married to Rabbi Elizabeth Richman), Lina (married to Dr. Adam Wallace) and David (married to Lauren Butterfield), and the grandparents of Sivan, Eitan, and Penina Wallace, and Yonatan and Avital Richman-Dreyfus.