



Yudit Kornberg Greenberg, Ph.D., is Professor of Religion and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Rollins College, Winter Park, FL. Professor Greenberg serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Her published works include *Better Than Wine: Love, Poetry, and Prayer in the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig* and articles in *Modern Jewish Philosophy* in major academic journals. She is currently completing the manuscript *The Metaphysics of Desire: Reading Love and Eros in Jewish Thought*. She was recently awarded a grant from the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love.

Yudit Kornberg Greenberg

PUBLIC LECTURE: "TO DESIRE OR TO LOVE? THAT IS THE QUESTION!"

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008
LIBBEY HALL, 2:30 PM**

Jewish metaphors of and references to the experience of loving God emphasize longing, rather than fulfillment. This lecture seeks to illuminate and illustrate this claim by offering an examination of the platonic distinction between love and desire as delineated by the neo-Platonist renaissance philosopher Judah Abrabanel in his *Dialoghi D'Amore* (Dialogues on Love). With a clarification of this distinction, Dr. Greenberg offers a deconstruction of a selection of Rabbinic and philosophical commentaries to the Song of Songs that focus on the erotic dimension of loving God. These include Midrash Shir Hashirim Rabbah, and references from Bachya Ben Asher, Rambam, and Rosenzweig. She will discuss how these textual sources provide important locations for expressing Jewish views of loving God and show that these ideas of divine love are based on the privileging of erotic love whereby longing rather than fulfillment is perceived as the higher state of loving God.

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For more information,
please contact the department of Philosophy at 419.530.6190 or the department of Women's and Gender Studies at 419.530.2233

