

Contributor Biographies

Rabbi Rachel Adler, PhD, is the Ellenson Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. She was one of the first to bring feminist perspectives to bear on Jewish texts and law. Her book *Engendering Judaism* (1998) is the first by a female theologian to win a National Jewish Book Award for Jewish Thought.

Hadeel Azzam-Jalajel, who was raised in Nazareth, was at the time of writing this essay co-director of the Racism Crisis Center and a lawyer with a private legal practice. She is a graduate of the Law School of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She interned at the civil rights organization Hamoked: Center for the Defense of the Individual, and since passing the bar in March of 2014, she has focused on administrative and constitutional law. Hadeel is a social and political activist, and a member of the leadership of the Jewish-Arab movement Standing Together, which works to promote peace, equality, and social justice. She also works as a content manager in both Hebrew and Arabic for the movement.

Ruth Calderon, PhD, is a former member of the Israeli Knesset, former vice-speaker of the Knesset of the opposition party Yesh Atid, a Jewish educator, and Talmud scholar. In 1989, she founded Beit Midrash ELUL and, in 1996, the secular Beit Midrash for Hebrew Culture, ALMA. She served as the head of the Division for Culture and Education of the Israeli National Library and on the faculty of the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership, where she also belonged to the first cohort of students to finish the program. She earned a PhD in Talmud at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

She was awarded the Beit Avi Chai Prize for Jewish Education, the Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education, and an honorary doctorate.

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen is the senior director of the New Israel Fund in New York. Rabbi Cohen served for a decade at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the world's LGBTQ synagogue serving Jews of all sexual orientations and sexual identities and was the inaugural director of the Center for Jewish Living and the David H. Sonabend Center for Israel at JCC Manhattan. Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, she is the author of *Changing Lives, Making History: Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, The First Forty Years*, and co-editor of *Siddur B'chol L'vavcha*. Rabbi Cohen serves on the board of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. She and her partner, Rabbi Marc Margolius, have five children and live in New York City.

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 (HUC-JIR) in 1965. Following his service 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 Greater 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 chair of the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Following his aliyah, he served for many years as a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and as a member of the Zionist Executive of the World Zionist Organization, and he continues to serve on the Board of Overseers of HUC-JIR's Los Angeles campus. Together with Rabbi Lawrence Englander, he was editor of *The Fragile Dialogue: New Voices of Liberal Zionism*. Resa and Stanley Davids have three children and eight grandchildren.

Ruth Gavison, PhD, is the Haim H. Cohn Professor Emerita of Human Rights at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and the Humanities; a founding member of Association for Civil Right in Israel; co-author, with Yaa-cov Medan, of the New Covenant among Jews in Matters of Religion and State in Israel (The Gavison-Medan Covenant) a New Covenant Among Jews in Israel on state and religion issues (2003); a public intellectual, writing extensively on Israeli society and its challenges; and president of Metzilah: A center for Zionist, Jewish, Liberal and Humanist Thought.

Mickey Gitzin is the director of the New Israel Fund in Israel. Prior to joining NIF, he was the founding director of Israel Hof-sheet (Be Free Israel), a leading grassroots organization fighting for separation of religion and state in Israel. Previously, he was the spokesperson for MK Ilan Gilon (Meretz) and the associate director of Festival BeShekel, an organization advancing arts and culture in Israel's geographic and socioeconomic periphery. After completing his military service as an intelligence officer, he served as a shaliach (emissary) in South Bend, Indiana, for the Jewish Agency for Israel. Mickey holds a master's in public policy from University College -London. In 2013, Mickey received NIF UK's Human Rights Award and, in 2015, NIF's Gallanter Prize for Emerging Israeli Social Justice Leaders.

Anat Hoffman became executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center in 2002. Previously, she served as a member of the Jerusalem City Council for fourteen years, carving out a niche for herself as an untiring warrior for justice and equality. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam*, which literally means "repairing the world." It is this commitment to social action and justice that has formed her career. Anat was a founding member of Women of the Wall, and she served on the boards of the Israel Women's Network, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and many other Israeli organizations for social change.

Rabbi Jill Jacobs is the executive director of T'ruah, which mobilizes more than two thousand rabbis, cantors, and their communities to protect human rights in North America, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories. She is the author of *Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community* and *There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition*. Rabbi Jacobs holds rabbinic ordination and an MA in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary and an MS in urban affairs from Hunter College. She lives in New York with her husband, Rabbi Guy Austrian, and their two daughters.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is the president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the largest Jewish movement in North America, with almost nine hundred congregations and nearly 1.5 million members. An innovative thought leader, dynamic visionary, and representative of progressive Judaism, he spent twenty years as the spiritual leader of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York. Deeply dedicated to global social justice issues, he has led disaster response efforts in Haiti and Darfur.

Rabbi Gilad Kariv is the president and CEO of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism. He studied in the Israel Rabbinical Program of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion and was ordained as a Reform rabbi in 2003. Prior to that, Rabbi Kariv served in the Israeli Defense Forces' special Talpiot project of the Intelligence Corps and graduated from the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University, earning a combined degree with a BA in law and Jewish philosophy. He obtained his LLM in public and international law from the Northwestern University School of Law, has served as a member of the Constitution Committee for the State of Israel, and now sits on the board of Panim, an advocacy organization working to promote pluralistic Judaism in Israel. Recently, Rabbi Kariv led the negotiations on the Kotel issue, which resulted in a historic decision to create a pluralistic section of the wall. Rabbi Kariv lives in Ramat Gan with his wife Noa and their three children.

Tzachi Mezuman is the director of the Racism Crisis Center, in partnership with Hadeel Azaam-Jalajel. Tzachi also serves as a content editor and a scientific editor in the liberal arts. He founded and edited the journal *De'ot* of the Ne'emanai Torah Va'Avodah movement and was an editor for many popular and academic publications. Tzachi managed the translation department in the center for Bagrut (matriculation) exams at the Szold Institute, where he also coordinated the writing of the Talmud and Rabbinics exams. Since 2015, Tzachi has taken part in the battle against racism as part of the Israel Religious Action Center, and in 2017, he founded the Racism Crisis Center. Tzachi is one of the founders of Shoval, working for LGBT tolerance in the religious community; is an activist and past chairperson of the Israel Interfaith Association (IIA); and serves on the board of Tag Meir, combating racial hate crimes.

Rabbi Uri Regev is the president and CEO of an educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, Hiddush—Freedom of Religion for Israel, and of its Israeli counterpart, “Hiddush --For Religious Freedom and Equality,” which he founded in 2009. Prior to that, he served for seven years as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, a global umbrella organization of the Progressive, Reform, Liberal, and Reconstructionist Movements. A cum laude graduate of Tel Aviv University Law School and the Hebrew Union College -Institute of Religion in Jerusalem, where he was ordained in 1986, Rabbi Regev served in the IDF as an assistant legal advisor in the Gaza Strip and Sinai and as military prosecutor for the Israeli navy. He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel and went on to serve as founding chair, and later as executive director and legal counsel, of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC). Rabbi Regev lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Garri. Their son, Yonatan, and daughter-in-law, Lara, are rabbis serving congregations in Northern California, and their daughter, Liron, is a pastry chef in Southern California.

Rabbi John L. Rosove is rabbi emeritus of Temple Israel of Hollywood. He served as the national chairperson of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) (2016 -2018) and was national co-chair of the Rabbinic and Cantorial Cabinet of J Street from 2012 to 2016 and again from 2019. He received the World Union for Progressive Judaism International Humanitarian Award (2002) and 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* (2017) and of *Why Israel and its Future Matter: Letters of a Liberal Rabbi to His Children and the Millennial Generation* (forthcoming). He also writes a regular blog that appears on the *Times of Israel* Blog (<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/author/john-l-rosove/>) and his own blog at <http://rabbi-johnrosove.wordpress.com/>.

Rabbi Noa Sattath is the director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the social justice arm of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). 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, Noa was the executive director of the Jerusalem Open House, the LGBT community center in Jerusalem. Noa 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, Noa worked as a leader in the Israeli software industry. She is a graduate of Hebrew University and Gratz College. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College -Jewish Institute of Religion in 2014. She is a member of Congregation Kol HaNeshama in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Judith Schindler is the Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies and director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte. She was named rabbi emerita

in 2016 of Charlotte's Temple Beth El after serving as senior rabbi (2003-2016) and as associate rabbi (1998-2003). She co-authored *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement Is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America* (CCAR Press, 2018). She is enrolled in the Doctor of Hebrew Letters program at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, where she received her master's in 1993 and was ordained in 1995.

Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman is the founding rabbi of Congregation Kol HaNeshama in Jerusalem. He currently serves as president of Shomrei Mishpat: Rabbi for Human Rights.

Rabbi Joshua Weinberg serves as the vice president of the URJ for Israel and Reform Zionism and is the director of ARZA. A product of the Reform Movement, he came on aliyah to Israel in 2003 and was ordained from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem. Josh has previously served as the director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of Heller High School in Israel. He is married to Mara Getz Sheftel, and together they have four daughters.

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, is the president and dean of the Valley Beit Midrash, the founder and president of Uri L'Tzedek, the founder and CEO of the Shamayim V'Arezt Institute, the founder and president of YATOM, and the author of sixteen books on Jewish ethics. *Newsweek* named Rav Shmuly one of the top fifty rabbis in America, and the *Forward* named him one of the fifty most influential Jews.

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie served as president of the Union for Reform Judaism from 1996 to 2012. He lectures and writes on Israel and the Middle East, Reform Judaism, and American religious life, and he contributes a regular opinion column to the Israeli daily *Haaretz*. His writings may be found at ericoffie.com.