"A JEWISH THEOLOGY OF CHRISTIANITY"

SPEAKER: MICHAEL S. KOGAN, PH.D.

Over the past half-century Judaism and Christianity have moved beyond centuries of sibling rivalry to a new and unprecedented mutual affirmation and appreciation. Yet Judaism has never developed a comprehensive Jewish analysis and evaluation of Christianity, its historic role, theological claims and religious beliefs. Michael S. Kogan’s book, "Opening the Covenant: A Jewish Theology of Christianity" analyzes the similarities and differences between the two faiths and concludes that they are both "of God", both "true" and both part of the larger redemptive plan of the One who is the God of Israel and of all humankind. This is a radical work of religious pluralism which broadens and deepens the dialogue, delving into profound theological issues at the heart of both faiths but hitherto unexplored. In this lecture, Dr. Kogan will present the theses developed in his book.

Dr. Michael S. Kogan is a Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religion of Montclair State University. He has served as Chairman of the Department and Director of the University’s Program of Jewish American Studies. Dr. Kogan is past President of Congregation Shomrei Emunah and of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion. He is Director of the Schnitzer Institute of Adult Jewish Studies and serves on the Board of Directors of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies and of the Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston.

Dr. Kogan received his B.A. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University and pursued post-graduate study at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and at the Graduate Faculty of Philosophy of Columbia University.