



## HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

היברו יוניון קולג' - מכון למדעי היהדות

### DIRECTOR

NEW YORK KOLLEL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

June 10, 2002  
29 Sivan 5762

Ms Jenni Person  
8880 Guthrie Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Dear Jenni,

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful workshop, "Culinary Midrash -Ruth as Recipe," that you gave for our recent Tikkun Leil Shavuot at The New York Kollel. It was one of the highlights of the evening. I admit that I entered your class a little puzzled, a little sceptical, but emerged a true believer. You have tapped into one of central aspects of the Jewish soul- the love of food, and used it as a way to free us from any initial nervousness and hesitations we might have about interpreting a text. We started our hevruta as strangers, uneasy and unwilling to reveal too much of ourselves to each other, But the siren song of food and recipes liberated us and we soon found we were able to plunge into the text with as much gusto as we might into a chocolate soufflé. We all came away from your workshop well nourished in spirit and in body.

I hope many others will have the opportunity to enjoy your original approach to cooking and learning.

B'shalom and b'teavon

Rabbi Ruth Gais  
Director of the New York Kollel and Community Outreach

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June 3, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

From the moment I first heard of Culinary Midrash from Jenni Person, I was taken with the unique and poignant nature of this idea. Most of us have visceral connections to food born from the important Jewish moments in our lives. Times in the kitchen preparing for Shabbat with our parents or sitting with relatives and friends over a Pesach meal were strong aspects of our Jewish connectedness -- and continue to be. Food plays a very significant role in our lives as it nourishes our Jewish bodies and souls. Culinary Midrash is phenomenal in every aspect and is the natural progression for sharing and exploring our ancestral stories.

I had the great pleasure of working with Jenni Person for an enlivening Culinary Midrash program at the congregation where I am currently the cantorial soloist. Culinary Midrash is original, accessible, educational, enjoyable, and delicious. During the program, in which we studied the story of Judith as the foundation for our text study, we intertwined the aspects of text and metaphor with the sensory and visceral experience of smelling, preparing, and then tasting the dish we prepared as a group. As we engaged in study and cooking, we uncovered a new layer of our heritage as the text came alive through Culinary Midrash.

Jenni Person's ideas are exceptional, her recipes are exquisite, and she is a skilled Judaic teacher in and out of the kitchen. My congregants were intrigued by the idea of Culinary Midrash and wildly excited as the process unfolded.

I strongly recommend that you and your congregants share an afternoon or evening in study and culinary delight with Jenni Person.

L'shalom,



Tami Krichiver  
Cantorial Soloist  
Temple Bat Yam  
South Lake Tahoe, California

# TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

OF GREATER MIAMI

June 13, 2002

To Whom It May Concern,

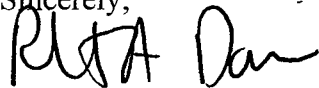
It is a pleasure to write this letter on behalf of Jenni Person. I have had the privilege of studying with Jenni for the past six years. Even though we have not lived in the same city for the past few years I have had an ongoing correspondence. With Jenni, every conversation, every paragraph, every word is a living *midrash* - a reminder that holiness is discovered wherever and whenever we pause long enough to see it, hear it and now with her latest creation to feel it, smell it, and to taste it.

Jenni's website is truly descriptive: She is a modern *balabusta* - she is in charge of her person and her domain. Jenni understands the world in a hopeful, joyous, and balanced way; she tempers her creative spirit with realistic action; and I am sure that she cooks a great soup.

I recommend Jenni's creativity, enthusiasm, and menschlikeit as an addition to your program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Davis  
Rabbi

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