

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

WEXNER FIELD FELLOWSHIP &  
WEXNER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP/  
DAVIDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
ALUMNI INSTITUTE 2023

**Reconnect.**

**Refresh.**

**Reignite.**

**Reunite.**

**Participant Bios**

**FEBRUARY 12-15, 2023**

FT. MEYERS, FL

## THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

We are thrilled to gather with so many alumni of the Wexner Field Fellowship (WFF) and Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars (WGF/DS) Program at our first Alumni Institute since 2020. Below please find bios, headshots, and contact information for all Institute participants. Please note that all information was downloaded from the WexChange directory on December 7, 2022, following the registration deadline; changes that have been made since then are not included here.

Alumni may (and should!) review their profile on the WexChange and ensure that the information there is up to date. This includes new professional and volunteer positions, change of address, as well as information about your hobbies and interests; this will help other Wexner network members find you when they search WexChange.

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**Please note:** *These participant bios are being shared ELECTRONICALLY ONLY in an effort to cut down on our use of paper and in recognition of how quickly bios become outdated. We encourage you to read through the bios in advance of the Institute. If you'd like to have a hard copy, of course you may print a booklet for your own use.*

# ALUMNI INSTITUTE ROSTER

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2023 | FT. MYERS, FLORIDA

## ALUMNI

Naomi Adland	WGF/DS Class 25*	Jane Kanarek	WGF/DS Class 13
Tali Adler	WGF/DS Class 28	Joe Kanofsky	WGF/DS Class 11
Julie Pelc Adler	WGF/DS Class 13	Shana Teig Kantor	WGF/DS Class 15
Igor Alterman	WFF Class 3	Shaul Kelner	WGF/DS Class 8
Hannah Kapnik Ashar	WGF/DS Class 32	Daniel Kirzane	WGF/DS Class 21
Viki Bedo	WGF/DS Class 30	Fred Klein	WGF/DS Class 6
Sarah Bunin Benor	WGF/DS Class 11	Malkah Binah Klein	WGF/DS Class 12
Audrey Marcus Berkman	WGF/DS Class 15	Sasha Kopp	WGF/DS Class 27*
Jethro Berkman	WGF/DS Class 15	Andy Koren	WGF/DS Class 1
Shira Berkovits	WFF Class 1	Eli Kornreich	WGF/DS Class 6
Matt Berkowitz	WGF/DS Class 6	Mimi Kravetz	WFF Class 1
Jamie Bornstein	WGF/DS Class 18	Dalia Krusner	WGF/DS Class 29*
Shua Brick	WGF/DS Class 30	Alisa Rubin Kurshan	WGF/DS Class 5
Nina Bruder	WGF/DS Class 5	Julie Lambert	WGF/DS Class 7
Nina Butler	WGF/DS Class 8	Emily Langowitz	WGF/DS Class 25
Ken Carr	WGF/DS Class 3	Sari Laufer	WGF/DS Class 14
Yossi Chajes	WGF/DS Class 4	Elie Lehmann	WGF/DS Class 26
Hirsh Chinn	WGF/DS Class 2	Aaron Lerner	WGF/DS Class 22
Sandy Cohen	WGF/DS Class 3	Rachel Lerner	WGF/DS Class 21*
Frayda Gonshor Cohen	WGF/DS Class 20*	Rose Savage Levenson	WGF/DS Class 30*
Emily Cook	WGF/DS Class 20*	Dan Levin	WGF/DS Class 4
Beth Cousens	WGF/DS Class 14	Jon Levisohn	WGF/DS Class 10
Josh Cypess	WGF/DS Class 9	Susan Eiseman Levitin	WGF/DS Class 3
Tammy Dollin	WGF/DS Class 1	Rachel Levy	WGF/DS Class 13
Paula Mack Drill	WGF/DS Class 11	Gina Lewald-Fass	WGF/DS Class 10
Deborah Eisenbach-Budner	WGF/DS Class 4	Meredith Lewis	WFF Class 1
Serena Eisenberg	WGF/DS Class 9	Annie Lewis	WGF/DS Class 20
Shira Koch Epstein	WFF Class 1	Danna Livstone	WGF/DS Class 9
Gabe Falk	WGF/DS Class 31	Asher Lopatin	WGF/DS Class 5
Jacob Feinspan	WFF Class 1	Ann Luban	WGF/DS Class 4
Nora Feinstein	WGF/DS Class 28	Michelle Lynn-Sachs	WGF/DS Class 6
Shir Feit	WGF/DS Class 29	Miriam Margles	WGF/DS Class 14
Mollie Feldman	WGF/DS Class 29*	Lesley Matsa	WFF Class 1
Sue Fendrick	WGF/DS Class 2	Scott Meltzer	WGF/DS Class 4
Jacob Fine	WGF/DS Class 15	Jessica Kate Meyer	WGF/DS Class 20*
Stephanie Fink	WGF/DS Class 9	Deborah Sacks Mintz	WGF/DS Class 30
Michelle Fisher	WGF/DS Class 10	Nathaniel Moldoff	WGF/DS Class 29*
Malka Fleischmann	WGF/DS Class 25*	Leon Morris	WGF/DS Class 4
Rebecca Fletcher	WGF/DS Class 9	Naftuli Moster	WFF Class 3
Jonah Geller	WFF/WGFDS Class 27	Robin Nafshi	WGF/DS Class 13
Laura Gold	WGF/DS Class 10	Avi Narrow-Tilonsky	WGF/DS Class 20*
Elliot Goldberg	WGF/DS Class 4	Andrew Oberstein	WGF/DS Class 29
Erica Goldman	WGF/DS Class 28*	Daniel Olson	WGF/DS Class 27*
Megan GoldMarche	WGF/DS Class 22	Dani Passow	WGF/DS Class 21
Lauren Goodlev	WGF/DS Class 24	Scott Perlo	WFF Class 2
Sam Greenberg	WGF/DS Class 28*	Elana Edrstein Perry	WGF/DS Class 15
Penina Grossberg	WGF/DS Class 5	Abby Phelps	WGF/DS Class 25
Vanessa Harper	WGF/DS Class 30*	Aaron Portman	WGF/DS Class 30
Graham Hoffman	WFF Class 1	Amber Powers	WGF/DS Class 9
Sarit Horwitz	WGF/DS Class 23	Josh Rabin	WFF Class 2
Sara Hurwitz	WFF Class 1	Esther Reed	WGF/DS Class 9
		Shani Rosenbaum	WGF/DS Class 31

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David Rosenn	WGF/DS Class 5	Adam Strater	WGF/DS Class 28
Rebecca Rosenthal	WGF/DS Class 16	Avi Strausberg	WGF/DS Class 24
Wendy Rosov	WGF/DS Class 6	Shira Stutman	WGF/DS Class 14
Benjamin Ross	WGF/DS Class 24	Aviva Sufian	WGF/DS Class 14
Erica Rothblum	WFF Class 1	Stephanie Tankel	WFF Class 1
Sivan Rotholz	WGF/DS Class 31*	Valerie Thaler	WGF/DS Class 8
Jonathan Rudnick	WGF/DS Class 4	Raquel Ukeles	WGF/DS Class 9
Leah Sarna	WGF/DS Class 27	Effy Unterman	WGF/DS Class 19*
Josh Satok	WGF/DS Class 28*	Lewis Warshauer	WGF/DS Class 5
Andrew Scheer	WGF/DS Class 24	Josh Waxman	WGF/DS Class 11
Yoni Schwab	WFF Class 2	Adam Weisberg	WGF/DS Class 2
Ahud Sela	WGF/DS Class 14	Naomi Korb Weiss	WGF/DS Class 21*
Allen Selis	WGF/DS Class 15	Melissa Werbow	WGF/DS Class 12
Erica Shaps	WGF/DS Class 31*	David Wolkenfeld	WGF/DS Class 17
Liz Shayne	WGF/DS Class 31*	Dave Yedid	WGF/DS Class 31
Ariana Silverman	WGF/DS Class 16	Aki Yonekawa	WGF/DS Class 26*
Joel Sisenwine	WGF/DS Class 3	Roderick Young	WGF/DS Class 7
Michaela Slutsky	WGF/DS Class 31*	Beth Young	WFF Class 2
Michal Fox Smart	WGF/DS Class 6	Maya Zinkow	WGF/DS Class 30
Sara Smith	WGF/DS Class 26*		
Jon Spira-Savett	WGF/DS Class 3		
Howard Stecker	WGF/DS Class 1		
Suzu Stone	WGF/DS Class 20		

## GUESTS

Cindy Chazan and Jay Leipzig  
Rabbi Maurice Corson and Ruth Corson  
Shaul Kelner and Pam Kelner

## STAFF

Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson  
Dara Katzner  
Or Mars WGF/DS Class 6  
Jay Moses WGF/DS Class 5  
Sophie Silberstein  
Trisha Taylor  
Ruthie Warshenbrot WGF/DS Class 23\*  
Stefanie Zelkind WGF/DS Class 16  
Tali Zerkowicz WGF/DS Class 15

\* Denotes Davidson Scholar

# Alumni Attendees



**Naomi Adland**

**WGF/DS • Class 25 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

nadland@gmail.com | Washington, DC

Naomi currently works as Operations Director at the Aviv Foundation, where she oversees the foundation's grant management, financial systems, and physical office space in addition to fostering a dynamic, giving, collaborative, and curious organizational culture. A program and operations professional with 10+ years of nonprofit experience, Naomi is an analytical thinker, a creative and empathetic colleague, and an aficionado of the blog Things Organized Neatly. Outside of work, Naomi enjoys hiking and biking in the DC area, and continues to bake her way through the Smitten Kitchen.



**Tali Adler**

**WGF/DS • Class 28**

tali247@gmail.com | Cedarhurst, NY

Tali is a faculty member at Hadar. A graduate of Yeshivat Maharat, Tali lives in Washington Heights with her husband and daughter.



**Julie Pelc Adler**

**WGF/DS • Class 13**

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Rabbi Julie Adler earned master's degrees from the University of Judaism and from Harvard Graduate School of Education and was ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in 2006. She co-edited the anthology, *Joining the Sisterhood: Young Jewish Women Write Their Lives*, published by SUNY Press and published essays and articles in *Spirituality and Health*, *Lilith*, and *Reform Jewish Magazine*, as well as *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*, *Midrash and Medicine: Healing Body and Soul in the Jewish Interpretive Tradition*, and *Torah Queeries: Weekly Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible*. After ordination, Rabbi Adler served as the Assistant Director of the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health; the Executive Director of the Brit Milah Program of Reform Judaism; and the Director of Jewish Student Life at Santa Monica Community College in Los Angeles. Over the last decade she has served mostly non-denominational and multi-denominational congregations in and around Chicago, IL. Most recently, Rabbi Adler completed graduate training in counseling psychology at Adler University, earning an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She works as a psychotherapist and lives in Evanston, IL with her family.



# Alumni Attendees



## Igor Alterman

WFF • Class 3

ialterman@jewishdallas.org | Plano, TX

Igor Alterman serves as the President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas. Known for his entrepreneurial spirit, Igor has transformed organizations, he had an opportunity to lead. Before moving to Dallas, Igor spent seven years in Miami, FL, as the CEO of the University of Miami Hillel. There, he was the lead staff for finishing a multi-million dollar capital campaign for a state-of-art Braman Miller Center for Jewish Life. Igor designed a vision to position it as a desirable venue, that hosted dignitaries, world-class seminars, and distinguished speakers. Under his leadership, UM Hillel became one of the flagship Hillels in the movement, winning the most prestigious awards, doubling it's annual budget, and drastically increasing student and community engagement. Graduate of the Hebrew Union College, Igor attributes his educational vision to his Masters's in Religious Education, and his management skills to the Zeldin School of Nonprofit Management. Igor is a member of the Schusterman ROI Community, Hartman, and MASA graduate. A Russian-born Jew, Igor lived in Israel, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and has moved to Dallas with his wife, and two children.



## Hannah Kapnik Ashar

WGF/DS • Class 32

hannahkapnik@gmail.com | Denver, CO

Hannah Kapnik Ashar is a fellow in Hadar's Advanced Kollel and is a fellow in the Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurship with the Center for Rabbinic Innovation. Hannah is a Faculty Member at The Bronfman Fellowship, where she previously was Manager of Fellowship Year Experience. She served for five years as the Associate Spiritual Leader of Congregation Bonai Shalom, the Conservative synagogue in Boulder, Colorado. Hannah co-founded The Tefilah Retreat, a weekend of Jewish spiritual practice for young adults, and Come & Listen, podcast of Jewish existential ideas, for which she was an Upstart Fellow. Hannah consulted on the Girls In Trouble Curriculum, exploring creative interpretation of stories of women in Tanach. Hannah participated in the 2017 Kenissa: Network of Communities of Meaning Consultation, the 2019 M2 Senior Educators Cohort, and Ayeka Soulful Educator Training. Hannah has been a birth doula since 2011. She graduated from Wellesley College cum laude and has studied at Hadar and Pardes. Hannah is married to Yoni, a neuroscientist and clinical psychologist who studies chronic pain and placebo in the brain. Their daughters are Zivi, Ayala, and Mira Tair.



## Viki Bedo

WGF/DS • Class 30

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Viki Bedo serves as the assistant rabbi at Olam Tikvah Congregation in Fairfax, VA. She received her rabbinic ordination in 2021 from the Jewish Theological Seminary. While at JTS, Viki was the rabbinical intern at Park Avenue Synagogue, worked as a Jewish education consultant for BBYO, and was a rabbinic fellow through Hillel's Office of Innovation. She completed her unit of chaplaincy training working with Holocaust survivors in New York. Viki graduated summa cum laude from Brandeis University with a B.A. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, as well as International and Global Studies. Prior to attending college, she spent two years at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, where she first fell in love with rabbinic texts. Though born in Gothenburg, Sweden, she grew up in Budapest, Hungary where much of her family lives until today and where she has strong ties to the Jewish community. Viki lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband, Jonah, and their children Lev and Laila.

# Alumni Attendees



## **Sarah Bunin Benor**

**WGF/DS • Class 11**

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Sarah Bunin Benor - Class XI. Sarah is Vice Provost and Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and Linguistics at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles campus). She teaches social science to Jewish nonprofit management students, Jewish languages and names to rabbinical students, and linguistics and Jewish studies to undergrads at USC. She has published academic articles on sociolinguistics, Jewish languages, and American Jews. Her books include *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* (2012) and *Hebrew Infusion: Language and Community at American Jewish Summer Camps* (2020). She is founding co-editor of the *Journal of Jewish Languages* and founding director of the HUC Jewish Language Project, which runs the Jewish Language Website ([www.jewishlanguages.org](http://www.jewishlanguages.org)) and the Jewish English Lexicon. Sarah and her husband, Mark, enjoy spending time with their three children, Aliza, Dalia, and Ari.



## **Audrey Marcus Berkman**

**WGF/DS • Class 15**

rabbiamb@gmail.com | Newton, MA

Rabbi Audrey Marcus Berkman has served since July 2017 as Rabbi of Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, MA. Previously, she was Director and Rabbi of Wellesley College Hillel, Chaplain/Rabbi at Center Communities of Brookline (part of Hebrew SeniorLife), and Rabbi of Shir Hadash, a Reconstructionist Havurah. She has served on the faculty of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel. She writes poetry and is an accomplished singer. Audrey is passionate about music, about humor (in the tradition of her great-great grandfather, Sholom Aleichem), about Israel and Hebrew (and Hebrew poetry, especially Amichai), theology (especially Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, and Franz Rosenzweig), and about providing support and spiritual accompaniment throughout the lifecycle, being present with all who seek connection to Jewish tradition and community during moments of joy and moments of sorrow. Audrey seeks to engage Jews of all backgrounds with Jewish community, text and tradition, by bringing our individual lives and stories into conversation with the Jewish story. She lives in Newton, MA with her husband Rabbi Jethro Berkman (WGF 15) and their three sons (8, 14, and 16) and two rescue dogs.



## **Jethro Berkman**

**WGF/DS • Class 15**

jethroberkman@yahoo.com | Newton, MA

Jethro Berkman is the Director of the Educational Leadership Program and a Program Officer in Jewish Education at the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership. Before joining the Foundation, Rabbi Berkman worked at Gann Academy for eleven years, most recently as Dean of Jewish Education. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and a member of the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis. He also studied at the Yakar Center for Tradition and Creativity, the Harvard Divinity School, the Hebrew University, the Pardes Institute, the Conservative Yeshiva and Machon Schechter. Prior to his studies at RRC, Rabbi Berkman spent three years living in Israel, both studying and working for Seeds of Peace, an organization that helps teenagers from regions of conflict learn peacemaking skills. Rabbi Berkman also worked with children with special needs in the Boston Public Schools and volunteered for the community service program City Year Boston.



# Alumni Attendees



## Shira Berkovits

WFF • Class 1

shira@jewishsacredspaces.org | Pittsburgh, PA

Shira Berkovits (she/her) is President and CEO of Sacred Spaces. A behavioral psychologist with a research background in creating large-scale organizational change, and an attorney specialized in criminal law, Shira has spent years studying the intersection of psychology and law as related to sexual offending in faith communities. Bringing a uniquely Jewish lens, Shira partners with Jewish leaders to build healthy and accountable institutions, whose culture and daily operations foster sacredness and reduce the risk of harassment, abuse, and other forms of interpersonal harm. In her role as CEO of Sacred Spaces, she has worked with Jewish communities across five continents to prevent, handle, and heal from institutional abuse. Named to The Jewish Week's 36 Under 36 for her pioneering work on abuse prevention, and awarded the JPro 2022 Young Professionals Award, Shira sits on the board of the Academy on Violence and Abuse and is a member of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.



## Matt Berkowitz

WGF/DS • Class 6

rabbimattberkowitz@gmail.com | Jerusalem

Rabbi Matthew L. Berkowitz is the Director of Israel Programs for The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and co-founder of Kol Ha-Ot, a Jerusalem-based venture devoted to exploring the arts and Jewish learning. For ten years (1999-2009), Matt served as the JTS Senior Rabbinic Fellow, organizing substantive adult learning throughout Florida and beyond. He is a member of The Wexner Heritage Program Faculty. He completed his undergraduate work in International Relations and Middle East Studies, summa cum laude, at Colgate University. While in Israel, he studied at Pardes and The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. He was ordained from JTS in 1999 and is a Wexner Graduate Fellow alumnus (Class VI). An accomplished artist, Matt was formally trained in Jewish scribal art in Jerusalem and completed the writing of Megillat Esther, the illumination of several ketubbot, and a limited edition artist portfolio entitled Passover Landscapes: Illuminations on the Exodus which was acquired by Yale University, exhibited at Yeshiva University Museum (April, 2006) and is on permanent exhibit at The Jewish Theological Seminary. The Lovell Haggadah (jointly published in 2008 by The Schechter Institute and Nirtzah Editions) is based on this work. In 2008-2009, he studied illustration and oil painting at The Jerusalem Studio School. Rabbi Berkowitz resides in the Arnona neighborhood of Jerusalem. [www.rabbimattberkowitz.com](http://www.rabbimattberkowitz.com)



## Jamie Bornstein

WGF/DS • Class 18

james.bornstein@gmail.com | Sharon, MA

Jamie is the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Previously Jamie spent six years at Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the Jewish Federation in Boston, working as the Senior Israel Programs Associate and Senior Development Officer, Major Gifts. Jamie was named a Wexner Graduate Fellow in 2005 and received his MBA from Boston University. He earned his BA in Government from Skidmore College. Both he and his wife, Carrie, spent the 2005-2006 academic year studying in the Pardes Year Program. Jamie and Carrie live in Sharon, Massachusetts, with their three children and their 50lb Wheaten/Poodle (Whoodle) who the breaded said would be 25-35 lbs.



# Alumni Attendees



**Shua Brick**

**WGF/DS • Class 30**

brick.shua@gmail.com | Oakland, CA

Shua Brick is the Director of Family Learning at the Beth Jacob Congregation of Oakland and Jewish Studies Faculty at the JCHS of the Bay. From West Hempstead, NY, his rabbinic ordination and MA in Jewish Education are from Yeshiva University. Previously the Executive Communications Manager of the Office of the President of YU, and Rabbinic Intern at The Jewish Center.



**Nina Bruder**

**WGF/DS • Class 5**

ninabruder@gmail.com | Bronx, NY

Class V Nina Bruder is the Executive Director of the Jewish New Teacher Project, the Jewish day school division of the New Teacher Center, a national non-profit educational organization that accelerates the effectiveness of new teachers and school leaders through mentoring. Nina also serves on the faculty at the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. Nina served for almost a decade as the Executive Director of Bikkurim: Advancing New Jewish Ideas and before that at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. Publications include articles in HAYIDION, Jewish Educational Leadership, and "From First Fruits to Abundant Harvest: Maximizing the Potential of Innovative Jewish Starts-Ups." Nina holds a BA from Brandeis University, a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, and studied for two years at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies in Israel. Nina lives in Riverdale, NY with her husband and two almost-adult children.



**Nina Butler**

**WGF/DS • Class 8**

ninasbutler@gmail.com | Pittsburgh, PA

Nina Butler directs the Bikur Cholim of Pittsburgh. She continues to be an Independent Consultant, with recent projects including the OU's "Synagogues Reimagined" project in LA; Legacy Heritage Fund's "OnBoard" project- a board training initiative; and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's "Neighborhood-based Teen Mental Health" initiative. Nina has consulted in the fields of communal development and educational reform, as well as disability policy & advocacy. She has developed curricula for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Heinz History Center and Agency for Jewish Learning. She served as National Educational Consultant to the AVI CHAI Foundation. Nina earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Administration & Policy Studies, as well as a Masters Degree in Special Education and another in the Art of Teaching. She has over thirty years of experience with formal and informal education and has lectured nationally and internationally.



# Alumni Attendees



## Ken Carr

WGF/DS • Class 3

rabbiken@templechayaishalom.org | Mansfield, MA

Rabbi Ken Carr (Class III) has served Temple Chayai Shalom, in Easton, MA, since 2016. He previously served Congregation Or Ami in Lafayette Hill, PA, and Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, CA. He is an active member of the CCAR, serving on and chairing several committees.



## Yossi Chajes

WGF/DS • Class 4

chajes11@gmail.com | Zichron Yaakov, Israel

J. H. (Yossi) Chajes (Ph.D., Yale University 1999) is Sir Isaac Wolfson Professor of Jewish Thought in the Department of Jewish History at the University of Haifa. A former recipient of Fulbright, Rothchild, Wexner, and Hartman Fellowships, Chajes has also been a visiting professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, a three-time fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and a fellow at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem and the Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften of Goethe University Frankfurt. He sits on the Executive Board of the World Union of Jewish Studies, representing the fields of rabbinics and Jewish thought.



## Hirsh Chinn

WGF/DS • Class 2

melonchinn@aol.com | Silver Spring, MD

Having a good time creating and implementing curriculum for a new kind of Jewish Educational environment blending Montessori, traditional and home schooling (1st-12th !!) Still involved in addiction recovery work through JACS and beyond and... Enjoying my new career as a ZAIDY with my grandchildren, Yael Zipporah and Yitzchok Gavriel, Hannah Rivka, Raphael David, Boaz, Ari David, Kalman Yitzchok, Moshe Eli, Bella, and Mordechai (poo, poo, poo -kein yirbu)



## Frayda Gonshor Cohen

WGF/DS • Class 20 / Davidson Scholar ✨

frayda@gmail.com | Berkeley, CA

Frayda Gonshor Cohen, EdD is a Managing Director at Rosov Consulting. She received her MA and doctorate in Education at Mills College and she studied Talmud and Halakhah in the Scholar's Circle at Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. Frayda has worked in a variety of formal and informal Jewish educational settings. She is also one of the founders of Kevah, where she helped design and implement the Kevah Teaching Fellowship. She lives in Berkeley, California with her husband Rabbi Yonatan Cohen and their four young children.



# Alumni Attendees



## Sandy Cohen

WGF/DS • Class 3

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I was born in Evanston IL and raised in Minneapolis, MN (land of the Frozen Chosen). I served as a congregational rabbi in Denver, CO from 1995 ordination until I suffered a stroke in 2002. Currently, I am engaged in Talmud Torah with a number of hevruta, which is truly a blessing. I have now refocused my rabbinate towards teaching, and towards raising awareness of Mental Health issues and inclusion in the Jewish community. I offer Scholar-in-Residence programs and shorter workshops. Please invite me to your synagogue/community to preach about mental health inclusion and teach/work with Chesed committees on outreach to the mentally ill and their families! And, with some trepidation, I am now beginning the process of writing a book. I am married to lawyer / musician, Ben, and we have a wonderful daughter, Shira, who is in law school. I was proud to complete my first Daf Yomi cycle in January of 2020, and then begin again, as one does.



## Emily Cook

WGF/DS • Class 20 / Davidson Scholar ✨

emilycook@gmail.com | Bala Cynwyd, PA

Emily Cook currently serves as the Principal of Perelman Jewish Day School in Wynnewood, PA after several years as the school's Director of Curriculum and Instruction. At Perelman, Emily is responsible for ensuring academic excellence and spearheading efforts to introduce new and innovative curricula. Prior to this, Emily served as the principal and then head of school at Kellman Brown Academy for five years. Emily Cook holds a B.A. in Architecture from Washington University, a Master's in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, and an EdD in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). She has been an adjunct faculty member in teacher education graduate programs, teaching and mentoring pre-service teachers. Throughout her career, Emily worked in public schools, Hebrew schools, and overnight camps. She has designed and implemented staff training for PK-5th grade educators; written curricula in a public school; and coordinated parent communication, camper care, and staff training at an overnight camp. Her passion for Jewish day school education includes growing Jewish identity, social emotional learning, teacher professional development, and curriculum integration.



## Beth Cousens

WGF/DS • Class 14

bethcousens@gmail.com | San Francisco, CA

As the founder of Beth Cousens Consulting, Beth Cousens helps organizations adapt projects in Jewish education and engagement to the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. She has been part of the senior professional teams at The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund (Bay Area), The Jewish Federations of North America, and Hillel International, where she focused on impact strategy, measurement, philanthropy, and communal change. She has worked with dozens of community-based and national organizations on strategic research and initiative design, program evaluation, strategic planning, professional and leadership development, and more. Through her capacities for research, strategy, creativity, and change management, she offers clients new ways of understanding their work, helps clients to adopt new strategies, and enables organizations to achieve more. Beth is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Brandeis University and was the recipient of a Wexner Graduate Fellowship. She is the author of numerous articles about Jewish education and engagement and lives in San Francisco with her husband and children.



# Alumni Attendees



**Josh Cypess**

**WGF/DS • Class 9**

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Josh has a MA in sociology and a doctorate in Jewish Studies from Brandeis University. Before returning to graduate school, he served for nine years as a pulpit rabbi, first in Congregation Kehilah Jeshurun of Manhattan, ultimately as Assistant Rabbi and then as the rabbi of the Young Israel of New Haven. He is an honors graduate from Princeton University in anthropology and received his Wexner Fellowship for ordination at Yeshiva University. Josh's wife, Rebecca, is a professor of music history at Rutgers University and they and their kids have been living in Highland Park, NJ, since 2012.



**Tammy Dollin**

**WGF/DS • Class 1**

tamradollin@gmail.com | Denver, CO

Legacy Community Consultant with the LIFE & LEGACY initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Train, motivate and incentivize Jewish communities around the US to build endowment funds and steward donors to secure their financial future. Professional coach, working with executives and leadership in Jewish non-profit organizations, synagogues, foundations. One of founding directors of Ramah in the Rockies, responsible for project visioning and momentum, creating organizational and board structure, strategic planning and fund raising. Consulted w/ variety of communal institutions (Federation, Day school, other communal organizations) to research, design and/or implement new programs or models. Designed Hebrew/Israel Immersion program for high schoolers, and consulted in field of moral education and organizational change. Author of L'Chaim: A Zayde Adventure!: Memoir of a Rabbi's Life, published by iuniverse 2008. Co-founder and leader of alternative minyan at Hebrew Educational Alliance.



**Paula Mack Drill**

**WGF/DS • Class 11**

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Paula Mack Drill has served as one of three rabbis of the Orangetown Jewish Center, Orangeburg, New York since 2004. Prior to Rabbinical School at JTS where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow, Paula worked for eleven years as a social worker, serving in various positions at the Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center and at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union in New Jersey. During and after her time in Rabbinical School, Paula worked as Assistant Director of Camp Ramah in Nyack for seven summers. Throughout her years at the OJC, Paula has been a mentor to Rabbinical School students and Davidson School of Education students of the JTS and to Wexner Graduate Fellows. Paula has served on the Board and Executive Committee of Rockland County Jewish Federation and was president of the Rockland County Board of Rabbis for two years, and served on the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly. Currently, Paula serves on the Executive Council of Rockland Clergy for Social Justice (RC4SJ) advocating for the rights of the public school children of East Ramapo Central School District and on the Board of Trustees of the Rockland County Pride Center. In 2017, while on sabbatical, Paula became a Certified Yoga Instructor at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. Paula and her husband Jonathan are the proud parents of Noah 31 (a teacher) and his wife Rochelle, Sarah 29 (Content Strategist for Facebook) and her husband Sagi, Benjamin 26 (Naval Architectural Engineer) and his fiancée Lindsay, and Joshua 23 (planning to attend Tel Aviv University after serving the IDF as a soldier in Egoz and an officer in Golani). Both Sarah and Joshua are Israeli citizens, a fact that makes Paula and Jon very proud!

# Alumni Attendees



**Deborah Eisenbach-Budner**

**WGF/DS • Class 4**

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Deborah has been Havurah Shalom's Education Director since 2001 (Portland, Oregon). Deborah is passionate about making Judaism and Jewish life accessible and enriching through the transformative power of Jewish narratives, practices, values, and community. She employs Judaism as a tool to cultivate our humanity and to provoke us to become the most whole people we can be. She trained in the fields of Jewish education, identity construction, community organization, and Jewish Studies [M.A. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (Brandeis University), MA in Jewish Education (Brandeis), B.A. in Comparative Religion with a focus on Gender Studies (Oberlin College), Pardes Institute].



**Serena Eisenberg**

**WGF/DS • Class 9**

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Serena Eisenberg currently works as the Northern California Director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). In this role, she works with the San Francisco AJC office to activate and empower global Jewish advocates, building relationships and coalitions with a wide range of diplomatic, legislative, faith and ethnic leaders in the Bay Area. She also served as the volunteer president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, which serves 300+ rabbinical representative members residing north of San Luis Obispo, through the Santa Cruz mountains, into the greater San Francisco Bay Area, out into the Reno/Lake Tahoe area and up the coast to the Oregon border. Serena previously served as the executive director for Hillel at Stanford from 2011-2017. She participated in several rabbinic and interfaith networks, including Rabbis without Borders, AJWS Rabbinic Global Justice Fellows, Chatauqua New Clergy fellows, Hillel Hartman fellows, and Upstart Bay Area Executive Directors. From 2008-2011, Serena and her family lived in Ra'anana Israel. Serena was a Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel Leadership Institute, and then worked as the project director for the "Peoplehood Index," at the Re'ut Institute in Tel Aviv, and as a spiritual director for Reconstructionist rabbinical students. From 2005-2008, Serena worked as the Executive Director of Brown/RISD Hillel and Associate Chaplain at Brown University. She was ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2002. At the San Francisco Federation and Endowment, Serena worked as the interim director of the Israel and Overseas Department, and directed an award-winning pilot Jewish youth philanthropy program in the Bay Area. Serena has worked as a rabbi and educator in many diverse communities, including Half Moon Bay and Berkeley, California, and Kalispell, Montana. Before entering the rabbinate, Serena worked as an advocate and ombudsman in the area of family welfare-researched street children in the Gambia, West Africa with UNICEF, established the first Child Welfare Ombudsman office for Alameda County, CA, and directed a child victim unit at the Bronx family court. Serena earned a JD/MSW from UC Berkeley in 1993. She loves hiking and travelling adventures around the world. She also loves to teach, facilitate mussar and women's groups, and guide individuals and families through milestones with creative Jewish rituals; for example, she once led a bar mitzvah trek on Mt. Kilimanjaro. She and her husband have five sons, ages 15-33.

# Alumni Attendees



## Shira Koch Epstein

WFF • Class 1

shirakoch@gmail.com | Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein is the Executive Director of the Center for Rabbinic Innovation, incubated at OOI. Previously, Rabbi Epstein served as Executive Director of the 14th Street Y in Manhattan. Her past roles have included serving as Rabbi-Educator at Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and as Associate Director/Reform Zionist Think Tank Manager at ARZA. Rabbi Epstein has served at various congregations, Jewish youth groups and summer camps as an educator, is a certified Storahelling “Maven,” and has studied improvisational comedy and acting in various programs including the Upright Citizens Brigade. A Wexner Field Fellow, has received the Pomegrate Prize for Jewish Education from the Covenant Foundation. Rabbi Epstein received her BA from Wesleyan University, has attended Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Birzeit University in Ramallah, and received her rabbinic ordination and MA in Religious Education from HUC-JIR. Rabbi Epstein lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with her husband, Dr. Jason Epstein, their sons, and their dog.



## Gabe Falk

WGF/DS • Class 31

gwfalk@gmail.com | University Heights, OH

Gabe Falk lives in Cleveland, Ohio where he serves as Assistant Rabbi at Green Road Synagogue and Judaic Studies teacher at Fuchs Mizrahi High School. Gabe completed his rabbinic training through RIETS and is working toward an MA in Jewish History at Revel. Previously, Gabe worked for three years as a financial services consultant at Novantas. While working at Novantas, he helped found a still-thriving grassroots community for Orthodox young professionals on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. Gabe graduated with a BA in History and Economics from Columbia College in 2014, where he led the Orthodox community in formal and informal capacities. Gabe loves hiking and most things outdoors. While he has lived in New York for most of his life, Gabe considers it to be the highest form of compliment when people suggest that he’s from “out-of-town.” Gabe and his wife Debra are parents to three adorable kids, Meital, Elisha and Betzalel.



## Jacob Feinspan

WFF • Class 1

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Jacob Feinspan is the Executive Director of Jews United for Justice, which advances economic, racial, and social justice in the Baltimore-Washington region by educating and mobilizing our local Jewish communities to action. In his fifteen years at the helm, JUFJ has grown from a staff of two to a team of more than twenty and is now a key change-making institution in the region. In recent years, JUFJ has led the campaign that won paid family and medical leave for half a million workers in Washington, and played a key role in winning major policing reforms and protections for renters in Maryland, and new funding for early childhood education in DC. Jacob serves as co-chair of the Working Families Party National Committee and of the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable. He also chairs the Collaborative for Jewish Organizing, a network of nine Jewish organizations working on the ground in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Before joining JUFJ, Jacob founded the advocacy program at American Jewish World Service and coordinated anti-poverty advocacy and grant-making at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Jacob lives with his family in Silver Spring, MD.



# Alumni Attendees



## Nora Feinstein

WGF/DS • Class 28

nora.feinstein@gmail.com | Washington, DC

Nora Feinstein is a rabbi at Sixth & I in Washington, DC. She loves connecting people to Jewish tradition in resonant ways and infusing Jewish learning with soul, joy, and meaning. Nora was ordained at Hebrew Union College and holds bachelor's degrees from Barnard College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Prior to her role at Sixth & I, she worked at T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and the Schusterman Family Foundation. Nora serves on the board of the National Council for Jewish Women's Rabbis for Repro. She enjoys poetry, dark chocolate, long walk and talks in the woods, and cuddling with her pandemic pup, Teddie.



## Shir Feit

WGF/DS • Class 29

shiryakov@gmail.com | Ulster Park, NY

Shir is a circle-maker, song carrier, award-winning composer\*, ritualist, and designer at the vanguard of Jewish Renewal, a trans-denominational, ecumenical, mystical approach to Judaism. Before and after (and sometimes while) driving around or cleaning up after three children, Shir studies and practices spiritual accompaniment, contemplative arts, interpersonal neurobiology, somatic psychology, world mysticisms, neuroqueer theory, digital design, artificial intelligence, and medicine music. After hours, Shir can be found playing word games, inscribing melodies, listening to the rain, dreaming with the night sky, and trying not to buy any more books.



## Mollie Feldman

WGF/DS • Class 29 / Davidson Scholar ✨

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Mollie Feldman is the Director of Hillel International's Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Experience, where she oversees cohort learning initiatives, including the Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF), and supports training and mentorship for over 300 campus educators. She developed the third edition upgrade of the JLF: Life's Big Questions Curriculum, prioritizing a commitment to diverse sources and non-male voices, and spearheaded the creation of a new JLF Israel: Home & Homeland Curriculum. Prior to joining the Meyerhoff team, Mollie served for 4 years as the Assistant Director & Senior Jewish Educator at American University Hillel where she supported hundreds of students to connect with Jewish life, learning, and community. Mollie holds an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership and an MA in Near Eastern & Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, as well as a Graduate-level certificate in Jewish Education for Adolescents and Emerging Adults. She is an alumna of the Hornstein Program, the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Class 29, and the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators. Mollie lives in Washington D.C. where she enjoys biking, bird-watching, and frequent trips to the library.



# Alumni Attendees



## Sue Fendrick

WGF/DS • Class 2

sue@kruskal.com | Newton, MA

Sue Fendrick (WGF Class II), is a Conservative rabbi, & an editor & editorial consultant, spiritual director, and writer. Her writing appears in numerous books, journals, and online publications. She was Senior Research Associate at the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, where she worked on the Initiative on Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy with Jon Levisohn (WGF Class X); they are co-editors of Turn It and Turn It Again: Studies in the Teaching and Learning of Classical Jewish Texts (Academic Studies Press). She has worked in Hillel at American University and Brown University, in online Jewish publishing as founding editor of SocialAction.com and managing editor of MyJewishLearning.com, as a consultant for Ritualwell.org, and as a teacher of and curriculum consultant for adult Jewish education in a variety of settings. She trained with Peter Pitzele in bibliodrama, and taught with him for several years at the Institute for Contemporary Midrash. She recently returned to studying comedy improvisation. She lives in Newton, MA with her husband, Dr. Ben Kruskal. They have five children: Meira Penzias, 32 (married to Josh); Shoshana Lappen, 30 (married to Zack); Adina, 27; Matan, 19, and Elianna, 19.



## Jacob Fine

WGF/DS • Class 15

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Jacob has served as the Founder/Director of Abundance Farm in Northampton, MA since 2013. He has worked in the fields of Jewish environmental, agricultural and food justice education for over two decades. He has served as a rabbi and educator for a number of Jewish environmental education organizations including Teva, Adamah, Hazon and the Jewish Farm School. A former Hillel Rabbi at the University of Washington and Director of Jconnect Seattle, Jacob received rabbinic ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles where he also earned a M.A. in Rabbinic Studies. Jacob is a graduate of Vassar College where he received a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Religion. Jacob lives in Northampton, MA where he loves to garden, play music, hang out in the woods, meditate, wade in streams, play tennis and cook and eat delicious food.



## Stephanie Fink

WGF/DS • Class 9

stephanie.s.fink@gmail.com | Minneapolis, MN

Stephanie Fink joined the Union for Reform Judaism in August 2009. Since that time, she has worked to help individuals find a spiritual home in the Reform Movement in a number of ways, including online experiences, launching a new program grant initiative, managing a staff of program coordinators nationwide, as well as consulting with congregations to improve their engagement with parents of young children. Previously, Stephanie served as a congregational educator for ten years, as well as in a number of other roles in Jewish education, both locally and nationally. Stephanie and husband Jeremy are parents to two teenagers.





# Alumni Attendees



## Michelle Fisher

WGF/DS • Class 10

michelle@alumni.princeton.edu | Brookline, MA

Michelle Fisher is the Executive Director of MIT Hillel, a job that synthesizes her two academic courses of studies. As an undergrad at Princeton University and as a graduate student at MIT, she studied organic chemistry. She was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2002. Before returning to MIT in her current role, Michelle served as a congregational rabbi in Potomac, MD and in Walnut Creek, CA. She also served as a Naval Chaplain Candidate, ministering to Jewish and non-Jewish sailors and Marines. Michelle loves the questioning and exploring that is inherent in the lives of emerging adults on the college campus. She enjoys biking (and unicycling!) and swimming. Since returning to Boston, she has become known in certain circles as “The Wine Rabbi” for her love of good wine and deep knowledge of wine production, wine chemistry, and how wine is discussed in Jewish texts.



## Malka Fleischmann

WGF/DS • Class 25 / Davidson Scholar ✨

malkafleisch@gmail.com | New York, NY

Malka is the Director of Moshava Ba’Ir Long Island and Bnei Akiva’s NY/NJ Initiatives. Previously, she was the Director of Knowledge and Ideas at the Jewish Education Project, a Hebrew School Director (Tribeca Torah), Head of Camp (Stone), Director of Faith-Based Programming and University President’s Speechwriter (Touro University), and Judaic Studies educator (SAR and Ramaz Middle Schools). Also an M2 fellow, Malka is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Divinity School. Her writing has been published in the New York Times, the Jewish Week and Tablet, and she is a regular contributor at the New York Sun where, among other things, she explores religion, love, and education.



# Alumni Attendees



## Rebecca Fletcher

WGF/DS • Class 9

rebeccajoyfletcher@gmail.com | Chicago, IL

Rebecca is a nationally recognized playwright, performer, coach and educator. Highlights include her hit off Broadway show *Kleynkunst!*, her bilingual show, *Metropolis*, which premiered to sold-out houses in Paris; *Cities of Light*, which has been presented around the world, including productions in Montreal, New York, and Jerusalem; and *Ringin' True*, which premiered to box-office and critical acclaim at the Miami Theater Center in January 2016. Rebecca has also performed at such prestigious venues as Lincoln Center, La Vieille Grille Theatre (Paris), Theater J (Washington DC), London Jewish Cultural Center, State Yiddish Theater (Warsaw), Metropolitan Room (NYC), American Jewish University (Los Angeles), Piven Theater (Chicago), Martef Theatre (Jerusalem), Chicago Dramatists, and Segal Centre (Montreal). Also a seasoned educator, Rebecca has served as teacher, guest lecturer and artist-in-residence at universities, synagogues, and schools around the US. Today she also works as experiential educator for The ARK, Chicago's oldest Jewish poverty relief organization. She also serves as a coach for the ELI talks and for private clients and executives. Prestigious awards include a Wexner Foundation collaboration grant for the development of *Ringin' True*, a Theatre Communications Group ITI grant for research and performances in Warsaw, a Confidence Foundation grant for research in Israel, and a European Association for Jewish Culture grant for performances in Paris. Rebecca has trained extensively in Michael Checkov technique, in voice, in Alexander technique, and in Meisner technique. She holds a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she was ordained as a cantor. Rebecca is a proud member of the American Conference of Cantors, the Cantors' Assembly, the Association for Jewish Theater, the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and ROI, an international network of social entrepreneurs. She is also known for her performances with the award-winning NYC troupe *Kabarett Kollektiv*.



## Jonah Geller

WGF/DS • Class 27

jonahgeller74@gmail.com | Pikesville, MD

Jonah recently concluded his tenure as CEO of the JCC in York, PA. He previously spent 22 years working professionally in Jewish camping and retreat centers (CEO of Capital Camps & Retreat Center, Executive Director of Tamarack Camps, and Director of Camp Tel Yehudah). Originally from Pittsburgh, Jonah earned degrees in Journalism, Jewish Studies and Hebrew from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a graduate of Jewish Community Center Association's Executive Director Training Program, The Wexner Foundation's Field Fellowship, and Georgetown University's Institute for Transformational Leadership. Jonah is married to Jennifer Noparstak and is the father of three children - Ari, Ezra and Lea.



# Alumni Attendees



## Laura Gold

WGF/DS • Class 10

drlauragold@gmail.com | New York, NY

Laura is a rabbi and clinical psychologist who has had a private psychotherapy practice since 1988, working with children, adolescents, adults, and couples. She served for seven years as the Director of Training for an outpatient mental health clinic affiliated with the University of Michigan. Shortly after spending a sabbatical year in Jerusalem learning at the Pardes Institute, she moved to New York to attend rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary, from which she was ordained in 2003. In addition to her ongoing work as a psychologist, Laura served for eight years on the faculty of JTS as an adjunct assistant professor of pastoral and professional skills and is an adjunct clinical associate in the clinical psychology doctoral program at City College of New York. As a rabbi, Laura offers consultations to individuals and organizations (often with a focus on boundaries and boundary violations) and officiates at life-cycle events. She has been serving on the Rabbinical Assembly's Ethics Committee (the Va'ad Hakavod) since 2019. She has also sat on the boards of the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene; Targum Shlishi; and Full Spectrum Theatre Company. Laura lives with her daughter in NYC.



## Elliot Goldberg

WGF/DS • Class 4

rabbi.elliottgoldberg@gmail.com | S. Orange, NY

Rabbi Elliot Goldberg is a CTI trained coach and consultant to Jewish non-profits and educational institutions. His work is informed by two and a half decades of experience in Jewish day schools and a lifetime of summers at Ramah Camps. He lives in S. Orange, NJ with his spouse, Rabbi Sheryl Katzman and daughters, Michal, Hadas and Liora.



## Erica Goldman

WGF/DS • Class 28 / Davidson Scholar ✨

ericagoldman@brandeis.edu | Brooklyn, NY

Erica Goldman has been an engineering linguist, a high school English teacher, and has taught Israeli dancing on four continents (so far!). A two-time Brandeis University graduate, Erica holds an MBA as well as a Masters in Jewish Professional Leadership and is a grateful Wexner Fellow/Davidson Scholar and Ruskay Fellow. In 2015, she became an Educator for the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Cornerstone Fellowship and launched Ma'agal, an initiative to improve Israeli dance education at schools and camps across the nation. Erica is the Deputy CEO of The Bronfman Fellowship, so if you know a high school student with whom you really like having long conversations about interesting topics, talk to her immediately! She came to Bronfman after 5 years as Chief Program Officer at JPro, supporting all those who work for Jewish organizations across the US and Canada. Erica lives in Brooklyn NY and eats a pint of ice cream every other day.



# Alumni Attendees



## Megan GoldMarche

WGF/DS • Class 22

megan.bgold@gmail.com | Chicago, IL

Rabbi Megan is the new Executive Director at Tribe 12, an organization that connects 20s and 30s to Jewish community in Philadelphia so that they stay connected to each other and Judaism! Megan grew up in the Chicago suburbs where she found her voice as a Jewish leader at her Conservative youth group and Reform summer camp. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2006 with a B.A. in Psychology and Women's Studies. Megan then went to work for the Hillel at Yale University where she discovered her passion for working with young people, and realized that rather than pursuing a PhD in Clinical psychology she wanted to use the Jewish tradition as a source of meaning to empower young adults to create their own rich Jewish identities and communities. Megan was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2014 and also received an MA in Jewish Gender and Women's Studies and a certificate in Pastoral Care and Counseling.



## Lauren Goodlev

WGF/DS • Class 24

LaurenBGoodlev@gmail.com | Wynnewood, PA

Cantor Lauren Goodlev has proudly served Beth David Reform Congregation in Gladwyne, PA, just outside Philadelphia since 2016. She is an integrated member of the leadership team whose warmth and enthusiasm inspire others to feel included and make their voices heard. She grew up in Voorhees, NJ and graduated Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a Bachelors of Arts, in Psychology, Music, and Italian Studies, from the University of Pennsylvania. She also completed her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Miami and performed in operas in Europe and New York City. Cantor Goodlev was ordained from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in 2016 where she was both a Wexner Graduate Fellow and a Tisch-Star Fellow. Her thesis and recital focused on "The Many Voices of the Cantor: Biblical and Contemporary Support for the Emerging Roles of the Modern Cantor." As a student at DFSSM she served as the Cantorial Intern at Temple Shalom in Falls Church, VA, Temple Beth Israel in York, PA, North Country Reform Temple in Glen Cove, NY, and Central Synagogue in New York, NY. A pursuer of justice, Cantor Goodlev is on the National Leadership Team for the RAC (Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism) and serves as one of the ACC (American Conference of Cantors) representatives to the CSA (Commission on Social Action) - the advisory counsel to the RAC. Cantor Goodlev is also on faculty of URJ Camp Harlam, her summer childhood home for many years to which she credits her initial love of Jewish community and where she hopes to send her three young sons, Sammy, Eli, and Asher someday.



## Sam Greenberg

WGF/DS • Class 28 / Davidson Scholar 

samngreenberg@gmail.com | New York, NY

Sam Greenberg is the Senior Director of Communications at Hadar. Prior to joining Hadar, he served as the Director of Digital Strategy at the New Israel Fund. He previously worked as a communications consultant for several organizations and as the Jewish Community Organizer at the Educational Alliance, a social service agency on New York's Lower East Side. Sam holds an MPA and an MA in Judaic Studies from New York University, where he studied as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar. A Philadelphia native, he is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Yeshivat Har Etzion.



# Alumni Attendees



## Penina Grossberg

WGF/DS • Class 5

peninagrossberg@gmail.com | Teaneck, NJ

Penina Grossberg (WGF class V) designed and directs UJA-Federation of NY's Rusky Institute for Jewish Professional Leadership, an intensive cohort-based learning experience to expand the leadership capacity of rising star professionals working at Jewish nonprofit organizations in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, NY. Penina has led strategic processes for schools and synagogues and consulted on projects for local and national organizations. A dynamic educational leader, she was principal of a day school, a supplementary school, a yeshiva, and director of a day camp. She has mentored 100+ teachers and non-profit professionals. Penina holds an M.A. in Jewish Studies and Principal's Certificate from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. Penina and her husband Matt live in Teaneck, NJ and are the parents of two sons in college.



## Vanessa Harper

WGF/DS • Class 30 / Davidson Scholar ✨

vmharper18@gmail.com | Natick, MA

Rabbi Vanessa Harper serves as the Rabbi-Educator of Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA and as Reform Rabbi-in-Residence and Jewish Studies Faculty at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA. She was ordained by HUC-JIR (NY) in 2021, where she also earned a MAHL and multiple awards for academic achievement. During rabbinical school, Vanessa was a Wexner Graduate Fellow/ Davidson Scholar (Class 30), a UJA-Federation Graduate Scholar, and a Be Wise Entrepreneurial Fellow, and served as a rabbinic intern at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan as well as at the CCAR Press. She graduated magna cum laude from Williams College in 2012, where she earned a degree with Honors in English and a concentration in Jewish Studies. Vanessa is also the creator behind @lechlechallah, pairing an original challah creation with a brief teaching on each weekly Torah reading and Jewish holiday, soon to be published as a book by the CCAR Press.



## Graham Hoffman

WFF • Class 1

grahamhoffman@gmail.com | Fulton, MD

Graham Hoffman is Chief Strategy Officer of the Office of Innovation, an innovation laboratory designed to launch, catalyze, and scale new projects to advance Jewish life. Graham previously served as the President and CEO of Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona. Originally appointed as CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona in 2018, in May 2020, Graham was named President and CEO of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and charged to integrate the two to form the Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona. Graham was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis' Olin Business School, he began his career in consulting at Accenture. Graham was recruited to join Hillel International in 2003 where he found great fulfillment in translating his for-profit consulting skill set to benefit Hillel's unique global platform for transforming next-generation Jewish life. He spent a decade working to dramatically enhance Hillel's engagement and education strategies worldwide, before spending five years as Deputy Director of Development at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) & American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF).



# Alumni Attendees



## **Sarit Horwitz**

**WGF/DS • Class 23**

Saritrhorwitz@gmail.com | Memphis, TN

Sarit is currently the Rabbi at Beth Sholom Synagogue, the Conservative shul in Memphis, TN. She received her rabbinic ordination from Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 2015. Sarit grew up in Kansas City and, before moving back to NY, lived in Chicago working in administration at a multi-denominational Jewish day school. Sarit graduated from Columbia University and JTS's List College's joint program with degrees in Psychology and Midrash. For the last two years of Rabbinical school Sarit served as a Marshall T Meyer Rabbinic Fellow at B'nai Jeshurun on the Upper West Side, and following ordination she worked at BJ for two years as Senior Rabbinic Fellow. Sarit lives in Memphis with her husband, Abe, and their three sons Lavi, Yakir, and Rami.

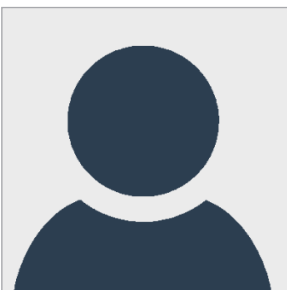


## **Sara Hurwitz**

**WFF • Class 1**

rabbasarahurwitz@gmail.com | Bronx, NY

Rabba Sara Hurwitz is the co-founder and President of Yeshivat Maharat, the first yeshiva to ordain Orthodox women as clergy. She also serves on the rabbinic staff at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale-The Bayit since 2003. A graduate of Barnard College and Drisha's three-year Scholars Circle Program, Rabba Sara was ordained by Rabbi Avi Weiss and Rabbi Daniel Sperber in 2009. Rabba Sara is a co-creator of the JOFA's Gender and Orthodoxy Curriculum Project and has lectured at many venues including JOFA's International Conference on Feminism & Orthodoxy, Drisha, the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, CAJE, and CLAL, as well as at numerous synagogues, JCCs and communities across North America. Rabba Sara is a recipient of the UJA-Federation of New York Trailblazer Award, the Myrtle Wreath from the Southern New Jersey Region of Hadassah and the Hadassah Foundation Bernice S. Tannenbaum Prize. She has been named one of the Jewish Week's 36 Under 36, the Forward 50 most influential Jewish leaders, and Newsweek's 50 most influential rabbis.



## **Jane Kanarek**

**WGF/DS • Class 13**

janekanarek@gmail.com | Brookline, MA

Jane Kanarek is Associate Professor of Rabbinics and Associate Dean at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. She received her rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary and her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is the author of Biblical Narrative and the Formation of Rabbinic Law and an editor of Learning to Read Talmud: What It Looks Like and How It Happens and Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination, both of which were finalists for the National Jewish Book Award.



# Alumni Attendees



## Joe Kanofsky

WGF/DS • Class 11

yossel@prodigy.net | Toronto, ON

Joe served as an Andrew W Mellon Teaching fellow for Professor Elie Wiesel at Boston University, and earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. His study comparing Franz Kafka and Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav remains unpublished. He worked for several years as part of a team of scholars on the Comparative Religious Ideas Project, a Ford Foundation-funded study published in 3 volumes by the SUNY Press. After earning his rabbinic ordination, Joe assumed the post of Poland Director for the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation. Living in Warsaw, he and his wife Sharona taught and travelled to Jewish communities all around Poland, and organized formal and informal educational programs, while representing the Lauder Foundation at the national and international levels. In 2004, the Kanofskys moved to Toronto, Canada, Sharona's hometown, where they currently live. Joe is the rabbi of Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.



## Shana Teig Kantor

WGF/DS • Class 15

shanakantor@gmail.com | Farmington, MI

Shana is currently the Program Officer for Jewish Life at the WDirector of Advancement at the Frankel Jewish Academy, a college preparatory Jewish high school in the Metro Detroit area. She has been the Executive Director of two Hillel Foundations - the University of Miami Hillel and Hillel at Binghamton. She also served as Interim Director of Hillel at Florida International University. Previously, Shana was the Director of Development at USC Hillel. In her two years living in Los Angeles, she was also one of the founders of the PicoEgal Minyan, a traditional egalitarian minyan in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood. She has spent much of her professional career working for Hillel in various capacities - from student leader at the University of Virginia to Student Leadership Development Associate at Hillel's International Center. Shana spent two years at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and received degrees from NYU - an MPA in Nonprofit Management and an MA in Jewish Studies. She is married to Rabbi Shalom Kantor and they have three children.



## Shaul Kelner

WGF/DS • Class 8

skelner@gmail.com | Nashville, TN

Shaul Kelner is the Outgoing Chair of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Program. He is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University.



# Alumni Attendees



## Daniel Kirzane

WGF/DS • Class 21

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Daniel Kirzane serves as Associate Rabbi at Oak Park Temple in Oak Park, IL (Chicago). He was ordained in 2014 through HUC-JIR, where he also earned an MA in Religious Education. Daniel is the chair of the HUC-JIR Alumni Leadership Council and sits on HUC's Board of Governors. He's the former co-chair of the Wexner Community Coordinating Council and is the secretary of the Chicagoland chapter of the CCAR. Daniel is an alum of the CLAL: Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship and the Religious Action Center's Brickner Fellowship. He is proud to be a rabbinic chaver of T'ruah and to serve on the advisory cabinet of the Chicago Jewish Coalition for Refugees. Daniel is enrolled as an MA student at the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he specializes in Hebrew Bible. Daniel's wife, Jessica Kirzane, earned her PhD in Yiddish Studies at Columbia University and is the University of Chicago's Assistant Instructional Professor in Yiddish. Together they love to play games, attend the theater, and take long walks. They also cherish their two children, Jeremiah and Esther. Explore Daniel's rabbinate at [danielkirzane.com](http://danielkirzane.com).



## Fred Klein

WGF/DS • Class 6

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Fred Klein is Director of Mishkan Miami: The Jewish Connection for Spiritual Support at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, and the Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami. He holds certification in spiritual/parastoral care from Neshama: The Association of Jewish Chaplains. He grew up in Miami, a graduate of the Hebrew Academy. He earned his BA, magna cum laude, in religious studies from Brown University, and received ordination from Yeshiva University. He holds a Masters in Bible from Yeshiva University, and is completing a doctorate in Jewish history from Columbia University. His dissertation deals with the dynamics of Jewish religious modernization in early nineteenth century Europe. He has lived in Israel for over six years, and until recently worked in the Jewish Federation of Cleveland in the overseas department. He has taught and been involved with the Pardes Institute, Derisha institute for women, Hebrew College of Boston, the Melton program, CLAL, and the Shalom Hartman Institute. His biggest achievement is his four great children - Moshe, Shuli, Benny, and Aryeh. He likes reading, exercising, cooking, good conversations, and good friends.



## Malkah Binah Klein

WGF/DS • Class 12

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Malkah Binah Klein is a ritual artist and spiritual leader. Malkah Binah's work focuses on creating sacred spaces, deeply rooted in Torah, for creativity, joy, healing, and authentic connection. She leads a weekly Jewish meditation group and teaches qigong (energy cultivation) classes for women. She also works one-on-one with individuals as a spiritual director. Her writings, chants, and photographs can be found at [thrivingspirit.org](http://thrivingspirit.org).





# Alumni Attendees



## Sasha Kopp

WGF/DS • Class 27 / Davidson Scholar ✨

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Sasha is a Community Early Childhood and Family Engagement Consultant at The Jewish Education Project. She comes to this role after two years as the Assistant Early Childhood Director at Central Synagogue in Manhattan. Sasha earned her BA from Brandeis University, then continued her education at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where she received master's degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Non-Profit Management. Sasha cares deeply about building Jewish community by creating strong and authentic relationships. At the Jewish Education Project, Sasha partners with directors, teachers and communities to help strengthen the field of early childhood through building networks, professional development and promoting the field at large. Sasha has also recently taught for American Jewish University's Jewish Early Childhood program at both the bachelors and masters level. In addition to her early childhood experiences, Sasha is also a passionate fused glass artist. She leads glass workshops for everyone, from young children to adults. Her workshops, like her work in early childhood, seek to bring a bit of creativity and play into everyday life.



## Andy Koren

WGF/DS • Class 1

rabbiantdy@tegreensboro.org | Greensboro, NC

Rabbi Andy Koren is Associate Rabbi and Director of Religious Education of Temple Emanuel in Greensboro, NC where he lives with his wife Michal and their children Avishai (b. 1996) & Shiri (b.1997). He was recently voted as Temple Emanuel's Senior Rabbi and will begin in that position at the start of July 2021. For his first ten years as a Rabbi, Andy primarily worked with college students serving as the Director of North Carolina Hillel (1993-1995) and as the Rabbi for the Hillel Foundation at the University of Florida (1998-2003). From 1995-1998, he served as Program Associate for the Wexner Foundation in Columbus, OH concentrating on Jewish leadership development as well as recruitment for the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Program and the fields of Jewish professional service. As a college student at Tufts University, Andy majored in International Relations and focused on Middle Eastern Studies and Israeli Foreign Policy. He was also active in Hillel on the local, regional, and national levels. In 1993 Andy received his ordination from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. In April 2006, Andy traveled to Poland with high school students from his area for the International March of the Living. He has served on the summer faculty of the Union for Reform Judaism's Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA (2004-2009) and the faculty of the URJ's 6 Points Academy in Greensboro, NC (2010-2015); he is currently on the 6 Points Sports Camp Committee. He enjoys playing guitar, golf, and exercising.



# Alumni Attendees



## **Eli Kornreich**

**WGF/DS • Class 6**

elikornreich@gmail.com | New Rochelle, NY

Eli is a Jewish Communal Service Fellow (Jewish Professional Leadership) of Class VI. After his undergraduate years at Brooklyn College, Eli completed the dual Masters degree program at Columbia University Graduate School of Social Work and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, earning a Masters of Science in Social Work and a Masters of Arts in Jewish Studies in 1995. Eli has spent his career in the JCC, Federation and Synagogue fields, including serving as President & CEO at The Jewish Center for Community Services [JCCS] of Eastern Fairfield County, a merged JCC-Federation agency located in Bridgeport, CT, Executive Vice President of Lincoln Square Synagogue in NYC, Executive Director of Jewish Community Project [JCP] Downtown in Tribeca, NYC, and currently as Executive Director at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY. Eli, Iva (his wife), and their children Ariella, Talia and Zack live in New Rochelle, NY.



## **Mimi Kravetz**

**WFF • Class 1**

mimikravetz@gmail.com | San Mateo, CA

Mimi Kravetz is currently the Chief Impact & Growth Officer at Jewish Federations of North America. Her career spans leadership roles at top business and nonprofit brands, from Hillel International to American Express to Google. Mimi joined JFNA after building the HR Foundation at Twin, a digital health start-up, where she served as the company's first Chief People Officer. Previously, she served as an executive at Hillel International for seven years; first as the inaugural Chief Talent Officer, building a talent system that supported 1200 Hillel professionals across 550 campuses, and attracted talent to Hillel and the Jewish non-profit sector as a whole. Mimi later expanded her scope to Chief Experience Officer, working across student impact, marketing and communications, and student programs. Prior to Hillel, she was Head of Employment Brand at Google where she was the senior marketing partner to Google's People Operations team on hiring, training, and diversity strategies. She also worked in Google.org, where she educated and advised nonprofits. Mimi received her MBA from Harvard Business School and BA from Tufts University. She resides in Berkeley, California with her husband, two children, dog and two cats.



## **Alisa Rubin Kurshan**

**WGF/DS • Class 5**

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Alisa currently consults with various Jewish organizations and philanthropies focusing on Jewish leadership, and Jewish education. Among her various professional responsibilities, she currently serves as the Education Director of Project Accelerate. She lives in Manhattan with her husband, Rabbi Neil Kurshan, and enjoys being available to her 4 kids, their spouses and 13 grandchildren.



# Alumni Attendees



**Dalia Krusner**

**WGF/DS • Class 29 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

dalia.krusner@gmail.com | Cambridge, MA

Originally from Toronto, Dalia graduated with High Distinction from the Trudeau Centre for Peace, Conflict and Justice Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. For many years, she combined her background in Conflict Studies with her love of camp as Director of Heart to Heart, a program that brings Jewish and Palestinian Israeli teens to Camp Shomria every summer for leadership and shared society programming. She made the move to Boston in 2016 to complete a dual MA in Jewish Professional Leadership and MBA in Non-Profit Management from the Hornstein Program at Brandeis University, where she then served as the Associate Director for the New Israel Fund in New England. Dalia is currently a consultant at JCamp 180, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, where she provides support to nonprofit Jewish summer camps on strategic planning, governance, and development. Dalia also continues to serve on the board of Hashomer Hatzair Canada.



**Julie Lambert**

**WGF/DS • Class 7**

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Julie Lambert, MAJE/MAJNM is the Director of Strategic Operations and Leadership at the Union for Reform Judaism. She serves as a part of the Innovation strategy team, where she is using her expertise in professional learning design and facilitation and data driven leadership to coordinate and align the Congregational Engagement and Exepreince team with URJ wide goals. Julie serves as an adjunct professor at HUC in the School of Education Julie is also a Senior Consultant for the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami as well as a Senior Consultant for Learning Forward ([www.learningforward.com](http://www.learningforward.com)). She worked as the Education Director of Temple Judea in Coral Gables for seven years Julie graduated from Northwestern University with a B.A. in Comparative Literature and a certificate in Jewish Studies. She holds a Joint Master's Degree in Jewish Education and Non-Profit Management from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.



**Emily Langowitz**

**WGF/DS • Class 25**

emily.langowitz@gmail.com | Phoenix, AZ

Rabbi Emily Langowitz currently serves the Union for Reform Judaism as Jewish Engagement and Learning Manager. Prior to her work with the URJ, she served the Greater Phoenix community for three years as the Assistant Rabbi at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, Arizona and a year as an independent rabbi and educator. She graduated from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 2017 where she also earned a Masters of Hebrew Literature. Emily graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor's degree in Modern Hebrew and is a native of Wellesley, MA. She and her wife, Meaghan Kramer, enjoy life in Central Phoenix with their dog Frank.



# Alumni Attendees



## Sari Laufer

WGF/DS • Class 14

slaufer@wisela.org | Sherman Oaks, CA

Rabbi Sari Laufer is the Chief Engagement Officer at Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles. A cum laude graduate of Northwestern University (Go 'Cats!) Rabbi Laufer was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles in May 2006. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Rabbi Laufer spent 11 years as the assistant and associate rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City before joining the team at Stephen Wise Temple. Her published works have appeared on Kveller.com, MyJewishLearning.com, and ReformJudaism.org, and she was the rabbinic advisor for the Kveller Haggadah. Rabbi Laufer is a teacher of those young and young-at-heart, bringing her passion for rabbinic texts and Judaism's wisdom and relevance in the 21st century into the lives of those with whom she is privileged to learn and to share. Rabbi Laufer is a prolific Tweeter (@rabbilaufer), avid indoor-cyclist, and aspiring epicure. She now lives "in the Valley" with her husband Ben and two children, Jacob and Orli.



## Elie Lehmann

WGF/DS • Class 26

elie.lehmann@gmail.com | Cambridge, MA

Elie Lehmann is Director of Hadar Boston. He previously served as Campus Rabbi and University Chaplain at Boston University Hillel for 5 years following semicha from Hebrew College Rabbinical School in 2017. Elie also served as the Inaugural Director of Kulanu's Global Teaching Fellows, with whom he taught and built curricula for Jewish communities in Kenya, Ghana, India and beyond. He currently lives in Cambridge, MA with his wife, Anya, and their sons, Razi (5), Shalev (2), and Ziv (8 months). Feel free to reach out - elie.lehmann@gmail.com



## Rachel Lerner

WGF/DS • Class 21 / Davidson Scholar 

rachelalerner@gmail.com | Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Rachel Lerner is the Dean of the School for Jewish Education and Leadership at American Jewish University, where she oversees the MAEd, MAT, MAEd in ECE, and BA in ECE completion programs, training future and current Jewish educators. She is passionate about expanding educators' abilities to include a wider population within Jewish educational settings, making classroom learning a more active experience, and making informal education deep and meaningful. Dr. Lerner earned her Ed.D. degree from JTS, where she studied how vision-guided education is implemented through the socialization of new teachers. Rachel has taught Masters-level education students at both the American Jewish University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, supervised student teachers in day schools and part-time Jewish schools, and held leadership positions in Jewish overnight camp. She has worked as an administrator and teacher in Jewish day schools—at both the elementary and high school levels. Rachel and her husband, Aaron (WGF class XXII), live in Los Angeles with their three children: Henry, Gavi, and Ziva. In her "free time" she enjoys spending time with her family and getting lost in a good book.



# Alumni Attendees



## Aaron Lerner

WGF/DS • Class 22

aaronblerner@gmail.com | Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Aaron is the incoming President & CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of LA, following more than a decade leading UCLA Hillel. He embodies a pluralistic approach to Jewish life while empowering others to lead and innovate. His career path started in commercial real estate finance after graduating from USC's Marshall School of Business. A graduate of YCT, he enjoys surfing and family life in LA with his partner and WGF fellow, Dr. Rachel Lerner, and their three ridiculous children.



## Rose Savage Levenson

WGF/DS • Class 30 / Davidson Scholar ✨

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Rose is currently the Program and Operations Manager at BaMidbar. Prior to BaMidbar, Rose was the Associate Director of Camp Bob Waldorf in Glendale, CA. In this role, Rose cultivated her growing passion for creating healing spaces in the outdoors for all youth and families, regardless of socio-economic status. Rose received her BA from Mount Holyoke College in Psychology and Education as well as an MBA in Non-Profit Management and an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership as a Wexner Graduate Fellow / Davidson Scholar from Brandeis University.



## Dan Levin

WGF/DS • Class 4

dlevin@tbeboca.org | Boca Raton, FL

Rabbi Dan Levin serves as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, the congregation where he began his career in 1996. He seeks to synthesize the rich and powerful wisdom to be found in Jewish text and tradition with the contemporary lives we each live today, and to foster opportunities for transformational learning, spiritual experience, and moral direction; community service, social justice, and connections to the people and State of Israel. Rabbi Levin has served the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) on the Alumni Leadership Council, as an original member of the President's Rabbinical Council, and as a partner in the Kalsman Institute for Judaism and Health. He serves on the Budget and Finance Committee for the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and is a past president of SEACCAR, the southeast region of the CCAR. He also served as a member of the Reform Movement's Think Tank. He has mentored younger colleagues through the CCAR, The Wexner Foundation, and the CLI Fellows program of CLAL. Locally, he has served as a board member of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services, The Adolph and Rose Levis JCC, Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach, and other organizations. He was a featured writer for the URJ's Ten Minutes of Torah, is a panelist with the American Religious Town Hall, and blogs at [www.rabbidanlevin.com](http://www.rabbidanlevin.com). Rabbi Levin studied at the Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York campuses of HUC-JIR where he was ordained in 1996. He graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Philosophy and Religion in 1991 and spent a year of study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow with the Shalom Hartman Institute, and studies with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. He and his wife Aimee are the parents of three children, Ari, Meredith, and Eliana.



# Alumni Attendees



**Jon Levisohn**

**WGF/DS • Class 10**

jon.levisohn@post.harvard.edu | Newton, MA

Jon A. Levisohn is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Associate Professor of Jewish Educational Thought at Brandeis University. He also serves as Director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, and the Chair of the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. A native of Boston, he came back to town in 2002 after completing his graduate studies at Stanford University. He has also studied at the Hebrew University, the Shalom Hartman Institute, Harvard University, and Yeshivat Sha'alvim. He lives in Newton with his wife Emily Beck in their empty nest (sometimes with three children), and is an active member of Cong. Shaarei Tefillah and Minyan Yedid Nefesh. He teaches in the community, consults to Jewish educational organizations, and has served on the Board of JCDS, CASJE, NRJE, and Encounter. He served for several years on the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Community Coordinating Committee, which he co-chaired for two years (2016-2017). In 2018-2022, he moderated "How We Lead," a series of about 30 videoconferences in which one member of the Wexner Professional Fellowships community shared their leadership experiences with a small group of trusted colleagues.



**Susan Eiseman Levitin**

**WGF/DS • Class 3**

susan.levitin@gmail.com | Worcester, MA

Susan is an artist who loves to combine her art with Jewish themes. She has painted both secular and Jewish murals. She is available for shabbatonim doing text study combined with art-making for children or adults. When not in her studio, Susan spends time crafting, cooking, and reading at her home in Worcester, MA. Susan is the mother of three: Brenna (29), Daniel (25), and Jonathan (22).



**Rachel Levy**

**WGF/DS • Class 13**

orlirachel@gmail.com | Providence, RI

Rachel has now worked as a fundraiser for the Jewish community for over 20 years. Rachel is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut. Prior to this role, she had served as National Director for the Network of Independent Communities of the Jewish Federations of North America. After Rachel completed her MPA at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs in 2002, she worked at the UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey, Schechter Day School, and Hillel International. In addition to her masters, Rachel learned at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem for a year. In her free time she completed six Olympic distance triathlons, Century Rides and Half Marathons. Rachel currently works in Norwich, CT and lives in Providence, RI with her husband and 9 year old daughter.



# Alumni Attendees



**Gina Lewald-Fass**

**WGF/DS • Class 10**

regina.fass@gmail.com | Stamford, CT

Gina is currently the Director of Education at Bet Torah for the Kulanu Learning Program, a supplemental congregational school in Upper Westchester County, New York. She holds dual master's degrees in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (2000). Prior to joining Bet Torah, Gina served as a director of education at synagogues and Jewish camps in Minnesota, California and Connecticut, including Director of Education at Camp Young Judaea in Texas. She has also taught high school and middle school Jewish Studies at Day Schools in Houston and Stamford. She directed youth programs, a community Hebrew High and inclusion programs for Jewish teens with special needs throughout the US. Gina currently learned Torah with Senior Educators Learning Fellowship for Congregational Educators at Pardes. She is grateful to have studied and lived in Israel for four years. She and her husband, Jonathan, are the proud parents of Michal and Erez. She hates writing bios but values kindness, hard work, creativity and connection.



**Meredith Lewis**

**WFF • Class 1**

meredithelyselewis@gmail.com | Florence, MA

Meredith Lewis helps people actualize and operationalize their goals while living out their values. She currently works as the Director of Community Impact and Partnerships at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts overseeing grantmaking and capacity building. She also is on faculty at the Hornstein Program in Jewish Professional Leadership at Brandeis and consults with Jewish organizations on content design and user experience. She's also the president of Congregation B'nai Israel in Northampton, MA Previously she served as the Director of Content, Education, and Family Experience for PJ Library in North America and at 70 Faces Media in a variety of roles including managing editor, interim executive director, and chief operating officer. She holds an MPA and an MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies from New York University and a BS in Journalism from Northwestern University. She completed a graduate certificate in Early Childhood Technology from Tufts University. Meredith lives with her husband, two children, and a robust vegetable garden.



**Annie Lewis**

**WGF/DS • Class 20**

annerlewis@gmail.com | Gaithersburg, MD

Rabbi Annie Lewis is a passionate organizer, story-weaver, compassionate listener and teacher of Torah of the heart. She is the co-rabbi of Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg, Maryland. After ordination from JTS, Annie spent nearly a decade in Philadelphia, serving urban congregations, leading the Board of Rabbis, working as Director of Rabbinic Formation at RRC, studying Couples and Family Therapy and lifting up her voice for justice in the streets. Annie is a poet, singer and performance artist with roots in the Storahelling ritual theater company. She lives in Philadelphia with her life and rabbinic partner, Yosef Goldman, and their children, Zohar and Shir.



# Alumni Attendees



**Danna Livstone**

**WGF/DS • Class 9**

drlivstone@gmail.com | East Windsor, NJ

Danna (Kalkstein) Livstone received her doctorate in Jewish Education from JTS in 2011. Her thesis focused on parents' recollections of the synagogue school experience and how those memories connected to their decisions regarding the Jewish education of their children. While doing her doctoral work, Danna was the Director of Education at Temple Israel & JCC in Ridgewood, NJ from 2001-2003. Before Wexner, Danna served in a joint position at Vassar College and Temple Beth El in Poughkeepsie, NY where she served as Advisor to Jewish Students at the College and Youth Director/USY Advisor at the synagogue (1992-1996). Since moving to South Central New Jersey in 2003, Danna has consulted, mentored, advised, and taught in a variety of settings. She has led the Tot Shabbat program at Beth El Synagogue in East Windsor, NJ since 2008 and was the interim education director from August, 2018-July, 2019. She is a program evaluator for Rosov Consulting. Danna is married to Mike Livstone. They live in East Windsor and have two children, Yoni (age 20) and Ariella (age 18).



**Asher Lopatin**

**WGF/DS • Class 5**

rabbiasherlopatin@gmail.com | Huntington Woods, MI

Asher is the Executive Director of the JCRC/AJC in Detroit. He is the founding rabbi Kehillat Etz Chayim of Detroit and the Founding Executive Director of the Detroit National Center for Civil Discourse. He was the President of YCT Rabbinical School and before that the rabbi of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago. He received his ordination from Rav Ahron Soloveichik and from Yeshiva University in New York and holds an M.Phil. in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford University as well as a BA in International Relations and Islamic Studies from Boston University. His doctoral work at Oxford University has been on Islamic Fundamentalist attitudes toward Jews. He is married to Wexner Fellow Rachel Tessler Lopatin (Class III) and together they have four children. Asher is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and other national and local organizations.



**Ann Luban**

**WGF/DS • Class 4**

annluban@sbcglobal.net | Chicago, IL

Ann is the Senior Director of Community Services at JCFS Chicago where she supervises a team of professionals who provide support and education to the Jewish community on issues including abuse prevention, addiction, adoption, bereavement, infertility, and mental health. Previous positions include the Director of Recruitment for the Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies at Spertus and at the Council for Jewish Elderly as a Clinician and as the Director of Holocaust Community Services, an interagency program serving the needs of Holocaust survivors and their families. She is a founding board member of Chicago Jewish Day School, teaches adult Jewish education in her local community and has served on the Executive Boards of the Jewish Communal Service Association and Anshe Emet Synagogue. Ann has published journal articles and a book chapter and has presented at numerous conferences locally, nationally and internationally.





# Alumni Attendees



## **Michelle Lynn-Sachs**

**WGF/DS • Class 6**

michelle.lynn@nyu.edu | Austin, TX

Dr. Michelle Lynn-Sachs founded Spotlight Consulting and Coaching to help Jewish non-profits shine through customized leadership development, coaching, and strategic consulting. As a professor at JTS and then at the HUC-JIR, Michelle taught and mentored students on the path to careers as rabbis, educators, and cantors. As a consultant and coach, Michelle has coached and guided both lay leaders and professionals throughout the Jewish community, helping people become the leaders they dream of being, so they can help their organizations achieve their most ambitious and boldest vision. Before founding Spotlight, Michelle held consulting, faculty, and senior leadership positions at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Experiment in Congregational Education, and Holy Blossom Temple. Michelle is a proud alumna of Brown University (AB), the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-JIR (MAJE), and New York University (PhD). She completed the coach training program at the Coaches Training Institute. Michelle is the Chair of the Wexner Field Fellowship.



## **Miriam Margles**

**WGF/DS • Class 14**

mmargles@gmail.com | Toronto

Miriam Margles is Senior Core Faculty at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She teaches and leads by creating an atmosphere of attentive, brave, playful and open-hearted exploration of Jewish text, prayer and practice, our inner landscapes, resilient connection with others and the wider world, all working toward healing, wisdom and liberation. She previously served as the Rabbi of the Danforth Jewish Circle in Toronto for 12 years and was founding faculty at Romemu Yeshiva. An RRC grad, she was a Rising Song Fellow and a Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel Leadership Institute in 2008-2009. She is co-founder of Encounter, engaging American Jewish leaders in face-to-face encounters with Palestinians to be agents of change in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Miriam earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in creative writing from York University in Toronto. She is also a composer of original liturgical music. Her album, Zeh Hayom: this is the day can be found at miriammargles.bandcamp.com.



## **Lesley Matsa**

**WFF • Class 1**

lesley.said@gmail.com | Evanston, IL

Lesley Matsa is Honeymoon Israel's Chief Strategy Officer. She previously worked for 12 years at the Crown Family Philanthropies, Chicago's largest Jewish foundation, where she was the lead staff member for domestic Jewish grantmaking. Her prior work experience includes strategic planning for non-profit organizations as a Consultant at Wellspring Consulting, management consulting work in the for-profit sector, and engaging young adults as Program Coordinator at UC Berkeley Hillel. Lesley holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a Bachelors degree with highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley. Lesley is a recipient of the JJ Greenberg Award, awarded to one foundation professional internationally each year for extraordinary leadership in Jewish philanthropy.



# Alumni Attendees



## Scott Meltzer

WGF/DS • Class 4

scottmeltz@hotmail.com | San Diego, CA

Rabbi Scott Meltzer serves as rabbi of Ohr Shalom Synagogue in San Diego. He is also a Lecturer in Religious Studies at San Diego State University. Scott served for many years as a chaplain with the San Diego Police Department, is a past President of the San Diego Rabbinical Association, past Chairperson of San Diego's Joint Synagogue—United Jewish Federation Committee, and a member of the Jewish Education Leadership Council of the United Jewish Federation. Previously, he served as the founding Dean of Students and Residential Life at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to that, he was Director of Education of The Brandeis-Bardin Institute (BBI) and director of its renowned program, the Brandeis Collegiate Institute (BCI). Before BBI, Scott worked at the University of Southern California, assisting in courses in the Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Mythology, Western Literature and Ethics. He has also served congregations in Los Angeles, Santa Maria, California and Butte, Montana, as well as a hospital chaplaincy in New York City. Scott graduated and was ordained through the Hebrew Union College. He also served as an Intern with the Israel Ministry of Justice while studying in Jerusalem. He was part of the first graduating class at the San Diego Jewish Academy. After graduating high school in San Diego, he earned a BA with honors in Chemistry from Harvard University before attending rabbinic school. He also holds a master's degree in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California. He lives in San Diego with his wife Jennifer, their daughter Shayna, son Nadiv, daughter Maital, daughter Yael, and their dog Tikkun.



## Jessica Kate Meyer

WGF/DS • Class 20 / Davidson Scholar ✨

jessicakatemeyer@gmail.com | Washington, DC

Jessica Kate Meyer is a prayer leader, vocalist, storyteller, musician, and rabbi. As Rabbi-Hazzan of The Kitchen SF, and Rabbi-Co-Music Director at Romemu in NYC, and while visiting communities around the world, Jessica has built community through soulful prayer and song. She has inspired people of all religious and music backgrounds to find their voice in prayer, and to attune their ears in listening. She has studied sacred Jewish music with masters from Ashkenazi and Mizrahi traditions, and has performed as a vocalist with ensembles across the US and Israel. In a previous life, Jessica appeared in film, theater, and television projects in Europe and the United States: most notably, as a principal role in the Oscar-winning film, "The Pianist".



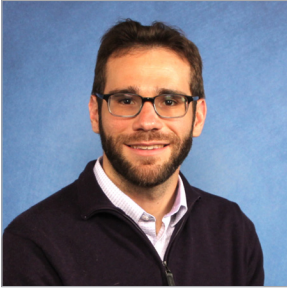
## Deborah Sacks Mintz

WGF/DS • Class 30

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Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz serves on the faculty of the Hadar Institute as their Director of Tefillah and Music. She received rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she also earned her MA in Women and Gender Studies; additionally, she holds degrees in music and religious anthropology from the University of Michigan. Prior to and during rabbinical school, she served in a variety of Jewish communal service capacities, including as the education director of Shir Chadash Congregation in New Orleans, spiritual care chaplain with DOROT, rabbinic fellow at B'nai Jeshurun NYC, and on the founding team of the Rising Song Institute as an artist, educator, and consultant. A vocalist and composer, Deborah has collaborated on over two dozen albums of new Jewish music with treasured colleagues. Learn more about Deborah's work at [www.deborahsacksmintz.com](http://www.deborahsacksmintz.com)

# Alumni Attendees



## **Nathaniel Moldoff**

**WGF/DS • Class 29 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

nmoldoff@gmail.com | Bala Cynwyd, PA

Nathaniel Moldoff is a Program Officer at The Snider Foundation. He previously worked in fundraising roles at Perry Davis Associates and Big Tent Judaism. Nathaniel is a graduate of NYU's dual degree program, where, as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar, he received both an MPA with a concentration in non-profit management and an MA in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. He completed his BA at Franklin and Marshall College, and also studied at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies. Nathaniel and his wife currently reside in the Philadelphia suburbs, where they are active in the local community.



## **Leon Morris**

**WGF/DS • Class 4**

leonalanmorris@gmail.com | Jerusalem

Rabbi Leon A. Morris is the President of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. He previously served as a vice president for Israel programs at Shalom Hartman Institute-North America and was on the faculty of Hebrew Union College. A leading educator in the field of adult Jewish study, Rabbi Morris made aliyah with his family in June 2014, after serving as the rabbi of Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, NY. He was the founding director of the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanu-El in Manhattan. Prior to the creation of the Skirball Center, Leon served as Director of New York Kollel: A Center for Adult Study at HUC-JIR. Ordained from Hebrew Union College in 1997 where he was a Wexner Graduate Fellow, he has worked extensively as an educator with the Jewish community of India, beginning in 1990 when he served as a Jewish Service Corps volunteer for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and returned many times for shorter volunteer work. He has taught at Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform synagogues, as well as the Drisha Institute. He has contributed essays to Haaretz, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Baltimore Sun, The Jewish Week and Beliefnet and has appeared on NPR's "Morning Edition" and PBS's "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly." Leon is a contributor to Jewish Theology in Our Time: A New Generation Explores the Foundations and Future of Jewish Belief (edited by Elliot Cosgrove, Jewish Lights, 2010) and to Platforms and Prayer Books: Theological and Liturgical Perspectives on Reform Judaism (edited by Dana Evan Kaplan, Rowman and Littlefield, 2002). He was one of four editors of Mishkan HaNefesh, the recently published Reform High Holy Day prayer book. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife, Dasee Berkowitz, and their three children.



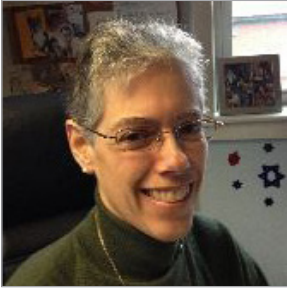
## **Naftuli Moster**

**WFF • Class 3**

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Naftuli Moster is the founding executive director of Shtetl: Haredi Free Press, a media platform for and about the Haredi community. Prior to founding Shtetl, he founded and led Young Advocates for Fair Education (Yaffed), the first and only organization in America to address the lack of secular education in hundreds of Yeshivas across New York State and beyond. Having attended Hasidic Yeshivas from age three to twenty, he experienced the lack of secular education firsthand, along with its dire consequences. This inspired him to seek systemic change in Yeshivas to ensure that future generations don't struggle the way tens of thousands of children and adolescents currently do. He has been recognized as a fearless leader in the Jewish non-profit world. He was named in the Jewish Week's "36 Under 36" and in the Jewish Daily Forward's "Forward 50."

# Alumni Attendees



**Robin Nafshi**

**WGF/DS • Class 13**

ravnafshi@gmail.com | Concord, NH

After volunteering in the San Francisco Jewish community for over 16 years, Robin received rabbinical ordination from HUC-JIR (New York campus) in 2005. She is the Rabbi at Temple Beth Jacob in, Concord, NH, a 185 family congregation in the heart of the state's capital. Robin has been a CLAL Rabbinic Student Fellow and a Brickner Social Justice Fellow. She serves on the boards of Riverbend Community Mental Health Services (Concord's community mental health program) and The Greater Concord Interfaith Council where she is a past president. Robin is very committed to doing interfaith work, advocating social justice issues, and creating a warm and welcoming community.



**Avi Narrow-Tilonsky**

**WGF/DS • Class 20 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

avint2@gmail.com | Jerusalem

Prior to moving to Israel Rabbi Avi Narrow-Tilonsky helped create and directed a program introducing Jewish learning to 1100 parents of day school children across America, called the Kohelet Fellowships, through Yeshiva University. He also served as the interim Rabbi of Congregation Ahavat Achim in Fair Lawn New Jersey. Avi received rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 2011. Simultaneously he completed a master's degree in public administration at Baruch College and was a Wexner Fellow. Prior to beginning these programs, he studied economics at Yeshiva University, worked for Jewish non-profits, and taught in various synagogues. Besides his work at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Avi enjoys reading, biking, storytelling, and traveling.



**Andrew Oberstein**

**WGF/DS • Class 29**

andrewoberstein@gmail.com | Boston, MA

Rabbi Andrew Oberstein is thrilled to be part of Temple Israel of Boston's dynamic clergy team as the Director of the Riverway Project. Previously, Rabbi Oberstein served this community as a Rabbinic Intern and, prior to rabbinical school, as Coordinator for Social Justice and Young Adult Engagement. As a student at Hebrew Union College, Rabbi Oberstein was honored as a Wexner Graduate Fellow, a T'ruah Rabbinical Student Human Rights Fellow, and an ARZA Fellow. He worked as a Rabbinic Intern at Columbia/Barnard Hillel and completed a unit of chaplaincy training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Before shifting his focus to the Jewish community, Rabbi Oberstein found his home in the theater, working as a professional actor in a variety of plays and musicals across America. While you won't find him on stage anymore, this passion inspired his rabbinic thesis, "Welcome to Falsettoland: The Intersection of Jewish and Queer Identity in Late 20th Century American Theater." Originally from Los Angeles, Rabbi Oberstein holds a BFA in Musical Theater from Emerson College and an MA in Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College. He lives in Boston with his shih tzu, Muki.



# Alumni Attendees



**Daniel Olson**

**WGF/DS • Class 27 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

daniel.adam.olson@gmail.com | Port Chester, NY

Dr. Daniel Olson is the director of Strategic Initiatives and Research at the National Ramah Commission. His work has focused on a wide range of topics including Mental Health support, disability inclusion, Israel education, and day camps. He completed his PhD in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU in 2020 and wrote his dissertation about Birthright Israel trips for young adults with developmental disabilities. He received the Harold Wechsler award for emerging scholars from the Network for Research in Jewish Education. He lives with his husband Rabbi Ben Goldberg in Port Chester, NY.



**Dani Passow**

**WGF/DS • Class 21**

danipassow@yahoo.com | Bala Cynwyd, PA

Dani Passow is Senior Director of Public and Alumni Programs at Harvard Hillel and a Harvard Chaplain. Prior to assuming his current role, Dani served as Orthodox Rabbi at Harvard Hillel. Dani holds a Masters of Science degree in Biostatistics from Harvard and has published papers on genomics, cardiovascular disease, and the placebo effect in various scholarly medical journals. A graduate of Cooper Union's engineering school, Dani has studied in a number of yeshivot in Israel, including Yeshivat Har Etzion and Yeshivat Maale Gilboa and received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York, where he won the Dov Zakheim Talmud Prize. Dani served as rabbinic consultant for the Sukkah City design competition in Union Square, NY in the fall of 2010.



**Scott Perlo**

**WFF • Class 2**

sperlo@romemu.org | Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Scott Perlo is the Rabbi of Romemu Brooklyn, and is a leader in the field of Jewish open outreach. Formerly a rabbi at 92Y, Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, Moishe House, and the Professional Leader's Project, he's taught Torah to thousands of unaffiliated Jews, their partners, and those interested in Jewish life of any background. A regular writer, Scott has been published in The Washington Post, The Forward, and The Huffington Post, among other publications. A California native, he gets back to his beloved Pacific Ocean to surf and to dive whenever he can. He lives in New York with his partner, Yael, a Constitutional lawyer, and their son.



# Alumni Attendees



## **Elana Erdstein Perry**

**WGF/DS • Class 15**

elana.perry@gmail.com | Decatur, GA

Rabbi Elana Erdstein Perry is the Director of the Jewish Education Collaborative, a new initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta designed to elevate and advance compelling quality supplemental Jewish educational experiences in Atlanta. Elana grew up in Huntington Woods, MI. She earned her college degree from Duke University, where she majored in Religion, minored in Women's Studies, and earned a certificate in Judaic Studies. Following graduation she worked as an Eisendrath Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, D.C.. Elana attended the Jerusalem and Los Angeles campuses of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and was ordained in 2007. Elana served as Assistant and Associate Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Atlanta from 2007-2016, embracing the full range of rabbinic responsibilities, and demonstrating particular passions for education, community building, women's programming, and social justice initiatives. From 2016 - 2019 Elana served as the Director of Family Engagement at Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, OH, where she dove into her passion for Jewish education, empowering students and families to strengthen their sense of connection to the Jewish community and deepen their sense of Jewish identity. In 2019, Elana moved back to Atlanta with her family, where she began a new adventure in Jewish educational leadership as the Director of the Jewish Education Collaborative at the Jewish Federation. Elana is married to Dr. Craig Perry, Assistant Professor at Emory University in the Departments of Jewish Studies and Middle Eastern & South Asian Studies. They are the proud parents of two children, Lilah and Asher.



## **Abby Phelps**

**WGF/DS • Class 25**

abby.phelps@gmail.com | Milwaukee, WI

Rabbi Abby Phelps teaches online and in person about the intersection of Jewish thought and contemporary ethical challenges and officiates life cycle events for Jewish and interfaith families in the greater Milwaukee, WI area. She takes a playful, yet rigorous approach to Jewish learning, and seeks to cultivate curiosity and kindness in herself and those she serves. Prior to relocating to Milwaukee in July 2022, Rabbi Phelps served for four years as the rabbi educator for Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco, CA. She previously served as a rabbinic intern at Temple Israel of Hollywood, a solo student rabbi at Congregation Beth Jacob in El Centro, CA, a programming and engagement professional for the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, and site director for the URJ Bay Area Mitzvah Corps, and has also worked as a freelance editor, paralegal and barista. Rabbi Phelps studied philosophy and religion at Stanford University and has spent time learning at Yeshivat Hadar and the Conservative Yeshiva. She received her MA in Jewish Education from HUC-JIR in 2016 and her rabbinic ordination in 2018.



## **Aaron Portman**

**WGF/DS • Class 30**

Aaron.g.portman@gmail.com | Columbus, OH

Aaron is a rabbi committed to elevating the inherent dignity in all people, regardless of faith, through meaningful interaction and pastoral engagement. Ordained at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in 2021, Aaron has served as an educator in a variety of settings, including as the head of Camp Stone, as a co-educator in a Christian-Jewish Sunday school, and as a professor at City College. Aaron also served as a chaplain at Rikers Island, where he learned the power of presence and spontaneous prayer. Currently, Aaron works as a Chaplain Resident at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus.



# Alumni Attendees



**Amber Powers**

**WGF/DS • Class 9**

apowers@rrc.edu | Abington, PA

Rabbi Amber Powers serves as Executive Vice President and a member of the Regular Faculty at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Her previous roles at RRC include Vice President for Student Development, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Rabbinic Formation and Dean of Admissions and Recruitment. She is a graduate of Emory University and received her rabbinical ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2002. She is proud member of Class IX of the Wexner Fellowship.



**Josh Rabin**

**WFF • Class 2**

joshua.rabin@gmail.com | New York, NY

Joshua Rabin is an experienced non-profit executive and educator with over ten years of experience making game-changing impacts in leadership development, education, fundraising, and innovation. Josh obtained an MBA credential of readiness from Harvard Business School Online, a certificate in non-profit management from Columbia Business School, and a certificate in fundraising management and leadership from Indiana University's Lilly School of Philanthropy. Josh is a recipient of the Wexner Field Fellowship and the Ruskay Fellowship for Jewish Professional Leadership. Josh lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with his wife, Rabbi Yael Hammerman, and their children Hannah, Shai, and Ella. You can read more of Josh's writings by visiting [www.joshuarabin.com](http://www.joshuarabin.com).



**Esther Reed**

**WGF/DS • Class 9**

esther.reed@gmail.com | Highland Park, NJ

Rabbi Esther Reed currently works as Interim Executive Director at Rutgers University Hillel. She was ordained as a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2001 and also received a master's degree in Jewish Women's Studies at that time. Prior to her enrollment at JTS she served as the Jewish Campus Service Corps fellow at Tufts University Hillel. She is also a graduate of Bryn Mawr College. She and her husband live in Highland Park, NJ, and they have three sons, Isaac, Sammy, and Jonah.



**Shani Rosenbaum**

**WGF/DS • Class 31**

shani1288@gmail.com | Cambridge, MA

Shani Rosenbaum is a faculty member at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. She holds a BA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and received rabbinic ordination from her teachers at Hebrew College. Shani has studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum, Matan, Beit Midrash Har'el, Yeshivat Hadar, and in the Pardes Kollel and has taught Talmud, Halakha and Midrash in a range of frameworks, including through Hebrew College's Open Circle, Yashrut Institute, and Hadar's Halakha Intensive. She has also served on the programming teams at Jerusalem-based non-profits Encounter and OLAM, and in 2020 conducted a "Halakha and Jewish Ethics Hackathon" with T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.



# Alumni Attendees



## David Rosenn

WGF/DS • Class 5

davidrosenn@gmail.com | New York, NY

Rabbi David Rosenn is the President and CEO of the Hebrew Free Loan Society, a microfinance organization that provides low-income New Yorkers with access to fair and affordable credit. Previously David served as Executive Vice President at the New Israel Fund, Where he led that organization's operations in North America and worked with NIF's Board and senior staff to set and execute strategy for the organization overall. David also served for 13 years as the founder and Executive Director at AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps. David was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1997. He believes social change is inspired and sustained when people feel themselves to be members of communities of moral courage and spiritual strength, and his work is centered around efforts to build, encourage and sustain Jewish participation in such communities. David is married to Rabbi Jennie Rosenn (Class IV), and they live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with their sons Benjamin and Isaiah.



## Rebecca Rosenthal

WGF/DS • Class 16

RPRosenthal@gmail.com | New York, NY

Rabbi Rebecca Rosenthal joined Central Synagogue in the summer of 2015 as the Director of Youth & Family education. Prior to coming to Central, Rabbi Rosenthal was the Director of Children and Family Education at IKAR, a nationally recognized, innovative spiritual community in Los Angeles. While at IKAR, she reimagined and redesigned the religious school, supervised the Early Childhood Center from its creation to present and created the IKAR Teen program. She also taught in IKAR's adult education program and participated in pulpit and pastoral duties. Prior to IKAR, Rabbi Rosenthal was the Director of Education at Congregation B'nai Zion in El Paso, TX and the Youth & Family Shabbat and Holidays coordinator at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City. She has been involved in numerous national conversations about the future of congregational education, including the Conservative Moment's Taskforce on Congregational Education and the ReFrame Initiative, to examine and implement experiential education in a religious school setting. Rabbi Rosenthal is a native New Yorker, having grown up on the upper west side and attended Dalton. She received a BA from Yale University and was ordained as a Rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2009. She also received a Master's Degree in Jewish Education and was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She lives on the east side with her husband, Dr. Adam Arenson, a professor of American History at Manhattan college and their three children, Simon, Leo and Madeline.





# Alumni Attendees



## Wendy Rosov

WGF/DS • Class 6

wendy@rosovconsulting.com | Berkeley, CA

Wendy is the Founder and Principal of Rosov Consulting, LLC. For over 25 years, she has served as a senior-level consultant to individual philanthropists, community and family foundations and Jewish communal nonprofit organizations throughout North America and in Israel. Her keen analytic skills, knowledge of all facets of Jewish education and identity-building sectors, as well as her expertise in research and evaluation techniques have made her a sought-after expert on program design and evaluation. Her outstanding teaching and coaching skills place her in great demand as a presenter of workshops and seminars for both professionals and volunteer leadership in the philanthropic and nonprofit sector. Over the years, Wendy has worked as a senior advisor and strategist with an extensive array of community-based, regional, national, and international grantmaking and operating foundations and program providers, including the Jim Joseph Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools, JDC Entwine, The Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Funder Collaborative, and numerous local Jewish Federations. With the opening of our office in Israel in 2015, Wendy and the team now work closely with the Government of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs—for which Rosov Consulting serves as evaluation consultants, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Masa Israel Journey, Onward Israel, and others on a number of research, evaluation, and strategy consulting projects. For over a decade prior to founding Rosov Consulting, Wendy served as a member of the senior staff at the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA). Before joining JESNA, Wendy served as Associate Director of the Conference on Rabbinic Education. She taught for more than 15 years in all types and at all levels of Jewish formal and informal education and identity-building programs, giving her a deep “insider” understanding of both the content and context of these fields. Wendy holds a Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University, an MA in Jewish Education from the University of Judaism (now AJU), and a B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University. Wendy is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Program.



## Benjamin Ross

WGF/DS • Class 24

benjamineross@gmail.com | Los Angeles, CA

Benjamin is a dad, rabbi, and ramen lover. He lives in White Plains, NY.



# Alumni Attendees



## Erica Rothblum

WFF • Class 1

erorthblum@pressmanacademy.org | Los Angeles, CA

Erica Rothblum began as the Head of School at Pressman Academy in Los Angeles, an ECC through 8th grade Day School serving just under 500 students, in July 2014. Before coming to Pressman, Erica worked as the Head of School at Beth Hillel Day School and before that as the General Studies Principal at Beth Hillel. She began her career with Teach for America, teaching for three years in Compton, California and taught at both public district schools and charter schools, as well as in the university setting, before entering Jewish education. Erica holds a BA from Barnard College, a Masters in Teaching from Loyola Marymount University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from UCLA. While she loves travel, reading and theater, Erica's first passion is her family - her husband, Daniel (whom she met at Hebrew University on their Junior Year Abroad), and their three children, Maya, Jack & Nomi.

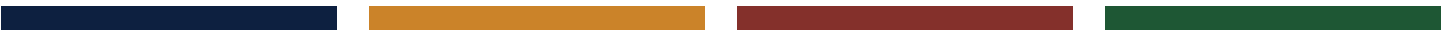


## Sivan Rotholz

WGF/DS • Class 31 / Davidson Scholar ✨

sivan.sf@gmail.com | Brooklyn, NY

Sivan Rotholz has more than a decade of experience teaching gynocentric Torah, creative writing, and Jewish studies, in addition to exploring spirituality and ritual. An HUC rabbinical student inspired by the Jewish imperative to plant seeds for future generations, she is working to launch an urban kibbutz movement that is both timely and deeply rooted in tradition. A Center for Rabbinic Innovation fellow and member of the Beloved Network with a Master's in Nonprofit Management from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Sivan is constantly researching and tracking innovations in the North American Jewish community. As she considers how our proven models of synagogues and JCCs might partner with new and dynamic models of Jewish community to create vibrant local ecosystems, she is inspired by organizations such as Honeymoon Israel, Base, One Table, and Moishe House, among others, while being committed to expanding the tent of Jewish support and programming to have a wider, intergenerational reach. At a time when it is clearer than ever that "it takes a village," Sivan is committed to serving the Jewish people by building that communal home base.



# Alumni Attendees



## Jonathan Rudnick

WGF/DS • Class 4

rabbi@jfskc.org | Prairie Village, KS

After receiving an MA in International Affairs as well as Jewish Communal Service, I reached my dream of working for JDC in the Former Soviet Union, based in Israel. Convinced that Jewish education is the glue that holds all of the different pieces of the Jewish communal puzzle together, I focused on education as a fellow at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership in Jerusalem. Having reached the understanding that I needed adult Jewish education in order to contribute to the field of Jewish education, I decided to study for the rabbinate at The Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. The experience of rabbinical school exposed me to the wonderful field of chaplaincy/spiritual care, and I was privileged to begin work as a full-time chaplain at Shaare Zedek Medical Center. This work was part of a program called B'Ruakh, for the development of spiritual care in healthcare frameworks in Israel. At present I have the privilege of serving as Jewish Community Chaplain in Kansas City. Years ago, following a tough health year for my father, we decided to move here temporarily from Israel to be near my parents. Drawing on important Wexner mentoring guidance about the need to keep Jewish families together, this move to be near family has been a defining part of my personal and professional life. Though I miss Israel greatly, I have had the nahef of continuing to see the growth of spiritual care in Israel through my involvement as chair of the board of "B'Ruah - By Spirit", the non-profit organization I founded in 2004. I am so blessed to be Abba to Shefer (yo), SHir-el (yo), and Sagi (yo).



## Leah Sarna

WGF/DS • Class 27

leah.sarna@gmail.com | Bala Cynwyd, PA

Rabbanit Leah Sarna is faculty and Director of Teen Programs at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. She previously served as Director of Religious Engagement at Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago, a leading urban Orthodox congregation. She was ordained at Yeshivat Maharat in 2018, holds a BA from Yale University in Philosophy & Psychology, and also trained at the SKA Beit Midrash for Women at Migdal Oz, Drisha and the Center for Modern Torah Leadership. She was a 2021 recipient of the Covenant Foundation's Pomegranate Prize in Jewish Education. Rabbanit Sarna's published works have appeared in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, The Jewish Review of Books, Lehrhaus and MyJewishLearning. She has lectured in Orthodox synagogues and Jewish communal settings around the world and loves spreading her warm, energetic love for Torah and Mitzvot with Jews in all stages of life.



# Alumni Attendees

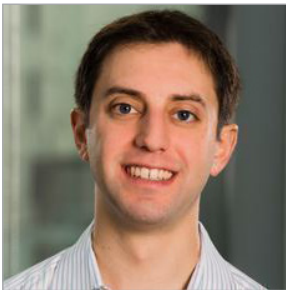


## Josh Satok

WGF/DS • Class 28 / Davidson Scholar ✨

joshsatok@gmail.com | New York, NY

Josh Satok is a Senior Planning Executive in the Jewish Life department at UJA Federation of New York, where he focuses on grantmaking in New York City, leading the Immersive Jewish Experiences portfolio – including camps, teens, young adults, Jewish and Israel education and more – as well as Diversity, Action and Justice, focusing on social justice initiatives and serving the diversity of the Jewish community, as well as working on community relations and safety, giving circles, and more. He's the biggest fan of Jewish camp, having worked at Camp Kadimah, in Nova Scotia, Camp Ramah in Canada, and as the Senior Assistant Director of URJ Kutz camp, the Reform movement's teen leadership camp in Warwick, NY. He's worked in a wide variety of Jewish organizations, including UJA Toronto, JFNA, and the American Hebrew Academy, among many others. He earned an MBA in Nonprofit Management and an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership at Brandeis University, and a bachelors in Religious Studies at Yale University. A proud Canadian and native Torontonian, he now lives on the Upper West Side of New York City.



## Andrew Scheer

WGF/DS • Class 24

aescheer@gmail.com | Tokyo, Japan

Andrew Scheer serves as rabbi of the Jewish Community of Japan. Prior to arriving in Tokyo, he worked as a chaplain for the VA NY Harbor Healthcare System, New York City Department of Correction on Rikers Island and in the United States Army Reserve as a Chaplain Candidate. Andrew received semikha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.



## Yoni Schwab

WFF • Class 2

yoni.schwab@shefaschool.org | Bronx, NY

Yoni Schwab, PhD, is the Assistant Head of School at the Shefa School, a pluralistic Jewish day school for children with language-based learning disabilities in Manhattan. He was part of the 3-member founding team that worked for a year to create the program, which opened in 2014. Yoni has been involved in every aspect of Shefa's development and currently oversees many aspects of its operations, from admissions to psychology to communications. Yoni previously served as the Psychologist at The Windward School and on the faculty of the Windward Teacher Training Institute. He is an Adjunct Clinical Supervisor at Ferkauf Graduate School of Yeshiva University. Yoni's research has focused on social-emotional learning and behavior management and is a sought-after lecturer on these topics. Yoni holds BA's from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned his doctorate in clinical psychology at Rutgers University. Prior to his career in psychology, Yoni was a management and development consultant to Jewish and Israeli nonprofits at Perry Davis Associates. He loves living in Riverdale with his wife Jessica, a 4th grade teacher, and their three children.



# Alumni Attendees



## Ahud Sela

WGF/DS • Class 14

ahudsela@hotmail.com | Granada Hills, CA

Ahud Sela is the rabbi at Temple Ramat Zion in Los Angeles. Ahud was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 2007 and also received a masters degree in bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania in 2007. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a B.S. in biochemistry/molecular biology and a minor in Jewish Studies. There he met his wife Alisha, a teacher, and they now have three children, Yael and Gavi (18 year old twins) and Eitan (14 years old). Ahud's interests include working on environmentally friendly projects, social action, bioethics, and the writings of the chassidic masters.



## Allen Selis

WGF/DS • Class 15

ahselis@gmail.com | Jerusalem

Allen Selis is the co-founder and curriculum director of Cybot, an informal educational program that brings engineering, robotics, and coding instruction to young learners in Israel. Allen studied history and political philosophy as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College before going on to study at Neveh Schechter and then the Jewish Theological Seminary, from which he earned an MA in Jewish Philosophy and was ordained as a Rabbi. Allen served in the congregational rabbinate with synagogues in Boulder, CO and Rockville, MD. After completing a PhD in Curriculum Theory and Education Policy Studies at the University of Maryland, Allen served as Headmaster for two Jewish day schools, one in the Midwest, the other in Silicon Valley. In 2014, Allen launched his first startup company, Tech Edventures / STEM Crafters. The company was at the cutting edge of STEM education, providing computer coding and engineering instruction for 12,000 students in over 40 institutions across the Dallas - Ft. Worth area. Allen made Aliyah in August of 2020, and lives in Jerusalem, where he continues to advance STEM education in Israel.



## Erica Shaps

WGF/DS • Class 31 / Davidson Scholar ✨

erica.shaps@gmail.com | Somerville, MA

Erica Shaps is the Educational Programs Manager at the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues. In this capacity, she develops educational opportunities, trainings and resources on Arab citizens of Israel and Jewish-Arab relations. Erica lived in Israel for most of her career and has consulted and conducted research for diverse organizations locally and internationally. She worked as a Middle East Program Coordinator for Encounter where she planned programs to help cultivate more informed and constructive Jewish leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Previously, as an Entwine Fellow at the Joint Distribution Committee, Erica supported social mobility programs Arab citizens of Israel and Haredim. She is a trained facilitator and mediator. Erica received her BA from Brandeis University in Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies and an MA from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in International Law and Diplomacy as a Wexner Fellow.



# Alumni Attendees



**Liz Shayne**

**WGF/DS • Class 31 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

eliz.shayne@gmail.com | Bronx, NY

Rabbanit Dr. Liz Shayne is the Director of Academic Affairs at Yeshivat Maharat, where she also received rabbinic ordination in 2021. She came to Maharat after receiving her Ph.D from University of California, Santa Barbara and studied the past, present, and future of digital reading. She loves old books in new forms, studies how Halacha and technology can work together and is a teacher committed to the idea that studying Torah can and must be for everyone. During her time at Maharat, she worked with Sefaria on the Sefaria & Maharat Women Scholar's Writing Fellowship and she writes and teaches about everything from how the Talmud is like the internet to the future of robots in halakha, and is also the person who can fix the computer. Liz lives in Riverdale with her husband and two children where she tries desperately to find time to read, knit, and experiment with new recipes.



**Ariana Silverman**

**WGF/DS • Class 16**

ajsilver77@gmail.com | Detroit, MI

Ariana Silverman is the rabbi of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue. She graduated from Harvard, was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. She lives in Detroit with her family.



**Joel Sisenwine**

**WGF/DS • Class 3**

rabbi@tbewellesley.org | Newton, MA

Joel currently serves as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley, MA, a 1250 family Reform congregation in suburban Boston. A graduate of Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and the University of Pennsylvania, Joel serves on a number of boards and committees addressing youth, outreach and adult learning. Most importantly, he shares his life with his wife Heidi, and three daughters, Talia (11), Halle (7) and Jordyn (7).



# Alumni Attendees



## Michaela Slutsky

WGF/DS • Class 31 / Davidson Scholar ✨

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Michaela is currently working on new Jewish startup in the tech field. Previously, she was an Education Consultant at The Jewish Education Project, after completing her dual Master's at NYU Wagner/Skirball, and receiving her MPA in non-profit management/ MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies. Michaela also partnered with a fellow Wexner alumna to create RUACH: Emotional and Spiritual Support, an online mental health start-up to support the Jewish community at the beginning of the pandemic. Prior to that, Michaela was the Program Manager for the Applied Research Collective for American Jewry, a startup initiative from NYU Bronfman Center, developing an academic fellowship and communal Roundtable. Michaela began her career as the Program Director of Teen and Young Adult Services at Marks JCH of Bensonhurst in Brooklyn, NY, where her passion for experiential Jewish education and communal identity began. Michaela served as Camp Director at B'Yachad, a unique educational, overnight camping experience for Russian-speaking Jewish (RSJ) teens focused on Russian Jewish heritage and exploration of personal identity. Michaela is a native New Yorker whose family is originally from the FSU. Michaela holds a B.S. in Business Economics.



## Michal Fox Smart

WGF/DS • Class 6

msmart@alumni.princeton.edu | Stamford, CT

Michal Fox Smart is Chief Program Officer of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), and has crafted ground-breaking programs in personal and spiritual development for over 30 years. She previously served as Director of Ayeka North America, Executive Director of Isabella Freedman Retreat Center, Co-founder of the Teva Learning Center, and Associate Principal of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. Michal is a graduate of Princeton and Cornell, a Wexner Graduate Fellow, and a Fulbright Scholar. Her publications include Spirit in Nature and Kaddish: Women's Voices. An avid biker, yogini and poet, Michal lives in CT and is the proud Ema of five emerging adults, each deliciously different as people and as Jews.



## Sara Smith

WGF/DS • Class 26 / Davidson Scholar ✨

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Sara, a Los Angeles native, is Jewish Studies Instructional Leader at Milken Community School in Los Angeles. She holds a Ph.D from New York University in Education and Jewish Studies. Her dissertation explored the proliferation of Jewish day schools in Los Angeles in the 1970s and 1980s, with an eye toward the relationship between developments in public education and politics and their influence on day schools. Sara holds both a BA and MAT from Brandeis University, where she also spent eight summers working with Jewish high schoolers from all over the world through Brandeis University's Office of High School programs, specifically the Genesis program. Sara has taught Tanakh in a few day schools in the LA-area and often delivers divrei Torah and shiurim in her community. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.



# Alumni Attendees



## **Jon Spira-Savett**

**WGF/DS • Class 3**

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Jonathan Spira-Savett has been serving as rabbi of Temple Beth Abraham, a 260-member congregation in Nashua, New Hampshire, since summer 2008. Jon was ordained at JTS in 1995 and also received an M.A. in Jewish education. He has worked since 1993 with Jewish teens in day and supplementary schools. Jon has helped spur forward the Jewish teen philanthropy movement since 2000, through his own initiatives in New York and New Hampshire, and as a consultant for a couple years for the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's B'nai Tzedek initiative and the Jewish Community Foundation of Phoenix. Jon was a faculty member in Jewish and American Studies, Special Programs Coordinator and Director of Programs at the Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island, and Associate Head of School for Judaics, Student Life and the Arts at the Weber School in Atlanta. Jon has been a supervisor and mentor for students at the Davidson School at JTS and the Institute for Informal Jewish Education at Brandeis. In 1998 he coordinated a conference on the relevance of academic biblical study for Jewish day school education for the Solomon Schechter Association and the Melton Research Center. He is past president and a current Board member of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council, and part of the Interfaith Housing Justice group in Greater Nashua. Jon is also one of the organizers of "How To Be President", an initiative to ask better questions of candidates in the primary and general election between now and November 2020 ([howtobepresident.org](http://howtobepresident.org)). Jon reflects that waiting until mid-career before becoming a congregational rabbi turned out to be a wise decision. He's fascinated by the challenge of envisioning meaningful Jewish engagement and community in a new century for Jews outside the major population centers, who exemplify all the major sociological trends. Jon maintains a website, blog, and small podcast collection at [rabbijon.net](http://rabbijon.net) and on iTunes, and has been experimenting with various new media to reach congregants and unaffiliated Jews.



## **Howard Stecker**

**WGF/DS • Class 1**

hastecker@gmail.com | Great Neck, NY

Since 2003, I've been the senior rabbi of Temple Israel in Great Neck, NY, a diverse, multi-generational congregation. I've served as president of my local Rabbinical Assembly, have volunteered in a number of capacities at the local Solomon Schechter, and have spent numerous summers working at Camp Ramah. I'm interested in formal and informal Jewish education, synagogue transformation, and relationships between Jews of different ethnic backgrounds. I'm married to Deanna, the Learning Specialist at the Solomon Schechter of Manhattan, and we have three sons.



## **Suzy Stone**

**WGF/DS • Class 20**

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Rabbi Suzy Stone is from Minneapolis, MN. She graduated from Brandeis University in 2002. In 2007, she became a Wexner Fellow and began her rabbinical studies in Jerusalem. In 2012 she received ordination from the reform movement at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. After ordination, Suzy served as the Associate Rabbi at Congregation B'nai B'rith in Santa Barbara, CA. As a part of the inaugural cohort of the Jewish Emergent Network, she served as a Rabbinic Fellow at Sixth & I Historic Synagogue in Washington D.C. from 2016-18. During the 2018 election, Suzy worked as a Senior Organizer at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Currently, Suzy works at the campus rabbi at Arizona State University Hillel.





# Alumni Attendees



**Adam Strater**

**WGF/DS • Class 28**

strater.adam@gmail.com | Atlanta, GA

Adam holds a PhD in Hebrew Bible from Emory University. Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Adam earned a BA in Philosophy and Religion from Buena Vista University, a MA in Jewish Studies from the Graduate Theological Union, and a MA in the Bible and Ancient Near East from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem before beginning doctoral work. Adam's academic work integrates Hebrew Bible scholarship and Jewish Ethics. While writing his dissertation, Adam began working toward rabbinic ordination at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and will be ordained May 2024.



**Avi Strausberg**

**WGF/DS • Class 24**

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Rabbi Avi Strausberg is the Senior Director of National Learning Initiatives at Hadar, and is based in Washington, DC. Previously, she served as the Director of Congregational Learning of Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, Minnesota. She received her rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College in Boston and holds a Masters in Jewish Education. Energized by engaging creatively with Jewish text, she has written several theatre pieces inspired by the Torah and maintains a Daf Yomi haiku blog in which she writes daily Talmudic haikus. Avi is most grateful for her wife, Chana, and three children, Ori, Niv, and Amit.



**Shira Stutman**

**WGF/DS • Class 14**

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Rabbi Shira Stutman is a nationally known faith-based leader and change-maker with more than twenty years of experience motivating and inspiring groups large and small, most recently as the founding rabbi of Sixth & I in Washington DC. She teaches Torah and speaks nationally on topics including growing welcoming Jewish spiritual communities; building the connective tissues between different types of people; and the current American Jewish community zeitgeist. She and the actor Joshua Malina cohost PRX podcast "Chutzpod," which aims to provide Jewish answers to life's contemporary questions and help listeners build lives of meaning. In addition, as Founder of Mixed Multitudes, which exposes diverse groups of Jews and fellow travelers to the beauty and power of Jewish life, tradition, and conversation, she currently is working on a variety of projects including helping launch a new minyan in Aspen and leading a year-long class to support synagogue members in having less reactive and more heart-centered conversations about Israel. She was named one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis" by The Jewish Forward and a T'ruah Rabbinic Human Rights Hero, among other awards. She graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.



# Alumni Attendees



**Aviva Sufian**

**WGF/DS • Class 14**

avivasufian@gmail.com | Washington, DC

Aviva Sufian, WGF Class 14, currently lives in Houston, Texas and works at Deloitte Consulting. She received a B.A. from Columbia University, a Master's in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University), and a Master's in Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health (Columbia University). Aviva has worked in various capacities within the fields of aging and disability. Aviva served in the Obama Administration, first at the Social Security Administration (2009-2012), and then at the Administration for Community Living (2012-2015). She also served as the nation's first Special Envoy for U.S. Holocaust Survivor Services (2014-2015). Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Aviva served as a Senior Policy Analyst at the NYC Department for the Aging (2006-2009) and at UJA-Federation of New York.



**Stephanie Tankel**

**WFF • Class 1**

stankel@whctemple.org | Washington, DC

Stephanie Tankel serves as the Director of Lifelong Learning at Washington Hebrew Congregation. She joined WHC in 2009 as Assistant Director of Religious School Education and became the Director in 2014. Prior to her arrival in Washington, DC, Stephanie was the Principal Educator at The West London Synagogue of British Jews in London, England. She also worked as Director of Education at Finchley Progressive Synagogue and at the Movement for Reform Judaism while in the United Kingdom. Previously, Stephanie was the Family Educator at Central Synagogue in New York City. She also currently serves as the Course Coordinator for "Bridging the Great Divide," an online course exploring the intersection of Judaism and Islam at American University. She earned master's degrees in Jewish education and modern Jewish studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and earned a bachelor's degree in comparative literature, Hebrew, and Jewish studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She and her husband live in Northwest DC with their daughter, two sons, and rescued mutt.



**Valerie Thaler**

**WGF/DS • Class 8**

valthaler@gmail.com | Reisterstown, MD

I am trained as a Jewish historian and educator with expertise in curriculum design, Holocaust education and adult learning. I have worked in many different settings, including university classrooms (undergraduate and graduate), a Jewish day school, synagogues and central agencies for Jewish education. In the last 5 years I have delved into synagogue administration. From February 2018 to October 2019, I served as Temple Administrator of Har Sinai Congregation (Reform) of Owings Mills, MD. After 3 years as Synagogue Director at Beth Israel Congregation of Owings Mills (Conservative), I am now Executive Director. Few things fall outside my job description! I manage a staff of 6 and am navigating many clergy and institutional transitions. I live in Reisterstown, MD, where I am blessed to share my home with a wonderful husband, Alex, and 16-year-old daughter, Sabrina. Outside of work, I am a politics buff, social justice advocate, singer, movie-lover and aspiring mosaic artist.



# Alumni Attendees



## Raquel Ukeles

WGF/DS • Class 9

rukeles@gmail.com | Jerusalem

Raquel Ukeles, PhD, is the Head of Collections of the National Library of Israel; from 2010-2020, she was the Curator of the Islam and Middle East collection. Ukeles is responsible for the overall development of all the Library's collections and for digital, cultural and educational initiatives based on the NLI collections as well as in partnership with other institutions. A New York native, Raquel received her BA from Princeton (1993) and MA and PhD from Harvard University in 2006, all in comparative Islamic and Jewish studies. She also studied Jewish law in Jerusalem and New York, and Islamic law and Arabic in Egypt, Morocco and the Netherlands. She has published and taught on a wide array of subjects related to comparative Jewish and Islamic traditions, medieval Islamic law, the history of Islamic manuscripts, Jewish intellectual history under Islam, Arab culture in Mandatory Palestine, and creating shared society in Israel today. She currently lives in Jerusalem with her husband and three children.



## Effy Unterman

WGF/DS • Class 19 / Davidson Scholar ✨

feiron26@gmail.com | Teaneck, NJ

Rabbi Effy Unterman is the Senior Director of Content at Hadar. Previously, he served as a congregational rabbi for ten years. He studied at Yeshiva University for a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, a Masters in Jewish Education, and rabbinical ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, during which time he received a Wexner Fellowship and Davidson Scholarship. Effy lives in Teaneck, NJ, with his wife and three children.



## Lewis Warshauer

WGF/DS • Class 5

lewiswarshauer@gmail.com | New York, NY

I'm an independent Jewish studies adult educator based in New York, giving home- and cafe-hosted seminars. Topics are selected by the groups and include Bible, Talmud, philosophy and theology. I have a special interest in works of art that depict Bible characters and episodes, and I give presentations and lead museum tours on this topic. I also give talks on the current and historical Mideast, which was my area of specialization in grad school and public policy work before I went to rabbinical school. I've also taught classes in New York at Congregation Habonim, Central Synagogue, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and Temple Emanu-El. I have a particular interest in works of art on Bible characters as interpretations of those characters and their relationships. I've led museum tours and presented slide shows on this subject.



## Josh Waxman

WGF/DS • Class 11

rabbijosh@orhadash.com | Elkins Park, PA

Josh graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia in 2003 and is the rabbi of Temple Beth Rishon in Wyckoff, NJ. From 2004-2019 he served as rabbi of Or Hadash in Fort Washington, PA where he is now Rabbi Emeritus. He has taught in the Department of Biblical Civilization at RRC and served as President of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia. Josh lives in Glen Rock, NJ with his wife, Aimée, and their beautiful children, Tzvi, Yael, and Adir.

# Alumni Attendees



**Adam Weisberg**

**WGF/DS • Class 2**

adamlweisberg@gmail.com | Berkeley, CA

Adam is the Executive Director of Urban Adamah. He previously served as Director of the Diller Teen Initiatives. Prior to that, Adam served as Camp Tawonga's executive director from 2008-2011 and as Berkeley Hillel's executive director from 2000-2008. Additionally, Adam has worked in a variety of roles in the Jewish community including with the Council of Jewish Federations in New York, the Jewish Agency in Israel and two years with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Bulgaria.



**Naomi Korb Weiss**

**WGF/DS • Class 21 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

naomikweiss@gmail.com | New York, NY

Naomi Korb Weiss is Associate Director of Nonprofit Effectiveness at TCC Group, a consulting firm focused on strategy, capacity building and evaluation in the social impact sector, where she supports Jewish and secular organizations achieve their missions. Previously, she was CEO of the PresenTense Group, where she led the organization through a period of strategic growth over five years, expanding its reach into new markets and new products to meet evolving customer demand. Naomi managed and developed PresenTense's Design Thinking curriculum and built a Train-the-Trainer model to scale its reach. Naomi also worked in experiential Jewish education, managing training and leadership development at the Foundation for Jewish Camp and JEXNET and serving as Special Assistant to the President at Hillel. Naomi earned her MBA in Strategy and MPA in Nonprofit Management from NYU, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow and Davidson Scholar. Naomi holds a B.S. in Marketing and Rhetoric from the University of Maryland, a certificate from Babson College's Symposium on Entrepreneurship Education and is a graduate of Advanced Education's Transformational Leadership Program. Naomi sits on the board of the Jewish Fertility Foundation.



**Melissa Werbow**

**WGF/DS • Class 12**

melissawerbow@gmail.com | Washington, DC

Melissa Werbow graduated from Hebrew Union College with a master's degree in Jewish Education and a master's degree in Jewish Communal Service. In Los Angeles, she served as the Director of Religious School at Stephen S. Wise Temple. In Pittsburgh, she taught Melton Adult Education programs and was a consultant for area Religious Schools through the Agency for Jewish Learning. In Sarasota, she served as the Director of Jewish Learning at the Hershorin Schiff Community Day School and designed and taught On One Foot a community introduction to Judaism class. She now lives in Washington, DC where she wears many hats, including the Education Director at Hill Havurah and a member of the IYUN team. She is particularly interested in discussing the finer points of being a rabbinic family, the best quilting stores in DC and what novel she should read next.



# Alumni Attendees



## David Wolkenfeld

WGF/DS • Class 17

wolkenfeld@gmail.com | Chicago, IL

David Wolkenfeld is completing his tenth and final year as the rabbi of ASBI Congregation, a dynamic Modern Orthodox shul in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. Prior to moving to Lakeview, David, together with his wife Sara, served as director of the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC) at Princeton University. David has studied at Yeshivat Hamivtar and Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York and has completed coursework in Medieval Jewish History at Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. In June 2008 David was ordained by YCT Rabbinical School as well as by Rabbi Zalman Nehemiah Goldberg z'l of Jerusalem and Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen z'l of Haifa. David and Sara have five children, Noam, Akiva, Hillel, Sophie, and Yonatan Rabbi Wolkenfeld is a member of the the Rabbinical Council of America, the International Rabbinic Fellowship, and the Chicago Board of Rabbis.



## Dave Yedid

WGF/DS • Class 31

david.i.yedid@gmail.com | Denver, CO

Dave the founding rabbi of Base Denver, a home-based Jewish community for people in their 20s and 30s. He graduated from The Jewish Theological Seminary in May 2022, with rabbinic ordination and an MA in Gender. Raised in Port Washington, New York, Dave graduated from Middlebury College with honors, where he was a pioneer in the Jewish, LGBT, and dance communities. He worked at Camp Ramah in the Rockies for eight summers in various leadership capacities. There, he combined his passions for guiding Jewish youth, leading wilderness trips, and experiential education. Deepening his passions for healing and direct care, Dave worked for therapeutic wilderness programs, where he supported young adults and teens to heal from traumas of suicidal ideation, addiction, abuse, and mental illness. Dave is an alumnus of Yeshivat Hadar and Nativ College Leadership Program. Since starting at JTS, Dave was a rabbinic intern at BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy, NYU Bronfman Center, a chaplain at The New Jewish Home, and Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah. Dave lives with his husband, Daniel, in Denver. In his free time, he loves exploring the outdoors, cooking, and dancing.



## Aki Yonekawa

WGF/DS • Class 26 / Davidson Scholar ❄️

akiko.yonekawa@gmail.com | Cambridge, MA

Aki is the interim program manager at Mayyim Hayyim community mikveh in Newton, MA. She moved to Cambridge from Southern CA to work at Gann Academy, and is still there enjoying life in the New England. She loves camp and all things camp-related, especially movies. She studied Art History at Occidental College and has an MBA in Non-Profit Management and an MAEd, both from American Jewish University. In addition to camp, she loves the ocean, flowers, trees, and coffee. She also likes to travel and eat food with friends. She is a night owl and would happily stay up all night if the regular adult world would allow for that.



# Alumni Attendees



## **Beth Young**

**WFF • Class 2**

beth.ellen.young@gmail.com | Miami, FL

Beth Young is the Senior Director of Education at Temple Judea in Coral Gables, FL, working to provide engaging educational opportunities for learners from infants to adults. She is particularly interested in cultivating rich affective experiences that lead learners to continued positive Jewish involvement. A product of the Reform movement's summer camps, Beth works closely with URJ Camp Coleman. Beth holds a Masters in Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, CA and a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Pacific Oaks College. She completed her undergraduate studies in political science at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. In 2004 she received the title of Reform Jewish Educator and in 2017 completed the Senior Educators Cohort through m2: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education. Beth serves on the national board of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators (ARJE), co-chaired the ARJE's Task Force on Excellence, and co-chaired the national conference in 2011. In February of 2016, Beth was recognized with the Distinguished Educator's Award by ARJE. Beth is married to Rabbi Danny Young and they are proud parents to twins.



## **Roderick Young**

**WGF/DS • Class 7**

rabbi@roderickyong.com | North Burlingham, England

Roderick was born in the UK and moved to New York in 1988. He has an MA in English Literature from Oxford, an MA in Jewish studies from JTS and s'micha from HUC. He left his position as Assistant Rabbi/Education Director of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in NYC in July of 2002 after six happy years there. He returned to the UK and was Associate Rabbi at West London Synagogue (Britain's largest and oldest Reform Shul, founded in 1840), Rabbi of the Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation and then Principal Rabbi of Finchley Reform Synagogue in North London. He now works as a free-lance Conservative/Masorti rabbi, concentrating on writing, teaching and life-cycle events. He lives in Norfolk, UK, and Tuscany, Italy, with his husband Zoltan.



## **Maya Zinkow**

**WGF/DS • Class 30**

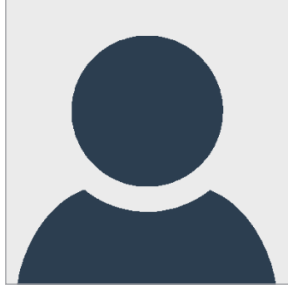
maya.zinkow@gmail.com | Berkeley, CA

Rabbi Maya Zinkow is the Senior Jewish Educator at UC Berkeley Hillel. She received rabbinic ordination and a Masters in Jewish Women and Gender Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. While studying at JTS, Maya served as a rabbinic intern at the Columbia/Barnard Hillel and at Kehilat Romemu on the upper west side. Before starting her rabbinic studies, Maya graduated from Barnard College with a degree in English literature and creative writing and followed her love of text to the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, where she learned Torah for two years. She is a lover of Yiddish, crafts, and comfortable footwear.



# Special Guests

## Rabbi Maurice S. Corson and Ruth Corson



**Rabbi Maurice S. Corson** is the founding President of the Wexner Foundation and created its initial Fellowship programs, including the Wexner Graduate Fellowship Program and the Wexner Israel Fellowship Program. Since 1998 Rabbi Corson has been President Emeritus of The Wexner Foundation. A native Philadelphian, Rabbi Corson received a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Cincinnati. After a year of study in Israel at Yeshivat Keren B'Yavne he studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary where he received a M.H.L. and was ordained in 1960. He also received a Doctor of Divinity honoris causa from the Seminary. Following ordination he was a Chaplain in the United States Army. He served as the Rabbi of Herzl Conservative Congregation in Seattle, Washington, Beth Judah Congregation in Ventnor, New Jersey and as Senior Rabbi of Chizuk Amuno Congregation in Baltimore, Maryland. As Director of Inter-religious and International Programs of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia during the 1970's, he was responsible for widely acclaimed programs on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Rabbi Corson has been an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies at Seattle Pacific College, Trinity Luther Seminary and Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Prior to the Wexner Foundation, he was the Director of Development for B'nai Brith International. He served for five years as President of the National Jewish Book Council. He has served on the Executive Committees of the National Hillel Center, the American Pardes Foundation and the Board of the Koppelman Institute on American Jewish Israel Relations of the American Jewish Committee. He currently serves on the Board of the Jewish Publication Society and the JTS Library Advisory Board

**Ruth Corson** is married to Rabbi Maurice Corson. They are the parents of two daughters, Rishona and Aliza and have two granddaughters Maia and Tamar.



# Special Guests

## Cindy Chazan and Jay Leipzig



**Cindy Chazan** retired from The Wexner Foundation in December 2017 after more than eighteen years, serving most recently as Senior Advisor. As Vice President for the Foundation, Cindy facilitated collaborations among the Wexner Leadership constituencies in North America and in Israel, developed Partnership Communities for the Wexner Heritage Program, and engaged Jewish communities in greater leadership development activities. Prior to coming to the Foundation, Cindy was the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford -- the first woman to hold such a position in a Large or Large Intermediate community. Before that, she was Special Projects Associate for the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America (then the Jewish Welfare Board) where she staffed the Mandel Commission on Maximizing Jewish Educational Effectiveness of JCCs. Cindy was a founding Board Member of Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community; a Board Member of the Jewish Funders Network and was on the International Education Committee for Birthright Israel. She is a recipient of The Louis Kraft Award [ JCC's], the Bernard Reisman Award, presented by Brandeis University, and the Ben Mandelkorn Award, given by the Association of Jewish Community Organization Professionals. Upon retiring, Cindy and her husband, Jay Leipzig, formed Chazan-Leipzig Consulting LLC. In this capacity she has worked with Jewish community organizations on long range planning, Board and staff development, Major gifts solicitation planning, etc. She helped develop the Mentorship Program for the Mandel Foundation, and worked with both New York UJA-Federation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Gold Foundation in NJ, and, together with her partner, a study of a large American Friends of an Israeli Educational Institution. Cindy is a lecturer on Leadership, Goal Setting, Board Development, Fundraising, Mentoring and Alumni Development.

**Jay Leipzig** is a consultant, together with Cindy, and a senior major senior major gifts development officer for American Associates for Ben-Gurion University. Jay has held several leadership roles, including Senior VP and COO American Committee for Weizmann Institute of Science, responsible for fundraising in the United States; Executive Director of Greater Hartford JCC; Campaign Director at the Buffalo Jewish Federation; Director, Emma Kaufmann Camp of Pittsburgh JCC; and Group Leader at the Pressley Ridge School, a residential treatment center for adolescents. Jay holds an MSW from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelors of Science from Washington and Jefferson College. He is married to Cindy Chazan and has two children, Deb and Eric. He enjoys golf, tennis, banjo, reading, and hiking.





# Special Guests

## Shaul Kelner and Pam Kelner



**Shaul Kelner** is the Outgoing Chair of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Program. He is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University.

**Pam Kelner** is the Executive Director of Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Prior to assuming the post in 2010, she enjoyed a distinguished 14-year career at Bloomberg Financial Markets, and also opened her own business, @ Home Pilates. Pam currently serves on the boards of inclusion tennessee, Akiva School, and Congregation Sherith Israel. She also serves on the Leadership Council of AgeWell Tennessee and chairs the local Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board. In 2018, the Nashville Business Journal named Pam "Woman of Influence in the Non-Profit Sector." In 2022, Nashville Pride honored her as "Ally of The Year."



# Staff



## **Elka Abrahamson**

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Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson is President of The Wexner Foundation. She oversees the Foundation's full range of activities and, in partnership with Foundation chairmen and her mentors, Abigail and Leslie Wexner, imagines how the Foundation might further strengthen and educate Jewish professional and volunteer leaders in North America and public service leaders in the State of Israel. Rabbi Abrahamson has been associated with the Foundation for many years. For close to a decade she served as a member of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship's faculty and selection committee. She was the Director of the Graduate Fellowship Program and Vice President prior to assuming her current role in 2011. A proud member of the Frozen Chosen, Elka, a native Minnesotan, earned her teaching degree from the University of Minnesota and spent the early years of her career creating curricula for religious schools and informal educational settings, particularly Jewish camps. Her Jewish soul sprang to life at Camp Herzl in Wisconsin and her Jewish leadership blossomed at Camp Swig in Northern California. She is still a camper at heart. Ordained at HUC-JIR, New York, Elka began her career as associate rabbi at Peninsula Temple Beth El, San Mateo, CA. She then served, with her husband, Rabbi Martin (Misha) Zinkow, as co-senior rabbi at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, MN. Rabbi Abrahamson, a dynamic speaker and an engaging teacher, is optimistic about the Jewish future owing to the remarkable leaders she encounters in her rabbinate, many of them Wexner Alumni. She serves as the High Holiday Rabbi at the 92nd Street Y in New York City and has been published in magazines, books and journals. She is a popular scholar-in-residence, presenter, and keynote speaker for a wide variety of Jewish organizations. She received the Bernard Reisman Award as an outstanding member of the professional Jewish community and Newsweek once named her one of the 50 most influential rabbis in North America. Elka is an avid student and dedicated teacher of Mussar. She also loves a good football game, especially if the Vikings (or Buckeyes) are winning.



## **Dara Katzner**

dkatzner@wexner.net | Columbus, OH

Dara Katzner is the Program Coordinator for the Wexner Field Fellowship and Wexner Service Corps. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, she moved to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University, where she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. While at OSU, Dara was involved at Hillel and was a proud member of the MeshugaNotes, OSU's Jewish a cappella group. In her free time, Dara enjoys Zumba, watching Ohio State football games and singing and volunteering with almost 500 people from Harmony Project, Columbus' community choir.



# Staff



## Or Mars

WGF/DS • Class 6

omars@wexner.net | Bexley, OH

Or Mars (he/him) is a Vice President of The Wexner Foundation where he focuses on the development of Jewish professional and volunteer leaders in North America, and public leaders in Israel. Or has worked in many different Jewish organizations throughout his career including JCCs, North Carolina Hillel and summer camps. He has studied at a variety of Jewish institutions (HUC, JTS, Pardes, Hebrew University, Shalom Hartman Institute) and is a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and a Mandell Institute Jerusalem Fellow. He is a leadership educator, a certified Jewish Meditation teacher (IJS), certified executive coach (Co-Active), and an uncertified blues musician. Or loves all of Shakespeare's plays (even the not-so-famous ones). He serves as the Chair of Board of M2: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education and as an executive committee member of the board for the JPRO Network. Or is a trustee of the Columbus Blues Alliance. Or lives in Columbus, Ohio and can be reached at omars@wexner.net or (614) 939 6060.



## Jay Moses

WGF/DS • Class 5

jmoses@wexner.net | Bexley, OH

Rabbi Jay Henry Moses is Vice President of The Wexner Foundation, having served for many years as Director of the Wexner Heritage Program, North America's premier Jewish leadership education program. He joined the staff of The Wexner Foundation in 2003. Rabbi Moses got his start in Jewish leadership through NFTY, Reform Judaism's youth movement. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in English literature, magna cum laude. Having relocated to the territory of arch-rival Ohio State, he still bleeds maize and blue but is keeping quiet about it. Rabbi Moses pursued rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and was awarded a Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Ordained in 1997, Rabbi Moses served for five years as Associate Rabbi at Temple Sholom of Chicago. From 2002 to 2003, Rabbi Moses studied Jewish mysticism in Jerusalem where he also taught and mentored rabbinical students at HUC-JIR. He has participated in the Rabbinic Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, an intensive study, meditation and retreat program. Rabbi Moses sits on the board of the Columbus Jewish Day School. He is also on the board of Kavod, a non-profit tzedakah collective and is a member of the B'nai Ya'acov Council of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. Rabbi Moses has had essays published in four books in the series on High Holiday prayers published by Jewish Lights Publications, as well as in many newspapers and magazines. He also contributed insights on the role of religion in the process of healing from tragedy for Sheryl Sandberg's book Option B. Rabbi Moses serves as the Editor-At-Large of Shabbat: A Day of Rest, a special section of Arianna Huffington's Thrive Global media channel. Rabbi Moses lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife, Cantor Bat-Ami Moses, who serves as the Hazzan at Temple Israel, and their sons, Caleb and Ezekiel. An avid basketball player, he has lost a step taking it to the hole but makes up for it with decent (if streaky) shooting and the craftiness that comes with advancing age.



# Staff



## Sophie Silberstein

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Sophie Silberstein is the Program Coordinator for the Wexner Heritage Program. Growing up in Memphis, Tennessee, Sophie found her love for small-town Jewish communities and leadership from a young age. After six years in New York, Sophie moved to Columbus, where her husband Daniel is from. She is excited to serve the Columbus community and communities around the country through The Wexner Heritage Program. Sophie earned a degree in Media Studies with a concentration in Advertising from Stern College for Women in New York City. Prior to joining the Foundation, Sophie was the Communications and Program Assistant at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, a large and dynamic Reform Synagogue in New York City. She loves cooking, especially experimenting with new recipes, baking, and traveling whenever possible.



## Trisha Taylor

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Trisha is the Program Coordinator for the Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Program and supports the Alumni Programs for WGF/DS and WFF. Originally from Michigan, Trisha brings more than twelve years of hotel management and customer service experience with her to The Wexner Foundation. She has a BS in hospitality and tourism management with a minor in business management, with honors, from Madonna University. She enjoys spending time with her family and raising her daughters. Outside of work and the city, Trish enjoys getting lost on hiking trails while adventuring with her dogs and camping under the stars.



## Ruthie Warshenbrot

**WGF/DS • Class 23 / Davidson Scholar** ✨

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Ruthie Warshenbrot is Director of the Wexner Field Fellowship at The Wexner Foundation. In addition to developing and managing the Wexner Field Fellowship (in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation), she also works with the Wexner Field Fellowship and Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars Alumni community and co-founded the Wexner Service Corps. Ruthie grew up in Charlotte, NC and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Jewish Studies. She received her Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU and her MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies through the NYU Wagner/Skirball dual degree program as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and a Lisa Goldberg Fellow in Jewish Professional Leadership. While at NYU, Ruthie worked as a Jewish Service-Learning Manager at Repair the World and as a Program Leader for Bend the Arc's Jewish service-learning trips. She also participated in a Jewish service-learning delegation to Senegal with American Jewish World Service. She conducted the first ever Jewish Communal Professional Compensation Survey with a group of colleagues from NYU. Prior to graduate school, Ruthie worked for Limmud NY for five years, with the final two as the organization's Executive Director. She is a past recipient of the Jewish Communal Service Association (now JPRO) Young Professional Award and the Larry S. Moses Outstanding Young Professional Award.



# Staff



## **Stefanie Zelkind**

**WGF/DS • Class 16**

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Stefanie Zelkind is the Director of The Wexner Graduate Fellowship/Davidson Scholars program. Stefanie graduated from Tufts University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Judaic Studies. Upon graduation, she attended the WUJS Institute in Arad, Israel and interned through the New Israel Fund. Stefanie made Aliyah and served as Program Manager at EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East and later as Director of International Affairs at Adam Teva V'Din: The Israel Union for Environmental Defense. Upon her eventual return to the States, Stefanie joined the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) as National Field Director, bridging her interests in environmental awareness and education with Jewish engagement and activism. In 2003, Stefanie completed her Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU and her MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies through the NYU Wagner/Skirball dual degree program as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. From 2006 to 2016, Stefanie served as the Founding Director of the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN), a project of the Jewish Funders Network, engaging thousands of Jewish teens in hands-on philanthropic giving. Stefanie joined the staff of The Wexner Foundation in 2016, making the big move from Brooklyn to Columbus, where she now enjoys the open space (but misses the subway) with her husband, Josh Feinberg, and son, Ari.



## **Tali Zelkowitz**

**WGF/DS • Class 15**

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A native of the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Zelkowitz completed her undergraduate work in Sociology on the Dean's List at the University of British Columbia before attending Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where she received rabbinical ordination and an MA in Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School. She earned her doctorate at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She received a Young Scholar's Award from the Network for Research in Jewish Education and was granted a Writing Dissertation Fellowship from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Her articles and chapters on identity formation appear in a variety of journals, magazines and anthologies. As a sociologist of Jewish education, Tali is endlessly fascinated by cultural straddling and the ways we manage the tensions that are produced by being a part of and apart from American life, as Jews. In 2016, after a decade of research, writing and teaching graduate students in rabbinical, educational and non-profit management degree programs at HUC in Los Angeles, Tali was fortunate to be able to translate her research on integration and identity work into practice at Columbus Jewish Day School, where she served as Head of School. Tali is delighted to be able to integrate sociology, education and Judaism as The Wexner Foundation's first Director of Curriculum and Research. Tali lives in Columbus with her film-animating and children's-book-authoring husband, Benny, and their two children, Gavriela and Asher. When she is not integrating disciplines, she loves scuba diving, softball, board games, traveling, table tennis and is determined to coordinate a recreational Kosher Iron Chef competition one day soon.

