

## *Contributors*

**Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams, PhD, z"l**, was the founder and director of Maqom ([www.maqom.com](http://www.maqom.com)), which was a pioneer in the area of online teaching of Talmud to adults. She authored over twenty books for adults and children, including *The Other Talmud*.

**Rabbi Richard F. Address, DMin**, is the founder/director of [www.jewishshredaging.com](http://www.jewishshredaging.com). He served for over three decades on the staff of the Union for Reform Judaism as a regional director and as founder/director of the Department of Jewish Family Concerns. Most recently he completed tenure as senior rabbi of Congregation M'kor Shalom in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He currently serves as adjunct faculty at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. He was ordained by HUC-JIR in Cincinnati in 1972.

**Rabbi Carole B. Balin, PhD**, is a professor of history at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She is the

narrator for the PBS special *The Jewish People: A Story of Survival* and a blogger for the *Huffington Post*, and she writes on topics ranging from the Maxwell House Haggadah to the history of bat mitzvah. Her most recent book, co-edited with Wendy Zierler, “*To Tread on New Ground*”: *From the Hebrew Writings of Hava Shapiro*, contains the life story and writing of the first woman to keep a diary in Hebrew, to compose a feminist manifesto in Hebrew, and to contribute prolifically to the Hebrew press.

**Rabbi Karen Bender** was born and raised in Los Angeles in the home of Israeli parents, studied Political Science at UC Berkeley and was ordained by HUC-JIR in 1994, having interned at Central Synagogue in Manhattan. Rabbi Bender served as rabbi of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, NY, for seven years, Temple Judea in Tarzana, CA, for thirteen years and is currently the Skirball Director of Spiritual Life and Campus Rabbi at the Los Angeles Jewish Home. Rabbi Bender has been active on social justice issues throughout her rabbinate, has published numerous sermons, articles, poems and original prayers and in 2015 received the Eisendrath Bearer of Light Award for outstanding civil rights work and the Distinguished Community Leader Award of the San Fernando Valley Council of Na’amat USA. She has served on the Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and currently on the Advisory Council of the Valley Interfaith Council. Rabbi Bender enjoys travel, the theater and adventure, especially with her three children, Josie, Joshua, and Shoshana.

**Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz** was ordained in 2008 by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she also earned a Master of Arts in Religious Education. She recently became the rabbi at Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie, NY, the first woman to hold this position in its 167-year history. Leah served as the associate rabbi of Judea Reform Congregation in Durham, NC for five years, and spent two years at Gann Academy, a pluralistic Jewish high school in Waltham, Massachusetts. Her writing has appeared in

*Covenant of the Generations; Spirituality 101: The Indispensable Guide to Keeping—or Finding—Your Spiritual Life on Campus; God? Jewish Choices for Struggling with the Ultimate; and the Reform Jewish Quarterly.* She blogs at [thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com](http://thisiswhatarabbilookslike.wordpress.com).

**Dr. Debra Reed Blank** teaches the history and theology of Jewish liturgy at the School of Jewish Music of Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts. From 1998 to 2009 she was a faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, teaching liturgy and Talmud. She has also taught at the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York and the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow. Her recent publications include “Reflections upon Creating Innovative, Jewish Life-Cycle Ritual” ([keshetonline.org](http://keshetonline.org)) and her edited volume *The Experience of Jewish Liturgy: Essays in Honor of Menahem Schmelzer*, which includes her article “The Curious Theological Grammar of *Ga’al Yisra’el*.” Her most recent article, “Bossing God Around: Demand, Creed, and Covenant in Jewish Liturgy,” is forthcoming in a volume edited by Evelyn Cohen. She received her PhD in liturgy and Rabbinics and ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

**Rabbi Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus** is rabbi emerita of B’nai Yehuda Beth Sholom in Homewood, Illinois. She is past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, is a founder and past president of the Women’s Rabbinic Network, and was the first woman to be elected president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis. She is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1979 (the first rabbi to be ordained pregnant), she spent most of her career serving small congregations and raising three children. She has taught and lectured nationally and internationally in Jewish and interfaith settings.

**Rabbi Renee Edelman** currently serves as Rabbi of Temple Sha’arey Shalom in Springfield, New Jersey. She received her ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1997.

Since then, she has served three congregations; been a community rabbi; written many essays, articles, and poems for publications including her own blog, *Chaffing the Wheat—Musings of a Woman Rabbi*; and has been featured in an article in *Glamour* magazine. Rabbi Edelman has a deep passion for connecting Jews to Judaism whatever their age or stage of life. Married to Shane Edelman, mother to Bailey, Jackson, and Sophie, she considers her greatest blessing to be her family and watching as her children develop some of their parents' interests: playing tennis, skiing, playing guitar, singing, mastering the inner workings of the computer, and watching football.

**Rabbi Denise L. Eger** is the founding rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, California. She was elected president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis in March 2015. She is a leading activist for LGBT equality, civil rights, and racial justice and has been acknowledged as one of the most influential rabbis in the *Forward* as a “Forward 50” and as one of the most influential women rabbis by the *Forward* “Sisterhood 50.”

**Rabbi Jacqueline Koch Ellenson** is director emerita of the Women's Rabbinic Network, the international support and advocacy organization for women in the Reform rabbinate. She is an international vice-chair of Rabbis for Women of the Wall, has served on the boards of the Rodeph Sholom School, New York, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the Yedidya Center for Jewish Spiritual Direction. She currently serves on the board of Friends of Kehillat Kol HaNeshamah. From 1992 to 2002 she was the Jewish chaplain at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles and led a Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing! group for four years at Congregation Rodeph Sholom. She is a graduate of the Rabbinic Enrichment program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Jackie is an active member of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City, where she leads text study groups, and facilitates a “Wise Aging” group. Her community work focuses on adult spiritual formation and direction, in the general community

and with students at HUC-JIR, as well as activism on behalf of religious pluralism and women's rights in Israel. She received her AB in psychology from Barnard College, Columbia University, in 1977 and was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1983.

**Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, PhD** served the Union for Reform Judaism for nearly two decades strengthening congregations by building strong partnerships between professional and lay leaders. The founding director of the Los Angeles Jewish Feminist Center and the first rabbinic director of Ma'yan, she has served congregations in California, New Jersey, Virginia, and Washington, DC. She co-edited *Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives*, a finalist for the 2014 National Jewish Book Award. She also edited *The Open Door*, the CCAR Haggadah; served as the poetry editor and member of the editorial board of the award-winning *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*; and co-edited *Lesbian Rabbis: The First Generation*. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1986, is the joyful mother of two adult daughters, is an ecstatic *savta*, and lives in Philadelphia with her wife, Nurit Levi Shein.

**Rabbi Marla J. Feldman** is the executive director of Women of Reform Judaism. Previously she was the director of development for the Union for Reform Judaism and the director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. She served Jewish community relations councils in Detroit and Delaware and congregations in Orlando and Sarasota, Florida. She is a Reform rabbi, lawyer, and certified fundraiser. She is the author of numerous Reform Movement public policy manuals, and her articles and modern midrash have appeared in Jewish publications, newspapers, and blog sites throughout the United States.

**Rabbi Michael S. Friedman** was named senior rabbi at Temple Israel of Westport, Connecticut, in July 2104. He grew up in Great Neck, New York, where his family was proud to be dedicated members

of Temple Beth-El. Michael holds a BA in history from Yale University and was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2004. Prior to joining Temple Israel, he served as associate rabbi at Central Synagogue in New York City from 2008 to 2014 and as assistant rabbi at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, New Jersey, from 2006 to 2008. In his free time he likes to play golf, hike, run marathons, and cook.

**Hadas (Dasi) Fruchter** was ordained by Yeshivat Maharat in June 2016. She thrives on spiritual leadership, vibrant Torah learning, and community building. Originally from the Washington, DC area, she recently completed an MPA in non-profit administration and an MA in Jewish studies from New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and is the program director at ImmerseNYC, New York’s only community mikveh project.

**Michael J. Gan** is a labor and employment law attorney and managing partner at Peer, Gan & Gisler LLP in Washington, DC, and has been representing labor unions and professionals in collective bargaining, litigation, and contract negotiations for more than twenty-five years. He also maintains a significant practice working with Reform rabbis and other Jewish professionals in a wide variety of employment matters. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Boston University School of Law.

**Rabbi Laura Geller**, senior rabbi of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, California, was one of the first women to be selected to lead a major metropolitan synagogue. She was twice named one of *Newsweek*’s “50 Most Influential Rabbis in America” and was featured in the PBS documentary *Jewish Americans*. She is author of numerous articles in books and journals and was on the editorial board of *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*. She is a fellow of the Corporation of Brown University, from which she graduated in 1971. Ordained by Hebrew

Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1976, she was the third woman in the Reform Movement to become a rabbi.

**Rabbi Jordie Gerson** currently serves as the assistant rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego, California. Previously she served as the Senior Jewish Fellow and associate rabbi at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale University and as assistant director at University of Vermont Hillel. She is a frequent contributor to the *Huffington Post* and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. She was thrilled with the portrayal of the female rabbi in the new Amazon show *Transparent* and thinks you should check it out.

**Rabbi Elizabeth W. Goldstein, PhD**, is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University and teaches Hebrew Bible, Judaism, and Hebrew. She completed her rabbinic studies at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2001. Her PhD in ancient Jewish history focuses on Hebrew Bible and particularly its intersection with gender studies. Goldstein completed her doctoral work in 2010 from the University of California at San Diego. She is the author of *Impurity and Gender in the Hebrew Bible* (Lexington, 2015) and has contributed to several volumes including *Jewish Blood: Reality and Metaphor in History, Religion, and Culture* (edited by Mitchell B. Hart) and *Embroidered Garments: Priests and Gender in Biblical Israel* (edited by Deborah W. Rooke) and *The Torah: A Woman's Commentary* (edited by Andrea Weiss and Tamara Eskenazi, URJ Press, 2007). She is the co-editor of *Music, Carrier of Intention in 49 Jewish Prayers* (with Kimberly Burnham, PhD, Creating Calm NPC, 2014). Her most recent articles are “To See or Not to See: A Call for Consciousness and Cognizance in Jewish, Progressive, and Public Readings of Esther,” in the *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies* (2015) and “Women and the Purification Offering: What Jacob Milgrom Contributed to the Intersection of Women's Studies and Biblical Studies” in *Current Issues in Priestly and Related Literature: The Legacy*

of *Jacob Milgrom and Beyond* (edited by Roy E. Gane and Ada Taggar-Cohen, 2015). In addition to her part-time rabbinic work in Spokane at Temple Beth Shalom and her role as rabbinic advisor to the Gonzaga Jewish student group, Goldstein serves the Jewish Community of the Palouse in Moscow, ID. Goldstein is the mother of two sets of twins: Coby and Aviel, Yair and Shaya.

**Rabbi N. Samuel Gordon** leads Sukkat Shalom of Wilmette, Illinois. He was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1980 and later received an MBA degree from Northwestern University’s Kellogg Graduate School of Management. In 2005 he was awarded the degree of doctor of divinity from HUC-JIR. He served as vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and was a member of the Reform Pension Board. Rabbi Gordon is a member of the President’s Advisory Council of the Hebrew Union College and a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Hartman Institute of Jerusalem. In 2013 President Barack Obama appointed Rabbi Gordon as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. In 2015 the *Forward* named him as one of “America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis.”

**Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf** received ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2004. She has been the rabbi of Port Jewish Center, a small, haimish synagogue in Port Washington, New York, since July 2014. Prior to coming to PJC, she served Temple Israel in Westport, Connecticut, for almost a decade as its assistant, then associate, rabbi. She grew up in Scarsdale, New York, and has an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from Fordham University School of Law. She worked as a matrimonial attorney in Manhattan before deciding to pursue the rabbinate. Since her ordination, she has been an active member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and of the Women’s Rabbinic Network. She has served on the board of the WRN for



ten years and is serving her last year on the board as its immediate past co-president. She is married to Adam Graf; they have three sons, Gideon, Solomon, and Rafi, and reside in Port Washington.

**Rabbi Rebecca Fay Gutterman** was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2004. During the time this essay was written she was the associate rabbi of Temple B’rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York. She and her husband, Michael, now live in Walnut Creek, California, where she is the rabbi of Congregation B’nai Tikvah.

**Shaina Herring** is a graduate of the dual degree program at New York University, where she studied health policy and management and Jewish studies. She worked at ImmerseNYC, a community mikveh project, to help educate the Jewish community about diverse and creative uses for mikveh. She is particularly interested in the intersection of women’s health and Judaism and is currently studying to be a nurse-midwife at Columbia University.

**Rabbi Kari Hofmaister Tuling, PhD**, received her rabbinic ordination in 2004 and earned her PhD in Jewish Thought in 2013, both from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. She currently serves as the rabbi of Temple Beth Israel in Plattsburgh, New York. Additionally, she teaches Jewish Studies courses at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, and serves as their Jewish Chaplain and Hillel Co-advisor. Previously, she taught for five years at the University of Cincinnati, in their Judaic Studies Department.

**Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann** is senior associate dean for religious life at Stanford University, the first chaplain in Stanford’s history from a tradition other than Christianity. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1982. Her work has appeared in the books *College and University Chaplaincy in the 21st Century*;

*Encountering Disgrace: Reading and Teaching Coetzee's Novel*; and *Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story* and in the *Journal of College and Character*. She enjoys swimming, learning, knitting, hiking, and sharing time with friends and family.

**Rabbi Naamah Kelman** is a descendant of ten generations of rabbis, becoming the first woman to be ordained in Israel by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1992, where she currently serves as dean. Born and raised in New York City, she made *aliyah* in 1976. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband Elan Ezrachi. They have three children and three grandchildren.

**Rabbi Daniel Kirzane** was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2014 and serves as assistant rabbi at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah in Overland Park, Kansas. He is an alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and the CLAL Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship and is on the rabbinic cabinets of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and J Street. He and his wife Jessica, a PhD candidate in Yiddish studies at Columbia University, live in Overland Park with their son, Jeremiah.

**Rabbi Darren Kleinberg, PhD**, was ordained in 2005 and completed his doctorate in 2014. The topic of his dissertation and the working title of his forthcoming book is *Hybrid Judaism: Irving Greenberg, Encounter, and the Changing Nature of American Jewish Identity*. He currently serves as Head of School at Kehillah Jewish High School in Palo Alto, California. Prior to arriving at Kehillah, he was the founding executive director of Valley Beit Midrash in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Rabbi Neil Kominsky** is a graduate of Harvard College and of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, where he was ordained in 1970. During his rabbinic career, he served congregations in California, Connecticut, and Massachusetts and served on the staff

of Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel. He is rabbi emeritus of Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley in Lowell, Massachusetts, and Jewish chaplain emeritus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. He served on the Taskforce on Women in the Rabbinate from its inception and was chair from 1978 to 1984.

**Rabbi Charles A. Kroloff**, a past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, is rabbi emeritus of Temple Emanu-El, Westfield, New Jersey, which he served for thirty-six years. He is currently vice president for special projects at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, where he teaches rabbinical students. A past president of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, he is certified as a marital and family therapist. A graduate of Yale University, he is the author of *When Elijah Knocks: A Religious Response to Homelessness*; *54 Ways You Can Help the Homeless*; *Reform Judaism: A Jewish Way of Life*; and numerous essays and articles.

**Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner** is the Director of Jewish Learning, Engagement and Outreach at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie, Florida. Previously he served as the rabbi of Temple Solel in Hollywood, Florida and the rabbi of the Northshore Jewish Congregation in the New Orleans suburb of Mandeville, Louisiana. While in Mandeville he oversaw the congregation's recovery efforts during Hurricane Katrina. He is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the board of the southeast region of the CCAR (SEACCAR). He sits on the Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council to Florida governor Rick Scott. Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner delivered an invocation at an event featuring First Lady Michelle Obama and another invocation at an event featuring President Barack Obama in Hollywood, Florida.

**Rabbi Michele Lenke** was ordained from the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996. She is past co-president of the Women's Rabbinic Network and has been

involved with WRN ever since she was a rabbinical student. She is currently pursuing a doctor of ministry degree in the Interfaith Clinical Education for Pastoral Ministry Program at HUC-JIR and is a member of the first cohort of Bekhol Levavkha, training to become a Jewish spiritual director. This focus on spirituality and pastoral counseling are a natural outgrowth of Rabbi Lenke's rabbinate and sense of calling. She has been blessed to serve as a rabbi in the Greater Boston area for the past twenty years.

**Rabbi Ellen Lewis** has more than thirty-five years of experience as a rabbi and a therapist. Ordained at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1980, she was a member of the first generation of women rabbis. Having served congregations in Dallas, Texas, Summit, New Jersey (named Rabbi Honorata), and Washington, New Jersey (named Rabbi Emerita), she recently retired from congregational work to practice full-time as a therapist, supervisor, pastoral counselor, and professional coach. Rabbi Lewis is a certified and licensed modern psychoanalyst in private practice in Bernardsville, New Jersey, and in New York City. While she works with people from all walks of life, she specializes in working with rabbis and cantors to develop the emotional resiliency and flexibility required for contemporary congregational and organizational work. She received her analytical training in New York at the Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies and has served on the faculty of the Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychoanalysis. She is a fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

**Rabbi Sara Luria** is a trained community organizer, birth doula, and chaplain. She incorporates her passion for justice, belief in the centrality of relationships, and dedication to marking transformative, sacred experiences into her rabbinate. She recently founded Immerse-NYC, a community mikveh project, which works both to introduce individuals to the myriad ways that mikveh immersions can add meaning to their lives and to build and strengthen community through ritual.

She lives in her hometown of Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, Isaac, and their young children, Caleb, Eva, and Judah.

**Rachel Marder** is a third-year student at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, where she is a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She has been an AIPAC Leffell Fellow, has taught in IKAR's Limudim program, and is currently studying to be a *schochetet*. She received her BA from Brandeis University, where she studied Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, and her MA in conflict research, management, and resolution from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She has written for the *Jerusalem Post*, *Jewish News Service*, *j. the Jewish News Weekly of Northern California*, and other publications. She is spending the year studying in Jerusalem at the Conservative Yeshiva.

**Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD**, is a professor of liturgy and midrash at the Jerusalem campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and teaches in various academic institutions in Israel and Europe. She earned her doctorate at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and her rabbinic ordination at HUC–JIR in Jerusalem and Cincinnati. She is involved in various research groups and is active in promoting liberal Judaism in Israel. She is the author and editor of a few books, among them a feminist commentary of three rabbinic tractates (Mohr-Siebeck, 2013). She lives with her husband and three children in Jerusalem.

**Rabbi Sara Mason-Barkin** is currently the associate rabbi/educator at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo, California. She began to examine a new perspective on the rabbi as a symbolic exemplar in her rabbinic thesis “The Rabbi as a Symbolic Exemplar: A Feminist Critique,” advised by Dr. Rachel Adler. As the daughter of a rabbi and a Jewish educator, she was particularly interested in thinking about the way clergy families are a part of the communities in which they live and work. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles in 2010.

**Rabbi Oshrat Morag**, born and raised in Haifa, Israel, was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem in 2008. She is currently the rabbi of congregation Or Hadash in Haifa and a doctoral candidate in the field of feminist theology at the HUC-JIR Cincinnati campus. Her articles, modern midrashim, poems, prayers, and life-cycle ceremonies have been published in books and journals throughout Israel and the United States. She is the mother of four children.

**Rabbi Linda Motzkin** has served since 1986 as co-rabbi, with her husband, Jonathan Rubenstein, of Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs, New York, and until December 2014 also served as Jewish chaplain at Skidmore College, where she continues to serve as the High Holy Day chaplain. She is the author of the Reform Movement’s four-volume adult Hebrew-language curriculum: *Aleph Isn’t Tough*, *Aleph Isn’t Enough*, *Bet Is for B’reishit*, and *Tav Is for Torah*. She is also a Judaic artist and one of a handful of women in the world trained as a *soferet*, currently writing a Torah scroll. She and Rabbi Rubenstein founded the Bread and Torah Project, [www.breadandtorah.org](http://www.breadandtorah.org).

**Professor Pamela S. Nadell** holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender History at American University, where she chairs the Department of History. In 2007 she received AU’s highest faculty award, the Scholar/Teacher of the Year. In 2010 the American Jewish Historical Society recognized her distinguished service to American Jewish history with its Lee Max Friedman Award. She is a member of the founding historians’ team for the National Museum of American Jewish History and president of the Association for Jewish Studies. Her books include *Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women’s Ordination, 1889–1985*.

**Maharat Rori Picker Neiss** serves as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St Louis. Prior to that

she was the Director of Programming, Education and Community Engagement at Bais Abraham Congregation, a Modern Orthodox Jewish synagogue in University City, MO. She is one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, a pioneering institution training Orthodox Jewish women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic (Jewish legal) authorities. She previously served as Acting Executive Director for Religions for Peace-USA, Program Coordinator for the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, Assistant Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and Secretariat for the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, the formal Jewish representative in international, interreligious dialogue. Rori is the co-chair of the North American Interfaith Youth Network of Religions for Peace, a CLAL Rabbis Without Borders fellow, and co-editor of “InterActive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook.” Rori is married to Russel Neiss, a Software Engineer for Sefaria, and they have two daughters and a son: Daria, Susanna, and Shmaya.

**Rabbi Hara E. Person** is the Publisher of CCAR Press, and the CCAR Director of Strategic Communications. Rabbi Person was ordained in 1998 from HUC-JIR, after graduating from Amherst College (1986) and receiving an MA in Fine Arts from New York University and the International Center of Photography (1992). As publisher, she oversees the CCAR publication programming, and served as Executive Editor of *Mishkan HaNefesh*, the Reform Movement *machzor*. Before coming to the CCAR, Rabbi Person was the Editor in Chief of URJ Books and Music, where she was responsible for the revision of *The Torah: A Modern Commentary* (2005) and the publication of many significant projects, including *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*, named the National Jewish Book Award Book of the Year in 2008. Since 1998, Rabbi Person has been the High Holy Day rabbi of Congregation B’nai Olam, Fire Island Pines, NY. Rabbi Person lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is the mother of two young adults.

**Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy** is rabbi emerita of Temple Sinai in Washington, DC, and the author of five Jewish children's books, including the groundbreaking *Ima on the Bima* and the popular *Matzah Ball*. A graduate of Yale University, she is a well-known speaker, teacher, and life-cycle officiant and currently serves as adjunct rabbi at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland. Her most recent children's book is *A Tale of Two Seders*, and she has written blogs for *Lilith*, *Ha'aretz*, *RavBlog*, the Religious Action Center, and the Women's Rabbinic Network. She is a former national co-coordinator of the WRN.

**Rabbi Sally J. Priesand**, America's first female rabbi, was ordained in June 1972 by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1981 to 2006 she served as rabbi of Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls, New Jersey, becoming rabbi emerita upon her retirement. In 2007 she invited her female rabbinic colleagues of all denominations to join her in donating their professional and personal papers to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to document the history of women in the rabbinate.

**Rabbi Elena Rubinstein** was born in Moscow in the former Soviet Union in 1955. She graduated from the Faculty of History at the Pedagogic University in Moscow and worked for fourteen years as a scientific member of staff at the Borodino History Museum in the city. In 1992 she made *aliyah* together with her family. She has worked in a number of positions in the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) since 1994, including coordinator of the Legal Action Center for *Olim* in Beersheva and Tel Aviv and coordinator of programs for *olim* at Beit Daniel Congregation. In December 2002 she was appointed director of the *Olim* Department in the IMPJ headquarters. She began her studies at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in 1997. She now holds an MA in Jewish history and has joined the growing list of women who have been ordained at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem, among whom she is the first immigrant from the



FSU. Since 2009 Rabbi Rubinstein has been a head of the the Sha'arei Shalom community, St. Petersburg, Russia. Elena is married to Semion, is the mother of Rabbi Julia Margolis in Johannesburg, South Africa and grandmother of Emily and Victoria.

**Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein** has served since 1986 as co-rabbi, with his wife, Linda Motzkin, of Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs, New York, as well as part-time pastoral care director of Four Winds–Saratoga, a private psychiatric hospital. He is also a bread maker and baking teacher and operates Slice of Heaven Breads, a not-for-profit, volunteer, charitable community bakery out of the temple's kitchen. He and Rabbi Motzkin founded the Bread and Torah Project, [www.breadandtorah.org](http://www.breadandtorah.org).

**Rabbi Sara Yellen Sapadin** is a rabbi, mother, and vigorous spiritual seeker. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and received her ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, where she earned marks of distinction in Bible, liturgy, and homiletics. She most recently served Temple Israel of the City of New York, where she focused on issues of social justice, Israel engagement, and revitalizing Jewish living for young families. Rabbi Sapadin has never met a text study she didn't love or a song she wouldn't sing. She and her husband and their four children reside in New York City.

**Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, DMin**, was the first woman to be ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1974. She and her husband, Dennis Sasso, were the first practicing rabbinical couple in world Jewish history. She served Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis for thirty-six years before becoming rabbi emerita. She is presently the director of the Religion, Spirituality and Arts Initiative at Butler University and the author of many award-winning children's books and two books for adults, *Midrash: Reading the Bible with Question Marks* and *Jewish Stories of Love and Marriage*, co-authored with Peninah Schram. Rabbis Sasso have two children and three grandchildren.

**Joshua Scharff** is an attorney at Peer, Gan & Gisler LLP and frequently represents rabbis, non-profit employees, and other professionals in negotiations concerning individual employment contracts, separation agreements, and other workplace disputes. He is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School, the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and Rutgers University.

**Chaplain, Major Sarah D. Schechter** is the first woman rabbi in the United States Air Force. She has two master's degrees and ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles (2003). She was the Outstanding Company Grade Chaplain of the Year for the Air Education and Training Command in 2010 and for the Air Force District of Washington in 2012. She was chaplain to Air Force One 2011–13 and was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity by Washington and Jefferson College in 2014. Rabbi Schechter is a wife and a mother and is currently stationed at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Rabbi Judith Schindler** has been senior rabbi of Temple Beth El, the largest synagogue in the Carolinas. She was named Charlotte's Woman of the Year in 2011 and is a past co-chair of the Women's Rabbinic Network. She is known for her activism and responsible for creating four educational and social justice documentaries on diversity, education, and affordable housing. She is a regular contributor of articles for publication and delivers lectures at religious and academic institutions across the South.

**Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr** was ordained by the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and was a CLAL Rabbis Without Borders fellow. Editor of the *CCAR Newsletter* and a contributor to *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*, Rabbi Schorr is a contributing author to Kveller.com and *The New Normal: Blogging Disability*, and her essays appear regularly on a variety of sites. She is a frequent speaker on disability and the Jewish imperative for

inclusion, and her recent TED Talk chronicled her efforts to organize a global social media campaign to benefit pediatric cancer research. Writing at her blog, *This Messy Life*, Rabbi Schorr finds meaning in the sacred and not-yet-sacred intersections of daily life. Follow her on Twitter @rebeccaschorr.

**Rabbi Amy Schwartzman** is the senior rabbi of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia, where she has worked since her ordination from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1990. In addition to serving a dynamic congregation, she is involved in leadership roles for her community as well as the Reform Movement. She is especially active in housing issues, mental health initiatives, and supporting those on the fringes of our society. Within the Reform Movement she serves in a number of leadership roles for the Central Conference of American Rabbis as well as HUC-JIR. Rabbi Schwartzman and her husband, Kevin Moss, live in McLean, Virginia, with their two daughters.

**Rabbi Susan Shankman** is a rabbi at Washington Hebrew Congregation. In addition to officiating at services, life-cycle events, and pastoral care and counseling, she coordinates the confirmation program and focuses on programming for families with young children, Sisterhood and women's issues, social action, and outreach to interfaith families. She is immediate past president of the Washington Board of Rabbis and serves on the board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, as well as Vice President of Organizational Relations of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Rabbi Shankman is married to Rabbi Michael Namath, program director at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and they are the parents of Isabel, Jacob, and Evie.

**Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon, DD**, is the first woman to serve as a congregational rabbi in the history of the State of Israel. She established and is the spiritual leader of the YOZMA Jewish Community Educational, Spiritual and Cultural Center, which includes an early

childhood educational center, the first public Reform Jewish elementary day school in Israel, an active synagogue prayer community, and a myriad of award-winning social justice programs serving the Modi'in area. She is married to Baruch and has four children and two granddaughters.

**Rabbi Susan Silverman** is a speaker, activist, educator, and author. Her latest book is *Casting Lots: Creating a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World*, (DaCapo Press). She promotes liberal Judaism and the rights of asylum seekers in Israel and is the founding director of JustAdopt.net. She and her spouse, Yosef Abramowitz, have five children and live in Jerusalem.

**Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu**, is the director of Rabbis Without Borders at CLAL—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Rabbis Without Borders stimulates and supports innovation in the rabbinate. In 2013 Rabbi Sirbu was named as one of the most inspirational rabbis in America by the *Forward*. She speaks and writes about Jewish life, health, healing, and spirituality. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vassar College, she holds a master's degree and ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

**Rabbi Wendy Spears** was ordained by the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1991. For twenty years she has been reaching and teaching unaffiliated Jews outside of synagogue walls to introduce them to the joys and resources of the Jewish community in Los Angeles. She learned sign language to aid in outreach to deaf Jews. Rabbi Spears is experienced in issues of food and health, spiritual enlightenment, grief, feminism, and LGBT equality, and how what we wear can reflect our inner truth. Her most challenging and rewarding work has been as a life partner to her husband and as a mother to her two sons. Her writing has been published in the *CCAR Journal*, *The Women's Haftarah Commentary*, and on *Kol Isha*, the blog of the Women's Rabbinic Network. Find her at [www.rabbiwendy.com](http://www.rabbiwendy.com).

**Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas** studied history and Jewish studies at Rutgers University before attending the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, from which she received ordination in 2011. At the College-Institute, Cantor Thomas received several prizes in worship and Jewish thought. She is Associate Cantor at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she is the founding managing professional of The Porch: Temple Beth El’s Young Adult and Young Families Community, the synagogue’s small group network, Jewish Living Groups, and other engagement initiatives. Cantor Thomas and her husband, Matthew, are privileged to raise Johannah and Ezra.

**Rabbi Eric Weiss** is CEO/president of the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. He is formally trained in Jewish education, clinical chaplaincy, and spiritual direction. He lives with his husband, Dan, in San Francisco.

**Julie Wiener** is the managing editor of MyJewishLearning, the premier online resource for information about Judaism. For six years she wrote “In the Mix,” a column and blog on interfaith relationships for the *New York Jewish Week*. In addition to writing extensively for Jewish publications, her work has been published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Sun*, *The Associated Press*, *New York Family*, and the *Tribeca Trib*, and she has edited two books. She lives in Jackson Heights, Queens, with her husband and two daughters. Follow her on Twitter @Julie\_Wiener.

**Rabbi Julie Wolkoff, DMin, CT**, is a hospice chaplain with Ascend Hospice in Massachusetts. Prior to that she was the director of Judaic Activities at Gann Academy—The New Jewish High School of Greater Boston. She served as a Jewish community chaplain and an AIDS Care Team coach for Eddy VNA, both in New York’s Capital District. She is a volunteer mikveh guide at Mayyim Hayyim in Newton, Massachusetts.

**Rabbi Elizabeth S. Wood** was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 2009 and served as the interim educator and soloist at Temple Beth El in Tacoma, Washington, before coming to The Reform Temple of Forest Hills, New York, as the associate rabbi educator in 2010. Rabbi Wood currently serves as the Director of Learning and Innovation for NFTY. She has served on the board of the Women’s Rabbinic Network and on the executive board of Faith in New York, an interfaith community organizing group working to help those in need in New York City, as well as serving as summer faculty at the Union for Reform Judaism’s Eisner and Crane Lake Camps. Rabbi Wood was also a contributor to *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*, writing about issues of sex and technology in Judaism. Since writing this reflection, Rabbi Wood dropped the “R-bomb” one last time and has found her *besbert*, David, with whom she plans to spend the rest of her life.

**Rabbi Mary L. Zamore** is the editor of and a contributing author to *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic* (CCAR Press, 2011), which was designated a finalist by the National Jewish Book Awards. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1997, graduated from Columbia College, and also studied at Yad Vashem and Machon Pardes. Rabbi Zamore currently serves as the Executive Director of the Women’s Rabbinic Network. Rabbi Zamore is a frequent contributor to the *Huffington Post*.

**Rabbi Deborah Zecher** recently completed twenty-two years as rabbi and leader of music of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, in Great Barrington, MA, and was named rabbi emerita of the congregation at the conclusion of her tenure. She loved being part of Hevreh’s joyful and spirited community and was delighted to share this special congregation with the rabbinical students and rabbinical colleagues she was fortunate enough to mentor and work with. Rabbi Zecher is also an accomplished cabaret singer and hopes to focus her attention on this

area of her life in the coming years. She is married to Rabbi Dennis Ross, and they are the parents of three now-grown children, Joshua, Adam, and Miriam.

**Dr. Wendy Zierler** is Sigmund Falk Professor of Modern Jewish Literature and Feminist Studies at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Together with Carole Balin, she is editor of *Behikansi atab*, a collection of the Hebrew writings of Hava Shapiro. Their English volume of Shapiro’s writings, featuring Dr. Zierler’s translations of Shapiro’s stories, diary, and letters, was published in 2014, and her book *Reel Theology* is forthcoming. Other publications include a feminist Haggadah commentary in *My People’s Haggadah*, and *To Speak Her Heart*, an illustrated anthology of Jewish women’s prayers and poems, to which she contributed the introduction, several translations, and an original poem. As a fiction writer, she was recently a finalist in the *Moment Magazine*–Karma Foundation fiction contest for her story “The One Lamb You Should Offer”; another story, entitled “The Great American Canadian Jewish Chinese Novel,” was published in 2013 in Jewishfiction.net.

**Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick** is the Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Am in Seattle, WA, a congregation that prides itself on social justice and engaged and joyous Jewish living. Previously, she served as Rabbi at Temple Beth Or in the Township of Washington, New Jersey, and as Associate Rabbi and Director of Lifelong Learning at New York’s Central Synagogue. She began her rabbinic career as Associate Director of Programs at Synagogue 2000 (now 3000). As newcomers, she, her husband and their daughter are still in awe of Seattle’s majestic natural beauty and are adjusting to the difficulty of finding an excellent New York-style bagel.

**Dr. Gary Phillip Zola** is the executive director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and professor of the American Jewish experience at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute

of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1982 to 1998, Dr. Zola served as HUC-JIR's national dean of admissions and student affairs.

**Rabbi David J. Zucker, PhD**, who was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1970, retired as rabbi/chaplain at Shalom Cares, a senior continuum of care center in Aurora, Colorado. In 2014–2016 he was recruited to serve as interim rabbi at North West Surrey Synagogue, Weybridge, England. His newest books are *The Bible's Prophets: An Introduction for Christians and Jews*, *The Bible's Writings: An Introduction for Christians and Jews*, and *The Matriarchs of Genesis: Seven Women, Five Views* (co-authored with Moshe Reiss). He publishes in a variety of areas. See his website, [www.DavidJZucker.org](http://www.DavidJZucker.org).