

## *Contributors*

**Rabbi Lee Bycel** is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Napa, California. He is also an adjunct professor of Jewish Studies and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco as well as a senior moderator at the Aspen Institute. For over fifteen years, he served as dean of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, including as director of the rabbinic school. Since 2004 he has made several humanitarian trips to Darfur refugee camps and has raised major funding for medical and emergency aid for the refugee community.

**Rabbi Kenneth Chasen** is senior rabbi of Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles and an outspoken commentator and author on a wide variety of subjects pertaining to Jewish life, with a special emphasis on social justice in the United States and in Israel. His writings have appeared in a wide variety of books and national and international publications, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Reform Judaism*, and *Jewish Journal*, among many others. Rabbi Chasen is also the co-author of two books that guide Jewish families in the creation of meaningful Jewish rituals in the home. In addition, he is a nationally recognized composer whose original liturgical and educational works are regularly heard in synagogues, religious schools, Jewish camps, and sanctuaries across North America and in Israel.

**Rabbi Micah Citrin** grew up at Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After serving as an associate rabbi at Congregation Beth

Am in Los Altos Hills, California, and Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo, California, he is currently co-senior rabbi with his wife, Rabbi Karen Citrin, at Temple Israel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rabbi Citrin has a degree in history from the University of Oregon and attended rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, where he also received a master’s degree in Jewish education. He was ordained in 2005. Rabbi Micah is a father of twin boys. When Rabbi Micah is not at Temple Israel, he can be found running along the banks of the Arkansas River.

**Rabbi Mike Comins** directs the Making Prayer Real Course (MakingPrayerReal.com) and the TorahTrek Center for Jewish Wilderness Spirituality (TorahTrek.org), including the TorahTrek Guides Track, a yearlong, three-retreat training program for Jewish leaders. He is author of *Making Prayer Real: Leading Jewish Spiritual Voices on Why Prayer Is Difficult and What to Do about It* and *A Wild Faith: Jewish Ways into Wilderness, Wilderness Ways into Judaism*. A yeshiva-trained, Israeli-ordained Reform rabbi and a licensed Israeli desert guide, Rabbi Comins holds an MA in Jewish education (Hebrew University) with an emphasis in contemporary philosophy. He received extensive training in meditation, Hebrew chant, qigong, and spiritual practice in the natural world.

**Rabbi Benjamin David** is the senior rabbi of Adath Emanu-El in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. He is the co-founder of Running Rabbis, a nonprofit initiative that promotes creative forms of social action. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children.

**Rabbi Geoffrey W. Dennis** (Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, 1996) is rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in Flower Mound, Texas, as well as an adjunct professor in the Jewish Studies Program of the University of North Texas. He is the author of one book, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Myth, Magic, and Mysticism*, and of

numerous academic and professional articles. His most recent, “Your Kisses Are Sweeter than Wine: Jewish Erotic Theology,” appears in *Sacred Encounters* (CCAR Press, 2013).

**Rabbi Denise L. Eger** is the founding rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, California. She has been a rabbi in the Los Angeles area for more than twenty-five years and will be President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) for the 2015–2017 term. She writes extensively on Judaism and human sexuality and continues to be an advocate and activist for LGBT equality.

**Rabbi Dena A. Feingold** (Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, 1982) has served Beth Hillel Temple in Kenosha, Wisconsin, since 1985. She became Wisconsin’s first female rabbi when named assistant rabbi at Congregation Shalom in Milwaukee in 1982. Rabbi Feingold has been an active participant in interfaith work and social justice causes throughout her career. She is married to Brad Backer and has two adult children, Jonathan and Abigail Backer.

**Rabbi Michael S. Friedman** has served as associate rabbi at Central Synagogue in New York City since 2008. Prior to this position, Michael was director of high school programs at the Union for Reform Judaism from 2004 to 2006 and assistant rabbi at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, New Jersey, from 2006 to 2008. He holds a BA in history from Yale University and was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2004. In his free time Michael likes to hike, play golf, run marathons, and cook.

**Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs** is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, Connecticut. Upon his retirement from Beth Israel in 2011, he served as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, advocating for Reform Jewish ideals, practice,

and legitimacy during visits to sixty-five communities on five continents. Before coming to Beth Israel in 1997, he served as the first full-time rabbi of Temple Isaiah, Columbia, Maryland, and as senior rabbi of Congregation Ohabai Sholom (the Temple) in Nashville, Tennessee. In the fall of 2013, he served as interim rabbi at Congregation Beth Shalom in Milan, Italy. He has been married to Victoria (Steinberg) since his ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1974 (blessed with three children and four grandchildren). He earned a doctor of ministry degree in biblical interpretation from Vanderbilt University Divinity School in 1992.

**Rabbi George D. Gittleman** has served as the spiritual leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, California, since his ordination in 1996. He is also a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and a graduate of the Rabbinic Leadership Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

**Rabbi Jeffrey W. Goldwasser** is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai, a Reform congregation in Cranston, Rhode Island. He was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 2000. Before serving Temple Sinai, he served congregations in Stuart, Florida and North Adams, Massachusetts. He is the author of the website *Reb Jeff*, a blog about living a joyful Jewish life and bringing joy to synagogues and the Jewish community.

**Rabbi Oren J. Hayon** was ordained from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2004, and has dedicated his rabbinate to creating vibrant Jewish communities that provide engaging, meaningful content. His work focuses primarily on Jewish education and identity formation for young adults, and currently serves as the Greenstein Family Executive Director at the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life at the University of Washington. He lives in Seattle with his wife and two daughters.

**Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch** is the senior rabbi of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, where he has led a dramatic revival of Jewish life. He is the former executive director of ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America) and was the chairman of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Tripartite Zionist Platform Committee (the Miami Platform). Rabbi Hirsch is the co-author of *One People, Two Worlds: A Reform Rabbi and an Orthodox Rabbi Explore the Issues That Divide Them*. Rabbi Hirsch received numerous awards for academic excellence from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and was ordained in 1989. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1984, after earning his LLB (honors) degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he was a recipient of the Barclay Scholarship.

**Rabbi Bruce Kadden** has served as rabbi of Temple Beth El in Tacoma, Washington since July 2004. He received an AB degree in Religious Studies from Stanford University in 1976 and was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1981. He previously served as assistant rabbi of Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, Minnesota and as rabbi of Temple Beth El in Salinas, California. He is past president of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis. He and his wife, Barbara Binder Kadden, are the authors of *Teaching Mitzvot: Concepts, Values and Activities*; *Teaching Tefilah: Insights and Activities on Prayer*; and *Teaching Jewish Life Cycle: Traditions and Activities*.

**Rabbi Yoel Kahn** is the rabbi of Congregation Beth El, Berkeley, California. He was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1985 and received his PhD from the Graduate Theological Union. His book *The Three Blessings: Boundaries, Censorship and Identity in Jewish Liturgy* was published in 2010. He writes and teaches about Jewish theology, liturgy, and spirituality.

**Rabbi Paul Kipnes** leads Congregation Or Ami, Calabasas, California, and is number 51 on *Newsweek's* "Top 50 Rabbis" list. He teaches at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Under his leadership, Congregation Or Ami has won ten awards for social justice, innovative worship, interfaith outreach, and best synagogue use of technology. It wins hearts for reaching out during times of need. Rabbi Kipnes co-edited the issue of *CCAR Journal* on "New Visions for Jewish Community," serves Jews recovering from addictions, and blogs at rabbipaul.blogspot.com.

**Rabbi Zoë Klein** is the senior rabbi of Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles. She is the author of the novel *Drawing in the Dust*, which was published by Simon and Schuster in 2009, of which Publishers Weekly wrote, "Insight into the world of biblical excavation in Israel raises Rabbi Klein's debut novel from a Jewish *Da Vinci Code* to an emotionally rich story of personal and historical discovery."

**Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, PhD**, edited *Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives* (2013), *The Open Door Haggadah* (CCAR Press, 2002), and *Lesbian Rabbis: The First Generation* (2001); and served as poetry editor for *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2008). She has served as a congregational rabbi, as the founding director of the Los Angeles Feminist Center, and as the first rabbinic director of Ma'yan: The Jewish Women's Project of the JCC of Manhattan. From 1996 to 2014 she worked with congregational leaders through the Union for Reform Judaism.

**Rabbi Rachel S. Mikva, PhD**, currently serves as the Schaalman Chair in Jewish Studies and director of the Center for Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary. Although Dr. Mikva's areas of deepest expertise are rabbinic literature and the history of scriptural interpretation, she teaches a range of Jewish and

comparative studies, with a special interest in the intersections of Scripture, culture, and ethics.

**Rabbi Evan Moffic** serves as senior rabbi of Congregation Solel in Highland Park, Illinois. A graduate of Stanford University, he was ordained in 2006. He is the author of *Wisdom for People of All Faiths: Ten Ways to Connect with God* (2013). He also blogs for the *Huffington Post*, *Beliefnet.com*, and his personal website, *Rabbi.me*.

**Rabbi Jay Henry Moses** is the director of The Wexner Heritage Program, North America's premier adult Jewish learning and leadership program for outstanding volunteer Jewish communal leaders, at the Wexner Foundation. Previously, he was the associate rabbi at Temple Sholom of Chicago. His writing has appeared in two volumes of Lawrence A. Hoffman's *My People's Prayer Book* series and in numerous journals, magazines, and newspapers. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Cantor Bat-Ami Moses, and their two sons.

**Rabbi Debra J. Robbins** has served as a member of the clergy team at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas since her ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1991. She has been fortunate to work in partnership with many lay leaders and professional staff members across the congregation and especially enjoys her work teaching adults. She has developed lasting programs and projects in many areas of the synagogue that have engaged members of all ages in deepening their connections to each other, to Jewish living, and to God. She contributes leadership to the Dallas community by serving as chair of the Vaad Hamikvah, has served nationally on the Executive Committee of the CCAR and as Convention Chair, and is president of Reading Village, an international organization working on issues of leadership and literacy in rural Guatemala. Rabbi Robbins continues to grow in her rabbinate, educationally and spiritually by her involvement with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

**Rabbi Jason Rosenberg** is the rabbi of Congregation Beth Am in Tampa, Florida. Rabbi Rosenberg was ordained by the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in 2001, in New York. Before going to Tampa, Rabbi Rosenberg was the associate rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, Ontario, and before that he was a software engineer, having received a degree in computer science from Brown University. Still a scientist at heart, Rabbi Rosenberg believes in a Judaism which is devotedly rational and that uses the mind as well as the spirit, each strengthening the other.

**Rabbi Judith Schindler** has been senior rabbi of Temple Beth El in Charlotte, North Carolina, since 2003. Rabbi Schindler is past co-chair of the Women's Rabbinic Network and is active on many local and national boards. She has envisioned and led the creation of three award-winning documentaries that are being used across the country as tools for advocacy and education: "Souls of Our Students," on diversity and inclusion; "Souls of Our Teachers," on urban education; and "Souls of Our Neighbors," on affordable housing. In addition to receiving many humanitarian awards, she was named Charlotte Woman of the Year in 2011.

**Rabbi Ariana Silverman** graduated from Harvard University, is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Program, and after ordination, moved to Detroit, where she currently works with young Jewish adults. She served as the assistant rabbi at Temple Kol Ami in West Bloomfield, Michigan, and has worked for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, the Sierra Club, Hazon, Temple Beth Israel in Steubenville, Ohio, and Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York. She is believed to be the only rabbi living within Detroit's city limits and frequently can be found teaching about Judaism while working in a garden.

**Rabbi Suzanne Singer** is the rabbi and the educator at Temple Beth El in Riverside, California. Previously she served Temple Sinai in Oakland. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2003, and was awarded prizes in Bible, Midrash, Liturgy, and ethics. Two of her essays were published in *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary* (URJ Press). Prior to becoming a rabbi in 2003, she was a television producer and programming executive for national public television, for which she won two national Emmy awards.

**Rabbi Joseph A. Skloot** is completing his PhD in Jewish history at Columbia University, where he studies the history of Jewish culture in the early modern and modern periods. He writes about the connection between technological innovation and cultural change, particularly with regard to printing. He received rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and an AB in history from Princeton. A recipient of numerous academic and community awards, including a Jacob K. Javits Graduate Fellowship and a Tisch Rabbinical Fellowship, he teaches Torah to students of all ages at synagogues across the country.

**Rabbi Joshua Stanton** serves as an assistant rabbi at Temple B’nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, New Jersey. During rabbinical school, Josh served as associate director of the Center for Global Judaism at Hebrew College and director of communications for the Coexist Foundation. He was also a founding co-editor of the *Journal of Inter-Religious Dialogue*, as well as *O.N. Scripture—The Torah*, a weekly online Torah commentary featured on the *Huffington Post*. Josh was one of six finalists worldwide for the 2012 Coexist Prize and was additionally highlighted by the Coexist Forum as “one of the foremost Jewish and interreligious bloggers in the world.”

**Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, PhD**, began his service as the eighth senior rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in July 2001. Rabbi

Sussman has published numerous books and articles, including *Isaac Lesser and the Making of American Judaism* and *Sharing Sacred Moments* (a collection of his sermons), and has served as an editor of *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook*. He has appeared in several PBS specials on Judaism in America and has co-produced a documentary of his own, *Voices for Justice* with Dr. Gary P. Zola. Rabbi Sussman served as national chair of the CCAR Press, the publishing arm of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, for ten years and recently was elected president of the Association for Progressive Judaism, an independent Reform think tank based in New York City. He is a trustee of the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, the American Jewish Historical Society (NY), and is an active member of the Academic Advisory and Editorial Board of the American Jewish Archives (Cincinnati). Previously, Rabbi Sussman served as chair of the Jewish Studies Department at Binghamton University-SUNY and has offered courses in Jewish history at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City and Princeton University. He currently teaches American Jewish History at Princeton University and Modern Jewish History at Temple University and Gratz College.

**Rabbi Rachel Timoner** is the associate rabbi at Leo Baeck Temple, Los Angeles, where her work centers on community building, social justice, spiritual life, and lifelong learning. She grew up in Miami, Florida, received a BA from Yale University, and received *s'michah* from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2009, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow and received numerous honors. Rabbi Timoner is the author of *Breath of Life: God as Spirit in Judaism*. She is married to Felicia Park-Rogers, and they have two sons, Benjamin and Eitan.

**Rabbi Andrew Vogel** is the rabbi of Temple Sinai in Brookline, Massachusetts, which he has served since 2004. He was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in

1998 and has served Reform congregations in Marietta, Georgia, and Wayland, Massachusetts. He lives in Newton Centre with his wife, Martha Hausman, and their two daughters.

**Rabbi Max Weiss** serves as rabbi of Oak Park Temple, B'nai Abraham Zion, in Oak Park, Illinois. He has served on a variety of committees and boards including the Jewish United Fund of Chicago, Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute, where he volunteers every Summer; an ethics board at a local hospital; and various interfaith groups around Chicago. Rabbi Weiss is married and has three children.

**Rabbi Stanton Zamek** has been the spiritual leader of the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong since 2008. Prior to coming to the UJC, Rabbi Zamek served congregations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and San Francisco, California. Rabbi Zamek was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996, in the same class as his wife, Rabbi Martha Bergadine, the UJC's director of Education and Programming. Rabbi Zamek and Rabbi Bergadine have two children. Prior to entering the seminary, Rabbi Zamek practiced law in Chicago, Illinois. He has a JD from Northwestern University School of Law.

**Rabbi Mary L. Zamore** was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1997 and serves the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey in Washington, New Jersey. An active writer and editor, she is best known for *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic* (CCAR Press, 2011), which was designated a finalist by the National Jewish Book Awards.

**Rabbi Elaine Zecher** has served as a member of the clergy of Temple Israel, Boston, since 1990. Her rabbinate has focused on ways to nurture one's inner life. She has developed and implemented many programs and opportunities touching the lives of Temple Israel's con-

gregants from the very youngest to its most senior members in many significant and meaningful ways. Rabbi Zecher's work extends beyond the congregation. She sits on the New England Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League, is Vice President for Leadership of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and serves as Chair of the *Machzor* Advisory Group for the CCAR. Rabbi Zecher served as chair of the Worship and Practices Committee of the CCAR and was actively involved in producing and editing *Mishkan T'flab: A Reform Siddur*. She received ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1988.

**Rabbi Ben Zeidman** is the assistant rabbi at Congregation Emanuel of the City of New York. He was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 2010. He served as the Developmental Editor of *The New Union Haggadah, Revised Edition*, which was recently published. He lives on New York City's Upper East Side with his wife Katie, and his son Oliver.

**Rabbi Or Zohar** was born in Jerusalem, Israel. He lives in the Galilee with his family. He is the rabbi of Maalot Tivon Reform Congregation and is a former founding rabbi of Kehilat Halev in Tel Aviv. Rabbi Zohar is a teacher of Judaism and Kabbalah, a musician, and a radio broadcaster.

**Rabbi Josh "Yoshi" Zweiback** serves as head of school of Wise School in Los Angeles, California. He grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, studied religion at Princeton University, and received an MA in Jewish Education and then rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He is a senior rabbinic fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute where he continues his learning in Jerusalem each summer. He records and performs music as part of Mah Tovv and is the founder and volunteer executive director of the Kavod Tzedakah Collective. He and his spouse, Jacqueline, have three daughters.