



THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

Wexner Professional Leadership Network

Alumni Institute 2026

NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY

BIO BOOK

ALUMNI INSTITUTE ROSTER

FEBRUARY 1-4, 2026 | ITASCA, IL

Yossi Abramowitz	WGF/DS 3	Vanessa Harper	WGF/DS 30*
Naomi Adland	WGF/DS 25*	Graham Hoffman	WFF 1
Julie Pelc Adler	WGF/DS 13	Ilana Horwitz	WGF/DS 26*
Ilana Aisen	WGF/DS 20*	Joe Kanofsky	WGF/DS 11
Wendy Amsellem	WGF/DS 13	Shana Teig Kantor	WGF/DS 15
Deena Aranoff	WGF/DS 11	Rebecca Kaufman	WGF/DS 32
Robin Axelrod	WGF/DS 8	Shaul Kelner	WGF/DS 8
Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi	WGF/DS 3	Adena Kirstein	WGF/DS 19*
Tzvi Benoff	WGF/DS 31	Daniel Kirzane	WGF/DS 21
Sarah Bunin Benor	WGF/DS 11	Addie Lewis Klein	WFF 4
Ben Berger	WFF 5	Fred Klein	WGF/DS 6
Rachel Berger	WFF 1	Andy Koren	WGF/DS 1
Audrey Marcus Berkman	WGF/DS 15	Eli (L. E.) Kornreich	WGF/DS 6
Jamie Bornstein	WGF/DS 18	Julie Lambert	WGF/DS 7
Shua Brick	WGF/DS 30	Sari Laufer	WGF/DS 14
Ari Brickman	WFF 4	Stephanie Levin	WFF 4
Nina Butler	WGF/DS 8	Josh Levine	WFF 1
Ken Carr	WGF/DS 3	Jon Levisohn	WGF/DS 10
D'ror Chankin-Gould	WGF/DS 21^	Danna Livstone	WGF/DS 9
David Chapman	WGF/DS 31^	Nate Looney	WFF 5
Tali Cohen Carrus	WGF/DS 29*	Asher Lopatin	WGF/DS 5
Frayda Gonshor Cohen	WGF/DS 20*	Rachel Lopatin	WGF/DS 3
Rachel Cohn	WGF/DS 30	Ann Luban	WGF/DS 4
Maddie Cooper	WGF/DS 31	Michelle Lynn-Sachs	WGF/DS 6
Beth Cousens	WGF/DS 14	David Manchester	WGF/DS 29*
Josh Cypess	WGF/DS 9	Karen Martin	WGF/DS 33
Fred Scherlinder Dobb	WGF/DS 6	Lesley Matsa	WFF 1
Tammy Dollin	WGF/DS 1	Scott Meltzer	WGF/DS 4
Serena Eisenberg	WGF/DS 9	Mike Moskowitz	WFF 7
Josh Feigelson	WGF/DS 14^	Naftuli Moster	WFF 3
Jacob Feinspan	WFF 1	Bailey London Nakelsky	WFF 2
Shir Meira Feit	WGF/DS 29	Avi Narrow-Tilonsky	WGF/DS 20*
Sue Fendrick	WGF/DS 2	Lev Meirowitz Nelson	WGF/DS 21
Michelle Fisher	WGF/DS 10	Danny Nevins	WGF/DS 2
Rebecca Fletcher	WGF/DS 9	Kim Newstadt	WFF 7
Erica Frankel	WFF 3	Andrew Oberstein	WGF/DS 29
Rachael Fried	WFF 4	Daniel Olson	WGF/DS 27*
Shoshana Boyd Gelfand	WGF/DS 1	Asher Oser	WGF/DS 16
Jonah Geller	WFF/WGF 27	Steven Philp	WGF/DS 28
Alex Glassman	WGF/DS 25	Esther Reed	WGF/DS 9
Vicky Glikin	WGF/DS 20	David Rosenberg	WGF/DS 1
Elliot Goldberg	WGF/DS 4	Jennie Rosenfeld	WGF/DS 14
Molly Goldmeier	WGF/DS 32*	Rebecca Rosenthal	WGF/DS 16
Jen Goldsmith	WFF 2	Wendy Rosov	WGF/DS 6
Steven Green	WGF/DS 22*	Sivan Rotholz	WGF/DS 31*
Nadine Greenfield-Binstock	WGF/DS 15	Jonathan Rudnick	WGF/DS 4
Nicki Greninger	WFF 3	Liz Sacks	WGF/DS 15
Penina Grossberg	WGF/DS 5	Lani Santo	WFF 4
Shira Hammerman	WGF/DS 19*	Josh Satok	WGF/DS 28*

Ivy Schreiber	WFF 7
Jonathan Schreiber	WGF/DS 5
Yoni Schwab	WFF 2
Irine Schweitzer	WGF/DS 2
Ahud Sela	WGF/DS 14
Jared Skoff	WGF/DS 33*
Justin Rosen Smolen	WGF/DS 23*
Abby Sosland	WGF/DS 6
Jon Spira-Savett	WGF/DS 3
Howard Stecker	WGF/DS 1
Adam Strater	WGF/DS 28
Stephanie Tankel	WFF 1
Lucy Tannen	WGF/DS 1
Valerie Thaler	WGF/DS 8

* Denotes Davidson Scholar

^ Denotes one-day participants

Staff

Elka Abrahamson	
Samantha Flanagan	
Dara Katzner	
Or Mars	WGF/DS 6
Jay Moses	WGF/DS 5
David Russo	WGF/DS 19
Trisha Taylor	
Ruthie Warshenbrot	WGF/DS 23*
Stefanie Zelkind	WGF/DS 16
Tali Zelkowitz	WGF/DS 15

Raquel Ukeles	WGF/DS 9
Lewis Warshauer	WGF/DS 5
Josh Waxman	WGF/DS 11
Matt Weintraub	WFF 4
Adam Weisberg	WGF/DS 2
Naomi Korb Weiss	WGF/DS 21*
Sharon Weiss-Greenberg	WGF/DS 20*
Melissa Werbow	WGF/DS 12
Sara Wolkenfeld	WFF 6
Aki Yonekawa	WGF/DS 26*
Roderick Young	WGF/DS 7

Past Foundation Staff

Cindy Chazan

William Davidson Foundation

Shana Teig Kantor	WGF/DS 15
Senior Program Officer, Jewish Life	

Who Knows One?

Micah Hart
Creator and Host

M² The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education

Kiva Rabinsky
Deputy CEO and Chief Program Officer

Shuki Taylor
Chief Executive Officer and Founder



Yossi Abramowitz

WGF/DS 3

Jerusalem, Israel

yosefa@aol.com

Yosef Israel Abramowitz is the co-founder of the solar industries in Israel and Africa, was nominated by 12 African countries for the Nobel Peace Prize and has been named by CNN of one of the six leading Green Pioneers worldwide. Yossi made Aliya to Kibbutz Ketura in the Arava Desert with his wife, Rabbi Susan Silverman, and their five children, and now lives in Jerusalem. He was part of the official Israeli delegations to the Paris, Glasgow, Sharm el Sheik and Dubai Climate Conferences, serves on the Israeli Presidential Climate Forum and is co-chair of Shamsuna, a Bedouin-Jewish climate justice initiative. He was recently re-elected to the leadership of Life & Environment, co-developed Gaza's only solar field and is creating now an NGO strategy for his Africa and Palestinian endeavors. Prior to making Aliya, Yossi was honored with the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education for spearheading major initiatives such as MyJewishLearning.com, birthrightisrael.com, InterfaithFamily.com, BabagaNewz, Sh'ma and a dozen other projects. Yossi has been active on a wide range of political and social issues and his family's story is chronicled in his wife's ""Casting Lots: Raising a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World.""



Naomi Adland

WGF/DS 25 - Davidson Scholar

Washington, DC

nadland@gmail.com

Naomi currently works as Director of Operations for the Aviv Foundation. A program and operations professional with 15+ years of nonprofit experience, Naomi is an analytical thinker, a creative and empathetic colleague, and an aficionado of the blog Things Organized Neatly. Outside of work, Naomi enjoys tending her expanding collection of houseplants, reading omnivorously, and hiking and biking in the DC area.



Julie Pelc Adler

WGF/DS 13

Evanston, IL

juliepelcadler@gmail.com

Rabbi Julie Adler earned master's degrees from the University of Judaism and from Harvard Graduate School of Education and was ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in 2006. She co-edited the anthology, *Joining the Sisterhood: Young Jewish Women Write Their Lives*, published by SUNY Press and published essays and articles in *Spirituality and Health*, *Lilith*, and *Reform Jewish Magazine*, as well as *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*, *Midrash and Medicine: Healing Body and Soul in the Jewish Interpretive Tradition*, and *Torah Queeries: Weekly Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible*. After ordination, Rabbi Adler served as the Assistant Director of the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health; the Executive Director of the Brit Milah Program of Reform Judaism; and the Director of Jewish Student Life at Santa Monica Community College in Los Angeles. Over the last decade she has served mostly non-denominational and multi-denominational congregations in and around Chicago, IL. Most recently, Rabbi Adler completed graduate training in counseling psychology at Adler University, earning an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She works as a psychotherapist and lives in Evanston, IL with her family.



Ilana Aisen

WGF/DS 20 - Davidson Scholar

Ontario, Canada

ilana@ilanaaisenconsulting.com

From 2016-2024, Ilana served as CEO of JPro, which joined with Leading Edge at the beginning of 2025. During her tenure, JPro served professionals from over 2,000 Jewish communal organizations with professional development and networking opportunities and developed the sector's flagship professional conference. Ilana's career began at American Jewish World Service, she was part of the founding staff team at Repair the World, and immediately prior to joining JPro, she worked at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Ilana holds master's degrees in Nonprofit Management and Judaic Studies from New York University and is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars program and Leading Edge's CEO Onboarding program. Ilana serves on the Board of Yahel Israel, an organization that engages individuals and organizations in responsible and sustainable volunteering in Israel alongside local community members.



Wendy Amsellem

WGF/DS 13

New York, NY

wamsellem@yahoo.com

Wendy Amsellem – Class XIII Wendy Amsellem is a faculty member of Yeshivat Maharat and Drisha Institute. She has a BA in History and Literature from Harvard University.



Deena Aranoff

WGF/DS 11

Berkeley, CA

daranoff@gmail.com

Deena Aranoff is the Faculty Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She teaches courses on Jewish society and culture in the medieval and early-modern context. Her interests include rabbinic literature, medieval patterns of Jewish thought and the broader question of continuity and change in Jewish history. Deena is also an active community educator and teaches Bible, Rabbinics and Jewish thought in a variety of adult education programs in the Bay area and beyond.

Deena's first book is out: *Mother's Milk: Essays on Childrearing, the Household and the Making of Jewish Culture* (Indiana University Press).



Robin Axelrod

WGF/DS 8

Ann Arbor, MI

robin.axelrod@gmail.com

Robin is the Founder of Axelrod Coaching & Consulting, which supports individuals and organizations in reaching their maximum potential through professional coaching and consulting services. She is also a co-founder at Boon, providing comprehensive solutions for employers and employees alike. Robin's coaching focuses on evoking profound transformation, both large and small. She coaches individuals, teams, and other coaches to increase engagement, productivity, and resilience. Her consulting services focus on leadership training, effective communication, managing difficult conversations, staff and board development, successful supervision and mentoring, and workplace satisfaction. In addition to consulting and coaching, Robin is a Holocaust educator with a particular focus on the uses and misuses of Anne Frank's image and legacy in education and contemporary culture. Her proudest contributions to the Jewish people are her children, both of whom are actively engaged in Jewish life and Israel advocacy.



Rachel רחל Sabath Beit-Halachmi

WGF/DS 3

Pikesville, MD

RShabbat@gmail.com

Rachel is a rabbi, scholar, Jewish institutional leader, and sought-after public speaker. Rachel is the inaugural Senior Rabbi of Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation in Baltimore, MD. Prior to this role, Rachel taught at Hebrew Union College where she was appointed Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics and led a four-campus team for recruitment and admissions. For nearly 15 years, Rachel served as Vice President of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and - for over a decade - as a member of the Institute's faculty while directing international leadership programs for Rabbis, Christian leaders, as well as senior officers of the IDF. Ordained in New York in 1995, Rabbi Sabath earned a PhD at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She has also taught courses at HUC in Jerusalem and New York and for 13 years served Congregation Shirat HaYam on Nantucket as well as serving several Reform and Conservative congregations. She co-authored two books and published dozens of articles, and for several years she wrote a monthly column for the Jerusalem Post. Rachel served on the editorial board of the CCAR Journal of Reform Judaism and serves on the Responsa Committee. She is also at work on a new theology of Jewish Peoplehood.



Tzvi Benoff

WGF/DS 31

Bergenfield, NJ

tzvibba@gmail.com

Rabbi Tzvi Benoff, originally from Bergenfield, New Jersey, is the Assistant Rabbi at the Riverdale Jewish Center, Instructor of Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University, and member of the Kollel L'horaa at RIETS. He graduated magna cum laude from Yeshiva College with a BA in Mathematical Economics and History, before which he studied for two years in Israel at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh. He also holds an MA with distinction in International Political Economy from Fordham University.



Sarah Bunin Benor

WGF/DS 11

Los Angeles, CA

sbenor.huc@gmail.com

Sarah Bunin Benor - Class XI. Sarah is Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and Linguistics at Hebrew Union College (Los Angeles campus). She teaches about Jewish languages and names to rabbinical students and linguistics and Jewish studies to undergrads at USC. She has published academic articles on sociolinguistics, Jewish languages, and American Jews. Her books include *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* (2012) and *Hebrew Infusion: Language and Community at American Jewish Summer Camps* (2020). She is founding co-editor of the *Journal of Jewish Languages* and founding director of the HUC Jewish Language Project, which runs the Jewish Language Website (www.jewishlanguages.org) and the Jewish English Lexicon. She hosts two podcasts: *Heritage Words* and *Peer Review*. Sarah and her husband, Mark, enjoy spending time with their three teenage and young adult children, Aliza, Dalia, and Ari.



Ben Berger

WFF 5

Washington, DC

bberger@hillel.org

Rabbi Ben Berger is Senior Vice President for Jewish Education, Community, and Culture at Hillel International. Ben began his career in Hillel, first as a JCSC fellow at Cornell University, then as a Berman Fellow at University of Michigan. Following ordination at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in 2009, he returned to Hillel as Senior Jewish Educator at The Ohio State University Hillel. His next career move was to The Wexner Foundation, where he co-founded the Wexner Service Corps program, an initiative to inspire Columbus Jewish teens to service and then became director of the Wexner Heritage Program, an unparalleled initiative to build inspired volunteer leadership throughout the North American Jewish community. In 2020, he was honored as the alumnus of the year from his rabbinic alma mater. He, his wife Rachel and their four incredible daughters live in Washington, DC.



Rachel Berger

WFF 1

Philadelphia, PA

rachberger@gmail.com

Rachel has dedicated her career to building Jewish organizations that serve the underserved, advance justice, and deepen the connections between Jewish communities and their neighbors. As the Director of Community Engagement at Footsteps, which supports and affirms those making the transition from within ultra-Orthodox communities to the secular world, Rachel oversaw Footsteps' community building and leadership programs, large scale and public events. She also managed Footsteps' foundation relationships. Rachel completed her MSW at Columbia University, with a concentration on social enterprise administration, and her BA in Fine Art at Stern College. Previously, she worked at Bend the Arc. In her role as the Director of Grantmaking, she managed Bend the Arc's grants program that supported grassroots organizations nationally, with a special focus on the Louisiana Gulf Coast, post Hurricane Katrina. As part of that role, Rachel also sat on the board of the Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing. Today, Rachel lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Joshua Frankel, and their daughter, Nella. Rachel was a 2011-12 Dorot Fellow and is a trained soferet.



Audrey Marcus Berkman

WGF/DS 15

Newton, MA

rabbiamb@gmail.com

Rabbi Audrey Marcus Berkman is the Senior Rabbi of Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, MA, where she has served since 2017. Previously, she was Director and Rabbi of Wellesley College Hillel, Chaplain/Rabbi at Center Communities of Brookline (part of Hebrew SeniorLife), and Rabbi of Shir Hadash, a Reconstructionist Havurah. She has served on the faculty of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel. She writes poetry and is an accomplished singer. Audrey is passionate about music, about humor (in the tradition of her great-great grandfather, Sholom Aleichem), about Israel and Hebrew (and Hebrew poetry, especially Amichai), theology (especially Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, and Franz Rosenzweig), and about providing support and spiritual accompaniment throughout the lifecycle, being present with all who seek connection to Jewish tradition and community during moments of joy and moments of sorrow. Audrey seeks to engage Jews of all backgrounds with Jewish community, text and tradition, by bringing our individual lives and stories into conversation with the Jewish story. She lives in Newton, MA with her husband Rabbi Jethro Berkman (WGF 15) and their 3 sons (one is a McGill U student) and 2 rescue dogs.



Jamie Bornstein

WGF/DS 18

Sharon, MA

james.bornstein@gmail.com

After 20+ years as a Jewish professional, mostly in fundraising roles, Jamie founded Jamie Bornstein Consulting (www.JamieBornstein.com) in 2025, focused on helping fundraisers succeed. Given the field's extremely high turnover rates, Jamie's approach rests on the belief that fundraisers who receive expert support focus on landing new gifts, not new jobs. Before switching to consulting, Jamie was the Chief Advancement Officer at BaMidbar, which supported youth mental health and wellness in the Jewish community. Prior to BaMidbar, Jamie worked for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies for 12 years in various roles, including Senior Director and Director of Marketing and Communications. Jamie also spent six years at Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the Jewish Federation in Boston, working as the Senior Israel Programs Associate and Senior Development Officer of Major Gifts. Jamie was named a Wexner Graduate Fellow in 2005 and received his MBA from Boston University. He earned his BA in Government from Skidmore College. Both he and his wife, Carrie, spent the 2005-2006 academic year studying in the Pardes Year Program. Jamie and Carrie live in Sharon, Massachusetts, with their three children and Muchacha the Whoodle.



Shua Brick

WGF/DS 30

Oakland, CA

brick.shua@gmail.com

Shua Brick is on the Jewish Studies Faculty and Student Life Team at the Jewish Community High School of the Bay, and Resident Scholar at the Beth Jacob Congregation of Oakland. Originally from West Hempstead, NY, his rabbinic ordination and dual masters in Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Education are from Yeshiva University. Previously the Executive Communications Manager of the Office of the President of YU, and Rabbinic Intern at The Jewish Center.



Ari Brickman

WFF 4

Washington, DC

abbrickman@gmail.com

Ari is the Senior Director of Change Initiatives at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, where she develops strategic initiatives that deepen impact and drive innovation, all in service of building a more vibrant Jewish community in the DMV. With a career rooted in fostering relationships between people(s), Ari has worked to create accessible, inclusive, and thriving communities. That commitment took shape early on at Encounter Programs, where she designed and implemented programming at the intersection of Jewish identity, community, and North American Jewish engagement with Israel. Ari holds a J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, an M.A. in Coexistence and Conflict Transformation—with a focus on grassroots initiatives and the neuroscience of conflict—from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, and dual B.A.s from Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary.



Nina Butler

WGF/DS 8

Pittsburgh, PA

ninasbutler@gmail.com

Nina Butler - Class VIII Nina Butler directs the Bikur Cholim of Pittsburgh. She continues to be an Independent Consultant, with recent projects including the OU's "Synagogues Reimagined" project in LA; Legacy Heritage Fund's "OnBoard" project—a board training initiative; and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's "Neighborhood-based Teen Mental Health" initiative. Nina has consulted in the fields of communal development and educational reform, as well as disability policy & advocacy. She has developed curricula for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Heinz History Center and Agency for Jewish Learning. She served as National Educational Consultant to the AVI CHAI Foundation. Nina earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Administration & Policy Studies, as well as a Masters Degree in Special Education and another in the Art of Teaching. She has over thirty years of experience with formal and informal education and has lectured nationally and internationally.



Ken Carr

WGF/DS 3

Mansfield, MA

rabbiken@templechayaishalom.org

Rabbi Ken Carr (Class III) has served Temple Chayai Shalom, in Easton, MA, since 2016. He previously served Congregation Or Ami in Lafayette Hill, PA, and Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, CA. He is an active member of the CCAR, serving on and chairing several committees. In his congregational life, he focuses on creating warm and participatory services. He works to provide many opportunities to enhance adult and family education. He helps build the congregational community through engaging programming and congregational Israel trips for both adults and families. He has developed connections with the broader community through involvement in interfaith activities, convening the Easton Interfaith Clergy Council and restarting their Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, as well as participating in multifaith social justice advocacy efforts. Ken's Wexner experience broadened his vision of his rabbinate and the Jewish world. "Through the Fellowship, I gained profound experiences and training I draw on every day. I also met colleagues who remain a diverse source of wisdom and inspiration for me. Most significantly, I got to know Rebecca Meyer, also in Class III. We married in 1993, and have two post-college children, Ari and Hanna."



D'ror Chankin-Gould

WGF/DS 21

Chicago, IL

dror.yitzhak@yahoo.com

Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in 2013. Rabbi Chankin-Gould is a Southern California native. He received his BA in Sociology from Pitzer College in Claremont, California. Subsequently, he went on to serve for two years as the Senior Jewish Campus Service Corps fellow at Columbia/Barnard Hillel focusing on outreach, and inclusion. During that time, he published an article in the "Journal for the Study of the Old Testament" documenting a Feminist recovery of Bathsheba. He also served as editor in chief of "The Hillel LGBTQ Resource Guide", distributed to university campuses around the country. During his tenure at Ziegler, Rabbi Chankin-Gould served as a classroom teacher, retreat director, and curriculum author for Los Angeles Hebrew High. He also served as an education fellow at the Brandeis Collegiate Institute and as the Student Rabbi at Temple Beth Am. Before coming to Anshe Emet, he served as a chaplain at UCLA Medical Center. At Anshe Emet, Rabbi Chankin-Gould works with the youth director, youth tefillah educator, and religious school director to envision and implement education and engagement for youth and families. He also partners with JCFS, the AES Caring Committees, and the AES Inclusion Committee to ensure that all members of our community (and beyond) are supported in their time of need. Rabbi Chankin-Gould is always honored to meet with any individuals or families in order to hear their stories, encourage/guide them in their Jewish journeys, and support them in times of joy and sorrow.



David Chapman

WGF/DS 31

Northbrook, IL

davidfchapman@gmail.com

David Shmidt Chapman's first love was making theater as a catalyst for social change. He received a Fulbright grant to study post-Cold War drama in Hungary and a Henry Luce Scholarship to teach drama at an arts college in Vietnam. After a successful career as a theater director, David found his new vocation in the Jewish social justice world. David's first "Jewish job" was with the grantmaking team of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, helping strengthen its Jewish Life & Values, Israel, Climate Change, and Inequality programs. In 2014, David created and produced PEW-ish, an evening of short plays inspired by the (in)famous Pew Study. He later joined the New Israel Fund, serving as Associate Director for NY/Tri-State. David was Vice President of Cong. Beit Simchat Torah, the country's largest LGBTQ synagogue. He holds a B.A. with Highest Honors from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master's in Nonprofit Leadership from Fordham. A member of the ROI Community, David was named to the Jewish Week's 2017 "36 Under 36" list. A rabbinical student at JTS, David is the student rabbi of Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation. He lives in New York with his husband Jonathan and their son Elior.



Tali Cohen Carrus

WGF/DS 29 - Davidson Scholar

Sharon, MA

talicohencarrus@gmail.com

Tali Cohen Carrus is a Jewish special educator dedicated to advancing accessible and inclusive Jewish education. Based in Sharon, Massachusetts, Tali is the senior director of programs at Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, where she works to empower educators and organizations to support and meaningfully include all children in Jewish life and learning. Tali also oversees Gateways' specialized Hebrew school and b'nei mitzvah program for students whose needs are not met in other Jewish educational environments. She has worked extensively with youth with disabilities across a variety of Jewish educational settings, including day schools, congregational schools, and summer camps. Tali holds an M.S.Ed. in General and Special Education from Bank Street Graduate School, is a certified DIR/Floortime play therapist, and holds a certificate in Advanced Jewish Studies/Day School Education from Pardes. Additionally, Tali is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholarship, and is a 2025 recipient of the Covenant Foundation's Pomegranate Prize.



Frayda Gonshor Cohen

WGF/DS 20 - Davidson Scholar

Berkeley, CA

frayda@gmail.com

Frayda Gonshor Cohen, EdD is a Managing Director at Rosov Consulting. She received her MA and doctorate in Education at Mills College and she studied Talmud and Halakhah in the Scholar's Circle at Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. Frayda has worked in a variety of formal and informal Jewish educational settings. She is also one of the founders of Kevah, where she helped design and implement the Kevah Teaching Fellowship. She lives in Berkeley, California with her husband Rabbi Yonatan Cohen and their four children.



Rachel Cohn

WGF/DS 30

Providence, RI

rachel.b.cohn@gmail.com

Rachel Cohn is the Director of Youth Education and Engagement at Temple Emanuel in Providence, RI. Rachel began her rabbinic studies at the Ziegler School at American Jewish University and is now completing ordination through the Jewish Theological Seminary. Originally from Skokie, IL, she attended Brown University where she received her B.A. in Human Biology. While at Brown, she served as a student representative to the Hillel Board of Trustees and received the Kapstein Family Interfaith Leadership Award for her work with the Multi-Faith Council and Interfaith Youth Core. Rachel went on to receive her M.A. in Teaching from Brown in 2011 and spent three years teaching middle school history at Pacific Boychoir Academy in Oakland, CA. Rachel's love of the outdoors led her to pursue the Adamah Farming Fellowship in 2014. She then spent the following year in Jerusalem, where she received a certificate in Jewish Experiential Education from Pardes and served as an Encounter Fellow.



Maddie Cooper

WGF/DS 31

Brooklyn, NY

madeline.cooper2016@gmail.com

Rabbi Maddie Cooper serves as Director of Learning and Practice at Atra: Center for Rabbinic Innovation. Previously, Maddie served as Manager of Community Cultivation at the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, in partnership with Jewish Federations of North America, where she developed and directed Makom, a new initiative to support innovative leadership in small, rural, and remote Jewish communities nationwide. Maddie is a passionate teacher and community-builder and has also served as an educator for college students and adults in a variety of settings. Maddie received her B.A. from Dartmouth College, where she studied History with a focus on social change. She was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she studied as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Maddie also holds a MA in Jewish Nonprofit Management from the Zelikow School at HUC-JIR. Maddie lives in Brooklyn, NY with her wife Rachel and can frequently be found taking walks in the park, trying new bakeries, or reading about the history of New York.



Beth Cousens

WGF/DS 14

San Francisco, CA

bethcousens@gmail.com

Beth Cousens is known nationally for her vision for a more engaged and authentic Jewish experience. She helps organizations create and adapt projects that meet the opportunities and challenges of 21st century Judaism and that are accessible and rich with Jewish tradition. She has been part of the senior teams at the Bay Area Jewish Federation, the Jewish Federations of North America, and Hillel International. As a consultant, she has worked with dozens of community-based and national organizations on research and initiative design, program evaluation, strategic planning, professional and leadership development, and more. She teaches clients to launch and evaluate experiences that bring participants together and also advance learners' capacities and skills. A master collaborator, she excels at leading teams of philanthropists, lay leaders, professionals, and other diverse stakeholders toward innovation, impact, and change. Beth holds a PhD in the Sociology of Jewish Education from Brandeis University, an MA with honors in Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University, an MSW from the University of Maryland, and a BA from the University of Michigan. She, her husband, and children call San Francisco home.



Josh Cypess

WGF/DS 9

Highland Park, NJ

cypess@cypess.com

Josh has a MA in sociology and a doctorate in Jewish Studies from Brandeis University. Currently, Josh is an independent scholar and community consultant in the areas of sociology of health and religion. Before returning to graduate school, he served for nine years as a pulpit rabbi, first in Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun of Manhattan, ultimately as Assistant Rabbi and then as the rabbi of the Young Israel of New Haven. He is an honors graduate from Princeton University in anthropology and received his Wexner Fellowship for ordination at Yeshiva University. Josh's wife, Rebecca, is The Mordecai D. Katz and Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean of Undergraduate Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Yeshiva University. They and their kids have been living in Highland Park, NJ, since 2012,



Fred Scherlinder Dobb

WGF/DS 6

Washington, DC

rabbifred@aol.com

Newly this year, Fred is the inaugural Director of Climate Partnerships and Advocacy for North America's largest eco-Jewish NGO, Adamah. He's also Visiting Rabbi for the Jewish Community of Kauai, HI, and an eco-Jewish troubadour, while still Rabbi Emeritus at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda MD. He's also a regular contributor to Moment; long-time leader in Interfaith Power and Light and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life; past president of the Washington Board of Rabbis; and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. Fred still writes, speaks, educates, motivates, and consults around climate justice, with a focus on Eco-Mussar -- and is happy to discuss visiting your community, virtually, and/or for a shabbaton! Together with Minna Scherlinder Morse, his pride and joy and key projects are Gilad Martin (11th grade) and Sara Penina (junior at Spelman); they live in DC.



Tammy Dollin

WGF/DS 1

Denver, CO

tamradollin@gmail.com

As a Legacy Community Consultant with the LIFE & LEGACY initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, I have spent the last decade training, motivating, coaching, incentivizing Jewish organizations and communities in North America. Our program just reached the \$2Billion mark in estimated future endowment gifts to Jewish organizations. As a professional coach, I worked with executives and leaders in Jewish non-profit organizations, synagogues, foundations. I was one of 3 founders of Ramah in the Rockies, responsible for project visioning, management and momentum, creating organizational and board structure, strategic planning and fund raising. Consulted w/variety of communal institutions (Federation, Day school, other communal organizations) to research, design and/or implement new programs or models. Designed Hebrew/Israel Immersion program for high schoolers, and consulted in field of moral education and organizational change. Author of L'Chaim: A Zayde Adventure!: Memoir of a Rabbi's Life, published by universe 2008. Co-founder and leader of alternative minyan at Hebrew Educational Alliance. Raised 4 amazing kids and have recently become a Savta!



Serena Eisenberg

WGF/DS 9

Philadelphia, PA

serena.eisenberg@gmail.com

Rabbi Serena Eisenberg is a spiritual guide, author, and nonprofit leadership coach. She currently advises senior Jewish professionals through the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership. Serena worked for American Jewish Committee (AJC), providing national management for regional offices after five years as Director of AJC Northern California, and earlier as Executive Director of Hillels at Stanford and Brown Universities. A member of both the Reform and Reconstructionist Rabbinical Assemblies, she served as President of the Northern California Board of Rabbis and on the executive committee of the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis. A Wexner Graduate Fellow and alumna of the Mandel Jerusalem Fellows and Institute for Jewish Spirituality, she brings decades of leadership, educational, and pastoral experience to her work. Before entering the rabbinate, Serena earned a JD/MSW from UC Berkeley with focus on family welfare advocacy, and a BA in Judaic Studies from Brown University. She lives in Philadelphia with her husband and is the proud mother of five grown sons.



Josh Feigelson

WGF/DS 14

Skokie, IL

jfeigelson@gmail.com

Josh Feigelson is President & CEO of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. He previously served as Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Josh was a founder and executive director of Ask Big Questions, a program of Hillel International which won the inaugural Lippman-Kanfer Prize for Applied Jewish Wisdom in 2016 and was profiled in Oprah Winfrey's O Magazine. He has also served as a Senior Fellow at The iCenter for Israel education and Campus Raabbi of Northwestern University Hillel, where he earned a PhD in religious studies in 2014. Josh holds rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School, as well as a BA in music from Yale University. He is the author of *Eternal Questions: Reflections, Conversations, and Jewish Mindfulness Practices for the Weekly Torah Portion* (Ben Yehuda Press, 2022). His writings have appeared in numerous journals, books, and online publications. He lives with his wife Natalie and their three sons in Skokie, IL.



Jacob Feinspan

WFF 1

Silver Spring, MD

jacob.feinspan@gmail.com

Jacob Feinspan is the Executive Director of Jews United for Justice, which advances economic, racial, and social justice in Maryland, DC, and Virginia by educating and mobilizing our local Jewish communities to action. In his seventeen years at the helm, JUFJ has grown from a staff of two to a team of two dozen and is now a key change-making institution in the region. In recent years, JUFJ has led campaigns to win paid family and medical leave for millions of workers in DC & Maryland, played a key role in winning major policing reforms and protections for renters in Maryland, and new funding for early childhood education in DC. Jacob is a co-chair of the Working Families Party and serves on the Leadership Team of the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable. He also chairs the Collaborative for Jewish Organizing, a network of nine Jewish organizations working on the ground in 16 states and the District of Columbia. Before joining JUFJ, Jacob founded the advocacy program at American Jewish World Service and coordinated anti-poverty advocacy and grant-making at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. He is a graduate of the Wexner Field Fellowship. Jacob lives with his family in Silver Spring, MD.



Shir Meira Feit

WGF/DS 29

Ulster Park, NY

shir.meira@gmail.com

Rabbi Shir Meira Feit is a musician, composer, ritual facilitator, and spiritual director. They have released several solo and collaborative albums of sacred music and has facilitated countless circles of communal ritual and song, helping people of all backgrounds connect with their inner wisdom and joy. Shir worked as a serial spiritual entrepreneur for twenty years in the Jewish Renewal movement and in the Zen Peacemakers Order, co-facilitating their Bearing Witness Retreats in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Today, Shir offers their teachings as an independent educator, musician, and spiritual director, helping others to grow and flourish at the dynamic edge of spiritual emergence. Over the last several years, Shir's work and life have been profoundly influenced by the spiritual practice of parenting three children, as well as the fields of interpersonal neurobiology, somatic psychology, neuroqueer theory, artificial intelligence, and the wisdom of plant medicines. They live near the Mahicannituck (Hudson) River, in New York's Hudson Valley. 4worlds.net



Sue Fendrick

WGF/DS 2

Newton, MA

sue@kruskal.com

Sue Fendrick (WGF 2) is a rabbi, ordained in 1995 at JTSA, and is completing training and certification as a couple/family therapist. She is an editor & editorial consultant, spiritual director, & writer, and her writing appears in numerous books, journals, & online publications. Sue has been a rabbi at American University & Brown University; founding editor of SocialAction.com & managing editor of MyJewishLearning.com; an editorial consultant; and a teacher of and curriculum consultant for adult Jewish education in a variety of settings. She also served as Senior Research Associate at the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis, where she worked on the Initiative on Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy with Jon Levisohn (WGF 10); they are co-editors of Turn It and Turn It Again: Studies in the Teaching and Learning of Classical Jewish Texts (Academic Studies Press). She trained with Peter Pitzele in directing bibliodrama, & taught with him at the Institute for Contemporary Midrash. Sue does a variety of crafts, declutters, & studies comedy improv. She lives in Newton, MA with her husband, Dr. Ben Kruskal. They have five children, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren (and a fourth due b" h one due 2/17).



Michelle Fisher

WGF/DS 10

Brookline, MA

michelle@alumni.princeton.edu

Michelle Fisher is the Executive Director of MIT Hillel, a job that synthesizes her two academic courses of studies. As an undergrad at Princeton University and as a graduate student at MIT, she studied organic chemistry. She was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2002. Before returning to MIT in her current role, Michelle served as a congregational rabbi in Potomac, MD and in Walnut Creek, CA. She also served as a Naval Chaplain Candidate, ministering to Jewish and non-Jewish sailors and Marines. Michelle loves the questioning and exploring that is inherent in the lives of emerging adults on the college campus. She enjoys biking (and unicycling!) and swimming. Since returning to Boston, she has become known in certain circles as “The Wine Rabbi” for her love of good wine and deep knowledge of wine production, wine chemistry, and how wine is discussed in Jewish texts.



Rebecca Fletcher

WGF/DS 9

Carlsbad, CA

rebeccajoyfletcher@gmail.com

Rebecca serves as the first Director of Jewish Life at Coastal Roots Farm near San Diego CA. The farm is a 18 acre regenerative farm and educational center grounded in Jewish wisdom and traditions and welcoming of all. Rebecca -- an ordained cantor, professional actor & theater-maker, experiential educator and climate activist -- started her career as cantor/educator in NYC synagogues and as a creator and performer of new works of Jewish theater. She brought her show Cities of Light to venues around the world. After moving to Chicago, she inaugurated the position of Director of Experiential Jewish Education at The ARK, while acting across the city's many stages and coaching speakers for the ELI Talks and for private clients. Rebecca also became a producer and actor for Climate Change Theater Action and a certified climate coach. Her passion for Judaism, creative expression and play, climate and food justice, and embodied learning are at the root of every challenge she takes on. Rebecca and her husband Alan are thrilled to now live in North County SD and to be closer to their families in LA.



Erica Frankel

WFF 3

New York, NY

e.whitman.frankel@gmail.com

Erica Frankel is the Executive Director of Assembly. Over the past 16 years, Erica has founded and grown five new Jewish initiatives into existence, has touched the lives of over 20,000 Jewish college students, has trained and supported more than 500 rabbis and Jewish educators, and has seeded a thriving Jewish ecosystem in Harlem. Between 2015-2020, Erica shaped Hillel into a movement of Torah by growing the Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) into the largest Jewish educational program on campus. During these years, Erica also helped to found Hillel's Springboard Fellowship and the Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs. Most recently, Erica founded IYUN, a project which builds community through the study of Torah for thousands of adults. Erica and her husband Rabbi Dimitry Ekshtut (WGF 33) build Jewish community in Harlem with their daughters Maayan and Dalia.



Rachael Fried

WFF 4

New York, NY

rfried@jqyouth.org

Rachael is the Executive Director of JQY, a nonprofit that supports and empowers LGBTQ youth with a focus on those from Orthodox, Chasidic and Sephardic/Mizrachi homes. Under her leadership, the formerly volunteer-run organization has grown to a professional one with a team of eight salaried employees, a Drop-in Center in Times Square, and an operating budget of \$2.1 million. She is committed to ensuring that the voices of queer Jewish individuals are heard and celebrated. Rachael received her MSW in Community Organizing from Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University, an MFA from Parsons in Transdisciplinary Design, and a BA in Studio Art from Stern College. A lifelong Jewish camper, she was Division Head, Program Director, and Director of Operations at Camp Nesher. Rachael was named one of The Jewish Week's "36 Under 36" and the recipient of the 2022 JPro Young Professionals Award. Rachael lives in Washington Heights with her wife and their dog.



Shoshana Boyd Gelfand

WGF/DS 1

London, United Kingdom
shoshana123@hotmail.com

Shoshana Boyd Gelfand is a rabbi, author, radio broadcaster and philanthropic advisor to Pears Foundation in London, where she currently serves as Director of Leadership and Learning. Shoshana is intensely involved in interfaith work as a founding faculty member of Faith in Leadership and Visiting Scholar at Sarum College (a Christian theological seminary). She serves on the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) which liaises on behalf of the global Jewish community to the Vatican, World Council of Churches, and other faith bodies. She also is a facilitator for the Aspen Institute UK. Shoshana broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio and presents frequently at conferences on issues around faith, identity and leadership. She chaired the Wingate Literary Prize in 2019 and is herself the author of *The Barefoot Book of Jewish Tales*, *Scholastic's All About Hannukah*, editor of *All Spoons and No Elbows*, and co-author of the forthcoming *The Power of the Vav: Leveraging Polarities in Jewish Life*. Shoshana graduated magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr College and was ordained as a rabbi in 1997 at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where she also received her Doctor of Divinity honoris causa.



Jonah Geller

WFF/WGF 27

Whitefish Bay, WI
jonahgeller74@gmail.com

Jonah is the Chief Impact Officer at the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC in Milwaukee. He previously served as CEO of the JCC in York, PA, and prior to that Jonah spent 22 years working professionally in Jewish camping and retreat centers (CEO of Capital Camps & Retreat Center, Executive Director of Tamarack Camps, and Director of Camp Tel Yehudah). Originally from Pittsburgh, Jonah earned degrees in Journalism, Jewish Studies, and Hebrew from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is a graduate of Jewish Community Center Association's Executive Director Training Program, The Wexner Foundation's Field Fellowship, and Georgetown University's Institute for Transformational Leadership. Jonah is married to Jennifer Noparstak and is the father of three children – Ari, Ezra and Lea.



Alex Glassman

WGF/DS 25

New York, NY

alex_glassman@yahoo.com

Alex Glassman is an independent scholar, originally trained as a Philosopher, Rabbi, and Psychotherapist and Clinical Social Worker. He studied philosophy, along with psychology and classics at the New School for Social Research, while he was technically still a high school student in NYC, and then went on to learn these subjects at the undergraduate and graduate level at Penn, completing a thesis on Kant. He subsequently pursued his interest in psychology, and therapy, and his newfound passion for Judaism, studying clinical social work and its intersection with Jewish thought and humanism, at Yeshiva University, where he ultimately completed the dissertation entitled: "The Two Faces of Adam, Torah, Philosophy, and the Practice of Psychotherapy and Clinical Social Work." This work developed an inclusive, non-reductive, multidimensional model of the person, drawing on an integration of the work of Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik and Dr. Viktor Frankl, and established the foundation for the new paradigm of "Torah-True Torah U'Madda" and the birth of "Torah-Psychology." After learning in yeshivot in Israel for several years, he returned to Y.U. to enter the Rabbinic program and do graduate study in Jewish Philosophy, joining WGF Class 25.



Vicky Glikin

WGF/DS 20

Dallas, TX

vglikin@tedallas.org

Cantor Vicky Glikin has served as Senior Cantor of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas since 2016. Her cantorate has been dedicated to creating change in people's lives through soulful learning, meaningful worship, spiritual engagement, musical participation, and social action. Vicky lived in Ukraine until moving to Illinois at age 13. After graduating Cum Laude from Northwestern University, she worked as an equity analyst. Recognizing that serving the Jewish people was the best way for her to make a difference, Vicky sought a career change. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she received numerous awards in cantorial and rabbinic studies. Vicky has completed a unit of CPE and is an alumna of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Clergy Leadership Program. She was named one of Chicago's "36 Under 36" in 2014. In 2022, she was named "Preston Hollow's Person of the Year" in recognition of her work with Ukrainian refugees in Poland, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She chairs the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) Retirement Board of Trustees and is a member of the ACC Executive Board. She was President of the Reform Cantors of Chicago and a mentor through the ACC and Wexner Foundation.



Elliot Goldberg

WGF/DS 4

S. Orange, NJ

rabbi.elliott.goldberg@gmail.com

Rabbi Elliot Goldberg is the founder of Goldberg Coaching and Consulting, supporting the work of non-profit institutions and the people who work in them. He is a certified leadership coach (CPCC, ACC) with more than two decades of experience in Jewish day schools and a lifetime of summers at Ramah Camps. Elliot is a regular contributor to MyJewishLearning's Daily Dose of Talmud and an occasional co-host of Tov! a podcast about "The Good Place" and Jewish ideas.



Molly Goldmeier

WGF/DS 32 - Davidson Scholar

Providence, RI

mpgoldmeier@gmail.com

Molly Goldmeier is the Managing Director at Brown RISD Hillel, where she is responsible for overseeing all aspects of student engagement, campus life, and strategic initiatives. In her leadership role, Molly supervises the engagement team, drives student programming, and ensures that key metrics and outcomes are effectively reported to the Board of Directors. Her work focuses on creating vibrant, inclusive Jewish experiences that resonate with a diverse student body, helping to foster a dynamic and meaningful campus community. Molly holds both an MBA and an MA from Brandeis University, where she was selected as a Wexner Fellow and a Davidson Scholar. Prior to graduate school, Molly spent 3 years working in the corporate offices of Warby Parker and J.Crew, where she focused on corporate social responsibility, branding, and campaign strategy. As an undergraduate, Molly attended New York University. She spent her summers at Camp Stone, where she served as Head of the Wilderness Program and later as Head of Camp, overseeing staff and creating transformative experiences for campers. Molly is passionate about leveraging her experience in the fashion and corporate sectors to bring fresh, innovative ideas to Jewish life on College Hill.



Jen Goldsmith

WFF 2

New Rochelle, NY

Jennifer.o.goldsmith@gmail.com

Rabbi Jennifer Goldsmith is the Vice President of Education and Visitor Services at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. Born in Cleveland, Ohio and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jennifer received her BA from the University of Michigan and rabbinic ordination and MA in Religious Education from HUC-JIR. Prior to her time at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Jennifer worked at The Jewish Education Project for over a decade concluding her time there as the Managing Director of Professional Learning and Growth where her work concentrated on fostering and spreading educational innovation. She also worked as the Director of Life-Long Learning at Larchmont Temple helping engage families at every age and stage of their Jewish journeys. In her current role, Jennifer works to create impactful learning experiences for all visitors to the Museum. Jennifer lives in New Rochelle, NY with her husband, Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, their two children Lev and Talia and their dog Yofi.



Lily Goldstein

WGF/DS 32 - Davidson Scholar

Evanston, IL

lilysgoldstein@gmail.com

Lily Goldstein is the assistant rabbi at B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (BJBE) in Deerfield, IL. She was ordained in 2023 at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and graduated from Northwestern University in 2016 with a B.S. in Journalism and American Studies. Prior to HUC, was a full-time educator at Central Synagogue. Since beginning school, Lily has spent a summer at Crane Lake Camp, taught religious school for all ages, served as a rabbinic intern in Westchester, NY and Nashville TN, and completed a unit of chaplaincy training at Lenox Hill Hospital. All of these rich experiences have continued to inspire her love of Jewish life in all its forms – whether in a field, a classroom, a Zoom box, a sanctuary, or even a hospital room, Lily loves bringing people together for learning and connection. Lily lives in Evanston with her husband Jacob and their pup Saul, and in her free time, is usually reading a good book.



Steven Green

WGF/DS 22 - Davidson Scholar

Corte Madera, CA

stevenjoshuagreen@gmail.com

Steven Green is a nonprofit consultant and philanthropic advisor. He served as a Senior Director and Senior Program Officer for the Jim Joseph Foundation from 2011 through 2024. His focus included overseeing grantmaking operations, external budget review and analysis, and a portfolio of grants primarily focused on Israel education and engagement and educator training. A native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Steven is an alumnus of YJ Year Course and received his BA in Political Science with a Minor in Jewish Studies from Emory University. He returned to Emory for his MBA in Nonprofit Management as a Wexner Fellow and Davidson Scholar. While in the Atlanta community, he worked at the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast and as the Southeast Regional Director of the Jewish National Fund. Additionally, he has served as a volunteer on several political campaigns and as a lay leader on the Board of Directors for Hillels of Georgia, the CRC and the Israel Professionals Council at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and the Holocaust Center in SF as well as the Board and Finance Committee of Congregation Kol Shofar. Steven and his wife, Alana, reside in Corte Madera, CA with their two sons, Zev and Sasha.



Nadine Greenfield-Binstock

WGF/DS 15

Chevy Chase, MD

nadinegreenfield@gmail.com

Nadine is an accomplished, mission-driven leader with 25+ years of experience in Jewish organizations, focused on board governance, leadership strategy, and organizational development. A trusted advisor to CEOs, board chairs, and senior leaders, Nadine has designed and improved systems that deepen engagement, expand opportunities, grow leadership pipelines, and strengthen fiduciary oversight. Nadine leads with high EQ, effective interpersonal communications, and a deep commitment to the critical board-professional partnership. Nadine most recently served as SVP of Leadership at AJC (American Jewish Committee). In addition to her work on board relations, leadership, and governance, she also managed a strategic assessment and the CEO succession committee. Previously, Nadine was a core member of the founding of the Auschwitz Jewish Center, an educational center for visitors in the town of Auschwitz (Oswiecim). Nadine earned a B.A. from Brandeis University, an M.P.A. from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), and an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University. She is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, a day school board member, and previously served on her synagogue's board.



Nicki Greninger

WFF 3

Walnut Creek, CA

rabbi.greninger@gmail.com

Rabbi Nicki Greninger is Director of Lifelong Learning at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette, CA, where she has pioneered new models of synagogue-based Jewish education. Originally from Denver, Colorado, Rabbi Greninger graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Human Development and Teaching. She was ordained as a Rabbi from the New York campus of HUC-JIR, where she also earned a Masters of Arts in Religious Education. Rabbi Greninger published the widely-used article “Believing, Behaving, Belonging: Tefillah Education in the 21st Century” in the Journal of Jewish Education and authored a chapter on Hebrew education in the book Portraits of Jewish Education. She is a recipient of the Pomegranate Prize for Jewish Education from the Covenant Foundation, and she is one of the co-founders of [#OnwardHebrew](#). Rabbi Greninger is a member of the Presidents Rabbinic Council of HUC-JIR, serves as the Northern California coordinator of the Women’s Rabbinic Network, and has served as a Co-Team Leader of Professional Learning for the Association of Reform Jewish Educators. Rabbi Greninger is married to Dr. Daniel Greninger, and they have three children.



Penina Grossberg

WGF/DS 5

Teaneck, NJ

peninagrossberg@gmail.com

Penina Grossberg (WGF V) is a dynamic educator with expertise mentoring professionals and facilitating leadership development. Penina designed UJA-Federation of NY’s Ruskey Institute for Jewish Professional Leadership, an intensive cohort-based experience to expand the leadership capacity of rising star professional leaders throughout NY’s Jewish nonprofit sector. Penina has mentored hundreds of teachers and Jewish communal professionals and consulted on projects for local and national organizations. She served as principal of a Solomon Schechter day school and director of a Jewish day camp. She developed curricula for Ramah camps and taught for the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. Penina holds an M.A. in Jewish Studies and a Principal’s Certificate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. Penina participated in the Berrie Fellowship for volunteer leaders in Northern NJ. Penina and her partner Matt live in Teaneck, NJ and parent two young adults.



Shira Hammerman

WGF/DS 19 - Davidson Scholar

West Orange, NJ

shirahammerman@gmail.com

Wexner Graduate Alum Shira Hammerman (Class 19) is Director of Faculty Learning at the Jewish Educational Center in Elizabeth, NJ. Previously, Shira coordinated the Quest for Teaching Excellence Program at the Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest NJ and provided teacher support for Etgar Yesodi, an integrated 3rd-5th grade Judaics curriculum that she wrote in partnership with the Davidson School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Shira lives in West Orange, New Jersey with her husband and four children.



Vanessa Harper

WGF/DS 30- Davidson Scholar

Chicago, IL

vmharper18@gmail.com

Rabbi Vanessa Harper serves as Director of Jewish Studies at the Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School in Chicago. She was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2021, where she also received a Masters in Hebrew Literature and numerous awards for academic achievement. During her training for the rabbinate, Rabbi Harper was recognized as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar, a UJA-Federation Graduate Scholar, a Be Wise Jewish Entrepreneurial Fellow, and as one of the New York Jewish Week's "36 Under 36." She received her undergraduate degree magna cum laude from Williams College, and has served as a Jewish educator for preschoolers through adults in various capacities over the last fifteen years. Rabbi Harper is the author of *Loaves of Torah: Exploring the Jewish Year through Challah*, published in 2023 by the CCAR Press; the book is based upon her Instagram-based education project @lechlechallah, which uses challah as an artistic medium for interpreting and teaching Torah and the Jewish calendar. She is passionate about facilitating creative, joyful, and meaningful Jewish learning and living for people of all ages.



Graham Hoffman

WFF 1

Fulton, MD

grahamhoffman@gmail.com

Graham Hoffman is Chief Strategy Officer of Assembly, an innovation laboratory designed to launch, catalyze, and scale new projects to engage Jews in Jewish life. Graham previously served as the President and CEO of Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona. Originally appointed as CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona in 2018, in May 2020, Graham was named President and CEO of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and charged to integrate the two to form the Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona. Graham was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis' Olin Business School, he began his career in consulting at Accenture. Graham was recruited to join Hillel International in 2003 where he found great fulfillment in translating his for-profit consulting skill set to benefit Hillel's unique global platform for transforming next-generation Jewish life. He spent a decade working to dramatically enhance Hillel's engagement and education strategies worldwide, before spending five years as Deputy Director of Development at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) & American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF).



Ilana Horwitz

WGF/DS 26- Davidson Scholar

Stanford, CA

ilana.horwitz@gmail.com

Dr. Ilana Horwitz is an Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology and Chair of Contemporary Jewish Life at Tulane University.



Joe Kanofsky

WGF/DS 11

Toronto, Canada

yossel@prodigy.net

Joe served as an Andrew W Mellon Teaching fellow for Professor Elie Wiesel at Boston University, and earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. His study comparing Franz Kafka and Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav remains unpublished. He worked for several years as part of a team of scholars on the Comparative Religious Ideas Project, a Ford Foundation-funded study published in 3 volumes by the SUNY Press. After earning his rabbinic ordination, Joe assumed the post of Poland Director for the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation. Living in Warsaw, he and his wife Sharona taught and travelled to Jewish communities all around Poland, and organized formal and informal educational programs, while representing the Lauder Foundation at the national and international levels. In 2004, the Kanofskys moved to Toronto, Canada, Sharona's hometown, where they currently live. Joe is the rabbi of Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.



Shana Teig Kantor

WGF/DS 15

Farmington Hills, MI
shanakantor@gmail.com

Shana Kantor is the Senior Program Officer for Jewish Life at the William Davidson Foundation. She joined the Foundation in 2022 and works to support organizations that focus on Jewish identity, leading educators, Israel, and Jewish life. Originally from New York, she has lived in Michigan since 2016. Prior to joining the Foundation, Shana was the Director of Advancement at Frankel Jewish Academy where she oversaw FJA's efforts in fundraising, marketing, communications, and admissions. Before moving to Michigan, she worked as the Executive Director of two campus Hillels – Binghamton and Miami, and at the Schusterman International Center, where she focused on student leadership development. Shana is a recipient of the Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence award from Hillel. It was during her undergraduate years at the University of Virginia that Shana became interested in the Jewish community and communal leadership. After living in Israel and studying at the Pardes Institute, she earned master's degrees in Nonprofit Management and Jewish Studies from NYU.



Rebecca Kaufman

WGF/DS 32

Lawrence Township, NJ
rebecca.kaufman03@gmail.com

Rebecca Kaufman is the Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Beth Chaim in West Windsor, NJ. She also works as an community rabbi in the NJ/NYC/PA area. Before rabbinical school, Rebecca was the Program Director at Amplifier, where she developed workshops and conferences and taught Jewish leaders how to build giving circles. She was a founding member of Echoing Green's Work on Purpose program, where she taught a career development curriculum to hundreds of faculty at universities. Rebecca was raised in New Jersey and received an AB from Princeton University in history focusing on Latin America. She lives with her husband, Tavi, a software engineer and oncology researcher, and their children Ari and Lily.



Shaul Kelner

WGF/DS 8

Nashville, TN

skelner@gmail.com

Shaul Kelner is Professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology at Vanderbilt University, and past chair of Vanderbilt's Jewish Studies department. He specializes in the sociology of American Jews. His book, [*A Cold War Exodus: How American Activists Mobilized to Free Soviet Jews*](#), won 2025 National Jewish Book Award. He also wrote [*Tours That Bind*](#), an award-winning study of how Taglit / Birthright Israel actually works. He is co-producer the American Jewish Historical Society podcast, [*The Wreckage: Open Up the Gates*](#). Shaul received his Ph.D from the CUNY Graduate Center and trained at Brandeis' Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies. He's been a Fellow of Hebrew University Institute for Advanced Studies and the University of Michigan's Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, a visiting scholar in Tel Aviv University, and a board member of the Association for Jewish Studies. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vanderbilt recognized him with an Innovative Teaching Award for Creating Engaging In-Person Learning Environments. (This is partly for his Great Yiddish Bake Off out in the tents.) Shaul is honored to have served for a decade as chair of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship / Davidson Scholars selection committee.



Adena Kirstein

WGF/DS 19 - Davidson Scholar

Washington, DC

adenabk@gmail.com

Adena Kirstein currently serves as the Chief Advancement Officer at the MILTON Gottesman Jewish Day School in Washington, DC. She focuses her days on supporting the school's continued growth in many directions. Before spending her days with PK-8 students, Adena devoted 17 years to the Hillel movement, working with college students to strengthen Jewish life on campus. Most recently, she served as Executive Director at GW Hillel, where she led a \$13.5M capital campaign, more than doubled the organization's budget, and—most importantly—supported thousands of students in their Jewish identity development. Her Hillel career began at her alma mater NYU, following graduate studies at Yeshiva University, where she earned her Master's in Social Work. She also worked at a New York City nonprofit focused on poverty alleviation. A proud Roanoke, VA native, Adena traces her early big questions about Jewish communal life back to her hometown. When not at work, she can be found spending time with her family, running or walking through her neighborhood, working on a book about emerging adulthood, testing new recipes, or finding her next great read at the public library.



Daniel Kirzane

WGF/DS 21

Chicago, IL

daniel.kirzane@gmail.com

Daniel Kirzane is the rabbi of KAM Isaiah Israel in Chicago, IL (in Hyde Park). He was ordained in 2014 through HUC-JIR, where he also earned an MA in Religious Education. He has previously served in pulpits in Oak Park, IL, Overland Park, KS, and Mahwah, NJ. Daniel is the co-chair of the HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council and sits on HUC's Board of Governors. He's the former co-chair of the Wexner Community Coordinating Council and is the vice president of the Chicagoland chapter of the CCAR. Daniel is an alum of the CLAL: Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship and the Religious Action Center's Brickner Fellowship, and he is a T'ruah chaver. He also earned an MA in Divinity from the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he specialized in Hebrew Bible. Daniel's wife, Jessica Kirzane, earned her PhD in Yiddish Studies at Columbia University and is the University of Chicago's Associate Instructional Professor in Yiddish. Together they love to play games, attend the theater, and take long walks.



Addie Lewis Klein

WFF 4

Baltimore, MD

addieklein@gmail.com

Addie is the Executive Director of the Louise D. and Morton J. Macks Jewish Connection Network ("The Network") in Baltimore, Maryland. The Network empowers individuals to explore and deepen their own Jewish journeys--inspiring them to form lasting connections to a diverse, inclusive and vibrant Baltimore Jewish community. Previously Addie was the Chief Leadership and Community Development Officer at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Addie has committed most of her professional career to the Jewish Federation, continually demonstrating her flexibility and creativity by taking on many different roles within the Federation, including fundraising, program delivery and systems management. Addie earned a MA in Jewish Communal Leadership and Near Eastern Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and a BA in cultural anthropology from Haverford College. Prior to her graduate work Addie worked at MIT Hillel in Cambridge, MA. Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Addie now lives in Pikesville, MD with her husband and son.



Fred Klein

WGF/DS 6

Hollywood, FL

fredk44@bellsouth.net

Frederick Klein - Class VI Fred Klein is Director of Mishkan Miami: The Jewish Connection for Spiritual Support at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and the Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami. He holds certification in spiritual/pastoral care from Neshama: The Association of Jewish Chaplains. He grew up in Miami, a graduate of the Hebrew Academy. He earned his BA, magna cum laude, in religious studies from Brown University, and received ordination from Yeshiva University. He holds a Masters in Bible from Yeshiva University, and is completing a doctorate in Jewish history from Columbia University. His dissertation deals with the dynamics of Jewish religious modernization in early nineteenth century Europe. He has lived in Israel for over six years, and until recently worked in the Jewish Federation of Cleveland in the overseas department. He has taught and been involved with the Pardes Institute, Derisha institute for women, Hebrew College of Boston, the Melton program, CLAL, and the Shalom Hartman Institute. His biggest achievement is his four great children- Moshe, Shuli, Benny, and Aryeh. He likes reading, exercising, cooking, good conversations, and good friends.



Andy Koren

WGF/DS 1

Greensboro, NC

rabbiantdy@tegreensboro.org

Andy Koren - Class I Rabbi Andy Koren is Associate Rabbi and Director of Religious Education of Temple Emanuel in Greensboro, NC where he lives with his wife Michal and their children Avishai (b. 1996) & Shiri (b.1997). He was recently voted as Temple Emanuel's Senior Rabbi and will begin in that position at the start of July 2021. For his first ten years as a Rabbi, Andy primarily worked with college students serving as the Director of North Carolina Hillel (1993-1995) and as the Rabbi for the Hillel Foundation at the University of Florida (1998-2003). From 1995-1998, he served as Program Associate for the Wexner Foundation in Columbus, OH concentrating on Jewish leadership development as well as recruitment for the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Program and the fields of Jewish professional service. As a college student at Tufts University, Andy majored in International Relations and focused on Middle Eastern Studies and Israeli Foreign Policy. He was also active in Hillel on the local, regional, and national levels. In 1993 Andy received his ordination from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. In April 2006, Andy traveled to Poland with high school students from his area for the International March of the Living. He has served on the summer faculty of the Union for Reform Judaism's Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA (2004-2009) and the faculty of the URJ's 6 Points Academy in Greensboro, NC (2010-2015); he is currently on the 6 Points Sports Camp Committee. He enjoys playing guitar, golf, and exercising.



Eli (L.E.) Kornreich

WGF/DS 6

New Rochelle, NY

elikornreich@gmail.com

Eli Kornreich - Class VI. Eli is a Jewish Communal Service Fellow (Jewish Professional Leadership) of Class VI. After his undergraduate years at Brooklyn College, Eli completed the dual Masters degree program at Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, earning a Masters of Science in Social Work and a Masters of Arts in Jewish Studies in 1995. Eli has spent his career in the JCC, Federation and Synagogue fields, including serving as President & CEO at The Jewish Center for Community Services [JCCS] of Eastern Fairfield County, a merged JCC-Federation agency located in Bridgeport, CT, Executive Vice President of Lincoln Square Synagogue in NYC, Executive Director of Jewish Community Project [JCP] Downtown in Tribeca, NYC, and currently as Executive Director at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY. Eli, Iva (his wife), and their children Ariella, Talia and Zack live in N.Y.



Julie Lambert

WGF/DS 7

Pinecrest, FL

trilammom@gmail.com

Julie Lambert, MAJE/MAJNM is the Director of Strategic Operations and Leadership at the Union for Reform Judaism. She serves as a part of the Innovation strategy team, where she is using her expertise in professional learning design and facilitation and data driven leadership to coordinate and align the Congregational Engagement and Experience team with URJ wide goals. Julie serves as an adjunct professor at HUC in the School of Education Julie is also a Senior Consultant for the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami as well as a Senior Consultant for Learning Forward (www.learningforward.com). She worked as the Education Director of Temple Judea in Coral Gables for seven years Julie graduated from Northwestern University with a B.A. in Comparative Literature and a certificate in Jewish Studies. She holds a Joint Master's Degree in Jewish Education and Non-Profit Management from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.



Sari Laufer

WGF/DS 14

Sherman Oaks, CA
slaufer@wisela.org

Rabbi Sari Laufer is the Chief Engagement Officer at Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles. A cum laude graduate of Northwestern University (Go 'Cats!) Rabbi Laufer was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles in May 2006. Her published works have appeared on Kveller.com, MyJewishLearning.com, and ReformJudaism.org, and she was the rabbinic advisor for the Kveller Haggadah. Rabbi Laufer is a teacher of those young and young-at-heart, bringing her passion for rabbinic texts and Judaism's wisdom and relevance in the 21st century into the lives of those with whom she is privileged to learn and to share. Rabbi Laufer is a prolific Tweeter (@rabbilaufer), avid indoor-cyclist, and aspiring epicure. She now lives "in the Valley" with her husband Ben and two children, Jacob and Orli.



Stephanie Levin

WFF 4

Florence, MA
sblevin@gmail.com

Stephanie Levin is the Managing Director of Beloved Garden as well as the Executive Director of the Community Hevra Kadisha of Greater Boston. Stephanie is also the founder and principal at Ampersand Consulting Solutions. Stephanie previously served as the CEO of the New Orleans JCC and the Chief Engagement & Innovation Officer at the Peninsula JCC. Stephanie holds a B.A. in Women's Studies from Mills College and is a certified End of Life Doula. She is a graduate of the Tikea Fellowship for Jewish Teen Educators and a recipient of the Helen Diller Award for Excellence in Informal Jewish Education. Stephanie serves on the Board of Shalom Bayit: A Jewish Response to Domestic Violence. Born in Chicago, IL and raised in San Diego, CA, Stephanie currently lives in Northampton, MA.



Josh Levine

WFF 1

Santa Barbara, CA

josh_levine@me.com

Josh Levine is Executive Director of Santa Barbara Hillel. Previously, he was Vice President for the Brandeis-Bardin Campus of American Jewish University, Executive Director of Camp Alonim, and Executive Director of Herzl Camp. Josh is a graduate of the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Executive Leadership Institute, and has received training in creating memorable Jewish experiences from the JCC Association and M2: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education. Josh has degrees from Brown University and UC Berkeley Law School. He was a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs and an American Jewish Committee Goldman Fellow, worked as an attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, and served as a federal law clerk at the trial and appellate levels.



Jon Levisohn

WGF/DS 10

Newton, MA

jon.levisohn@post.harvard.edu

Jon A. Levisohn is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Associate Professor of Jewish Educational Thought at Brandeis University. He also serves as Director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education. A native of Boston, he came back to town in 2002 after completing his graduate studies at Stanford University. He has also studied at the Hebrew University, the Shalom Hartman Institute, Harvard University, and Yeshivat Sha'alvim. He lives in Newton with his wife Emily Beck in their empty nest (sometimes visited by three children and their partners), and is an active member of Cong. Shaarei Tefillah and Minyan Yedid Nefesh. He teaches in the community, consults to Jewish educational organizations, and has served in advisory capacities for JCDS, Gann Academy, CASJE, NRJE, Encounter, OneTable and Atra. He served for several years on WexCoCom, which he co-chaired for two years (2016-2017). In 2018-2022, he moderated "How We Lead," a series of about 30 sessions in which a member of the Wexner Professional Fellowships community shared their leadership experiences with a small group of trusted colleagues -- and looks forward to re-launching "How We Lead" in 2026.



Danna Livstone

WGF/DS 9

East Windsor, NJ

drlivstone@gmail.com

Danna Livstone - Class IX Danna (Kalkstein) Livstone received her doctorate in Jewish Education from JTS in 2011. Her thesis focused on parents' recollections of the synagogue school experience and how those memories connected to their decisions regarding the Jewish education of their children. While doing her doctoral work, Danna was the Director of Education at Temple Israel & JCC in Ridgewood, NJ from 2001-2003. Before Wexner, Danna served in a joint position at Vassar College and Temple Beth El in Poughkeepsie, NY where she served as Advisor to Jewish Students at the College and Youth Director/USY Advisor at the synagogue (1992-1996). Since moving to Central New Jersey in 2003, Danna has consulted, mentored, advised, and taught in a variety of settings. She has led the Tot Shabbat program at Beth El Synagogue in East Windsor, NJ since 2008 and was the interim education director from August, 2018-July, 2019. She is a program evaluator for Rosov Consulting, a program assistant at her local JFCS, and an advisor in JCYF, a Jewish youth philanthropy program. Danna is married to Mike Livstone. They live in East Windsor and have two children, Yoni (age 23) and Ariella (age 21).



Nate Looney

WFF 5

Los Angeles, CA

natedlooney@gmail.com

Nate Looney is the Director of Community Safety and Belonging at Jewish Federations of North America, where he leads national strategy to strengthen security, inclusion, and resilience across Jewish communities. His leadership is grounded in crisis experience from military service during Hurricane Katrina and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He joined the U.S. Army National Guard in 2003, serving as a military police soldier while attending Dillard University, and participated in Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts and a 2008 Iraq deployment. In 2025, he coordinated emergency evacuations for LGBTQ+ Jewish mission to Israel, guiding participants safely through a rapidly evolving situation. A recipient of the Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award, Nate is an American Jewish University graduate, entrepreneur, and urban farmer. He serves on President Isaac Herzog's Voice of the People Council, is a trusted commentator in Jewish and national media, and is a Wexner Field Fellow, Jeremiah Fellow, and Bend the Arc Selah alum. Through his work, he advances measurable, systemic change, shaping a future where Jewish communities are safe, inclusive, and resilient. Nate is a committed lay leader focused on strengthening Jewish society.



Asher Lopatin

WGF/DS 5

Huntington Woods, MI
rabbiasherlopatin@gmail.com

Asher Lopatin - Class V Asher is the Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. He is the founding rabbi Kehillat Etz Chayim of Detroit and was the Founding Executive Director of the Detroit National Center for Civil Discourse. He was the President of YCT Rabbinical School and before that the rabbi of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago. He received his ordination from Rav Ahron Soloveichik and from Yeshiva University in New York and holds an M.Phil. in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford University as well as a BA in International Relations and Islamic Studies from Boston University. His doctoral work at Oxford University has been on Islamic Fundamentalist attitudes toward Jews. He is married to Wexner Fellow Rachel Tessler Lopatin (Class III) and together they have four children. Asher is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Rachel Lopatin

WGF/DS 3

Huntington Woods, MI
RTesslerLopatin@aol.com

Rachel is the Communications Manager at Farber Hebrew Day School. Additionally, she spends a lot of time as the "Rebbetzin" of Kehillat Etz Chayim and as a volunteer matchmaker on the website, Saw You At Sinai.



Ann Luban

WGF/DS 4

Chicago, IL
annluban@sbcglobal.net

Ann is the Senior Director of Community Services at JCFS Chicago where she supervises a team of professionals who provide support and education to the Jewish community on issues including abuse prevention, addiction, adoption, bereavement, infertility, and mental health. Previous positions include the Director of Recruitment for the Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies at Spertus and at the Council for Jewish Elderly as a Clinician and as the Director of Holocaust Community Services, an interagency program serving the needs of Holocaust survivors and their families. She is a founding board member of Chicago Jewish Day School, teaches adult Jewish education in her local community and has served on the Executive Boards of the Jewish Communal Service Association and Anshe Emet Synagogue. Ann has published journal articles and a book chapter and has presented at numerous conferences locally, nationally and internationally.



Michelle Lynn-Sachs

WGF/DS 6

Montclair, NJ

michelle.lynn@nyu.edu

Dr. Michelle Lynn-Sachs founded Spotlight Consulting and Coaching to help Jewish non-profits shine through customized leadership development, coaching, and strategic consulting. As a professor at JTS and then at the HUC-JIR, Michelle taught and mentored students on the path to careers as rabbis, educators, and cantors. As a consultant and coach, Michelle has coached and guided both lay leaders and professionals throughout the Jewish community, helping people become the leaders they dream of being, so they can help their organizations achieve their most ambitious and boldest vision. Before founding Spotlight, Michelle held consulting, faculty, and senior leadership positions at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Experiment in Congregational Education, and Holy Blossom Temple. Michelle is a proud alumna of Brown University (AB), the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-JIR (MAJE), and New York University (PhD). She completed the coach training program at the Coaches Training Institute. Michelle is the Chair of the Wexner Field Fellowship.



David Manchester

WGF/DS 29 - Davidson Scholar

Cambridge, MA

djmanchester@gmail.com

David Manchester is the Senior Director of Community Data and Research Development at JFNA. In his role, he supports local communities use data to improve their impact. He is currently leading JFNA's Emergency Israel Survey program looking at American Jewish Life Following Oct 7. This work was the first to measure and name the Surge in Jewish life and continues to explore what these individuals are looking for. He previously was the Associate Director of Impact Assessment and Learning at the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), Greater Boston's Jewish Federation. Additionally, he is a Ph.D. candidate in social policy at Brandeis University and a Berman Fellow in Jewish Socio-Demographic Studies. David completed Masters' degrees in Public Policy and Jewish Professional Leadership as part of the Hornstein Program and received his BA in International Affairs from American University's School of International Service. He previously lived in Washington, DC where he began his career as a legislative assistant for Hadassah's Washington Action Office. David lives in NJ with his wife and son.



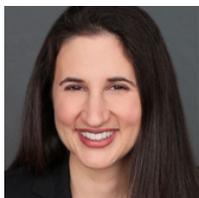
Karen Martin

WGF/DS 33

Columbus, OH

kesingerman@gmail.com

Karen Martin serves as Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Columbus, OH. Prior to rabbinical school, Karen was Executive Director at Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati, OH. During her time at Rockdale Temple, Karen modernized systems grew and supported her staff team, and helped to found shabbatCTY, a joyful and itinerant Shabbat experience in Cincinnati's urban core. She also served on the Board of Cincinnati Hillel. Previously, Karen worked as Assistant Director of Metro Chicago Hillel and was Director of the Lewis Summer Internship Program (LSIP) for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. During her time in Chicago, Karen also taught religious school for many years at Anshe Emet Synagogue. Karen has a M.A. in Jewish Professional Studies from the Spertus Institute of Learning and Leadership, a M.A. in the Humanities from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. from Kenyon College where she majored in English and Creative Writing.



Lesley Matsa

WFF 1

Evanston, IL

lesley.said@gmail.com

Lesley Matsa is Chief Operating Officer at Mem Global, leading finance, development, operations, human resources, and marketing. She joined Moishe House from Honeymoon Israel, where she was Chief Strategy Officer. Prior to that, she served for 12 years as Program Officer for Jewish Giving at the Crown Family Philanthropies. Her previous work experience includes strategic planning for non-profit organizations as a Consultant at Wellspring Consulting, management consulting work in the for-profit sector, and engaging young adults as Program Coordinator at UC Berkeley Hillel. Lesley holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a Bachelors degree with highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley. Lesley is a recipient of the JJ Greenberg Award, awarded to one foundation professional internationally each year for extraordinary leadership in Jewish philanthropy.



Scott Meltzer

WGF/DS 4

San Diego, CA

scottymeltz@hotmail.com

Rabbi Scott Meltzer serves as rabbi of Ohr Shalom Synagogue in San Diego. He is also a Lecturer in Religious Studies at San Diego State University. Scott served for many years as a chaplain with the San Diego Police Department, is a past President of the San Diego Rabbinical Association, past Chairperson of San Diego's Joint Synagogue—United Jewish Federation Committee, and a member of the Jewish Education Leadership Council of the United Jewish Federation. Previously, he served as the founding Dean of Students and Residential Life at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to that, he was Director of Education of The Brandeis-Bardin Institute (BBI) and director of its renowned program, the Brandeis Collegiate Institute (BCI). Before BBI, Scott worked at the University of Southern California, assisting in courses in the Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Mythology, Western Literature and Ethics. He has also served congregations in Los Angeles, Santa Maria, California and Butte, Montana, as well as a hospital chaplaincy in New York City. Scott graduated and was ordained through the Hebrew Union College. He also served as an Intern with the Israel Ministry of Justice while studying in Jerusalem. He was part of the first graduating class at the San Diego Jewish Academy. After graduating high school in San Diego, he earned a BA with honors in Chemistry from Harvard University before attending rabbinic school. He also holds a master's degree in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California. He lives in San Diego with his wife Jennifer, their daughter Shayna, son Nativ, daughter Maital, daughter Yael, and their dog Tikkun.



Mike Moskowitz

WFF 7

New York, NY

moskowitzva@yahoo.com

Rabbi Mike Moskowitz is the Director of Scholarship and Multifaith Engagement at The Beacon. For the past seven years he served as the Scholar-in-Residence for Trans and Queer Jewish Studies at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the world's largest LGBT synagogue. Rabbi Moskowitz received three Ultra-Orthodox ordinations while learning in the Mir in Jerusalem and BMG in Lakewood, NJ. He is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow at the Hartman Institute and the author of *Textual Activism, Graceful Masculinity, Seasonal Resistance, and Ancestral Allyship*. His newest book, *Inviting Order*, will be out in the Spring. Rabbi Moskowitz's writings can be found at www.rabbimikemoskowitz.com.



Naftuli Moster

WFF 3

Teaneck, NJ

naftulimoster@gmail.com

Naftuli Moster is the founding executive director of Shtetl: Haredi Free Press, a media platform for and about the Haredi community. Prior to founding Shtetl, he founded and led Young Advocates for Fair Education (Yaffed), the first and only organization in America to address the lack of secular education in hundreds of Yeshivas across New York State and beyond. Having attended Hasidic Yeshivas from age three to twenty, he experienced the lack of secular education firsthand, along with its dire consequences. This inspired him to seek systemic change in Yeshivas to ensure that future generations don't struggle the way tens of thousands of children and adolescents currently do. He has been recognized as a fearless leader in the Jewish non-profit world. He was named in the Jewish Week's "36 Under 36" and in the Jewish Daily Forward's "Forward 50."



Bailey London Nakeslsky

WFF 2

Overland Park, KS

baileyklondon@gmail.com

Bailey Nakelsky is the Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City. With a career dedicated to community building and organizational growth, Bailey brings a strategic and passionate approach to nonprofit leadership. Her deep commitment to fostering meaningful connections and advancing impactful initiatives has been evident throughout her tenure in the Jewish nonprofit sector. Bailey's professional and leadership experience spans more than two decades, including roles at Hillel from 2013 to 2024. She has served as Executive Director of the University of Southern California Hillel, Associate Vice President of Leadership Giving at Hillel International, and Interim Executive Director of KU Hillel. Prior to her work with Hillel, she led engagement and philanthropic initiatives at the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County as Assistant Director of Women's Philanthropy and Director of Next Gen Initiatives. Bailey's academic background includes studies at the University of Arizona, Hebrew Union College, and the University of Southern California. She and her husband, Josh, live in Overland Park, Kansas with their two kids.



Avi Narrow-Tilonsky

WGF/DS 20 - Davidson Scholar

Jerusalem, Israel

avint2@gmail.com

Through his work in resource development at JDC Avi is privileged to connect people with opportunities to help Jews around the world. Prior to moving to Israel, Rabbi Avi Narrow-Tilonsky helped create and directed a program introducing Jewish learning to 1100 parents of day school children across America, called the Kohelet Fellowships, through Yeshiva University. He also served as the interim Rabbi of Congregation Ahavat Achim in Fair Lawn New Jersey. Avi received rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and a master's degree in public administration from Baruch College. Besides his work at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Avi is a certified family financial advisor, an active volunteer, and enjoys biking the hills of Jerusalem.



Lev Meirowitz Nelson

WGF/DS 21

Brooklyn, NY

lev.nelson@gmail.com

Lev is currently Director of Scholarship at Sacred Spaces. Previously he led the education department at T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights for 11 years, and also tried his hand at teaching middle school. In addition, Lev has been the part-time rabbi of the Flatbush Jewish Center since 2015. He was ordained at Hebrew College in 2013 and holds a BA in geology from Brown University. Lev lives in Brooklyn with his wife and three kids.



Danny Nevins

WGF/DS 2

New York, NY

rabbidanielnevens@gmail.com

Danny is author of Torah and Technology: Circuits, Cells, and the Sacred Path, a collection of responsa. He has been named Senior Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue, starting in July 2026. Previous positions include Head of School at Golda Och Academy in West Orange, NJ, Pearl Resnick Dean of the JTS Rabbinical School and Division of Religious Leadership, and senior rabbi of Adat Shalom Synagogue, a congregation in the suburbs of Detroit. Danny grew up in northern NJ, where he attended the Frisch Yeshivah High School, then studied at Yeshivat HaMivtar in Jerusalem. He earned his bachelor's degree at Harvard College in Middle Eastern history, after which he attended JTS Rabbinical School, receiving his MA and rabbinic ordination. In addition to his work as a congregational rabbi, rabbinical school dean, and head of school, Danny has taught at JTS and in many conferences, congregations, campuses and camps. He writes responsa for the RA Committee on Jewish Law and Standards on subjects of contemporary Jewish law, especially on technology, bioethics, disabilities, personal status, and sexuality.



Kim Newstadt

WFF 7

Cincinnati, OH

knewstadt@thejewishfoundation.org

Kim Newstadt guides priorities for learning and innovation at the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati. She leads emergent learning, creates participatory processes to define community needs and builds opportunities for field-building and experimentation. As the project lead for the 2019 Cincinnati Jewish Community Study, Kim worked closely with Brandeis University, Jewish agencies and local leaders to explore the applications of data to inform strategies and investments. In response to emerging needs, Kim launched Reflect Cincy, a pool of grant funding for new and innovative ideas to spark meaning and connection to Jewish life. The Reflect Cincy Creative Team embodied a participatory grantmaking model, in which those most affected by funding decisions influence how dollars are granted. Within her career in philanthropy, Kim has worked at the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Museum of Art and University of Southern California. She is a graduate of Upstart's Change Accelerator program and is a recipient of the 2021 Harris and Alice Weston Junior Avodah Award. Kim finds joy in raising two spirited daughters with her husband and fostering connections through the arts as a dancer and painter.



Andrew Oberstein

WGF/DS 29

Boston, MA

andrewoberstein@gmail.com

Rabbi Andrew Oberstein serves Temple Israel of Boston's dynamic clergy team as the Director of the Riverway Project, connecting thousands of 20s/30s to each other and to Judaism. Previously, Rabbi Oberstein served Temple Israel of Boston as a Rabbinic Intern and, prior to rabbinical school, as Coordinator for Social Justice and Young Adult Engagement. As a student at Hebrew Union College, Rabbi Oberstein was honored as a Wexner Graduate Fellow, a T'ruah Rabbinical Student Human Rights Fellow, and an ARZA Fellow. He worked as a Rabbinic Intern at Columbia/Barnard Hillel and completed a unit of chaplaincy training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Before shifting his focus to the Jewish community, Rabbi Oberstein found his home in the theater, working as a professional actor in a variety of plays and musicals across America. While you won't find him on stage anymore, this passion inspired his rabbinic thesis, "Welcome to Falsettoland: The Intersection of Jewish and Queer Identity in Late 20th Century American Theater." Originally from Los Angeles, Rabbi Oberstein holds a BFA in Musical Theater from Emerson College and an MA in Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College. He lives in Boston with his shih tzu, Muki.



Daniel Olson

WGF/DS 27 - Davidson Scholar

Port Chester, NY

daniel.adam.olson@gmail.com

Dr. Daniel Olson is the Assistant National Director at the National Ramah Commission. His work has focused on a wide range of topics including Mental Health support, disability inclusion, Israel education, and day camps. He completed his PhD in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU in 2020 and wrote his dissertation about Birthright Israel trips for young adults with developmental disabilities. He received the Harold Wechsler award for emerging scholars from the Network for Research in Jewish Education. He lives with his husband Rabbi Ben Goldberg in Port Chester, NY.



Asher Oser

WGF/DS 16

Hong Kong, China

asheroser@gmail.com

Born in Sydney - serving as a Rabbi in Hong Kong 2010.



Steven Philp

WGF/DS 28

New York, NY

stevenmphilp@gmail.com

Steven Philp is the Associate Rabbi at Mishkan, a radically inclusive Jewish spiritual community in Chicago. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Steven was ordained in 2019 by the Jewish Theological Seminary. Steven also received his M.St. in Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford in 2016, his M.Div. and M.S.W. from the University of Chicago in 2014, and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Southern California in 2010, where he received a B.F.A. in Studio Art and a B.A. with Honors in English (Creative Writing) and International Relations. He is currently pursuing his doctorate at the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership. While a student at JTS, he served as a rabbinical intern for the University of Maryland Hillel and Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the LGBTQ synagogue of New York City. Following ordination, he served as the Rabbinic Fellow for Park Avenue Synagogue. Steven grew up in California and Hawaii, in the Christian tradition. He became passionate about interfaith work while in college, a path that eventually led him to join the Jewish people.



Esther Reed

WGF/DS 9

Highland Park, NJ

esther.reed@gmail.com

Rabbi Esther Reed currently works as Chief Operating Officer at Rutgers University Hillel. She was ordained as a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2001 and also received a master's degree in Jewish Women's Studies at that time. Prior to her enrollment at JTS she served as the Jewish Campus Service Corps fellow at Tufts University Hillel. She is also a graduate of Bryn Mawr College. She and her husband live in Highland Park, NJ, and they have three sons, Isaac, Sammy, and Jonah. In October 2022 she testified before a congressional committee about antisemitism on campus.



David Rosenberg

WGF/DS 1

Chicago, IL

davidmarkrosenberg@gmail.com

David M. Rosenberg serves as Director of Jewish Educational Studies and Orthodox Community Liaison at JCFS Chicago. He directs the JCFS Knapp Yeshiva (a therapeutic school). He is a member and past co-chair of the JWI Clergy Task Force on Domestic Abuse. Since 2007 he has been teaching adult education classes for Florence Melton and privately. He is a member of the Chicago Rabbinical Council and Chicago Board of Rabbis. David received his BA from Yale University and an MS and rabbinical ordination from Yeshiva University. He is married to Frances Locke Rosenberg, a certified nurse-midwife, and has four children and four grandchildren. He enjoys listening to a wide variety of music, playing clarinet, and chess.



Jennie Rosenfeld

WGF/DS 14

Jerusalem, Israel

eishlavan@hotmail.com

Rabbanit Dr. Jennie Rosenfeld teaches and writes about issues of Judaism and sexuality and answers halakhic questions. Currently, she teaches gap-year students at MTVA, is writing a book of responsa on Judaism and sexuality through Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, and writes responsa for the Meshivat Nefesh website (a project of Beit Hillel). Previously, she served for five years as the Manhiga Ruchanit (female spiritual leader) in Efrat, where she also directed the rabbinical court for financial matters. She completed the Susi Bradfield Women's Institute for Halakhic Leadership program at Midreshet Lindenbaum and received permission to issue halakhic rulings ("heter hora'ah") from Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Rav Shuki Reich. She holds a PhD in English from the CUNY Graduate Center, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She co-authored Et Le'ehov: The Newlywed's Guide to Physical Intimacy (Gefen 2011; Hebrew translation 2013). She lives with her family in Jerusalem.



Rebecca Rosenthal

WGF/DS 16

New York, NY

RPRosenthal@gmail.com

Rabbi Rebecca Rosenthal is the Director of Youth and Family Education at Central Synagogue, where she oversees programming for families and children of all ages, including the May Family Nursery School, LCLJ, teen programming and family programs. Prior to Central, Rabbi Rosenthal was the Director of Children and Family Education at IKAR in Los Angeles, and before that she held positions at Congregation B'nai Zion in El Paso, TX and at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City. Rabbi Rosenthal received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and was ordained as a rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2009. She also received a master's degree in Jewish education and was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She lives on the West Side with her husband, Dr. Adam Arenson, a professor of American History at Manhattan College, and their three children, Simon, Leo, and Maddie.



Wendy Rosov

WGF/DS 6

Berkeley, CA

wendy@rosovconsulting.com

Wendy Rosov is Founder and Principal of Rosov Consulting, a multinational, mission-driven, full-service research, evaluation and metrics company dedicated to empowering Jewish leaders to make data-informed decisions. Wendy brings more than 25 years of experience as a senior-level consultant to individual philanthropists, community and family foundations, and Jewish communal nonprofit organizations throughout North America, Israel, and other Jewish communities world-wide. Wendy holds a PhD in Education from Stanford University and a BA from Barnard College. She is a proud graduate of 12 years of day school education and spent nearly 10 summers attending or working at Ramah camps. She is married to Dr. Peg Sandel, Head of School at Brandeis Marin, and is the proud parent of two grown kids - Talya in Jerusalem and Gaby in Santa Cruz.



Sivan Rotholz

WGF/DS 31 - Davidson Scholar

Brooklyn, NY

sivan.sf@gmail.com

Rabbi Sivan Rotholz is the Director of Adult Education and a Rabbi in the Center for Exploring Judaism at Central Synagogue. Called to serve others by making Judaism more joyous and accessible, her expertise includes adult education, creative midrash, work with conversion students, exploring Judaism, gynocentric Torah, and poetry. She always opts for discussion facilitation rather than frontal lecturing, believes in the power of hevrutah — studying in pairs or small groups — and learns most when teaching. Sivan is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, the Froman Fellowship with the New Israel Fund, the year-long Hartman Institute Rabbinic Seminar, and Atra: The Center for Rabbinic Innovation. Sivan lives in New York City with her two children, Aidan Avishai and Elsie Dani.



Jonathan Rudnick

WGF/DS 4

Prairie Village, KS

rabbi@jfskc.org

Jonathan Rudnick - Class IV After receiving an MA in International Affairs as well as Jewish Communal Service, I reached my dream of working for JDC in the Former Soviet Union, based in Israel. convinced that Jewish education is the glue that holds all of the different pieces of the Jewish communal puzzle together, I focused on education as a fellow at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership in Jerusalem. Having reached the understanding that I needed adult Jewish education in order to contribute to the field of jewish education, I decided to study for the rabbinate at The Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. The experience of rabbinical school exposed me to the wonderful field of chaplaincy/spiritual care, and I was privileged to begin work as a full-time chaplain at Shaare Zedek Medical Center. This work was part of a program called B'Ruakh, for the development of spiritual care in healthcare frameworks in Israel. At present I have the privilege of serving as Jewish Community Chaplain in Kansas City. years ago, following a tough health year for my father, we decided to move here temporarily from Israel to be near my parents. Drawing on important Wexner mentoring guidance about the need to keep Jewish families together, this move to be near family has been a defining part of my personal and professional life. Though I miss Israel greatly, I have had the naheh of continuing to see the growth of spiritual care in Israel through my involvement as chair of the board of "B'Ruah – By Spirit", the non-profit organization I founded in 2004. I am so blessed to be Abba to Shefer (yo), SHir-el (yo), and Sagi (yo).



Liz Sacks

WGF/DS 15

Denver, CO

sacks@emanueldenver.org

Rabbi Elizabeth Sacks serves as Senior Rabbi and CEO of Temple Emanuel Denver. Together with Senior Rabbi Emily Hyatt, she is the first woman to lead Temple Emanuel's Reform Congregation in its 150-year history. Rabbi Sacks first joined Temple Emanuel in 2012 as Cantor/Educator. From 2012-2015, she designed and developed the learning and engagement team at Temple Emanuel, overseeing innovative family engagement initiatives, creating an adult learning vision, and piloting the position of Director of Learning and Engagement. In 2016, she became the Senior Cantor of Temple Emanuel Denver, and in 2023, the Temple Emanuel Board of Trustees appointed her as a CEO of the congregation. In 2024, Rabbi Sacks and Rabbi Hyatt were chosen to be Senior Rabbis of Temple Emanuel Denver. Raised in New York, Rabbi Sacks was ordained as a cantor in 2007 by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and is a rabbi through Shalom Hartman Institute Rabbanut North America. From 2007-2012, she was the Associate Cantor at Central Synagogue in New York. Sivan lives in New York City with her two children, Aidan Avishai and Elsie Dani.



Lani Santo

WFF 4

Brooklyn, NY

lani@footstepsorg.org

Lani Santo is the CEO of Footsteps, which supports, affirms and advocates for individuals and families who chose to leave ultra-Orthodox communities in their quest to lead self-determined lives. The successor to Footsteps' founder, Lani has driven the organization's growth from a 3-person start-up with a \$400,000 budget in 2010 to an established 501c3 with 30 staff, a program center in Manhattan with remote services across North America, and a \$5 million annual operating budget. Prior to Footsteps, Lani served as a Senior Program Officer at American Jewish World Service, where she focused on immersive international service-learning experiences for young adults. Lani is an alumna of Avodah's Jewish Service Corps and served on the Avodah board from 2004-2013. She is a member of WFF Class 4, sits on the Advisory Councils of Upstart and Unchained at Last, and was named to The Jewish Week's '36 Under 36' list in 2015. Lani graduated from Barnard College and holds an MPA in Public and Nonprofit Management from NYU's Wagner School. Lani is also passionate about song as an outlet for personal expression, healing, and community building. Lani lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Nathan and two children, Ronen and Ziva.



Josh Satok

WGF/DS 28 - Davidson Scholar

New York, NY

joshsatok@gmail.com

Josh Satok works as a Consultant for JCamp 180 at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, where he works with camps across North America. Previously, he was the Senior Lead, Strategic Planning and Grants in the Jewish Life department at UJA Federation of New York, focused on grantmaking in New York City, including camps, teens, young adults, Jewish and Israel education, social justice initiatives, diversity, as well as working on community relations and safety, giving circles, and more. He's the biggest fan of Jewish camp, having worked at Camp Kadimah, in Nova Scotia, Camp Ramah in Canada, and as the Senior Assistant Director of URJ Kutz camp, the Reform movement's teen leadership camp in Warwick, NY. He's worked in a wide variety of Jewish organizations, including UJA Toronto, JFNA, and the American Hebrew Academy, among many others. He earned an MBA in Nonprofit Management and an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership at Brandeis University, and a bachelors in Religious Studies at Yale University. A proud Canadian and native Torontonian, he now lives on the Upper West Side of New York City.



Ivy Schreiber

WFF 7

White Plains, NY

ivygschreiber@gmail.com

Ivy Schreiber serves as the Managing Director, Professional Learning and Innovation, at The Jewish Education Project, where she leads the team that supports Jewish educators across early childhood, congregational and independent learning, and teen engagement. Her current work concentrates on building capacity for change, and promoting and advancing educational innovation through consulting, grant leadership, and facilitating educator networks and workshops. Ivy's decade of experience as the Education Director at B'nai Jeshurun, a large, innovative NYC congregation, positions her to guide educators as they articulate their vision and implement change initiatives. Ivy received a BA from Brandeis University in Psychology, and a MA in Jewish Education from The Davidson School at JTS. Ivy serves as a VP on the Executive Committee at Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY and as a member of the Advisory Committee at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack. In her spare time, Ivy enjoys travel, Settlers of Cattan, Peloton, and the comfort of a good book. Ivy lives in Westchester, NY with her husband and three children.



Jonathan Schreiber

WGF/DS 5

Studio City, CA

jonathanschreiber@sbcglobal.net

Jonathan Schreiber, Cedars-Sinai's Vice President, Community Engagement, leads the health system's efforts to improve access to care and prevention of chronic disease in targeted underserved areas in the local community. These efforts encompass the medical center's major school-based programs in mental health services and nutrition education, its pediatric mobile medical unit, as well as all efforts focused on community health improvement programs for adults. Jonathan founded and directs the hospital's Community Benefit Giving Office, which grants \$20M-\$30M annually in the areas of access to care, housing and homelessness, and civic engagement. Jonathan also leads Cedars-Sinai's Corporate Social Responsibility program ranging from environmental sustainability and employee volunteerism to supplier diversity and impact investing efforts. On the internal side of the medical center's operations, Jonathan is charged with directing Cedars-Sinai's Volunteer Services and Spiritual Care, both of which are deeply integrated into the medical center's care delivery system. His team also created a Social Determinants of Health screening program for the hospital that has connected thousands to community-based resources across CSHS.



Yoni Schwab

WFF 2

Bronx, NY

yonischwab@shefaschool.org

Yoni Schwab, PhD, is the Assistant Head of School at the Shefa School in Manhattan, the first and largest Jewish day school in the world for children with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities. As a member of the 3-person founding team, he has been involved in every aspect of the school since its launch in 2014. He is also a clinical psychologist in private practice and is on the adjunct faculty of Ferkauf Graduate School of Yeshiva University. He is a sought-after presenter and consultant on a range of topics, including ADHD, anxiety, limit setting, learning disabilities, and the effects of technology on youth. Yoni holds BA's from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned his doctorate in clinical psychology at Rutgers University. He lives in Riverdale, NY, with his wife (a teacher) and has 3 children.



Irine Schweitzer

WGF/DS 2

Providence, RI

irinemsw@gmail.com

Irine Schweitzer - Class II. I am entering a new phase of life. I planned to make aliyah a year ago, and actually spent a year in Israel getting my feet wet and setting myself up for moving, but found out that Hashem had something else in mind for me. My mom had an emergency surgery, I came out to be with her and realized that she can no longer manage by herself. So, after living in Los Angeles for the last 30 years, and after spending a year living in Israel, I had moved back to Providence, Rhode Island. In addition, after being married for 27 years, I am no longer. The silver lining of living on the east coast is that I get to see my granddaughter, my son, my daughter and daughter in law fairly often. Being a grandmother has been the greatest experience in my life and I treasure every moment. I feel extremely grateful for being able to take my private practice with me, to be part of a warm, welcoming albeit a small Jewish community, to have the time and the freedom to learn, volunteer, enjoy culture, work on my relationship with Hashem and be there for my mom.



Ahud Sela

WGF/DS 14

Granada Hills, CA

ahudsela@hotmail.com

Ahud Sela - Class XIV Ahud Sela is the rabbi at Temple Ramat Zion in Los Angeles, and the President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California. Ahud was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 2007 and also received a masters degree in bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania in 2007. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a B.S. in biochemistry/molecular biology and a minor in Jewish Studies. There he met his wife Alisha, a preschool director, and they now have three children, Yael and Gavi (21 year old twins) and Eitan (17 years old). Ahud's interests include working on environmentally friendly projects, social action, bioethics, and the writings of the chassidic masters.



Jared Skoff

WGF/DS 33 - Davidson Scholar

Saint Louis, MO

jskoff17@gmail.com

Jared Skoff is the assistant rabbi at Congregation B'nai Amoona in St. Louis, MO. Before moving to St. Louis, he served on the clergy of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, CA. Jared also spent a decade working for Camp Ramah, where he served as National Program Director and staff supervisor for Ramah Wisconsin's Tikvah program, supporting neurodiverse campers and young adults. Born and raised in Cleveland, Jared is proud to be a 4th generation Ohioan. He and his wife Karen are the proud parents of Ana, a 4th generation St. Louisan.



Justin Rosen Smolen

WGF/DS 23 - Davidson Scholar

Maplewood, NJ

justin.rosen86@gmail.com

Justin Rosen Smolen is Vice President for Thriving Communities and Partnerships at Reconstructing Judaism where he oversees movement initiatives supporting nearly 100 congregations worldwide and build partnerships to advance a deeply rooted, boldly relevant, and co-creative approach to Jewish life. Justin previously served as Director of Jewish Emergent Network where he led collaboration and strategy across seven pioneering communities throughout the United States to spark innovation in Jewish spiritual life. Justin also served as National Director of Youth Programs at Keshet, where he expanded leadership programs and partnerships to support LGBTQ Jewish youth, and as Associate Director for Community Based Teen Initiatives at The Jewish Education Project, where he advised a collaborative of funders launching new teen initiatives across the country. He has also consulted to a variety of organizations on inclusion, innovation, and strategy. Justin holds an MPA in management and an MA in Jewish Studies and is an alum of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. He lives in northern New Jersey with his partner and their two children.



Abby Sosland

WGF/DS 6

Bronx, NY

abbysosland@gmail.com

Rabbi Abby Sosland is an educator, writer and spiritual advisor based at The Leffell School in Westchester County, New York. She started the first free High Holiday service for unaffiliated downtown New Yorkers, featured in New York Magazine and The New York Times. She has contributed to a variety of sites and podcasts and has taught around the country as well as in Israel, Canada, Poland, and Russia. Her teaching aims to integrate serious text study with personal spiritual experience, and she tries not to shy away from even the most difficult or embarrassing subjects. Check out her ELI talk on Shameless Judaism.



Jon Spira-Savett

WGF/DS 3

Nashua, NH

spirasavett@yahoo.com

Jonathan Spira-Savett has been serving as rabbi of Temple Beth Abraham, a 260-member congregation in Nashua, New Hampshire, since summer 2008. Jon was ordained at JTS in 1995 and also received an M.A. in Jewish education. He has worked since 1993 with Jewish teens in day and supplementary schools. Jon has helped spur forward the Jewish teen philanthropy movement since 2000, through his own initiatives in New York and New Hampshire, and as a consultant for a couple years for the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's B'nai Tzedek initiative and the Jewish Community Foundation of Phoenix. Jon was a faculty member in Jewish and American Studies, Special Programs Coordinator and Director of Programs at the Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island, and Associate Head of School for Judaics, Student Life and the Arts at the Weber School in Atlanta. Jon has been a supervisor and mentor for students at the Davidson School at JTS and the Institute for Informal Jewish Education at Brandeis. He is past president and a current Board member of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council, and part of the Interfaith Housing Justice group in Greater Nashua. Along with several Wexcolleagues and others, Jon co-hosts a podcast exploring teshuvah and Jewish ethics in connection with "The Good Place", called "Tov!" (tovgoodplace.com). Jon is also one of the organizers of "How To Be President", an initiative to ask better questions of candidates in the primary and general election between now and November 2020 (howtobepresident.org). Jon reflects that waiting until mid-career before becoming a congregational rabbi turned out to be a wise decision. He's fascinated by the challenge of envisioning meaningful Jewish engagement and community in a new century for Jews outside the major population centers, who exemplify all the major sociological trends. Jon maintains a website, blog, and small podcast collection at rabbijon.net. He's the husband of Laurie and father of three kids ages 24, 20, and 15.



Howard Stecker

WGF/DS 1

Great Neck, NY

hastecker@gmail.com

Since 2003, I've been the senior rabbi of Temple Israel in Great Neck, NY, a diverse, multi-generational congregation. I've served as president of my local Rabbinical Assembly, volunteered in a number of capacities at the local Solomon Schechter, and spent numerous summers working at Camp Ramah. I'm interested in formal and informal Jewish education, synagogue transformation, and relationships between Jews of different ethnic backgrounds. I'm married to Deanna, an educational coach and consultant for Jewish day schools, and we have three sons and one grandson.



Adam Strater

WGF/DS 28

Waukee, IA

strater.adam@gmail.com

Adam was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and he holds a PhD in Hebrew Bible from Emory University. Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Adam earned a BA in Philosophy and Religion from Buena Vista University, a MA in Jewish Studies from the Graduate Theological Union, and a MA in the Bible and Ancient Near East from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem before beginning doctoral work. Adam's academic work integrates Hebrew Bible scholarship and Jewish Ethics. While writing his dissertation, Adam began working toward rabbinic ordination at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Adam is an officer in the US Army Reserve, where he serves as a Chaplain.



Stephanie Tankel

WFF 1

Washington, DC

stankel@whctemple.org

Stephanie Tankel serves as the Director of Lifelong Learning at Washington Hebrew Congregation. She joined WHC in 2009 as Assistant Director of Religious School Education and became the Director in 2014. Prior to her arrival in Washington, DC, Stephanie was the Principal Educator at The West London Synagogue of British Jews in London, England. She also worked as Director of Education at Finchley Progressive Synagogue and at the Movement for Reform Judaism while in the United Kingdom. Previously, Stephanie was the Family Educator at Central Synagogue in New York City. She also currently serves as the Course Coordinator for "Bridging the Great Divide," an online course exploring the intersection of Judaism and Islam at American University. She earned master's degrees in Jewish education and modern Jewish studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and earned a bachelor's degree in comparative literature, Hebrew, and Jewish studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She and her husband live in Northwest DC with their three kids (and two hermit crabs).



Lucy Tannen

WGF/DS 1

Marlborough, MA

lucytannen@gmail.com

Lucy Tannen is retired and enjoying the world of volunteerism. Currently a Patient Navigator with Metro West JFS, she takes elders to their medical appointments and takes notes on what the Dr. says during their appt. Caregivers and Drs. are thrilled to have someone write down what is said and what is needed in the future. I am delighted to meet new people and new doctors. Lucy also continues to teach Sunday School and volunteer at JFS. As background, Lucy received her first master's degree from Cornell University in the field of educational evaluation and her second Master's was in Jewish Education at Brandeis University where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Lucy has taught public school, been the principal of a Jewish supplemental school, and was the Head of the Lower School at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston. She was also the Head of The Eliot Montessori School in Natick, MA for seven years. Lucy was Dean of Students at JCDS: Boston's Jewish Community Day School. Prior to retiring, she was Dean of Students at an innovative, project-based learning, Orthodox girls' high school. A particular professional joy is the use of Montessori techniques and teachers in Jewish education.



Valerie Thaler

WGF/DS 8

Reisterstown, MD

valthaler@gmail.com

Valerie is currently the Mid-Atlantic District Synagogue Consultant for USCJ, and has been in this position since July 2023. In this role, she provides leadership development resources and guidance to 80 Conservative synagogues in New Jersey and Eastern PA. She also serves as the USCJ liaison to the Rabbinical Assembly's Social Justice Commission. Valerie is trained as a modern Jewish historian and educator with expertise in curriculum design, Holocaust education and adult learning. After teaching at the college and high school levels, between 2018 and 2023 she worked for two Baltimore area synagogues as an executive director. Valerie lives in Reisterstown, MD, with her husband Alex, and 18-year-old daughter Sabrina. Valerie holds a PhD from Yale in Religious Studies (concentrating in 20th C. American Jewish history) and MA in Jewish Communal Service/Education and Judaic Studies. Valerie is currently completing a book with Broadview Press in Canada entitled Solving the Puzzle: A Student's Guide to Historical Research and Writing, which draws on her teaching experience at the college level. Anticipated publication is Spring 2025.



Raquel Ukeles

WGF/DS 9

Jerusalem, Israel

rukeles@gmail.com

Raquel Ukeles, PhD, is the Head of Collections of the National Library of Israel; from 2010-2020, she was Curator of the Islam and Middle East Collection. Ukeles is responsible for the overall development of all the Library's collections and for digital, cultural and educational initiatives based on the NLI collections as well as in partnership with other institutions. She is the chief editor of 101 Treasures from the National Library of Israel (2023). A New York native, Ukeles received her BA from Princeton (1993) and MA and PhD from Harvard University in 2006, all in comparative Islamic and Jewish studies. She also studied Jewish law in Jerusalem and New York, and Islamic law and Arabic in Egypt, Morocco and the Netherlands. She has published and taught on a wide array of subjects related to Jewish intellectual history, Arab-Palestinian culture in Israeli society, Jewish and Islamic traditions, and the role of national libraries today. She currently lives in Jerusalem with her husband and three children.



Lewis Warshauer

WGF/DS 5

New York, NY

lewiswarshauer@gmail.com

I'm an independent Jewish studies adult educator based in New York, giving home-based and virtual seminars.. Topics include Bible, Talmud, philosophy and midrash. I have a special interest in works of art that depict Bible characters and episodes. Much of my teaching in the last few years has been focused on Israel and the Mideast, which was my public policy career area before I started rabbinical school at Jewish Theological Seminary.



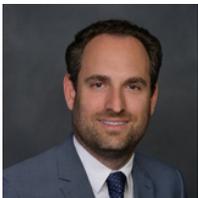
Josh Waxman

WGF/DS 11

Glen Rock, NJ

rabbi@bethrishon.org

Joshua Waxman - Class XI Josh graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia in 2003 and is the rabbi of Temple Beth Rishon in Wyckoff, NJ. From 2004-2019 he served as rabbi of Or Hadash in Fort Washington, PA where he is now Rabbi Emeritus. He has taught in the Department of Biblical Civilization at RRC and served as President of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia. Josh lives in Glen Rock, NJ with his wife, Aimée, and their beautiful children, Tzvi, Yael, and Adir.



Matt Weintraub

WFF 4

Sherman Oaks, CA

mweintraub@vbs.org

Matthew Weintraub is the Executive Director of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, CA, one of the largest Conservative synagogues in the country. Prior to VBS, Matthew served as the Associate Executive Director of IKAR, a progressive, social justice-focused Jewish spiritual community in Los Angeles. Matthew previously served as Director of Marketing and Communications at Temple Aliyah and Shalhevet High School, and Director of Talent Development at Professional Leaders Project. Prior to transitioning to the nonprofit sector, Matthew held positions at Cornerstone OnDemand (software), Loeb & Loeb (law firm) and Bragman Nyman Cafarelli (PR). He's been involved as a lay leader in the Jewish community, specifically focusing his time and efforts on Jewish education, Jewish camping, and social and economic justice issues. Matthew is an alumnus of the Progressive Jewish Alliance's Jeremiah Fellowship. Matthew recently served on BJE's NextGen and Marketing Visibility committees, and as a board member for the IBD Support Foundation. Matthew received an MBA from the Graduate School of Non-Profit Management at American Jewish University with a focus in Social Entrepreneurship, and a B.S. in Business from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife LeeAnn, a registered dietitian, and his two wonderful children Noah and Madeleine.



Adam Weisberg

WGF/DS 2

Berkeley, CA

adamlweisberg@gmail.com

Adam is the Executive Director of Urban Adamah. He previously served as Director of the Diller Teen Initiatives. Prior to that, Adam served as Camp Tawonga's executive director from 2008-2011 and as Berkeley Hillel's executive director from 2000-2008. Additionally, Adam has worked in a variety of roles in the Jewish community including with the Council of Jewish Federations in New York, the Jewish Agency in Israel and two years with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Bulgaria.



Naomi Korb Weiss

WGF/DS 21 - Davidson Scholar

West Orange, NJ

naomikweiss@gmail.com

Naomi Korb Weiss is Principal and Founder at NKW Strategies, where she partners with and advises nonprofits and foundations on strategy, program design, organizational effectiveness, leadership development, and board governance. Before founding NKW Strategies, Naomi served as Associate Director at TCC Group, a national social sector consulting firm, and spent six years leading strategic planning and capacity building engagements and growing her team's portfolio and staff. Previously Naomi was CEO of the PresentTense Group – an international nonprofit focused on training and mentoring social entrepreneurs – where she led the organization through a period of strategic growth over five years, expanding into other markets. Before that, Naomi managed training and leadership development at the Foundation for Jewish Camp and JEXNET, and served as Special Assistant to the President at Hillel's International Center. Naomi earned her MBA in Strategy and MPA in Nonprofit Management from NYU's Stern School of Business and Wagner School of Public Service, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Naomi holds a B.S. in Marketing and Rhetoric from the University of Maryland. She sits on the boards of the Jewish Fertility Foundation and M2.



Sharon Weiss-Greenberg

WGF/DS 20 - Davidson Scholar

Boca Raton, FL

sharonweiss@gmail.com

Sharon is the Manager of Resource Development at the ANU Museum of the Jewish People, Chairperson of Magen, and a fundraising consultant. Formerly, she served as the Director of Education Partnerships at My Jewish Learning. The Jewish Forward has named her as a "Forward 50" Jew of influence and the Jewish Week designated her as a person to watch as a "36 Under 36" honoree. Sharon has held various professional roles, including Director of Recruitment at Yeshivat Maharat and Rosh Moshava (Head of Camp) at Camp Stone. Sharon has served as the co-director and of the Orthodox Union Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus at Harvard Hillel and as the first Orthodox woman chaplain at Harvard University. She has taught at Yeshiva University High School for Girls, Yavneh Academy in New Jersey, and Denver Academy of Torah. Sharon earned her doctorate at New York University in Education and Jewish Studies. She studied Talmud and halakha at The Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. She received her Master's in Education and BA in Sociology and Jewish History from Yeshiva University.



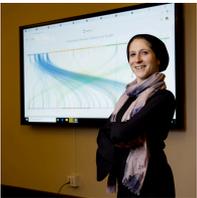
Melissa Werbow

WGF/DS 12

Washington, DC

melissawerbow@gmail.com

Melissa Werbow graduated from Hebrew Union College with a master's degree in Jewish Education and a master's degree in Jewish Communal Service. In Los Angeles, she served as the Director of Religious School at Stephen S. Wise Temple. In Pittsburgh, she taught Melton Adult Education programs and was a consultant for area Religious Schools through the Agency for Jewish Learning. In Sarasota, she served as the Director of Jewish Learning at the Hershorin Schiff Community Day School and designed and taught On One Foot a community introduction to Judaism class. She now lives in Washington, DC where she wears many hats, including the Education Director at Hill Havurah, a member of the IYUN team and an educator with the Jewish Learning Collaborative. She is particularly interested in discussing the finer points of being a rabbinic family, the best quilting stores in DC and what novel she should read next.



Sara Wolkenfeld

WFF 6

Washington, DC

sara@sefaria.org

Sara Tillinger Wolkenfeld is the Chief Learning Officer at Sefaria, an online database and interface for Jewish texts. She is passionate about expanding Jewish textual knowledge for all. Sara also serves as Scholar-in-Residence at Ohev Sholom Congregation in Washington, DC. Sara is an alumna of the David Hartman Center Rabbinic Fellowship at the Hartman Center at the Hartman Institute of North America. Her previous experience includes serving as Director of Education at the Center for Jewish Life - Hillel at Princeton University as part of the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus. She studied Talmud and Jewish Law at various institutions of Jewish learning in Israel and America including Midreshet Lindenbaum, Drisha, Nishmat, and Beit Morasha. Her research and writing focuses on Jewish ethics of technology, and her work has been published in a number of publications including The Atlantic, Religion Dispatches, First Things, the Lehrhaus, and the Journal of Jewish education. Sara's current writing projects focus on the applying Talmudic ideas to questions of advancements in digital technology. Sara lives in Washington, DC with her partner David and their five children.



Aki Yonekawa

WGF/DS 26 - Davidson Scholar

Cambridge, MA

akiko.yonekawa@gmail.com

Aki is a freelance Jewish educator based in Massachusetts. She moved to Cambridge from Southern CA to work at Gann Academy, and is still there enjoying life in the New England. She loves camp and all things camp-related, especially movies. She studied Art History at Occidental College and has an MBA in Non-Profit Management and an MAEd, both from American Jewish University. In addition to camp, she loves the ocean, flowers, trees, and coffee. She also likes to travel and eat food with friends. She is a night owl and would happily stay up all night if the regular adult world would allow for that.



Roderick Young

WGF/DS 7

England, United Kingdom

rabbi@roderickyoung.com

Roderick was born in the UK and moved to New York in 1988. He has a BA and an MA in English Literature from Oxford, an MA in Jewish studies from JTS and s'micha from HUC. He left his position as Assistant Rabbi/Education Director of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (the world's largest synagogue serving the LGBTQ+ community) in New York in 2002 after six happy years there. He returned to the UK and was Associate Rabbi at West London Synagogue (Britain's largest and oldest Reform Shul, founded in 1840), Rabbi of the Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation and then Principal Rabbi of Finchley Reform Synagogue in North London. He is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative/Masorti Judaism and is now rabbi to Kehilat Meir in Norwich Synagogue. He lives in Norfolk, UK, and Tuscany, Italy, with his husband Zoltan and Labrador Milo.

GUESTS



Cindy Chazan

Cindy Chazan retired in December 2017 after 18 plus years with The Wexner Foundation where she served most recently as Senior Advisor. As Vice President for the Foundation, she facilitated collaborations among the Wexner Leadership constituencies in North America and in Israel, developed financial Partnership Communities for the Wexner Heritage Program and engaged Jewish communities in greater leadership development activities. Prior to her work for the Foundation, she was the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford -Before that, Cindy was Special Projects Associate for the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America (then the Jewish Welfare Board) where she staffed the Mandel Commission on Maximizing Jewish Educational Effectiveness of JCC's. Ms. Chazan was the Director of the Koffler Centre of the Arts in Toronto and the Associate Director of The Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal, both branches of the JCC. Cindy is a Founding Board Member of Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community. She is currently a consultant with the Mandel Foundation. She and her husband, Jay Leipzig have two children: Deborah and Eric



Micah Hart

Creator and Host, Who Knows One?

Micah Hart is an award-winning speaker and community builder. He is the creator and host of Who Knows One?, the world's finest Jewish Geography-based game show, and does a lot of work with summer camps through his podcast Campfires and Color Wars. When not traveling around the country entertaining audiences, he lives with his wife and children in Valencia, Spain.

GUESTS



Kiva Rabinsky

Chief Program Officer, M²

Kiva has worked extensively in Jewish summer camps, day schools, teen programs and service-learning initiatives. Since 2010, he has been training educators in various roles in experiential Jewish education. As Chief Program Officer at M², Kiva brings a creative lens to develop and deliver engaging experiences and dynamic resources to educators across the field. And as Deputy CEO, he offers a systems approach to ensure that M² as an organization is thriving. Kiva holds an MPA in Nonprofit Management, and an undergraduate degree in Education and Archeology. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, and their three children.



Shuki Taylor

Founder and CEO, M²

Shuki Taylor is the founder and CEO of M². Previously, Shuki served as director of Service Learning and Experiential Education at Yeshiva University, where he founded the Certificate Program in Experiential Jewish Education and a range of programs mobilizing college students to serve underprivileged communities worldwide. Shuki has lived in Israel, New York, and South Africa. A Schusterman Fellow, Shuki studied Jewish philosophy, education, and scriptwriting and currently lives in Jerusalem with his wife and their four children.



STAFF



Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson

President

EAbrahamson@wexner.net

Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson is President of The Wexner Foundation. She oversees the Foundation's full range of activities and, in partnership with Foundation chairmen and her mentors, Abigail and Leslie Wexner, imagines how the Foundation might further strengthen and educate Jewish professional and volunteer leaders in North America and public service leaders in the State of Israel. Rabbi Abrahamson has been associated with the Foundation for many years. For close to a decade she served as a member of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship's faculty and selection committee. She was the Director of the Graduate Fellowship Program and Vice President prior to assuming her current role in 2011. A proud member of the Frozen Chosen, Elka, a native Minnesotan, earned her teaching degree from the University of Minnesota and spent the early years of her career creating curricula for religious schools and informal educational settings, particularly Jewish camps. Her Jewish soul sprang to life at Camp Herzl in Wisconsin and her Jewish leadership blossomed at Camp Swig in Northern California. She is still a camper at heart. Ordained at HUC-JIR, New York, Elka began her career as associate rabbi at Peninsula Temple Beth El, San Mateo, CA. She then served, with her husband, Rabbi Martin (Misha) Zinkow, as co-senior rabbi at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, MN. Rabbi Abrahamson, a dynamic speaker and an engaging teacher, is optimistic about the Jewish future owing to the remarkable leaders she encounters in her rabbinate, many of them Wexner Alumni. She served as the High Holiday Rabbi at the 92nd Street Y in New York City and has been published in magazines, books and journals. She is a popular scholar-in-residence, presenter, and keynote speaker for a wide variety of Jewish organizations. She received the Bernard Reisman Award as an outstanding member of the professional Jewish community and Newsweek once named her one of the 50 most influential rabbis in North America. Elka is an avid student and dedicated teacher of Mussar. She also loves a good football game, especially if the Vikings (or Buckeyes) are winning.



Samantha Flanagan

Operations Associate

sflanagan@wexner.net

Samantha joined the team during the summer of 2025 after completing her master's degree in communication at The Ohio State University. Before joining the master's program, Samantha completed her Bachelor of Science at Ohio State as a double major in psychology and strategic communication. Samantha has found a passion for connecting with others and is excited to join the team as the Operations Associate. Outside of work, Samantha enjoys reading, attending Columbus sporting events with her husband, and playing games with her friends and family.

STAFF



Dara Katzner

Assistant Director, Wexner Field Fellowship & Service Corps

dkatzner@wexner.net

Dara Katzner is the Assistant Director for the Wexner Field Fellowship and Wexner Service Corps. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, she moved to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. After graduating from OSU, she spent a short amount of time at a small family law office before joining The Wexner Foundation team in 2016. After finding a love for working in the Jewish communal space, Dara is inspired to remain a Jewish professional long term and received a Master's in Jewish Professional Studies from Gratz College in 2025. In her free time, Dara enjoys dance fitness classes, watching Ohio State football games, and singing and volunteering with almost 500 people from Harmony Project, Columbus' community choir.



Or Mars

Vice President

omars@wexner.net

Or (he/him) is a Vice President of The Wexner Foundation where he focuses on the development of Jewish professional and volunteer leaders in North America, and public leaders in Israel. Or has worked in many different Jewish organizations throughout his career including JCCs, North Carolina Hillel and summer camps. He has studied at a variety of Jewish institutions (HUC, JTS, Pardes, Hebrew University, Shalom Hartman Institute) and is a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and a Mandell Institute Jerusalem Fellow. He is a leadership educator, a certified Jewish Meditation teacher (IJS), certified executive coach (Co-Active), and an uncertified blues musician. Or loves all of Shakespeare's plays (even the not-so-famous ones). He serves as the Chair of Board of M2: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education and as an executive committee member of the board for the JPRO Network. Or is a trustee of the Columbus Blues Alliance. Or lives in Columbus, Ohio.

STAFF



Jay Moses

Vice President

jmoses@wexner.net

Rabbi Jay Henry Moses is Vice President of The Wexner Foundation, having previously served for many years as Director of the Wexner Heritage Program, North America's premier Jewish leadership education program. He joined the staff of The Wexner Foundation in 2003. Rabbi Moses got his start in Jewish leadership through NFTY, Reform Judaism's youth movement. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in English literature, magna cum laude. Having relocated to the territory of arch-rival Ohio State, he still bleeds maize and blue but is keeping quiet about it. He pursued rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and was awarded a Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Ordained in 1997, Rabbi Moses served for five years as Associate Rabbi at Temple Sholom of Chicago. From 2002 to 2003, he studied Jewish mysticism in Jerusalem where he also taught and mentored rabbinical students at HUC-JIR. He has participated in the Rabbinic Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, an intensive study, meditation and retreat program. Rabbi Moses serves on the board URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute. He is also on the board of Kavod, a non-profit tzedakah collective and is a member of the B'nai Ya'acov Council of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. He has had essays published in four books in the series on High Holiday prayers published by Jewish Lights Publications, as well as in many newspapers and magazines. He also contributed insights on the role of religion in the process of healing from tragedy for Sheryl Sandberg's book Option B. Rabbi Moses serves as the Editor-At-Large of Shabbat: A Day of Rest, a special section of Arianna Huffington's Thrive Global media channel. Rabbi Moses lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife, Cantor Bat-Ami Moses, who serves as the Hazzan at Temple Israel, and their two sons. An avid cyclist, he has raised over \$150,000 for Pelotonia, an annual ride that supports cancer research at the James Cancer Center in Columbus.

STAFF



David Russo

Director, Wexner Heritage Program

drusso@wexner.net

Rabbi David Russo is the Director of the Wexner Heritage Program. An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Program (Class 19), he deeply understands the unique impact of a Wexner experience and the capacity of our expansive network. He is a beloved rabbi, educator, innovator, and community builder who previously served as a rabbi at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago for more than a decade. David was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, and graduated from Toronto's York University with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. He completed his rabbinic studies and received a Master's degree in Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He spent a year in Israel on the Nativ program, and again as a rabbinical student through JTS. He has spent his summers working with USY, Camp Ramah, Genesis at Brandeis University, and as a group leader for American Jewish World Service's Volunteer Summer in Uganda. He enjoys Jewish learning, community service, and most sports (basketball, baseball, frisbee, golf, and more). David lives in Chicago with his wife Rebecca and their three very energetic kids, Natan, Leor, and Lev.



Trisha Taylor

Program Coordinator

ttaylor@wexner.net

Originally from Michigan, Trisha brings more than 15 years of experience in hotel management and customer service to her role at The Wexner Foundation. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management, with a minor in Business Management, graduating with honors from Madonna University. Trisha is currently furthering her professional development by pursuing a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management at Gratz College. Driven by a passion for people-centered work and organizational excellence, Trisha values building strong relationships and creating meaningful, positive experiences for those she serves. Outside of work, Trisha enjoys spending time with her family and raising her three daughters. She can often be found playing volleyball, exploring hiking trails with her dogs, or camping under the stars—embracing every opportunity for adventure and connection with nature.

STAFF



Ruthie Warshenbrot

Senior Director, Wexner Field Fellowship

rwarshebrot@wexner.net

Ruthie Warshenbrot is the Senior Director of the Wexner Field Fellowship at The Wexner Foundation. In addition to developing and managing the Wexner Field Fellowship (in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation), she also works with the Wexner Field Fellowship and Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Alumni community and co-founded the Wexner Service Corps. Ruthie grew up in Charlotte, NC and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Jewish Studies. She received her Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU and her MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies through the NYU Wagner/Skirball dual degree program as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and a Lisa Goldberg Fellow in Jewish Professional Leadership. While at NYU, Ruthie worked as a Jewish Service-Learning Manager at Repair the World and as a Program Leader for Bend the Arc's Jewish service-learning trips. She also participated in a Jewish service-learning delegation to Senegal with American Jewish World Service. She conducted the first ever Jewish Communal Professional Compensation Survey with a group of colleagues from NYU. Prior to graduate school, Ruthie worked for Limmud NY for five years, with the final two as the organization's Executive Director. She is a past recipient of the Jewish Communal Service Association (now JPRO) Young Professional Award and the Larry S. Moses Outstanding Young Professional Award.



Stefanie Zelkind

Senior Director, Wexner Professional Leadership Network

szelkind@wexner.net

Stefanie is the Senior Director of the Professional Leadership Program Alumni Network, comprised of nearly 700 alumni of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Program and the Wexner Field Fellowship. Prior to this role, Stefanie served as Director of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars program for 10 years. She previously served as the Founding Director of the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN), a project of the Jewish Funders Network, engaging thousands of Jewish teens in hands-on philanthropic giving; National Field Director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL), bridging her interests in environmental awareness and education with Jewish engagement and activism; Director of International Affairs at Adam Teva V'Din: The Israel Union for Environmental Defense; and, Program Manager at EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East. Stefanie completed her Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU and her MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies through the NYU Wagner/Skirball dual degree program as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Stefanie joined the staff of The Wexner Foundation in 2016, making the big move from Brooklyn to Columbus, where she now enjoys the open space (but misses the subway) with her husband, Josh, and son, Ari.

STAFF



Tali Zelkowitz

Director, Curriculum and Research

tzelkowitz@wexner.net

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Tali completed her undergraduate work in Sociology on the Dean's List at the University of British Columbia before attending Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where she received rabbinical ordination and an MA in Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School. She earned her doctorate at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She received a Young Scholar's Award from the Network for Research in Jewish Education and was granted a Writing Dissertation Fellowship from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Her articles and chapters on identity formation appear in a variety of journals, magazines and anthologies. As a sociologist of Jewish education, Tali is endlessly fascinated by cultural straddling and the ways we manage the tensions that are produced by being a part of and apart from American life, as Jews. In 2016, after a decade of research, writing and teaching graduate students in rabbinical, educational and non-profit management degree programs at HUC in Los Angeles, Tali was fortunate to be able to translate her research on integration and identity work into practice at Columbus Jewish Day School, where she served as Head of School. Tali is delighted to be able to integrate sociology, education and Judaism as The Wexner Foundation's first Director of Curriculum and Research. Tali lives in Columbus with her film-animating and children's-book-authoring husband, Benny, and their two children, Gavriela and Asher. When she is not integrating disciplines, she loves scuba diving, softball, board games, traveling, table tennis and is determined to coordinate a recreational Kosher Iron Chef competition one day soon.

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

The Wexner Foundation trains and inspires leaders in the North American Jewish Community and the State of Israel. Through diverse, cohort-based educational programs, the Foundation invests in promising professionals and volunteers and gives them tools to exercise transformative leadership. Working in partnership with other foundations, philanthropists and communities, the Foundation strengthens North American Jewish life and Israel's public sector by making their leaders more skilled, visionary and collaborative.

COLUMBUS Headquarters

8000 Walton Pkwy, Suite
110 New Albany, OH 43054
(614) 939-6060

JERUSALEM

3 Kiryat Hamada St., Har Hotzvim
Building D, 11th floor
Jerusalem, Israel
(02)563-7035