

Contributor Biographies

Rabbi Stanley M. Davids is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Case Western Reserve University and was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1965. Following his service as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, he served as senior rabbi in congregations in Massachusetts, New York, and Georgia before retiring in 2004 as rabbi emeritus of Temple Emanu-El of Atlanta. He was chair of the CCAR Israel Committee, honorary life chair of the Israel Bonds Rabbinic Cabinet, a life member of NFTY, international president of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, and past national president of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Following his *aliyah* in 2004, he served for many years both as a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and as a member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization. He currently is a member of the Board of Overseers of HUC-JIR's Los Angeles campus. Resa and Rabbi Davids have three children and eight grandchildren.

Rabbi Lawrence A. Englander is immediate past chair of ARZENU Olami, the international Reform Zionist organization. In this capacity he also served on the Executive of the Jewish Agency and the Extended Executive of the World Zionist Organization. He is currently a Board member of ARZA Canada. He is rabbi emeritus of Solel Congregation of Mississauga, Ontario, and adjunct rabbi of Temple Sinai in Toronto. He is former editor of the *CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly*.

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Rabbi David Ariel-Joel is a senior rabbi at The Temple in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as executive director for the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (the Reform Movement in Israel), rabbi of Har-El Congregation in Jerusalem, director for the Progressive Beit Midrash, and executive director and educational director of

Hamdat, the Association for the Freedom of Science, Religion, and Culture in Israel. A founding member of Kibbutz Lotan, the second Reform kibbutz in Israel, Rabbi Ariel-Joel has dual American and Israeli citizenship. He served in the Israel Defense Forces and in the Israeli army reserves for twenty-three years. He has coedited three books: *Baruch She'assani Isha* (Praised be the One Who Made Me a Woman), about the women in Judaism from biblical times to the present; *The War of Gog and Magog: The Jewish Messianic Idea*; and *Who Is a Jew in Our Times?* He is a graduate of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem, where he received his MA in Jewish studies and was ordained in 1994. He received an MA in Jewish philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1993.

Rabbi Charley Baginsky is the director of Strategy and Partnerships for Liberal Judaism, and as part of this role she oversees the Israel Desk for the Alliance of Progressive Judaism. She studied theology, first at Cambridge and then King's College London. She spent several years working in Israel, which included a period at Leo Baeck in Haifa, where she also studied at Haifa University. She was ordained as a rabbi from Leo Baeck College and served as a congregational rabbi for ten years. She has three children, Joshua, Eliana, and Cassia.

Joshua S. Block is CEO and president of The Israel Project (TIP), a non-partisan educational organization that informs press, policy-makers and the public about Israel and the Middle East. A foreign policy and political strategist involved in national politics and policymaking for over twenty years, Block got his start on Capitol Hill with Sen. Ted Kennedy, subsequently working on numerous Democratic House, Senate, and Presidential campaigns, and serving as an appointee to the Clinton administration at the U.S. State Department's U.S. Agency for International Development. The *Forward* named Block one of America's fifty most influential Jews, and *Foreign Policy* magazine to its Twitterati 100 list of the most influential foreign policy experts on Twitter (@JoshBlockDC). The proud father

of four Reform Jews and son of Rabbi Richard and Susan Block, he and his wife Kim live with their beautiful Jewish babies outside Washington D.C.

Rabbi Danny Burkeman is the senior rabbi at Temple Shir Tikva in Wayland, Massachusetts. Previously he served as the associate rabbi at The Community Synagogue in Port Washington, New York, and The West London Synagogue in England. He has served on the board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and is a former Vice Chairman of Arzenu, serving as a delegate at three World Zionist Congresses. He is married to Micol and is father to Gabby and Benny.

Max Chaiken is currently studying toward rabbinic ordination at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. He serves as the student rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, California, and previously served as the student rabbi at Congregation Etz Chaim in Merced, California. Originally from Teaneck, New Jersey, Max is a proud alumnus of the URJ Camp Harlam and the URJ Kutz Camp. He studied on an Israel gap-year program prior to beginning his BA in economics and public policy at Brown University. He is a passionate songleader and composer and spent several years teaching and working in Jewish communities around Greater Boston.

Rabbi Leah Cohen, DMin, served as the executive director and senior Jewish chaplain at Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. She has over thirty years of rabbinic and executive management experience. In her current position, she enjoys working with students in the formation of their Jewish identity through programs, counseling, travel, study, worship, and relationship. Rabbi Cohen has served as a congregational rabbi, hospital chaplain, camp rabbi, and police chaplain. Ordained from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati campus in 2000, she received her DMin from the New York campus in 2015. Prior to her rabbinic career,

she worked in corporate healthcare for more than a decade in Asia and the United States. She has a master's degree in international management and a BA in international studies and has lived and traveled extensively abroad. A member of the CCAR Board of Trustees, fellow in the Shalom Hartman Institute Fellowship for Campus Professionals, and participant in the Rabbinic Leadership Program of the Institute of Jewish Spirituality, Rabbi Cohen is a passionate student and teacher of Jewish life.

Rabbi Neal Gold is the director of content and programming for ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained as a rabbi from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 1997 and is currently pursuing graduate work in Near Eastern and Jewish studies at Brandeis University. A committed teacher, counselor, and social activist, for over eighteen years he has served congregations in New Jersey and Massachusetts. He was a delegate for ARZENU, the international Reform Jewish movement, at the Thirty-Seventh World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem in October 2016.

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant, PhD is professor of Jewish education at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Her research and teaching interests focus on adult Jewish learning, Jewish leadership development, and the place of Israel in American Jewish life. She has written numerous articles, book chapters, and curriculum guides and coauthored (with Ezra Kopelowitz) *Israel Education Matters: A 21st Century Paradigm for Jewish Education* (2012). She has coedited (along with Helena Miller and Alex Pomson) *International Handbook of Jewish Education* (2011) and (with Diane T. Schuster, Meredith Woocher, and Steven M. Cohen) *A Journey of Heart and Mind: Transformative Jewish Learning in Adulthood* (2004). She was ordained by HUC-JIR in 2017.

Dr. Joshua Holo is associate professor of Jewish history and dean of the Jack H. Skirball Campus of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish

Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. He served as director of the Louchheim School of Judaic Studies from 2006 to 2010. Dr. Holo's publications focus on medieval Jews of the Mediterranean, particularly in the Christian realm. His book *Byzantine Jewry in the Mediterranean Economy* was published in 2009.

Rabbi Michael Marmor, PhD is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost of the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. He is the author of *Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder* (2016). Originally from England, he has lived in Israel since 1984.

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. Marx, tenth generation in Jerusalem, earned her doctorate at the Hebrew University and her rabbinic ordination at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem and Cincinnati. She is involved in various research projects and is active in promoting liberal Judaism in Israel. Marx writes for academic and popular journals and publications, and has published several books. She is currently serving as the co-editor of the new IMPJ siddur.

Jesse Paikin is a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, where he received his MA in Hebrew literature, and has worked as rabbinic fellow at the New Israel Fund and at the 14th Street Y. He is a graduate of Toronto's York University, where he received a degree in religious studies, philosophy, and theatre. He has also studied at New York University, Yeshivat Hadar, and the National Theatre School of Canada. A 2016 Kevah Teaching Fellow, he has worked as a Jewish educator throughout North America, Europe, and Israel, with particular devotion to European Jewish history and Israel education among adolescents and young adults. Among other things, Jesse is a voracious music listener, a vegetarian, and a runner. He blogs regularly at jessepaikin.wordpress.com.

Rabbi Dr. Haim O. Rechnitzer is associate professor of Modern Jewish Thought at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and a poet. He earned his doctorate from the department of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and his rabbinic ordination from HUC-JIR (Jerusalem). Rechnitzer’s research is dedicated to themes of political theology, theological trends in Hebrew poetry, Israeli theology, and Jewish education. In his poetry Rechnitzer explores the manifold manifestations of “Exile” and theological themes such as the possibility of communion with the Divine, sacred time, the Land of Israel, the Garden of Eden, and Second Naïveté. His recent books are *Prophecy and the Perfect Political Order: The Political Theology of Leo Strauss* (Jerusalem, 2012), *Songs of the Third Exile* (Jerusalem, 2014), and *Shibolet (Vortex)* (Jerusalem, 2015).

Liya Rechtman is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA), the American Zionist Movement, and a member of the All That’s Left Collective. A graduate of Amherst College, she is currently a dual-degree candidate for a master’s of theological studies at Harvard Divinity School and a master’s of law and diplomacy at the Tufts University Fletcher School. In addition to her academic work, she is a freelance journalist and has published pieces in *Lilith*, *Washington Jewish Week*, *JewSchool*, the *Energy Collective*, and the *Interfaith Observer*. Previously, she was a Dorot Fellow, a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and the manager of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life.

Eric Rosenstein is a rabbinical and education student at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. He currently serves as an education intern at Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles and served Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo, California, as their student rabbi. In addition to his rabbinical studies, Eric is a songleader and has served as a cantorial soloist in his native Los Angeles and in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He came to his Zionism

during his time lived in Jerusalem during an undergraduate semester abroad, through his rabbinical studies in Israel, and through the enduring friendships with many of the Israeli *sh'lichim* who spent summers at camp. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and baby daughter.

Rabbi John L. Rosove is senior rabbi of Temple Israel of Hollywood, Los Angeles, since 1988. He was ordained by the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, in 1979. He serves as the national chair of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA). He has a seat on the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Vaad HaPoel of the World Zionist Organization, the American Zionist Movement, and the Executive Committee of ARZENU (the international Reform Zionist Organization). Rabbi Rosove was the 2002 recipient of the World Union for Progressive Judaism International Humanitarian Award and has received special commendation from the State of Israel Bonds. In 2013 he was honored by J Street at its Fifth Anniversary Celebration in Los Angeles. He is the author of *Why Judaism Matters: Letters of a Liberal Rabbi to His Children and the Millennial Generation*, to be published in the fall of 2017, and writes a regular blog for the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal*. Rabbi Rosove and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of two sons, Daniel and David.

Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, PhD serves the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion as President’s Scholar and the National Director of Recruitment and Admissions. Prior to this appointment, Rabbi Sabath served as vice president of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Ordained at HUC-JIR in New York, Rabbi Sabath also earned a PhD in Jewish philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Sabath wrote a monthly column in *The Jerusalem Post* and writes regularly for *The Times of Israel*, *The Huffington Post*, and other publications. She co-authored two books and published numerous articles including “Radically

Free and Radically Claimed” in *Jewish Theology in Our Time*. Rabbi Sabath also teaches and mentors students of HUC-JIR and speaks throughout North America on leadership, Israel, gender, and theology. She is currently writing a book on the future of Jewish peoplehood.

Rabbi Noa Sattath is the director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the social justice arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. She is charged with leading the staff of the organization, developing and implementing social change strategies in the fields of separation of religion and state, women’s rights, and the struggle against racism. Prior to her work in IRAC, Rabbi Sattath was the executive director of the Jerusalem Open House, the LGBT community center in Jerusalem. She was also the executive director of MEET a nonprofit organization that uses technology to create a common language between Israeli and Palestinian young leaders. Prior to her work in civil society, she worked as a leader in the Israeli software industry. She is a graduate of the Hebrew University and Gratz College and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2014. She is a member of Congregation Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem.

Yoav Schaefer is a recent graduate of Harvard University, where he studied political and social theory and modern European intellectual history. His undergraduate thesis, which explored the political thought of several prominent Weimar Jewish intellectuals, was awarded the Hoopes Prize for outstanding scholarly work and research. Yoav currently studies Jewish philosophy at Tel Aviv University and is a 2017–2018 Dorot Fellow.

Professor Alon Tal, PhD is presently chair of the Department of Public Policy at Tel Aviv University. Dr. Tal was the founding director of Adam Teva V’din, the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, from 1990 to 1997, a leading public interest law group. Subsequently, he was chairman of Life and Environment, an umbrella group for

eighty environmental organizations in Israel, from 1998 to 2003. Dr. Tal also founded the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, a graduate studies center for Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian students.

Rabbi David Z. Vaisberg is spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El in Edison, New Jersey. He was ordained from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion’s New York campus in 2012 as a Mandel Fellow, with an additional MA in religious education. He has an Honours BA in psychology from York University in Toronto, Ontario. He edited *Thank You My Teacher, Thank You My Friend: Festschrift in Honour of Rabbi Lawrence A. Englander* (2014) and wrote *A Study of Sefer Yezirah and Its Commentators* (2012) and *Keep It Together, Keep It Real: A Curriculum of Holistic Healthy Living for Teenage Jews* (2010).

Rabbi Joshua Weinberg has been president of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, since 2013. After receiving his BA from the University of Wisconsin, engaging in the NFTY-EIE program, and studying at the Hebrew University, Rabbi Weinberg came to Israel on *aliyah* in 2003. He began teaching as a Jewish history faculty member on the EIE program. He subsequently served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson’s unit and studied for an MA at the Hebrew University in Jewish education. He was ordained from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem and is currently living in New York. Rabbi Weinberg has taught and lectured widely throughout Israel, the United States, and Europe. He currently serves as a mentor for the iCenter’s iFellows mentoring program. He is also a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson’s unit and has hiked the Israel-trail. He is passionate about Israel and reimagining Zionism, and his mission is to strengthen the connection between the Reform Movement and the Jewish state. He is married to Mara Sheftel Getz, and they have three daughters, Noa, Ella, and Mia.