Report from Rabbi Hayyim Angel, National Scholar of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals, September 2014

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September, 2014

To our members and friends, As we approach the New Year, we look forward to another robust season of educational programming. Here are some of the major highlights thus far in place, and more will continue to develop throughout the year. I will be the Rabbinic Scholar at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in New York City (85th Street between Park and Lexington Avenue) for the coming year. This will involve eight Shabbatot in the KJ community, as well as High Holy Day sermons to their Sephardic minyan on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

This coming Shabbat, September 20, I will speak on Sephardic and Ashkenazic Liturgy. That will take place around 11:00 am after services at the Sephardic minyan. All are welcome.

KJ Shabbat dates: October 18 December 20 (Hanukkah) January 17 February 21 March 7 May 9 June 6

After the holiday season, I am excited to offer a brand-new eight-part series, entitled Creating Jewish Unity. This course, sponsored by our Institute, outlines some of the most important areas of developing a religious worldview that is authentic to Jewish tradition, reasonable, and relevant to life in the 21st century. A wide range of opinions is considered, seeking those approaches that best address our complex contemporary reality. These classes present some of the core values of our Institute. It will be held on Tuesday mornings, from 8:40-9:30 am, at the Apple Bank on 73rd Street and Broadway in Manhattan.

Creating Jewish Unity Dates: October 21, 28, November 4, 18, 25 (not Nov 11, Veterans Day) December 2, 9, 16 ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: if you wish to attend, please let us know by emailing info@jewishideas.org We also will continue with our in-depth Tanakh learning at Lincoln Square Synagogue (68th Street and Amsterdam in Manhattan). This year we are learning the Second Book of Samuel. These classes will be on Wednesday evenings, 7:15-8:15.

Second Samuel fall dates (eight sessions): October 22, 29 November 5, 12, 19 (not 26, Thanksgiving weekend) December 3, 10, 17 These classes are co-sponsored by our Institute and Lincoln Square Synagogue. For registration information, please go to lss.org. In addition to these regular offerings, I will be a scholar-in-residence at Anshei Sphard Beth El Emeth in Memphis, Tennessee; Beth Israel Abraham and Voliner in Overland Park, Kansas; Young Israel of Woodmere-Cedarhurst; Ahavath Torah in Englewood, New Jersey; Young Israel of Century City, in Los Angeles; and a four-part series for Lamdeinu, Teaneck New Jersey. Details to follow as these events get closer.

Finally, we are putting the finishing touches on my upcoming book, A Jewish Holiday Companion. This book, a sequel to my Synagogue Companion, will be published in November by our Institute. I am deeply grateful to the book's co-sponsors, who made this project possible. They will all be thanked on a dedication page and in the introduction. The books will be distributed to members of our Institute, and will also be available at amazon.com.

As always, I thank our members and friends for their support and for enabling us to spread our Institute's vision through teaching and writings throughout the country and beyond.

I wish you all a Shanah Tovah, a year of peace for us all, Israel, and the world.