



Congregation Darchei Noam
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Public Lecture

The Challenges and Opportunities for Jewish Life in Israel: A View from the Front Lines

Rabbi Seth Farber
Founder and Director, ITIM

Since the founding of the State of Israel, the Jewish character of the State has at various times bound its citizens together and at other times created conflict and chaos. In the coming year, Israel will be home to more than half the Jews in the world. While many in Israel feel a strong historical connection to Jewish life, many others feel alienated by the establishment (i.e. the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs and the State Rabbinate). They feel that Jewish life is controlled by a small [Chareidi](#) sector of the population. Rulings by the Ministry often leave families bewildered, overwhelmed, and resentful.

Featured in the New York Times Sunday Magazine article "[How Do You Prove You're a Jew?](#)" Rabbi Seth Farber will address the Jewish dimensions of the modern miracle that is the State of Israel. Rabbi Farber is an American-born Modern Orthodox rabbi whose organization - [ITIM](#), the Jewish Life Information Center - helps Jews navigate the Israeli religious bureaucracy. Rabbi Farber will provide insights into recently controversial issues such as conversion, marriage, and burial in Israel and will discuss real cases from the Israeli rabbinical courts and the institutional rabbinate.

Location: Sabes JCC

Time: 7:30PM, Thursday, June 17, 2010

Co-sponsors: Sabes Jewish Community Center
Israel Program Center of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation

Seth Farber was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University in 1991, and received a PhD from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2000. The New York Times called Farber a "pragmatic idealist" who believes that Orthodox Jews - including the rabbinate - and non-Orthodox Jews need to learn to "trust each other" sufficiently to work together on the difficult issues of personal status.

