



**Hadassah - Charleston Chapter  
Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston  
West Virginia Humanities Council  
presents**

**Leon Wurmser, M.D., PhD h.c.**

Renowned author

Psychoanalyst and former Clinical Professor of Psychiatry  
West Virginia University

**“Monotheism: One God, Many Questions”**

Examining the introduction of monotheism (the belief in the existence of one God) in human history as it is intimately related to the Bible and Judaism.

**The Culture Center  
Capitol Complex  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East**

**Monday, May 14, 2012  
7:30 p.m.**

**Reception following presentation  
Sponsored by Mrs. Betty Schoenbaum**

**Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hadassah**

**Program Co-Chairmen  
Dr. Steven Jubelirer  
Dr. Martin Kommor**

Monotheism (the belief that there is but one God) takes its roots in Judaism. The early Hebrew text speaks of a jealous and angry god. There is, thus, a strong theme of violence. In direct contradiction, Monotheism teaches the central importance of justice, love and regard for personal dignity and the value of the individual.

How can we make sense of this deep and troublesome contradiction? How does it shape our culture and for that matter world events? Psychoanalysis is a psychology that addresses the central importance of inner conflict.

Midrash is the exposition of the underlying significance of a Bible text, the study of the Jewish law – to expound, to interpret, to deduce and, specifically, to expound the precepts and ethical values of the Scriptures.

**Rabbi James Cohn, B'nai Temple Israel:**

“With affection for his subject and respect for generations of Jewish inquiry, Dr. Leon Wurmser addresses the tensions in monotheistic religion between primitivism and maturity, between conflict and coexistence, between violence and peace. Dr. Wurmser sees a microcosm of these tensions in his own discipline of psychoanalysis, which seeks to reconcile these conflicts as the individual grown from unfettered desire toward responsible autonomy. Listening to Dr. Wurmser, as he expounds his midrash with insight and compassion, is as enjoyable as it is enlightening.

**Rabbi Victor H. Urecki, B'nai Jacob Synagogue:**

“Dr. Wurmser is an internationally-known psychoanalyst and thinker. With Dr. Wurmser, Hadassah is bringing to Charleston a scholar who offers wisdom and insight into complex ideas on a level that will appeal to all. To have someone of his depth and knowledge in our community is a rare opportunity to understand more about Judaism’s religious and cultural development. Please do not miss this outstanding event!”