

The Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue



*Presents a Selichot Program*

# ***The Book of Jonah: An Artistic and Literary Perspective***

*Featuring the Art of  
David Wander*

*on Saturday, September 16th, at 9:00 p.m.*

The story of Jonah is one of the most fascinating and enigmatic stories found in the Bible. It is one of the shortest books, but is so multi-sided that it begs to be expanded into several volumes.

Who is this hero Jonah - a prophet who runs away from God? Is Jonah “everyman” who avoids the compelling voice of conscience? Does God’s call conflict with Jonah’s “nationalistic” aspirations? Does Jonah insist on “law and order” while God requires forgiveness and love? When Jonah is imprisoned in the bowels of a ship and later in the bowels of the whale, is it a reflection of each of us who may be imprisoned in old ways of thinking; incarcerated by conditioning and ideological barriers. Does the Book of Jonah illustrate the emptiness of self-absorption; does it remind us that those who have disappointed us can change or does it point to the reality of an ultimate

interdependence – between God and humanity, among all people and between human beings and the natural world.

Our guest, David Wander, is a gifted and talented artist, who has exhibited extensively and has had his work illustrated in a variety of formats. His work on the Book of Jonah will be exhibited at the Hebrew Union College Museum. The artist will share with us a preview of this exhibit and describe how his work serves as a commentary to his artistic and religious sensibilities.

Rabbi Gaffney will provide commentary from a variety of disciplines to underscore the significance of the Book of Jonah as we welcome the High Holidays.

***Havdalah & Program: 9:00 p.m.  
Social Hour: 10:30 p.m.  
Selichot Services: 11:00 p.m.***