

Rabbi Sally Jane Priesand 1972 Ordained as America's First Woman Rabbi



On June 3, 1972, at The Plum Street Temple in Cincinnati, Rabbi Sally Jane Priesand, formerly of Lakewood, OH, was America's first woman rabbi ordained by the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR). Since then, she has led the way for nearly 1,000 women who have followed in her footsteps and joined the rabbinate.

Priesand's earliest religious school education was at Community Temple (formerly Beth Am). In 1959, her parents and their five children moved to the West Side, where they became affiliated with Beth Israel-The West Temple.

After her ordination, she served first as assistant and then as associate rabbi at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, then at Temple Beth El in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and as spiritual leader of Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls, New Jersey from 1981 until her retirement in 2006.

Priesand is the author of "Judaism and the New Woman" and a contributor to "Women Rabbis: Exploration and Celebration" as well as "A Treasury of Favorite Sermons by Leading American Rabbis." She is featured in numerous books including "Rabbis: The Many Faces of Judaism" and "Fifty Jewish Women who Changed the World."

More on Rabbi Sally Priesand -- <https://www.hws.edu/about/blackwell/priesand.aspx>