
CONTRIBUTORS

Rabbi Seth M. Limmer, DHL, serves as senior rabbi of Chicago Sinai Congregation. During his rabbinate he has served as chair of the Justice, Peace, and Civil Liberties Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, as vice chair of the Union for Reform Judaism's Commission on Social Action, as dean of faculty for Eisner and Crane Lake Camps, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the CCAR. On behalf of Chicago Sinai Congregation's lead role in organizing the Reform Movement's participation in the NAACP's 2015 America's Journey for Justice, Rabbi Limmer accepted the Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath Bearer of Light Award, the highest honor of the URJ. He is the author of many articles, and 2016 saw the publication of his first full-length book, *Medieval Midrash: The House for Inspired Innovation*.

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner serves as the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in Washington, DC. He has led the Religious Action Center since 2015 and also serves as senior vice president of the Union for Reform Judaism, a position to which he was appointed to in 2011. Named one of the most influential rabbis in America by *Newsweek* magazine, he is an inspirational leader

and tireless advocate for social justice. Rabbi Pesner serves as a board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, JOIN for Justice, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and the New England Center for Children. He is a member of the Leadership Team for the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable and has served as a scholar for the Wexner Foundation, American Jewish World Service, the Nexus USA Summit, and Combined Jewish Philanthropies, among others.

Rabbi David Saperstein currently serves as the senior advisor for Strategy and Policy for the Union for Reform Judaism. For decades, Rabbi Saperstein directed the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, representing the Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration. For over two years, Rabbi Saperstein served our nation as the U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, carrying out his responsibilities as the country's chief diplomat on religious freedom issues. He is also an attorney and has taught seminars on church-state law and Jewish law for thirty-five years at Georgetown University Law Center and currently serves as a senior fellow at both the Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and its School of Foreign Service's Center for Jewish Civilization.

Reverend Cornell William Brooks is the visiting professor of ethics, law, and justice movements at Boston University School of Theology and Boston University School of Law; a senior fellow at the Brennan Center of Justice at New York University Law School; a visiting fellow and director of the Campaigns and Advocacy Program at the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School; a visiting research scholar at Yale Law School; a regular contributor to CNN; and a former president and CEO of the NAACP.

Rabbi Mona Alfi is the spiritual leader for Congregation B'nai Israel in Sacramento, California. Concurrent with her work at B'nai Israel, she has served as the chaplain of the California State Assembly and the California State Senate, was a member of the Bioethics Committee at Sutter General Hospital, was on the Commission on Social Action (CSA) as a representative of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and is on the leadership team for the California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA). She received Truah's Rabbinic Human Rights Hero Award in 2017 for her work on marriage equality and immigrant justice.

Rabbi Erica Seager Asch worked as a community organizer with the Industrial Areas Foundation after ordination. She currently serves as the rabbi of Temple Beth El in Augusta, Maine, and assistant director of the Center for Small Town Jewish Life. She is active in the local community, most recently working with the Capital Area New Mainers Project to welcome immigrants and refugees to the Capital Area. Rabbi Asch serves on the Board of Trustees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Ken Chasen is senior rabbi of Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles. He is a leading activist and prolific author on a wide variety of social justice matters in the United States and in Israel, with writings appearing in numerous books and print and digital media publications. 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, in Israel, and in Europe.

Rabbi Jonathan Cohen, PhD, an Israeli-born scholar, is the senior rabbi at The Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beachwood, Ohio, having

served previously as associate professor in Talmud and halachic literature at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and as dean of the Cincinnati campus. He was appointed assistant professor in Talmud and halachic literature in July 1998 and as director of the Hebrew Union College–University of Cincinnati Center for the Study of Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems in January 2000. In November 2003, he was awarded the Rabbi Michael Matuson Professorship for Emerging Scholars, and he was named affiliate member of the Laboratoire Des etudes sur les Monothéismes of the French CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) in August 2005. He was appointed dean of the Cincinnati campus in September 2011 and ordained a rabbi in 2012.

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover is an associate rabbi at Temple Sholom of Chicago. She is a senior rabbinic fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute and serves on the Executive Committee of the Chicago Board of Rabbis as well as the Rabbinic, Educator, Cantorial Advisory Committee (RECC) of Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI). Rabbi Conover enjoys co-hosting a podcast on Jewish and Israeli film called *The Chosen Films* and is grateful to work in and for a community in which she is proud to raise her two sons, Eli and Ben, with her husband, Damien.

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, a Reform rabbi and a lawyer, is the executive director of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ). Working in the headquarters of the Reform Movement for over fifteen years, she served previously as the director of development and the director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. Prior to that, Rabbi Feldman worked in the Jewish community relations field, serving the Detroit and Delaware communities, where she also taught as adjunct faculty at the University of Detroit–Mercy and the Widener University College of Law in Wilmington, Delaware. She has authored Reform Movement action manuals, published modern midrash in several collections, and written articles and Op-Eds for numerous publications and newspapers.

Rabbi Edwin Goldberg, DHL, is the senior rabbi of Temple Sholom of Chicago. He has published numerous articles and books and served as coordinating editor of the new Reform High Holy Day prayer book, *Mishkan HaNefesh*.

Rabbi Lisa D. Grant, PhD, is director of the Rabbinical Program and professor of Jewish education at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Her research and teaching interests focus on adult Jewish learning, Jewish leadership development, and the place of Israel in American Jewish life. In addition to numerous articles, book chapters, and curriculum guides, Rabbi Grant is co-author with Ezra Kopelowitz of *Israel Education Matters: A 21st Century Paradigm for Jewish Education*. She is also co-editor of *The International Handbook of Jewish Education* with Helena Miller and Alex Pomson, and with Diane T. Schuster, Meredith Woocher, and Steven M. Cohen, *A Journey of Heart and Mind: Transformative Jewish Learning in Adulthood*.

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass, MARR, RJE, MAHL, believes Judaism nourishes and gives life meaning. She is deeply committed to *tikkun olam* and has brought this holy work to her congregation, Temple Beth Am, in Miami, as well as to the URJ. Rabbi Greengrass is a Rabbis Without Borders Fellow, Balfour/Brickner fellow, VP of the Miami board of Rabbis, and serves on the CCAR responsa committee.

Hilly Haber is a fifth-year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College–Institute of Jewish Religion in New York City. She holds a master of theological studies from Harvard Divinity School and a BA from Mount Holyoke College. She recently got married to Rabbi Rachel Marder.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is the president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the largest Jewish movement in North America, with almost 900 congregations and nearly 1.5 million members. An innovative thought leader, dynamic visionary, and representative of progressive

Judaism, he spent 20 years as the spiritual leader of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York. Prior to his tenure at WRT, Rabbi Jacobs served the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, where he founded and co-directed the first synagogue-based homeless shelter in New York City. Deeply dedicated to global social justice issues and the State of Israel, he has led disaster response efforts in Haiti and Darfur, and has studied for two decades at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, where he is a senior rabbinic fellow.

Ilana Kaufman is the director of the Jews of Color Field Building Initiative, a national effort focused on building and advancing the professional, organizational, and communal field for Jews of Color. Framed by the concepts of Racial Justice and Equity as well as centering the voices and experiences of Jews of Color, the Initiative is dedicated to grant making, research and field building, and community education. As a guest on NPR's *Code Switch*, with pieces featured in eJewish Philanthropy and *The Foundation Review*, and an Eli Talk titled "Who Counts? Race and the Jewish Future" with more than 16,000 views, Ilana is passionate about all things at the intersection of Jewish Community/Racial Justice/Jews of Color/Education/Philanthropy. Kaufman, a Schusterman Fellow who is always searching Jewish text for discussion of equity and justice, received her BA in Sociology from California State University-Humboldt and her MA in Educational Pedagogy from Mills College.

Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum serves as spiritual leader of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in Manhattan. She was installed as CBST's first rabbi in 1992, arriving at the height of the AIDS crisis when the synagogue was in desperate need of pastoral care and spiritual leadership. She guided the congregation through a period of loss and change, while addressing social issues of the day and building a strong and deeply spiritual community. Under her leadership as senior rabbi, CBST has become a powerful voice in the movement for equality and justice for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities,

and expressions and a significant force challenging the radical right's dominance over religious and political life in the United States and around the world. *Newsweek* ranked Rabbi Kleinbaum among the fifty most influential rabbis in America. She has been honored by dozens of religious and secular institutions for her social justice work. Recently Rabbi Kleinbaum has led her community to be a bold spiritual community of resistance and love. Rabbi Kleinbaum's synagogue is a member of the New Sanctuary Coalition working daily to support immigrants, Muslims, and other targeted communities.

Rabbi Stephanie Kolin is a rabbi at Central Synagogue in Manhattan and an Auburn Seminary senior fellow. Her rabbinic journey began at Temple Israel in Boston and continued as she served as co-director of the Union for Reform Judaism's Just Congregations, formerly the community organizing arm of the Reform Movement, and lead organizer and a founder of Reform CA, a statewide campaign for a more just and compassionate California. Stephanie was named as a "Game Changer" by the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal*, one of *Newsweek*'s "Rabbis to Watch," and one of the *Forward*'s "America's Influential Women Rabbis." Stephanie now lives in New York City with her wife and their daughter.

Rabbi Lynne F. Landsberg, z"l, was one of the American Jewish community's best-known, most eloquent, and beloved social justice advocates. As associate director of the Religious Action Center, and then a regional director for the Union for Reform Judaism, she was a respected and influential leader in civil rights, reproductive rights, and interfaith relations. Following a long recovery from a traumatic brain injury, Rabbi Landsberg refocused her efforts on disability rights, serving as senior advisor on disability rights for the Reform Movement and playing a key role in mobilizing the religious community generally and the Jewish community more particularly to address issues of accessibility in religious life, including co-founding the Jewish Disability Network and playing a key role in establishing Jewish Disability Awareness

and Inclusion Month. The first graduate degree student from Harvard Divinity School to become a rabbi, Lynne worked under the renowned theologian Harvey Cox, who said of her, “Of the hundreds, maybe thousands, of students I have taught over more than four decades at Harvard, she stands out and is in a class of her own.”

Rabbi Emily Langowitz joined the clergy staff at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, Arizona, in July 2017. A native of Wellesley, Massachusetts, Rabbi Langowitz received a master of Hebrew letters and was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2017. She completed a bachelor’s degree in Modern Hebrew at Yale University in 2012. Rabbi Langowitz is driven in her rabbinic work by a commitment to Jewish learning, building community, and the pursuit of interfaith partnerships and social justice.

Rabbi John A. Linder was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2003 and has served as senior rabbi of Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, Arizona, since 2008. Among other leadership roles, John is active in the Valley Interfaith Project and serves on the board of the Southwest Industrial Area Foundation’s Interfaith Education Fund. Rabbi Linder sees his role as spiritual leader to inspire and engage his community to serve as messengers of peace and justice through the enduring wisdom of Torah.

Rabbi Jill L. Maderer has served Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia since her ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2001 and since 2017 has served as its senior rabbi, the first woman to hold that position. A graduate of Brandeis University, she grew up in New Jersey, where her Jewish life was shaped by her family and her hometown congregation, Temple Emanu-El of Westfield. She lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Len, and their children, Moshe and Pria.

Rabbi Edythe (Edie) Held Mencher, LCSW, serves as Union for Reform Judaism faculty for Sacred Caring Community and is director of the URJ Presidential Initiative for Disabilities Inclusion. In her role as director of the URJ Ruderman Disabilities Inclusion Initiative, she helped to create the online learning site www.disabilitiesinclusion.org. She writes and consults regularly on disability rights and inclusion, on mental health, and on helping children and adults to find support and resilience when confronting difficult personal and communal events.

Ruth W. Messinger is currently the inaugural global ambassador for American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the international human rights organization that she led for eighteen years. She is also the inaugural Finkelstein Institute social justice fellow at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the social justice activist in residence at the Marlene Meyerson Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. In these positions Messinger is engaging rabbis, interfaith leaders, and lay activists to take action on behalf of oppressed and persecuted communities domestically and globally. She previously spent twenty years in public service in New York City, and she is married to an educator and has three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Rabbi Adam F. Miller currently serves as the senior rabbi at Temple Shalom in Naples, Florida, having previously served Temple Beth Am in Framingham, Massachusetts, and Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester in Chappaqua, New York. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Rabbi Miller was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2003. A passionate advocate for social justice, Rabbi Miller is a board member at Meals of Hope, is a Brickner Fellow, and spent more than ten years on both the Commission for Social Action of the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbi's Justice, Peace, and Liberties Committee. Rabbi Miller and his wife, Jennifer Siegal-Miller, live in Naples with their three sons.

Rabbi Joel Mosbacher serves as the senior rabbi of Temple Shaaray Tefila in Manhattan, New York. He is the national co-chair of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation’s “Do Not Stand Idly By” campaign, which seeks to use the gun purchasing power of public officials and the leverage of major institutional investors to press gun manufacturers to play their part in reducing gun violence. Rabbi Mosbacher is the lucky husband of Elyssa and the proud father of Ari and Lev.

Rabbi Michael Namath is the director of Leadership Development at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, DC. He received his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Namath regularly serves on the faculty of URJ Camp Harlam in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania, and as a member of the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington. He was a member of the Faith and Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute at the Center for American Progress as well as a Beyond the Call: Entrepreneurial Ministry Fellow.

Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, PhD, z”l, was the twelfth president of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (2014–18). Ordained by HUC-JIR in New York in 1991, Rabbi Panken served as a member of the faculty teaching Rabbinic and Second Temple literature since 1995, as dean of students (1996–98), as dean of the New York campus (1998–2007), and as vice president for Strategic Initiatives (2007–10). An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, Dr. Panken earned his doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University. His publications include *The Rhetoric of Innovation*, as well as articles in leading academic journals and scholarly volumes. He served on faculty for the Wexner Foundation, on the Editorial Board of *Reform Judaism* magazine, on the Rabbinical Placement Commission, on the Birthright Education Committee, on the CCAR Ethics Committee, and in a variety of other leadership roles within the Reform Movement and greater Jewish community. Prior to

teaching at HUC-JIR, he served as a congregational rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City and as a rabbinical intern at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York. A native of New York City who graduated from Johns Hopkins University's Electrical Engineering Program, Rabbi Panken was also a certificated commercial pilot and sailor.

Rabbi Karen R. Perolman has been serving Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, New Jersey, since 2008, as a rabbinic intern, assistant rabbi, and now associate rabbi. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2010, where she also received her master's degree in Hebrew literature. She credits her involvement with NFTY, URJ Camp Harlam, and the Maryland Hillel community for her desire to pursue the rabbinate, including a pivotal summer traveling with the NFTY in Israel program. Rabbi Perolman is a voracious reader, which fuels her passion to understand the intersections between food, politics, Judaism, feminism, and social justice. She is on all things social: @rabbikrp.

Rabbi S. David Sperling, PhD, is the Julian Morgenstern Professor of Bible at the New York school of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion.

Rabbi Joshua M. Z. Stanton is spiritual leader of East End Temple in Manhattan and a senior fellow at CLAL—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. He serves on the Board of Governors of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, which liaises on behalf of Jewish communities worldwide with the Vatican and other international religious bodies. Rabbi Stanton was in the 2015–16 cohort of Germanacos Fellows and part of the inaugural group of Sinai and Synapses Fellows from 2013 to 2015. He is a founding editor emeritus of the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, a publication that has enabled interreligious studies to grow into an academic field of its own.

Rabbi Rebekah P. Stern has served as the associate rabbi at Congregation Beth El in Berkeley, California, where she also grew up, since 2014. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2011. Her “first awakening” to issues of race and to her own privilege came in high school, learning from an extraordinary teacher, Lisa Arrastia. Today she strives to be an ally as she continues to learn from many teachers about her privilege and place in the world as an Ashkenazi Jew, a married straight person, a woman, a rabbi, and a mother of two young children.

Rabbi Rachel Timoner is the senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, New York, where she facilitates vibrant Jewish life at the meeting place between spiritual practice, learning, and social justice. Her community has become an active center for resistance and a hub for community organizing for democracy, human rights, and human dignity.

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 contributes a regular opinion column to the Israeli daily *Haaretz*. His writings may be found at ericyoffie.com.

Rabbi Mary L. Zamore was ordained by Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (New York, 1997) and is the executive director of the Women’s Rabbinic Network. As part of her work supporting and advocating for Reform women rabbis, she is co-leading the Reform Pay Equity Initiative, to narrow the wage gap for all female employees of the Reform Movement. She is also the editor of *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic* (CCAR Press, 2011), designated a finalist by the National Jewish Book Awards. She is currently editing her second anthology (CCAR Press) on the topic of Jewish ethics and money.