

Author Biographies

Rabbi Richard F. Address, DMin, is Founder and Director of Jewish Sacred Aging, LLC, and the web site www.jewishsacredaging.com, which features resources, texts, programs, and podcasts dealing with the impact of longevity on the Jewish community. Rabbi Address served congregations in California and New Jersey and served on staff of Union for Reform Judaism for three plus decades as Regional Director and then Director of Department of Jewish Family Concerns. He is author of *Seekers of Meaning: Baby Boomers, Judaism and the Pursuit of Healthy Aging*.

Rabbi Barry H. D. Block serves Congregation B'nai Israel in Little Rock, Arkansas. After graduating from Amherst College Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude, Rabbi Block was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1991. He is an active CCAR volunteer who has led the faculties of two URJ camps in addition to having served as board chair of Planned Parenthood of South Texas. Rabbi Block's article, "Unplanned Fatherhood," appears in the CCAR anthology, *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*.

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein is Senior Scholar and Rabbi Emeritus of North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, Illinois, where he served twenty-five years following his rabbinate at Brith Kodesh, Rochester, New York. He is editor of the Reform Haggadah, *A Pass-over Haggadah*. Beginning in 1997, he taught History of Religion courses at Lake Forest College, combining a successful congregational vocation with teaching, community roles, and publishing in learned and popular journals.

Rabbi Laura Geller, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, was the first woman to be selected through a national search to lead a major metropolitan synagogue as Senior Rabbi. Ordained in 1976, the third woman in the Reform Movement to become a rabbi, she was twice named one of Newsweek's 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America, and featured in the PBS documentary "Jewish Americans." She is a Fellow of the Corporation of Brown University from where she graduated in 1971. She is a founder of the first synagogue-based village, ChaiVillageLA, which is part of the national Village Movement and is working with her husband, Richard Siegel, on a book entitled *Getting Good at Getting Older: A Practical Guide Grounded in Jewish Wisdom* to be published by Behrman House in 2018.

Rabbi Neal Gold has served as Director of Content and Programming for ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He received *s'michah* from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1997 and is currently pursuing graduate work in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. A committed teacher, counselor, social activist, and prolific writer, for over eighteen years, he served congregations in New Jersey and Massachusetts. He was a delegate for ARZENU, the international Reform Jewish movement, at the 37th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem in October 2016.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein is the visionary spiritual leader of City Shul. She is known throughout Canada as an outstanding educator. She founded Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in 1991; she was its director and principal teacher for twenty years. Kolel was recognized worldwide as a leading institution in the field of Jewish adult education. In 2005, she was awarded North America's highest honor for Jewish Education, The Covenant Award for Outstanding Educators.

Rabbi Lisa S. Greene has served North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, Illinois since 1999. She seeks to create meaning, sacred time, and community through experiential Jewish learning and ritual, traditional and new. Lisa has written on ritual, divorce and the intersection of the ordinary and the sacred for the Huffington Post and in her blog, Intersections (www.ordinaryandsacred.com).

Rabbi Lisa J. Grushcow, DPhil, has served as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Montreal's Reform synagogue, since 2012. She received her BA from McGill University in 1996. She was then named a Rhodes Scholar and spent three years at Oxford University, where she earned a master's degree in Judaism and Christianity in the Greco-Roman World, and then a doctorate. She was ordained a rabbi in 2003 at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, where she studied as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She is the author of *Writing the Wayward Wife: Rabbinic Interpretations of Sotah*, the editor of *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*, and a contributor to *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*.

Rabbi Joui M. Hessel, RJE, was ordained and received a Masters of Arts in Jewish Education from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Hessel co-authored *The Hanukkah Family Treasury*, published by Running Hill Press and has also been published in CCAR publications: *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality* (2014) and *Mishkan T'filah for Youth* (2014); *Moment Magazine* (June 2007); as well as in a book on parenting young adult children, *Mom, Can I Move Back in with You: A Survival Guide for Parents of Twentysomethings*, published by Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium. Rabbi Hessel lives in Old Greenwich, Connecticut with her husband, Jimmy Hexter, and their daughter.

Rabbi Howard L. Jaffe has led Temple Isaiah of Lexington, Massachusetts, since 2000, and previously served congregations in Warren, New Jersey, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. His years as co-chair of the Reform Movement Commission on Outreach and Synagogue Community offered him some of the most meaningful opportunities and engagements of his rabbinic career.

Rabbi Peter S. Knobel is Rabbi Emeritus of Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, Evanston, Illinois. He is a past-president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and served as the chair of the Ad Hoc New Siddur Committee, which produced *Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur*. He is the editor of *Mishkan Moeid: A Guide to the Jewish Year*. He is a faculty member of the Spertus Institute in Chicago, Illinois.

Rabbi Sari Laufer was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, in May 2006. On the way to HUC-JIR, Rabbi Laufer graduated Cum Laude from Northwestern University, and served as an Eisendrath Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Rabbi Laufer was later selected for the PEER program through Synagogue Transformation and Renewal, for the inaugural year of the Rabbinic Fellowship for Visionary Leadership through UJA-Federation of New York, and was a member of the second cohort of CLAL's Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship. Rabbi Laufer served for eleven years as the assistant/associate rabbi of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City. In 2017, she started as the Director of Congregational Engagement for Stephen Wise Temple and Schools in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Simeon J. Maslin has served congregations in Curacao, Chicago, and Philadelphia. He is a past-president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, has lectured in many World Union congregations, and is the author of *And Turn It Again: Theme and Sacred Variation*, numerous articles, and the novel *Uncle Sol's Women*.

Rabbi Dr. Rachel S. Mikva serves as the Herman Schaalman Chair in Jewish Studies and the Director of the Center for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary. The Center and the Seminary work at the cutting-edge of theological education, training religious leaders who build bridges across cultural and religious difference for the critical work of social transformation. Dr. Mikva is author of *Broken Tablets: Restoring the Ten Commandments and Ourselves* (2000), *Midrash vaYosha: A Medieval Midrash on the Song of the Sea* (2012) and *Dangerous Religious Ideas* (forthcoming).

Rabbi Aaron Panken, PhD, serves as president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Reform Judaism's global seminary with campuses in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles and New York. He has taught Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature at HUC-JIR in New York since 1996, also serving as dean and vice president. The author of *The Rhetoric of Innovation* and a number of scholarly articles, his work explores the relationship between ancient texts and modern ideas of halachic flexibility, innovation, and change in Judaism. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University's Electrical Engineering program, he remains connected to technology and enjoying the natural world as a commercial rated airplane and glider pilot, a sailor, and a hiker.

Rabbi Lawrence W. Raphael, PhD, recently retired Senior Rabbi at Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco, California. Before serving Sherith Israel, he was Director of Adult Jewish Growth at the Union for Reform Judaism, and for 30 years was a dean and faculty member of HUC-JIR, New York. His long interest in Ethical Wills includes other publications on this topic and teaching workshops on how to create your own will.

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman is a teacher, writer, and hospice chaplain. She travels widely as a scholar-in-residence, teaching Talmud. Rabbi Scheinerman is a member of the CCAR Responsa Committee, and serves as editor of the “Voices of Torah” column of the CCAR Newsletter. She maintains a Torah commentary blog at <http://taste-of-torah.blogspot.com> and a Talmud blog at <http://tenminutesoftalmud.blogspot.com>. Rabbi Scheinerman was ordained in 1984 at HUC-JIR in New York, where she also received a Doctor of Divinity in 2009. She has held pulpits in Conservative, Reform, and unaffiliated congregations. She lives in Columbia, Maryland.

Rabbi Ariana Silverman graduated from Harvard University and was ordained by HUC-JIR. She has served Temple Kol Ami in West Bloomfield, Michigan, and Temple Beth Israel in Jackson, Michigan, and as the Interim Manager of Lifelong Learning for the CCAR. She is the rabbi of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, the last free-standing synagogue in the City of Detroit. She lives in Detroit with her family.

Rabbi A. Brian Stoller is the Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel in Omaha, Nebraska. A dedicated student of Torah and Jewish thought, Rabbi Stoller has published articles on Reform Judaism and Jewish law, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in halachah. Before entering the rabbinate, Rabbi Stoller had a career in politics and served as press secretary to then-U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald of Illinois.

Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener, DMin, is the Founding Director of the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she holds the Paul and Trudy Steinberg Chair in Human Relations. She holds a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling and a Master of Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR, as well as a Masters Degree in Jewish History from Columbia University. She is a certified member of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.

Rabbi Mary L. Zamore currently serves as the Executive Director of the Women's Rabbinic Network. She is also 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. Ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1997, she graduated from Columbia College and also studied at Yad Vashem and Machon Pardes. Rabbi Zamore is a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post.

Rabbi Elizabeth S. Zeller is NFTY's Director of Learning and Innovation at the Union for Reform Judaism. She previously served congregations in Tacoma, Washington and Forest Hills, New York. She is also the co-President of the Women's Rabbinic Network. While she took great pride in being single, she is now exploring a table for MORE than one, with her husband and her son.