



AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE GLOBAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP FOR RABBIS 2014-2015

The AJWS Global Justice Fellowship is a selective, year-long program designed to inspire, educate and train key opinion leaders in the American Jewish community to become advocates in support of U.S. policies that will help improve the lives of people in the developing world.

AJWS has selected 18 fellows for the Global Justice Fellowship for Rabbis, which will take place from Spring 2014 to Spring 2015. The fellowship includes a 10-day trip to Kenya, during which participants will learn from grassroots activists working to overcome poverty and injustice. The trip will be preceded and followed by innovative trainings that will prepare participants to mobilize and organize their communities and networks to advance AJWS's campaigns and other efforts for global justice.

The 18 Rabbinic Global Justice Fellows range in age from 30 to 61 and come from 10 states across the U.S. They represent a broad array of backgrounds, communities, professional experiences and networks.

RABBINICAL FELLOWS



Rabbi Ali Abrams

Rabbi Ali Abrams served recently as the Director of Organizing for the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, where she mobilized Chicago area Jews to stand in solidarity with Chicagoans affected by racism and poverty. Previously, she served as Assistant Rabbi at Temple Chai in Long Grove, Illinois, where she initiated congregational programs and campaigns focusing on social justice, including defending immigrants and workers' rights and promoting environmental justice and sustainability. As Director of Faith Community Outreach for Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice-Los Angeles (CLUE-LA), Rabbi Abrams was responsible for creating and implementing strategies for engaging clergy and lay leaders in local and national worker justice campaigns. Rabbi Abrams received a B.A. in Women's Studies from Smith College and was ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She and her husband Geoff Prass have two children, Ruby and Milo.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel is the Rabbi of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in San Francisco, a position she has held since July of 2000. She previously served as Associate Rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Shalom, in New York City, and Program Director at the Claremont Colleges Hillel. Rabbi Angel has been a guest lecturer at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and a scholar-in-residence for Women of Reform Judaism. She has written widely on creative liturgy, Judaism and women. Her work has been published in the Journal of Psychology and Judaism, and other Jewish and women's magazines, as well as academic journals and books. She received her B.A. in Philosophy from the University of California at Los Angeles and was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.



**Rabbi Eliot Baskin**

Rabbi Eliot Baskin, D.Min., DD., is Denver's Jewish Community Chaplain and the Rabbinic Director of Rafael Spiritual Healing Center of Jewish Family Service of Colorado. He serves part time as the spiritual leader for Congregation Har

Shalom in Durango, Colorado, and is a past President of the Rocky Mountain Rabbinic Council. Rabbi Baskin also teaches theology for the Melton Adult Mini School, philosophy for Argosy University, and spirituality for Ayeka: Center for Soulful Education. He volunteers for the Denver Police Chaplains' Unit and leads Jewish holiday services for cruise lines. Rabbi Baskin was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1985, and following ordination, he served as the Jewish chaplain at the Mayo Clinic, where he completed a residency in Clinical Pastoral Education. In 1983 he became the first rabbi to earn Hebrew Union College's Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling.

**Rabbi Marc E. Berkson**

Rabbi Marc E. Berkson is rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he has served since 1999. A native of Chicago, he first came to Wisconsin for his undergraduate education at Beloit

College. Ordained by HUC-JIR in 1978, he became rabbi of Temple Judea Mizpah in Skokie, Illinois. He has served as president of the Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis and the Wisconsin Council of Rabbis and on the boards of various local and national organizations. He also sits on the board of Tikkun Ha-Ir, Milwaukee, the urban-based transdenominational study-social action consortium which he helped create. Rabbi Berkson spends time each summer as a faculty member at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute—the first Reform camp in North America. Married to Deborah Carter for 34 years, he is blessed with a growing family.

**Rabbi Jill Borodin**

Rabbi Jill Borodin is the rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in Seattle, Washington. She previously served as a rabbi at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Borodin was ordained in 2001 at the Jewish Theological Seminary,

and during rabbinical school she spent a year serving in the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Jewish Service Corps, volunteering with youth and elderly in the Jewish community in Romania. A native of Toronto, Canada, she is the mother of twin seven-year-old daughters and step-mother of two teenagers.

Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz

Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz serves as a rabbi at Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston, NJ. She was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1993. After ordination she served as a rabbi at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short

Hills, NJ for eleven years. Following that, she was the Regional Director of Admissions and Recruitment at HUC-JIR in NY. She is passionate about social justice and was involved in efforts for marriage equality in NJ. Currently, she serves as the Advocacy Vice President of the Women's Rabbinic Network. She is also involved with NJ Together United Against Gun Violence. Prior to going to rabbinical school, she earned a B.A.S. from the University of Pennsylvania's Moore School of Electrical Engineering and Applied Science. Rabbi Dantowitz and her husband David live in Millburn, NJ with their four sons, Ezra, Benjamin, Samuel and Daniel.

**Rabbi David Englander**

Rabbi David Englander has served as a rabbi of B'nai Torah Congregation, in Boca Raton, Florida since June of 1999, following his ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He served on the staff of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires for 10 summers

as a counselor, division head and advisor. Prior to entering the Seminary, Rabbi Englander studied for a year at Yeshivat Hamivtar in Efrat, Israel, and graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor with a B.A. in History. Presently he is President of the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis, serves on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, and chairs the Jewish Education task force of its Planning and Allocations Committee. He also has served on the board of Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach for many years. Rabbi Englander grew up in Spring Valley, New York, and he and his wife Stephanie have three children, Yaffa, Zev and Ayal.





Rabbi Dennis Eisner

Rabbi Dennis Eisner has been the Senior Rabbi at Peninsula Temple Beth El (PTBE) in San Mateo, California since July 2007. Rabbi Eisner serves on the Israel & Global Committee of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco,

the board of the Ronald C. Wornick Jewish Day School, the National Council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and the Northern California Board of AIPAC. Rabbi Eisner was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion/New York and holds a Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Letters and a Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service. Prior to coming to PTBE, Rabbi Eisner served as the Associate Rabbi at Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles and as Assistant Dean of HUC-JIR/ Los Angeles. While at HUC-JIR Rabbi Eisner also served as Director of the Berit Mila Board of Reform Judaism and the National Organization of American Mohalim/Ot. He was the Director of the Junior and High School Programs and NFTY for the Union for Reform Judaism and was Assistant Director of the URJ's Department of Synagogue Management. Rabbi Eisner is married to Mandy Eisner and they have two children, Maxwell Solomon and Sadie Rose.



Rabbi Marla J. Feldman

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman is the executive director of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), the oldest Jewish women's religious organization, with nearly 500 Reform sisterhoods and women's groups throughout North America and

Israel. Previously she was the Director of Development for the Union of Reform Judaism and the Director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. Rabbi Feldman has represented the Reform Movement in coalitions including the Conference of Presidents, Save Darfur Coalition, JCPA, Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues, and Rabbis for Human Rights – North America. She is the author of Reform Movement action manuals, including Speak Truth to Power and K'hilat Tzedek: Creating Communities of Justice. Her articles, op-eds and modern midrash have appeared in Jewish publications and newspapers throughout the country. In addition to being an ordained rabbi, Feldman is an attorney and certified fundraiser.

Rabbi Stacy Friedman

Rabbi Stacy Friedman is Senior Rabbi of Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael, CA, which she joined in 1993. Rabbi Friedman has served on many community boards, including the Marin Interfaith Youth Outreach, Spectrum LGBT Advisory Board, Shalom Bayit, Marin Interfaith Council, and the Northern California Board of Rabbis. She has also served on committees of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco. Rabbi Friedman participates in the Hevraya Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, as part of her commitment to ongoing study and spiritual growth. Rabbi Friedman was raised in New York and Salt Lake City. She earned a B.A. in sociology from Brandeis University and was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion. She and her husband Frank have two sons, Adam and Eli.



Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein

Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein is the rabbi at Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin, Illinois. Since moving to the Chicago area in 2012, she has joined the School District U46 Clergy Council, 16th Circuit Court Family Violence Faith Watch Committee, Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders and the Fox Valley Organizing Initiative. She has volunteered with Girl Scouts of the United States and Habitat for Humanity. She is a national speaker for Women of the Wall and for Mayyim Hayyim, the Community Mikveh and Education Center. Before moving to Elgin, Rabbi Frisch Klein was a Jewish educator at four Boston area Hebrew Schools and a rabbi/educator at Congregation Beth Israel, in Andover, MA. She worked with political asylum seekers as an intern with Refugee Immigration Ministry, and was a founder of the Merrimack Valley Project. Rabbi Frisch Klein was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion. She also holds a B.A. in American Studies and Hebrew Literature and an M.A. in Education from Tufts University.





Rabbi Nancy Kasten

Rabbi Nancy Kasten is a Reform Rabbi, ordained in 1990. From 1990-2001, she worked at Southern Methodist University, serving as Director of the Campus Jewish Network (the precursor to Hillel), Associate Chaplain, and Adjunct Professor of Biblical

Hebrew. From 2002-2005 Rabbi Kasten was the Campus Rabbi at the Wise Academy, a Reform Jewish Day School. For the past four years she has taught a class in Jewish Mindfulness through the Florence Melton Mini-School. Rabbi Kasten has served on the boards of Planned Parenthood of North Texas, The Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, National Council of Jewish Women, and the Greenhill School. Prior to rabbinical school, she earned a B.A. in Natural Science and Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University and worked for Yale Medical School Faculty Practice Plan.



Rabbi Claudia Kreiman

Rabbi Claudia Kreiman is the Associate Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion (TBZ) in Brookline, Massachusetts. She grew up in Santiago, Chile, where her father was a rabbi. In 1996 she made aliya to Israel and entered the Rabbinical School

of the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, the Israeli Conservative Seminary, where she was ordained in 2002. After ordination, Rav Klaudia became the rabbi for NOAM, the Masorti-Conservative Youth Movement in Israel. Rav Claudia was a Rikma Fellow and a Rabbinic Fellow of B'nei Jeshurun, New York. She also served as a faculty member for the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel and helped to build Hokhmat Halev, a spiritual community for secular Israelis in Ramat Hasharon, Israel. Prior to joining TBZ in 2007, Rav Claudia was the Jewish Studies director at Jewish Community Day School in Watertown, MA. She is married to Rabbi Ebn Leader and they have a daughter, Alma.

Rabbi Joshua Lesser

Rabbi Joshua Lesser leads the dynamic Congregation Bet Haverim, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Atlanta, Georgia, founded by the LGBT community. Rabbi Lesser was named one of the 36 most influential rabbis in North America in 2013 and listed as one of the 100 most notable LGBT clergy in America by Huffington Post. He is the co-editor of the groundbreaking book *Torah Queeries: A Weekly Commentary on the Hebrew Bible* as well as founder of the Rainbow Center, a Jewish response to LGBTQ people and their families. He is also the chair of Reconstructionist movement's Tikkun Olam Commission. Active in social justice movements in his home state, he founded the Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, serves as the co-chair of Georgians Against Discrimination, and is a member of the board of Georgia Equality. He served in the first Teach for America Corps in New Orleans and recently, he completed the Lev Shomeiah Spiritual Direction program.



Rabbi Adam Miller

Rabbi Adam Miller is the rabbi of Temple Shalom of Naples, Florida. He serves on the URJ Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA) and the Central Conference of American Rabbi's Committee on Justice, Peace, and Religious Liberties. He also participates on local boards for the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Jewish Federation of Collier County, and the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, and is active in the local clergy association and The Rotary Club of Naples. Before joining Temple Shalom, Rabbi Miller served as the Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Chappaqua, New York, and at Temple Beth Am of Framingham, Massachusetts. He earned a BA in Philosophy from the University of Kansas and was ordained in 2003 at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Born in Watertown, Wisconsin—and raised in Detroit, Atlanta, Buffalo, and Tulsa—Rabbi Miller is married to Jennifer Siegal-Miller and together they have three sons, Jonah, Gabriel and Eli.





Rabbi Laurence Rosenthal

Rabbi Laurence Rosenthal is one of the rabbis of Congregation Ahavath Achim in Atlanta, GA. Rabbi Rosenthal created the Hunger Project—a program that consolidates the congregation’s many efforts to address hunger and poverty in

the greater community and works to raise awareness about this critical issue. The Hunger Project also became Mazon Advocacy Program – Georgia, helping Ahavath Achim to focus on hunger related challenges particular to the state of Georgia. Originally from Los Angeles, Rabbi Rosenthal and his wife Brooke have four children—Avram Eli, Ariela, Ma’ayan and Naftali.



Rabbi Beau Shapiro

Rabbi Beau Shapiro is rabbi at Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles, CA. He first joined the congregation in 2003 as the music specialist and song leader in the religious school. Since then, he has taught music, Judaica, and Hebrew in the

synagogue’s schools and served as a Judaic educator and student rabbi at its camps. As a part of his rabbinic training, he served as the Temple’s Rabbinic Intern from 2009-2011. A California native, Rabbi Shapiro holds a B.A. from the University of Southern California and a master’s degree in Hebrew letters from the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, where he was ordained in 2011. Rabbi Shapiro lives in Santa Barbara with his wife Ashley.



Rabbi Pamela Wax

Rabbi Pamela Wax is staff rabbi at Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), where she works to bring Judaism’s light and wisdom to those suffering from loss in their lives. She recently received a grant from the

Templeton Foundation and Institute for Jewish Spirituality to bring the practice of Mussar, a Jewish approach to ethical, personal growth, to her WJCS colleagues. This process will gather diverse WJCS programs—an LGBT youth center, the Center for Trauma and Abuse, outreach programs to underprivileged youth in Westchester county, among others—for this transformative work. Rabbi Wax has consistently incorporated social justice work into her rabbinate: she has conducted flood relief in North Carolina, worked in soup kitchens, and participated in rabbinic missions to Israel and Argentina. When Congregation B’nai Jeshurun began its Panim el Panim community organizing initiative, Rabbi Wax co-chaired its Women’s Rights Hevra.

AJWS STAFF



Amy Bisno

Amy is the Program Associate for the Civil and Political Rights team at American Jewish World Service (AJWS). She supports the grantmaking and strategy implementation process in conflict, post conflict and repressive regimes where

AJWS works. Amy joined AJWS as the Program Associate for the Africa team, focusing on the post-conflict work in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal. Before coming to AJWS, Amy helped establish Make Every Woman Count, a UK-based organization that monitors women’s rights across Africa and supports African women human rights defenders with Digital Activist training. Amy has also worked for UNICEF in Togo, where she supported the government to improve gender monitoring programs in education, and for the Aga Khan Foundation in Uganda, contributing to their education programs. Amy has a BA from Wellesley College and an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, where she continued to specialize in issues of gender, conflict and human rights.



Aaron Dorfman

Aaron Dorfman is the Vice President for National Programs at AJWS, overseeing the national strategy to mobilize and organize the American Jewish community and its allies in support of policy change to advance the human rights of marginalized

people in the developing world. While serving as AJWS’s Vice President for Programs from 2009 to 2013, Aaron helped shape AJWS’s Theory of Change and Strategic Plan, from which the national strategy emerged. Prior to serving in this role, Aaron founded and directed AJWS’s education department. Aaron holds an M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, a B.A. in English literature and political science from the University of Wisconsin and a certificate from the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. Aaron lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Talia Milgrom-Elcott, and their daughters, Oren, Sela and Dami.

Sara Gold

Sara Gold is a Development Officer at AJWS and has been working in this capacity for over one year. Sara manages grant cycles of current and prospective donors, including select high-level foundations and corporations. Previously, she worked as a Program Associate and Executive Assistant to the Vice President for National Programs, a role in which she provided high-level administrative management and programmatic partnership. Before joining AJWS Sara was the Associate Director of Development at the Picture House Regional Film Center. Sara graduated from Penn with a B.A. in Cinema Studies.



Ruth W. Messinger

Ruth W. Messinger is president of American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the world's leading Jewish organization working to end poverty and realize human rights in the developing world. Ruth came to AJWS in 1998, after a 20-year career in public service in New York City. She previously served on the Obama administration's Task Force on Global Poverty and Development. Currently, Ruth sits on the State Department's Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group and co-chairs the Sub-Working Group on Social Justice.



A tireless activist and social change visionary, Ruth is known for her leadership of the movement to end the genocide in Darfur, and she is currently a leading voice for the rights and empowerment of women and LGBT people in the developing world. She helps mobilize faith-based communities throughout the U.S. to speak out on behalf of oppressed and marginalized people around the globe.

Many national Jewish organizations have honored Ruth and she has received honorary degrees from five major American rabbinical seminaries. Ruth was named to The Jewish Daily Forward's "Forward 50" for 9 years and was listed sixth in The Jerusalem Post's list of the world's 50 most influential Jews. The Huffington Post included her as one of the "10 most inspiring women religious leaders of 2012."

Ruth lectures widely on social and global justice issues and is an active member of her congregation, the Society for the Advancement of Judaism. She serves on the boards of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, Hazon, United to End Genocide, Interaction and Surprise Lake Camp.

Ruth received a B.A. from Radcliffe College and an M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma. She is married to Andrew Lachman and has three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.