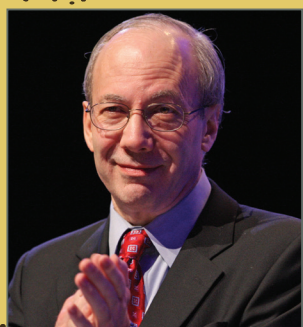


Why Interreligious Dialogue Fails and How It Can Succeed



SPEAKER
Rabbi Eric Yoffie

April 28, 2014
6-8:30 p.m.

Lincoln Park Student Center
Room 314 A



Interreligious dialogue is vitally important, but most of the time, it just does not work. We are content to emphasize general principles—mutual understanding, tolerance, love of humankind—and the result is too often conversations filled with platitudes and clichés rather than meaningful discussion. Committed to interreligious dialogue but skeptical about how it is usually conducted, Rabbi Yoffie will deal with questions such as the following:

What are the factors in their respective traditions that make it difficult for Christians and Jews to talk openly and honestly about their religious beliefs?

What are the real issues that divide us as religious people?

Should Israel be central to interreligious conversation and how should it be discussed?

How do the writings and statements of Pope Francis create new possibilities for interreligious relations?

Rabbi Yoffie believes that interreligious dialogue can work and that it should not be restricted to the esoteric musings of professional theologians. He will suggest ways to make it more interesting, more worthwhile, more theologically serious, and also more challenging—for Jews and Christians alike.