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## **NEWSWEEK RECOGNIZES SHALOM TV PRESIDENT**

### *Mark S. Golub named to Newsweek's list of 50 Top Rabbis*

April 7, 2009 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- Mark S. Golub, Shalom TV's president and executive producer, was named to *Newsweek* magazine's prestigious list of the most influential rabbis in America.



Rabbi Mark S. Golub

"I am honored to be included among so many outstanding rabbis, many of whom I know as friends and for all of whom I have the highest regard," Golub commented from Shalom TV's headquarters in the New York City area. "But I am especially pleased by this *Newsweek* honor because it acknowledges the enormous contribution Shalom TV is making to Jewish life throughout the country."

Shalom TV, America's national Jewish cable television network, reaches more than 30 million households through nearly every major cable company in the United States.

"It's so important for American Jewry to have a cultural network of its own on national television," said Golub, who has shaped a unique array of weekly programs on the free Video On Demand service. "Shalom TV not only provides Jewish perspectives on issues of the day, it is the only place on American television featuring various types of Jewish learning."

In addition to hosting news and public affairs roundtables, Golub teaches two educational series on Shalom TV: "From The Aleph Bet," a popular lesson-driven program on learning to read and understand Hebrew; and "Jewish 101," that corrects common misconceptions about Judaism and Jewish life.

He also developed the first Talmud series on television, "Dimensions of the Daf," taught by Rabbi Mordechai Becher; and worked with Rav Michael Laitman in producing episodes introducing Kabbalah. And, in creating a place where Jewish parents can find educational and entertaining programs for children, Golub conceived the Shalom TV original series' "Mr. Bookstein's Store" and "Story Time."

"I am so moved by the countless e-mails thanking me for awakening Jewish identity, or for making Judaism understandable and meaningful, or for creating a sense of Jewish community in remote areas of the country," Golub relayed. "People write me that Shalom TV has literally changed their lives."

(MORE)

Other offerings on the network include a weekly "Jewish Film Festival," exclusive presentations from New York's 92nd Street Y, social commentary by comedian Jackie Mason, and interviews with outstanding men and women on the Jewish world scene.

Golub's media background began as an undergraduate at Columbia University where he created and hosted "Approaches To Religious Concepts" on WKCR radio. During his studies at HUC-JIR, he was invited by Dr. Eugene B. Borowitz to become the inaugural assistant editor of *Sh'ma* magazine, a journal that provided a forum for dialogue among the brightest minds in the Jewish world.

After ordination in 1972, Golub founded two independent congregations (*chavurot*) committed to adult Jewish learning. At the same time, he served as director of public affairs for WMCA radio in New York City, then one of the leading telephone-talk stations in the country.

In 1979, Golub merged his two loves, Judaism and media, in creating the nonprofit organization Jewish Education in Media (JEM) and its weekly program "L'Chayim," an interview series that now stands as one of the longest-running Jewish-oriented shows in America. Program transcripts have appeared in national periodicals and in an anthology published by SUNY Press.

In 1991, Golub created the first Russian-language channel in the US, "The Russian Television Network of America," for Jewish immigrants here from the former Soviet Union. RTN is now seen by hundreds of thousands of viewers a day on major cable systems in North America, and its parent company, Russian Media Group, delivers RTN as part of its own satellite-delivered package of Russian channels. RTN also carries Shalom TV programming in Russian translation.

Mark S. Golub's work was previously acknowledged with an honorary doctorate from HUC-JIR that lauded him as an "innovative rabbi" whose "gifts as a communicator have helped disseminate the meaning of Judaism, whose commitment to Torah has inspired and enlightened the *chavurot* he founded and sustains, whose experience and creativity have earned him a position of leadership in Jewish broadcasting, and whose spirit finds expression in his religious conviction and in his artistic talent."

Mark is married to Ruth Ellen Golub, who has been a partner in all of his professional endeavors. The two have five children and one grandchild.

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