

*Ruach Ha'Aretz presents ...*

# ECO-JUDAISM: AN OLD/NEW PARADIGM

**A one-year course with Rabbi Elisheva Brenner**

For intermediate and advanced ALEPH rabbinical students;  
students in other rabbinical seminaries; Rabbis and other Jewish clergy



Two 5-day retreat intensives in Pueblo, Colorado;  
two 13-week teleconference courses:

**First Intensive: August 5 – 10, 2012**

**First Telecourse:  
August thru December, 2012**

**Second Telecourse:  
January thru May, 2013**

**Final Intensive: June 9 – 14, 2013**



RABBI ELISHEVA BRENNER is passionate about outstanding food, gathered and cooked in holiness. To her ordination from the ALEPH Rabbinical Seminary, she brings over 30 years of experience in business, law, education, and social services. She and her husband, Rabbi Hersh, own a ranch in Pueblo, CO, where they raise Barbados Blackbelly Sheep and an amazing cluck of chickens along with acres of fresh veggies. Rabbi Elisheva is on the rabbinical council of Hazon, the largest Jewish environmental movement in the world.



To learn more about this and other *Ruach Ha'Aretz* programs,  
contact us at 415.339.8677 or [info@ruachhaaretz.com](mailto:info@ruachhaaretz.com).

[www.ruachhaaretz.com](http://www.ruachhaaretz.com)

Ruach Ha'Aretz is a Project of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal

# ECO-JUDAISM: AN OLD/NEW PARADIGM

## AS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

gain more prominence in Jewish discourse, Rabbis, more than ever, need the knowledge, experience and skills offered in this course to effectively educate and lead. We will immerse our minds in anthropological and archaeological studies, Torah, Midrash, Talmud and contemporary writings as we follow the development of Judaism from pre-Israelite Canaan to the present day. We will also learn by experiencing as we visit an organic farm, several ranches, a feedlot, a kosher slaughterhouse, and do our own fermenting, leavening, meditations, blessings and ceremonies surrounding food production, and holy eating, including kashrut and eco-kashrut. As the festivals and holidays arrive, we will explore their agrarian roots and exercise our spiritual creativity to infuse our celebrations with environmental consciousness. Finally, we will use our knowledge to engage with contemporary environmental and ecological issues.

**This is a year-long course** comprising two retreat intensives and two semesters of teleconference classes. This course is for intermediate to advanced ALEPH rabbinical students (credit will be given toward ordination), and is open to Rabbis, clergy and rabbinical students in other seminaries. Knowledge of Hebrew is helpful.

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

**First Retreat Intensive:** Learn tools for meaning-making in our own group laboratory. By the end of this retreat, each student should have the vocabulary, methods and self-understanding to state his/her personal theology of Eco-Judaism, and guide others to understand their own. These tools are essential for engaging text study, drasha, guiding action, and teaching.

**First Semester telecourse:** Discover how Judaism emerged in the pre-Israelite period as a response to surrounding culture and agriculture. You will never read Torah the same way again! Our primary focus this semester will be on Jewish law and ethics vis-à-vis specific environmental issues.

**Second Semester telecourse:** Combining intellect and experience. Learn about kashrut and eco-kashrut, the Jewish holiday cycle as a function of the agrarian calendar, and bringing environmental consciousness to our holiday celebrations. Finally, we will look to the future as we embrace contemporary environmental and ecological issues.

**Final Retreat Intensive:** Visiting food production facilities, fermenting, leavening, and holy eating. Eco-Judaism puts great emphasis on experienced holiness and body practice. We'll see what happens when we measure intellectual learning against experience.

**Ruach Ha'Aretz**

1612 Holeman Drive  
Erie, CO 80516



[info@ruachhaaretz.com](mailto:info@ruachhaaretz.com)

[www.ruachhaaretz.com](http://www.ruachhaaretz.com)

(415) 339-8677