

## **Foundation for Jewish Studies Installs New President, Elaine Amir**

Elaine Amir has been installed as President of the Foundation for Jewish Studies, the largest independent, non-profit provider of university-quality Jewish adult education in the Washington, D.C. area. She succeeds Arnold A. Hammer, who led the organization for the past three years.

Amir, who holds academic degrees from Barnard College, Harvard, Cornell and Northwestern Universities, served as a member of the Foundation's board for the past three years. She plans to build on the scholarly approach to Jewish adult learning established by FJS's founder, Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman. Amir is interested in finding common cause with other Jewish adult education organizations to offer the finest and broadest scope of programs to the community.

Amir served as Executive Director of the Montgomery County Campus of Johns Hopkins University from 1996 to 2013. She led the transition of the campus from a continuing education center to a multi-faceted nexus of faculty, students, private research companies, and federal government research departments.

Previously, she served as Dean of Business, Industry, and Government Services at Montgomery College. Earlier in her career, Amir worked on workforce development and training for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the Chicago area.

As an educator, Amir has emphasized the importance of communication and connecting people. She has served on the boards of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, the Tech Council of Maryland, Leadership Montgomery and the Committee for Montgomery. The Chamber recognized her work with its Visionary Award in 2013.

She lives in Rockville and has two children and two grandchildren.



Elaine Amir and Arnold A. Hammer

The Foundation for Jewish Studies, established in 1983, is an independent, non-profit organization that provides university-quality Jewish adult education in the Washington, D.C. area. Its engaging and scholarly programs are open to all and specifically designed for adults interested in learning more about Jewish history, religion, philosophy, and values. Visit [www.foundjs.org](http://www.foundjs.org) to learn more, register for programs and listen to podcasts of recent speakers.

The Foundation for Jewish Studies' leadership includes Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, Founder and Chairman of the Board, and the Foundation's President, Officers, and Board of Directors. The professional staff is led by the Foundation's Director, Dr. Lauren B. Strauss.