Robert Pollack Bio

Robert Pollack is a professor of biological sciences at Columbia University and was the Director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion, a program within Columbia’s Earth Institute.  His interests cross many academic lines including molecular biology, medical ethics and science education. He has written and/or edited ten books, including *Signs of Life: the Language and Meanings of DNA* (1994), which won the [Lionel Trilling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Trilling) Award and has been translated into six languages, *The Faith of Biology and the Biology of Faith: Order, meaning and free will in modern science* (2000), and *The Missing Moment: How the unconscious shapes modern science* (2001).  His most recent book is*The Course of Nature,* a book of drawings by the artist Amy Pollack, accompanied by his short explanatory essays. In a program that will take place at the West End Reconstructionist Synagogue in 2021, “*Scientists and Synagogues* “ he will be engaged in ongoing discussions of matters at the intersection of science and Judaism such as exploring ways that one’s Jewish identity emerges through one’s lived experiences, rather than through one’s ancestry.

In his recent blog titled “A Conversation With a Coronavirus” he wrote “we may step back from the generality of DNA-based evolution, and consider how little Nature cares to choose between our brilliantly successful and imaginative species, and a tiny virus whose genome wishes only to find a human cell to replicate in.”