

Temple Beth Hillel Speaker Series

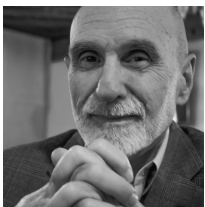
November 17, 2019
2:00 p.m.

The Rabbi Finds Her Way

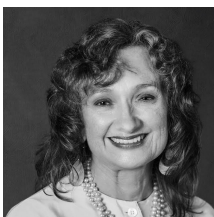
By Robert Schoen with Catherine deCuir

The authors of the new novel *The Rabbi Finds Her Way* belong to a large congregation led by a female rabbi and cantor. In fact, in recent years, it was not unusual to see the female (former) president of their congregation standing on the bima, while a Bat Mitzvah girl sat next to the rabbi, with no man in sight. So it was natural for Robert Schoen and Catherine deCuir to feature a female rabbi in their new novel and watch her progress: day-by-day, month-by-month, adventure-by-adventure. *The Rabbi Finds Her Way* is the first in the authors' planned series following Rabbi Pearl Ross-Levy's life on and off the bima, as she marries, has children, and leads her congregation through the rituals we all know: birth, brit, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, family, illness and death, and the politics and behind-the-scenes activities of a modern synagogue. All these rituals lend themselves to fiction that feels so real.

Schoen and deCuir will read passages from their novel, talk about the process of writing fiction as a team, and answer your questions. *The Rabbi Finds Her Way*, Stone Bridge Press, \$15, will be available for purchase.



Robert Schoen is the author of the award-winning book, *What I Wish My Christian Friends Knew About Judaism*, and the co-author with Catherine deCuir of the novel, *The Rabbi Finds Her Way*. His book, *On God's Radar—My Walk Across America*, chronicles his 2,644-mile walk across 14 states. Dr. Schoen, a retired optometrist, is also a musician and has served as Composer-in-Residence at Temple Sinai in Oakland, where his Friday night Sabbath service, Bossa Shabbat, was performed. He lives with his wife in Oakland.



Catherine deCuir is a fiction writer whose work has appeared in dozens of publications including *Seventeen* and *The Bellingham Review*. She is the author of *Peace Prompts* and is currently working on a historical novel based on her Creole ancestors. She is the featured vocalist with the Robert Schoen jazz trio, and serves as a cantorial soloist at Temple Sinai in Oakland. Catherine lives with her husband in Albany.



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