



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 46, Folder 11, United Methodists, 1983.

You Are Invited to Attend the

FIRST ANNUAL  
DR. LLOYD H. RISING  
THEOLOGICAL LECTURE

featuring

**RABBI MARC TANENBAUM**

National Interreligious Affairs Director  
of the American Jewish Committee

**'MORAL CHALLENGES FOR JEWS AND CHRISTIANS  
IN THE DECADE OF THE 80's'**



Dr. Rising



Rabbi Tanenbaum

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1983**

**8:00 P.M.**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Fifth and Pine  
Pittsburg, Kansas**

Rabbi Tanenbaum is an electrifying speaker. He has been described by NEWSWEEK magazine as "the American Jewish community's foremost apostle to the gentiles . . . who has been able to solicit support from all factions of the Jewish community." In a cover story, "The Ten Most Powerful Rabbis," NEW YORK magazine described him as "the foremost Jewish ecumenical leader in the world today."

A pool of America's newspaper religion editors in 1978 voted Rabbi Tanenbaum one of the ten most respected and influential religious leaders in America, ranking 4th behind then President Jimmy Carter, Billy Graham and Martin Marty, a theologian. The citation of his 15th honorary degree characterized him as "The Human Rights Rabbi of America."

President Carter invited Rabbi Tanenbaum as the American Jewish leader among ten national religious spokesmen to discuss "the State of the Nation" at Camp David "summit" meetings in 1979. He also was Chairman of the Technical Committee on the Media of the 1981 White House Conference on Energy and Conservation.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has been in the forefront of religious leaders criticizing the "excesses" of the ultraconservative fundamentalists, who appear to some to want to "Christianize America" in their support of only born-again candidates. He spoke out prominently against the Southern Baptist Convention president's now infamous remark that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

Recently the noted rabbi served as consultant to NBC-TV's nine-hour special "Holocaust" and earlier was consultant to the special "Jesus of Nazareth." He was the only rabbi at Vatican Council II and he is founder and co-secretary of the Joint Vatican International Jewish Consultative Committee as well as of a similar liaison body with the World Council of Churches.

At the invitation of the International Rescue Committee, he joined delegations of prominent American leaders to carry out fact-finding investigations of the plight of Vietnamese "boat people" and Cambodian refugees. He has organized many relief efforts for victims of war, refugees, and the starving.

Rabbi Tanenbaum was invited to consult with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and German parliamentary officials in Bonn on the abolition of the statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals in 1979. He is the author or editor of several published books and numerous articles.





# First United Methodist Church

415 NORTH PINE STREET  
OFFICE PHONE (316) 231-2170  
PITTSBURG, KANSAS 66762

PASTOR  
Gary A. Schrag

PASTOR EMERITUS  
Lloyd H. Rising

DIRECTOR OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
MARILYNN SCHELLHAMER

May 26, 1982

*1) Send lecture letter  
2) to - invitation - March 10/83.*

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th St.  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum,

F-  
I'm writing to confirm our telephone conversation of Friday, May 21. We are delighted that you will be able to initiate the Dr. Lloyd H. Rising Theological Lecture Series on March 10, 1983. The lecture will be an evening event, beginning either 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. Depending on the kind of plane reservations you can make, we will design the other events around your schedule. Mainly, I would like us to have an opportunity for clergy and other community leaders to interact with you in a smaller and more informal setting. The best context would probably be following your lecture at a breakfast gathering the next morning. If that does not work with your schedule, we might be able to arrange something prior to the lecture.

If you will be coming to Pittsburg from New York, it is probably best for you to come to Kansas City. We could arrange for a local pilot to pick you up and bring you to Pittsburg. That would take about an hour. We are about the same distance from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Springfield, Missouri.

We are in the process of exploring various options to enhance this experience. One question raised by the committee was, when you give a lecture, do you permit the lecture to be published by the sponsoring group? We have discussed several possibilities including publication in the scholarly journal of St. Paul School of Theology.

For purposes of promotion we will welcome any information you can give us, including information concerning yourself, the nature of this lecture, and a photograph of yourself.

Again, we thank you for accepting this invitation. Your coming to lecture virtually ensures realization of the vision which inspired the establishment of this lecture series.

Sincerely,

*Gary Schrag*

Gary Schrag

GS:db

*Send  
bro +  
P. 17  
+ party  
news  
+ photo  
log.*



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May 11, 1982

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum:

I wrote to you about two months ago inviting you to be the inaugural speaker of the lecture series we are beginning in honor of our former pastor, Dr. Lloyd H. Rising. Since I have not heard from you I decided to write to you again and restate our case.

We intend for this to be an annual lecture with the highest quality of theological scholars. We have, therefore, endowed the lectureship with sufficient funds to pay the honorarium necessary for that purpose. In a recent conversation with John Swomley of St. Paul School of Theology, he told me that you receive \$1,000 plus expenses. We would be able to meet such an honorarium.

As I stated in my previous letter, the Pittsburg community very much needs the opportunity to hear your insights into world theological issues. We have virtually no Jewish population and thus little understanding of your ethnic and theological heritage, and less concerning the political issues of vital concern to Jewish people.

This is to say we need you and hope that you will be able to place us on your schedule.

I am enclosing a copy of the previous communication just in case it got lost in the mail.

I will try to make telephone contact in a few days to clarify any questions you might have. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Schrag

GS:db

Enc.



## DR. LLOYD H. RISING THEOLOGICAL LECTURE

### Introduction

Dr. Lloyd H. Rising was not only a dedicated pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburg, but a student of both the Bible and of theology. He is dedicated to the proposition that man possessed a finite knowledge of the universe, to be sure, but even more, Dr. Rising knows that man has naught but a fraction of knowledge concerning his creator. His commitment to the advancement of the knowledge of God and God's relationship to that which God created is a critical element of Dr. Rising's personality.

Dr. Rising recognizes that such knowledge and understanding is a dynamic and ever-changing quantity. He dedicated himself to the proposition that today we know more of God than we did in past centuries and tomorrow we will know even more than today.

The continuing unfolding of God's truth to those who wish to pursue that truth is one of the attributes of God that fascinated and intrigued him. The fact that God continues to manifest himself to his creation stands as pragmatic evidence of God and God's commitment to at least this corner of space.

### Purpose of the Lecture

This lecture is dedicated to the concept of God and of theology that maintains that God is not dead and that he continues to manifest himself in diverse ways to his people. It is in honor of Dr. Lloyd H. Rising because he so positively lives such a theology. The lecture means not only to honor Dr. Rising, but more importantly, that for which Dr. Rising lives -- a pragmatic theology dedicated to the living God, manifested in Jesus the Christ, and perpetuated through the Holy Spirit.

### Charge to the Dr. Lloyd H. Rising Theological Lecture Fund Committee

A sum of \$12,000 has been identified to support the lecture. The fund is expected to grow from year to year by those wishing to honor the contributions made by Dr. Rising to the First United Methodist Church and to the community. It may also grow by the accrual of interest on the unused portion of the fund. The fund or portions of it will be expended each year to support the necessary expenses associated with a lecture addressing a subject of theology appropriate to those principles identified with Dr. Rising as outlined above.

Five tasks must be accomplished: the decision of how much of the fund is to be expended each year, that aspect of theology to be explored by the lecture, the identification of the individual who will present the lecture, the format or formats in which the lecture will be disseminated, the arrangements commensurate with the sponsorship of the lecture.

### Membership of the Executive Committee

The Dr. Lloyd H. Rising Theological Lecture Fund Executive Committee will consist of the pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburg, the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, a member of the faculty of St. Paul's School of Theology (Kansas City, Mo.), two members of the First United Methodist Church and two members of the Pittsburg community at large.

Members will be chosen by the pastors and serve three year overlapping terms. For the initial year, one lay member will serve for one year, two lay members for two years, and one lay member for three years. The Committee is encouraged to involve as many and as diverse a population as possible to implement each lecture. To be faithful to the purpose and intent of the lecture, broad community support and participation is required.

The Executive Committee will organize and establish a Dr. Lloyd H. Rising Theological Lecture Committee each year for the purpose of sponsoring the lecture. No attempt will be made to define the structure of that committee allowing the Executive Committee the freedom of organization to meet the special demands of any one lecture.

#### Administration of the Dr. Lloyd H. Rising Theological Lecture

Members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed each September. If only one lecture is presented, it shall be the choice of the committee as to the date of the lecture. If two lectures are presented, one shall be in the fall and the other in the spring. If more than two lectures are presented, it shall be the decision of the Executive Committee as to the time such lectures will be presented.

The chairperson of the Executive Committee will be determined by the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church.

Members of the Dr. Lloyd H. Rising Theological Lecture Committee will be representatives of the community, not necessarily limited to the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburg.

No admission will be charged for the lecture. Costs may be recovered from sale of non-print media associated with the lecture.





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MARILYNN SCHELLHAMER

March 11, 1982

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum:

Recently our congregation made a decision which promises to be an enriching experience for the community of Pittsburg. We decided to honor our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Lloyd H. Rising, with an annual theological lecture in his name. A fund has been established for that purpose. Dr. Rising was pastor of this congregation for 17 years and has retired in this community. He was a dynamic leader in the local church, the Annual Conference, in ecumenical relationships, and in the community.

Because of Dr. Rising's wide range of involvements, we chose to make this lectureship something which the community would own. We established a committee which includes representatives of both religious and community organizations. In addition, Dr. Jean Lambert of St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City serves on our committee. Perhaps you remember her from your recent visit there.

Dr. Rising is not in strong physical condition, but continues to have a very active mind. He reads extensively and remains interested in theology and other issues which impact the community and the world. When he was active, he served churches mainly in college towns and cities in various states and he also served a parish in Ireland.

Dr. Rising is very excited about the lecture series and was able to attend the initial meeting of the lecture committee. As we discussed several persons who might initiate this lecture series, Dr. Rising's face lit up at the mention of your name. He let it be known that he would be most excited if you would honor him and our community by being the lecturer to begin this series.

My purpose then in writing is to inquire if you have an open date sometime in the Fall of 1982. If no Fall date is available, our desire to have you initiate this series is so strong we would delay the beginning of the series until Spring.

The focus of the lecture would be up to you. A major purpose of the lecture is to bring to this somewhat provincial southeast Kansas town some exposure



to a world that seldom touches us. Two possibilities which come to mind are Jewish - Christian relationships and the Middle East and why we should care about it. There is very little understanding of the Jewish faith by people in this area and some history of anti-Semitism, so that almost any direction you would choose would be new territory for most of us.

The format is negotiable, but we had the following in mind: an evening lecture, with a question period followed by an informal coffee. This might be followed by a breakfast the following morning for community clergy and others who would like to interact with you in a smaller setting.

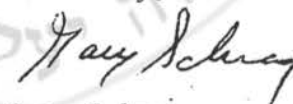
This being our first experience, we are not sure what honorarium to offer. Tell us what you would require and we will make every effort to meet the asking. Also, we are not sure about policies related to the ownership of the lecture once given. Do you retain publishing rights? Is the lecture publishable by us?

Assuming you have not heard of Pittsburg, Kansas, permit me to say a few words. It is a community of about 25,000, including a university of 5,000 students and an adjacent town of 5,000. Unusual for Kansas, we have a large number of ethnic groups, especially a large Italian population. Southeast Kansas has been called "the little Balkans". This makes our area somewhat unique and an interesting place to live and attempt to be God's people. Without the university, it would seem isolated and I discover that those who have lived elsewhere hunger for outside intellectual and cultural stimuli, thus the excitement about this lecture series.

If your scheduling would affect your acceptance, you might be interested to know that it would be possible for us to pick you up at airports in Kansas City, Tulsa, Springfield, Missouri, and Joplin.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and thank you for your consideration of this invitation.

Sincerely,



Gary Schrag

GS:db

3-15-83

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THANKS

Unto  
THE

LORD

And thanks to you Rabbi!  
It was a pleasure  
for me to meet you per-  
sonally and a distinct  
privilege to hear your  
challenging lecture. Lloyd would  
have been greatly inspired and  
pleased at your initiating the  
Lloyd Rising Lecture Series.  
God bless you!  
Mildred Rising

MRS LLOYD M RISING  
1811 S STILWELL  
PITTSBURG KS 66762



Horatio Alger



Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York, N. Y. 10022