*Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to announce for the March 5 Compassion Bootcamp the visit of Rabbi Marianne van Praag as a guest speaker. She will speak about spiritual leadership in general and the female perspective on it in particular. As the first female rabbi of The Netherlands she is uniquely suited to discuss this with us here.

I know Marianne from the Emoena training in interfaith leadership at the VU, where we found each other in lived spirituality and humor. Last month, at her invitation, I had the honor of speaking at the prayer service at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue of The Hague, which her congregation had attended in large numbers. And I hope you would like to help me welcome her into our community in the same way. Marianne is not only a gifted, moving and incisive speaker, but also very humorous.

Since in Buddhist circles, as in Jewish and other spiritual communities, the balance of genders is still extremely unfair, I hope that listening to Marianne's talk will inspire each of us to leadership to alleviate this shortcoming. Leadership in the 21st century is no longer a zero sum game, but a resource of which we simply need much more.

I leave you with Marianne van Praag's biography and hope to meet you on March 5 at MIA. She will speak in the morning from 10:00 to 12:00. The afternoon will have the usual program.

"Marianne van Praag trained as a teacher, lived in Israel for 6 years where she worked as a guide. Came back to The Netherlands for her partner. She taught within the Jewish community from the age of 15 and continued to do so after her return. She taught at the liberal Jewish elementary school in Amstelveen. Worked in a law office and, after a 40-year struggle, began studies at the Levisson Institute in Amsterdam, established specifically to train liberal Jewish rabbis in The Netherlands. After studying for 5 years, she became rabbi in Gelderland and Almere. Since 2012, she has been rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Congregation in The Hague. She is active in interfaith meetings and sits on the boards of the Prinsjesdagviering Foundation, Yom Hashjoa Committee of the Hague Council of Churches, Supervisory Board of the Anne Frank Foundation. Marianne gives many lectures throughout the country."

Warm regards,
Ven. Gendun*