

## CLI Project Director



**Rabbi Sid Schwarz** founded and led PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years. He is also the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD where he continues to teach and lead services. Rabbi Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history and is the author of two groundbreaking books--*Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue* (Jewish Lights, 2000) and *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World* (Jewish Lights, 2006). A senior fellow at Clal, he is also the director of the Rene Cassin Fellowship Program, a year long fellowship on Judaism and human rights for young professionals with hubs in New York, London and Jerusalem. Sid was awarded the prestigious Covenant Award for his pioneering work in the field of Jewish education and was named by *Newsweek* as one of the 50 most influential rabbis in North America. Sid's newest book is *Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future* (Jewish Lights, 2013).

**Vision** | "I believe that Judaism's main purpose is to advance *tzedek* and *kedusha* in the world. *Tzedek* demands that Jews ally with those who are most vulnerable, Jews and non-Jews alike. *Kedusha* calls on us to create holy, intentional spiritual communities in which we can derive meaning from the connections to the Jewish people, Jewish heritage and Jewish values. At heart I am an entrepreneur who has enjoyed creating and building new institutions and programs that serve the Jewish people and humanity. My deepest joy comes from helping people identify their gifts and supporting their efforts to bring those gifts into the world."

## Consultant/Trainer for CLI



**Marty Linsky** is co-founder, with Dr. Ronald Heifetz, of Cambridge Leadership Associates ([www.cambridge-leadership.com](http://www.cambridge-leadership.com)), a leadership consulting, training, and coaching practice, and has worked with a wide range of clients in the public, private and nonprofit sectors in the US and abroad. Linsky has been on the faculty of the John F. Kennedy School of Government since 1982, except for 1992-95 when he served as Chief Secretary and Counselor to Massachusetts Governor William Weld. He is faculty chair of several of the school's executive programs on leadership.

A graduate of Williams College and Harvard Law School, Linsky has been a journalist, a lawyer, and politician, having served as Assistant Minority Leader of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, a reporter for *The Boston Globe*, and Editor of *The Real Paper*. His most recent book is a co-authorship with Alexander Grashow and Heifetz entitled *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*. He is also co-author, with Heifetz, of the best-selling *Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive Through the Dangers of Leading*. To relax, he works out and runs (9 marathons but no more), enjoys good beer and (vegetarian) Mexican food (a reward for the exercise), and collects baseball cards (over 25,000 of them). He lives in New York City with his wife, Lynn Staley. He has three children: Alison, Sam, and Max. Linsky blogs on leadership [www.cambridgeleadership.blogspot.com](http://www.cambridgeleadership.blogspot.com)

## CLERGY LEADERSHIP INCUBATOR MENTOR TEAM



**Rabbi Larry Bach** serves Temple Mount Sinai of El Paso, Texas. He works passionately on issues of interfaith understanding and social justice. He is among the founders of Border Interfaith, a broad-based community organization affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation. He serves on the board of Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, a non-profit provider of low-cost legal aid for immigrants. Rabbi Bach is committed to cultivating the inner life as well. He is an alumnus of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Rabbinical Leadership Program, where he developed a passion for the study of Hasidic Torah commentary. In 2010-11, he was a member of the second cohort of "Rabbis Without Borders." He is also an alumnus of the Shalom Hartman Rabbinic Leadership Institute. Larry composed and performed the songs on the 2008 album *Kivvunim*. Rabbi Bach currently serves on the Editorial Board of the *CCAR Journal*.

**Vision** | I seek out opportunities to share Jewish wisdom with people who might not otherwise connect with it, whether those people are Jewish or not. I am particularly drawn to Judaism's prophetic tradition, and feel most authentic and alive when I am standing with the underdog in a fight for justice. I seek out opportunities for spiritual growth as well, and love to connect people with Jewish mindfulness practice. I am a creative person for whom music and writing are essential vehicles of my rabbinate."



**Rabbi Michael Bernstein** is the spiritual leader of Congregation Gesher L'Torah in Alpharetta, Ga. He served as the senior Rabbi at Congregation Bnai Jacob in Longmeadow, MA from 1999-2004, and at Congregation Beth Am Israel in Penn Valley, Pa., from 2004-2008. Michael received his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1999 and is an alumnus of the Rabbis Without Borders second cohort. Michael specializes in Jewish philosophy, especially that of Emmanuel Levinas and focuses on how to see the directives inherent in Jewish tradition as meaningful, ethical, and relevant.

**Vision** | "I approach my rabbinate as an opportunity to teach and learn how the lives we lead are interwoven with the sources, practices and insights that make up the fabric of Jewishness. I seek to foster deep expression of how being Jewish can be impactful and not rote, emphasizing the embrace of each individual's personal stories. I frame prayer, learning, and active engagement as doors to meaning open to all irrespective of background, perceived level of learning or identity. I try to model a Judaism in which there are many ways to find meaning and personal connection in being part of a Jewish community."



**Rabbi Neil F. Blumofe** is the Senior Rabbi of Congregation Agudas Achim in Austin, Texas. He holds Rabbinic Ordination from both the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York and the Academy for Jewish Religion in Los Angeles. Neil is active in the greater Austin music community — producing and performing the monthly “Jazz and the Art of” series for the public radio station (KUT). His weekly Liner Notes on various jazz artists can be heard on the radio in Austin every Sunday morning and is distributed across the country. He is on faculty at St. Edwards University, teaching in both Jewish Studies and Jazz Studies. Blumofe has been a Rabbis without Borders fellow in New York, is a member of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and is a member of the upcoming Rabbinic Leadership Institute at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem (2013-2016). He is also an active Crossfitter.

**Vision** | “Leadership comes with the discipline of patience and generosity. Character is forged not only in the public workshops of performance – rather more significantly in the small ways of rendering goodness. Like a soloist in a jazz ensemble, playing beautifully and technically inspires others to improvise in turn and to trust, from the charts of their personal experience. I believe in learning and growing from our learning and to know and appreciate the gifts and the limitations that we have. I view the synagogue as a sacred laboratory and to share vision, sweat, and possibility with those invested in its existence and improvement.”



**Rabbi Terry A. Bookman** is the senior rabbi of Temple Beth Am in Miami, Florida and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1984. He holds a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters (H.U.C.), a Master of Arts in Systematic Theology (Marquette University), and a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (C.U.N.Y.). He received certification in the areas of secondary education, language arts, and communication from the University of Colorado. Rabbi Bookman was a Fellow at the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy in Chicago and is co-founder of Eitzah/The Center for Congregational Leadership, whose mission is to strengthen the capacities of congregational leaders to create effective, vibrant synagogues. Over the past decade Rabbi Bookman has coached more than 300 rabbis and religious leaders from across the denominational streams. Rabbi Bookman is married to Karen

Sobel, herself a Jewish educator, and is the father of four sons – Ariel, Jonah, Micah, and Jesse.

**Vision** | “I exist to be a connector—connecting people to themselves (allowing for awareness and insight, as well as wholeness and personal growth); to one another (creating sacred community); and to God (linking themselves to *kedusha* in all they do in life). While my primary “container” is Judaism, which challenges us to lead a life of holiness, I draw from the truths I have discovered in all faith traditions, psychology, literature, science, the arts, popular culture, leadership and organizational theory, philosophy, anthropology, and history - and always with a sense of humor.”



**Rabbi Sharon Brous** is the founding rabbi of IKAR, a spiritual community dedicated to reanimating Jewish life by standing at the intersection of soulful, inventive religious practice and a deep

commitment to social justice. Since starting IKAR in 2004, Brous has been recognized as one of the nation's leading rabbis by Newsweek/ The Daily Beast and as one of the 50 most influential American Jews by the Forward. In 2013 she blessed the President and Vice President at the Inaugural National Prayer Service. She sits on the faculty of the Hartman Institute- North America, Wexner Heritage and REBOOT, and serves on the board of T'ruah-The Rabbinic Call to Human Rights and rabbinic advisory council to American Jewish World Service and Bend the Arc. Brous lives in Los Angeles with her husband, David, and their three children.

**Vision |** “I see the rabbinate as an opportunity to bring imagination and creativity into a very old idea – the idea that human beings ought to live in full dignity, driven by a profound sense of purpose and grounded in holy community. Rabbi David Hartman was right when he said that as rabbis we should be judged not by the size of our Shuls but by the power of our ideas. I am motivated every day by a desire to reanimate Jewish ritual, tradition and learning and make them accessible and inspiring to people on all sides of the religious spectrum – from the unschooled to the jaded insiders to the diehards. To my mind, Jewish spiritual and ritual depth is wed inextricably to social responsibility and the mandate for social change – so my davening on Friday night is directly linked to our ability to pass decent gun laws that Wednesday. And I consider a fluid and experimental culture to be essential to the future of our organizations and synagogues, and critical to the spiritual vitality of a religious leader.”



**Rabbi Laura Geller** is Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills. She was the first woman to be selected to lead a major metropolitan synagogue and was twice named one of Newsweek's 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America and was featured in the PBS documentary “Jewish Americans.” Ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1976, she is the third woman in the Reform Movement to become a rabbi. A frequent contributor to the Huffington Post, she is a Fellow of the Corporation of Brown University from where she graduated in 1971. Prior to coming to Temple Emanuel she served as the Hillel Director at USC for 14 years and then as the regional director of the American Jewish Congress. She is married to Richard Siegel, the mother of Joshua and Elana, and the step-mother of Andy and Ruth.

**Vision |** “My role is to be translator, teacher, guide, nudge, connector and leader. As translator and teacher, I try to make these Jewish tools accessible through teaching, writing, facilitating prayer experience and the example of how I live my own life. As guide, I am present to individuals and families at important moments of celebration and loss through creative engagement with ritual and prayer. As nudge, I am relentless in my intention to empower others to take responsibility for their Jewish lives and the life of our community. As connector, I facilitate relationships among people and among diverse communities. As leader, I try to be bold about articulating, advocating and organizing in the Jewish community, in Israel, and in the larger world to move us a little closer to a vision of a world redeemed.”





**Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz** serves Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough, MA. A graduate of the CLAL student program, and the first cohort of the 'Rabbis Without Borders' Fellowship, Rabbi Gurevitz became Rabbi of CBS in 2012 after 6 years as the Associate Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport, CT, where she was a founder of an interfaith 'Tent of Abraham' program and served for several summers with the management team of Elat Chayyim. Growing up in a Modern Orthodox community in the suburbs of London and transitioning to a Reform community and Jewish Renewal chavurah during her college years, Rachel studied for the rabbinate at Leo Baeck College, London and Hebrew Union College, NY and a Ph.D in Cultural Geography (Sociology) at University College London. Rabbi Gurevitz is married to Rabbi Suri Krieger (AJR, NY, 2009) and they have four adult step-children.

**Vision** | "As a Rabbi who seeks to understand and serve my community and bring Jewish wisdom into the context of their everyday lives, I bring the outside world into my teaching and provide bridges for congregants to navigate the different parts of their lives. I have a love of Jewish mysticism and spiritual practice and bring creative, experiential prayer into a mainstream, Reform congregation in ways that open people to trying new things. I am passionate about interfaith work and making our congregation more actively present in the wider town community. I work as a partner with my lay leadership, shaping the identity and values of the congregation together, and seeking to make it more of a model of the values and sacred community that we all aspire to be."



**Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield** is the President of Clal-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Listed for many years by Newsweek as one of America's "50 Most Influential Rabbis," and recognized as one of our nation's leading "Preachers & Teachers," by Beliefnet.com, Fox News regular contributor, WashingtonPost.com columnist, and think tank President Brad Hirschfield is the author of *You Don't Have To Be Wrong For Me To Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism* (Harmony, 2008). He is a co-author of *Embracing Life & Facing Death: A Jewish Guide to Palliative Care* (CLAL, 2003), and also conceived and hosted two groundbreaking series for Bridges TV- American Muslim TV Network, *Building Bridges: Abrahamic Perspectives on the World Today*, and *American Pilgrimage*. He consults with family foundations, and Jewish institutions, at both the local and national level.

**Vision** | "I see 'Jewish' as a way of being human – of creating and nurturing meaningful, ethical and loving relationships with ourselves, others and God. For me, 'Jewish' refers simultaneously to a faith/wisdom tradition, a family, and a way of living – none of which share a central authority – even as each is animated by its connection to a 3,500 year old story which can be understood in as many ways as there are people who choose to engage it. I believe that there must be a place at the Jewish table for anyone who wants one, and that 'Jewish' must also be judged not only on the extent to which it serves those at the table, but how it contributes the lives of those not at that table and to the world which we share."



**Rabbi Irwin Kula** is president of Clal - The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership in New York City. Called by Fast Company Magazine and Religion and Ethics Newsweekly one of the leaders shaping the American spiritual landscape, Rabbi Kula received the 2008 Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award and has been ranked by *Newsweek* as one of the Top 10 rabbis in America for the past three years. He has worked with leaders from the HH Dalai Lama to Queen Noor to promote religious pluralism and compassionate leadership. He has regularly appeared on *The Today Show*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and blogs for “The Huffington Post” and WashingtonPost.com’s “On Faith”. Rabbi Kula is author of the award-winning *Yearnings: Embracing the Sacred Messiness of Life* (2006) and created the public television special *The Hidden Wisdom of our Yearnings* (2006) as well as the acclaimed documentary *Time for a New God* (2004) and the public television special *Simple Wisdom with Irwin Kula* (2003).

**Vision** | “The animating question of my life is whether Jewish wisdom and practice – Torah and mitzvot – can compete in the global marketplace of ideas to help people across of all backgrounds flourish as human beings. I see rabbis as more than Jewish tribal leaders. In an increasingly globalized world in which people mix, blend, bend, and switch identities and develop webs of relationships across all inherited boundaries I see rabbis as having to evolve and become global wisdom teachers able to use our particular tradition to help all people have happier more satisfying lives of greater meaning, purpose.”



**Rabbi Asher Lopatin** is the incoming president of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, the leading Modern and Open Orthodox rabbinical school in America. For the past 18 years he has been the spiritual leader of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation, a modern Orthodox synagogue in Chicago. He received his ordination from Rav Ahron Soloveichik and Yeshivas Brisk in Chicago, and from Yeshiva University in New York as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Rabbi Lopatin holds an M.Phil. in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford University and has done doctoral work, also at Oxford University, on Islamic Fundamentalist attitudes toward Jews, while on a Rhodes Scholarship from Massachusetts. He is the author of numerous scholarly and popular articles in several books and journals and has been the co-chair of the Muslim-Jewish Community Building Initiative of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

**Vision** | “ I believe that Judaism should be welcoming, accessible and meaningful. A rabbi’s role is to enable and facilitate his or her community to connect with each other and with their Judaism. Ultimately, for people to fully connect with and show commitment to the Jewish community and Jewish practice and identity, they have to feel a sense of ownership of their Judaism - they have to feel that they are full partners in the destiny of the Jewish people and Torah. The rabbi or community leader needs to model a passion and a love for Jews and for our tradition, but he or she must inspire others to walk, then run, in their own Jewish direction.”



**Jack Moline** is the rabbi of Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia. Additionally, he is the first Director of Public Policy for the Rabbinical Assembly. Rabbi Moline has chaired the Washington Board of Rabbis, the Interfaith Relations Committee of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the board of Interfaith Alliance, and the Alexandria Interfaith Council. He has served as an officer of the Washington-Baltimore Rabbinical Assembly and on the boards the Faith and Politics Institute and Operation

Understanding DC. Rabbi Moline is an adjunct faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Virginia Theological Seminary. Rabbi Moline has authored two books and has contributed to many publications, both print and web-based. He is a popular speaker, featured on radio, television and web broadcasts and in synagogues, churches and organizations across the United States and Canada. He prefers to be best known as husband of Ann and father of Julia, Max and Jennie and Kevin O'Holleran. Rabbi Moline is an alumnus of the Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship.

**Vision** | "I am an intensely private person in an excruciatingly public position. My own expectation, which mirrors others' expectations, is that I will model an authentic Jewish life in my ritual conduct and moral compass. I strive to be the real deal. It begins with being unembarrassed by my belief in a personal God, a commitment to my life being guided by Jewish law, and a determination to be honest about both –even when personal conviction or shortcomings get in my way. I therefore strive to be generous, compassionate and understanding, and to meet people where they are. I find it equally important to listen and to speak up. The trick is in knowing when to do each."



**Rabbi Or Rose** is the founding director of the Center for Global Judaism, which provides educational programming and resources on issues of contemporary Jewish spirituality, Israel-Diaspora relations, religious pluralism and environmental responsibility. In addition to his duties at the center, Rose serves as co-director of the Center for Interreligious and Community Leadership Education, a joint venture of Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School. Prior to taking this position, Rose was associate dean and director of informal education at the Rabbinical School, where he still teaches. He is co-editor of "Jewish Mysticism and the Spiritual Life: Classical Texts, Contemporary Reflections" (Jewish Lights, 2010), and "My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth and Transformation (Orbis, 2012).

**Vision** | "I strive to transmit the wisdom of the Jewish tradition in a way that help Jews and people of other religious and secular commitments to live lives of purpose and meaning. In so doing, I encourage passionate engagement in study, prayer, and action that includes space for questioning and mystery. As a teacher and guide I try to express my care for people by inviting them into intentional conversation. I have benefited greatly from the mentorship of several outstanding rabbis and teachers in my life, and am honored to serve in such a role for the CLI program."



**Rabbi Shalom Carnie Rose** serves at the Rabbi Bernard Lipnick Senior Rabbinic Chair of Congregation B'nai Amoona in St. Louis, MO. Rose has lived, studied, and taught throughout the world, including stints in Canada, Israel, The Far East, and Europe. Deeply committed to pluralism, Rabbi Rose continually strives to find innovative ways to make Jewish Tradition existentially relevant for contemporary seekers. Rose has received numerous local, regional, national and international honors, awards and recognitions. He served as a member of the Federation's National Young Leadership Cabinet; was selected to participate in the STAR Rabbis: From Good to Great Program; KJL - The Kellogg School of Management's Education for Jewish Leaders Circle; CLAL's Rabbis Without Borders; the Jewish Agency for Israel's Global Emerging Leaders Forum; the International Rabbinic Leadership Council, the Rabbinic Leadership Institute of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem; and spent the 2011-2012 academic year in Jerusalem as a Fellow at the Hebrew University's Melton



Centre for Jewish Education. He is married to Pauline and they have four children, Noa, Zakai, Lev & Ellior.

**Vision** | “I am deeply committed to pluralism and continually strive to find innovative ways to make Jewish Tradition existentially relevant for contemporary seekers. I consider myself a dynamic and passionate teacher and preacher who strives to bridge the ways of the past with the needs of the present for the sake of the future.



**Rabbi Rebecca Sirbu**, is the Director of Rabbis Without Borders at CLAL – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. Named as one of the most innovative Jewish organizations in America by the Slingshot Guide, Rabbis Without Borders supports creativity in the rabbinate through its unique fellowship programs for rabbis and rabbinical students. Rabbi Sirbu coordinates these programs, teaches seminars to rabbis, rabbinical students, and lay leaders across the country, and coaches individual rabbis and Jewish leaders in attaining their career goals. In 2013, she was named as one of the “Most Inspirational Rabbis in America” by The Forward Newspaper. Prior to working at CLAL, Sirbu was the founding director of the

MetroWest Jewish Health and Healing Center and the Center for Jewish Life at JCC MetroWest. In addition, she is a trained hospital chaplain and speaks and writes on issues of health, healing, and spirituality. Sirbu is a Phi Beta Kappa alumna of Vassar College and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She tweets at @rabbirebecca and @rwbclal, and blogs at Rabbis Without Borders on MyJewishLearning.com <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/blog/rabbis-without-borders/>.

**Vision** | “I strive to be helpful to others on their life journeys, because I genuinely care for others and believe that a supportive environment allows us to grow and be our best selves. Excited by new ideas, I love the challenge of finding innovative solutions to problems. I am a networker, connector, and a highly organized manager. As a rabbi, my primary goal is to connect people to God and to each other using traditional Jewish resources and new spiritual expressions. I believe there are many different paths to God and my job is to guide individuals along the path that works best for them and their community.”

**Rabbi Eric Solomon** is the rabbi of Beth Meyer Synagogue in Raleigh, NC, one of the fastest growing synagogues in the southeastern United States. Under his leadership, Beth Meyer has experienced a dramatic increase in prayer service attendance, multiplied its programmatic offerings, and solidified social justice as a core mission of the congregation. In 2011, Beth Meyer completed a multi-million dollar capital campaign which resulted in a new education building, Biblical garden, and the only non-Orthodox *mikveh* in all of eastern North Carolina. He is active in inter-religious dialogue and other issues of social concern with a particular focus on immigration and immigrants’ rights. For his work, Rabbis for Human Rights-North America honored him as a “Rabbi of the Month” and the *Raleigh News Observer* as a “Tarheel of the Week.” Rabbi Solomon is married to Rabbi Jennifer Solomon and has three children. Rabbi Solomon is an alumnus of the Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship.



**Vision** | “I am a passionate Jew who seeks God’s presence through meditation, prayer, song, relationships, and community. I love the Torah and aim to study its teachings so that I may embody its wisdom and inspire others to do so as well. I strive to be a sensitive and caring pastor who brings a sense of God’s supportive presence and a listening heart to



those who are suffering. In the prophetic tradition, I make it a priority to stand up for the poor, the stranger and all who experience injustice. As a leader, I aim to engage and empower my congregants to co-create, strategize, and implement a shared vision.”



**Rabbi Gil Steinlauf** is the Senior Rabbi at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC. Rabbi Steinlauf had been the Rabbi of Temple Israel in New Jersey from 2001 - 2008. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University (1991), studied at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem, received an M.H.L. from the University of Judaism in 1994, and received Rabbinic ordination as well as an M.A. from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 1998. Currently, Rabbi Steinlauf is on the boards of the Washington Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. He also sits on the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is an alumnus of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and CLAL’s Rabbis Without Borders program. Rabbi Steinlauf is married to Rabbi Batya Steinlauf. They have 3 children, Elana, Noah and Meirav. When not functioning in his official capacity, Rabbi Steinlauf is an avid swimmer and runner, and together the Steinlauf family enjoys camping and hiking in the great outdoors.

**Vision |** “At Adas Israel, we are working on a paradigm shift in Jewish life. We are consciously evolving beyond an objectified Judaism: an approach where Jewish ideas and practices are reduced to religious and cultural artifacts to be visited in synagogues, or at discrete moments in life. Our goal is both to transcend and include 20<sup>th</sup> century American Judaism in a Vision of Renewal at Adas Israel, one where Jewish life and community are lived experiences--deep, whole, and engaged. We seek to build a new kind of American synagogue, one that offers a mature, dynamic Judaism. We seek a synagogue culture that utilizes the enduring technologies of Judaism, Jewish learning, and Jewish tradition to channel our deepest human longings for connection with our authentic selves, with each other, and with God. Above all, we seek a living, breathing Judaism that helps us to celebrate not only our traditions, but the miracle of what it means to be human and alive in the presence of something greater.”



**Rabbi Susan Talve** is the founding rabbi of Central Reform Congregation, St. Louis, Missouri. Rabbi Talve has led her congregation in promoting radical inclusivity by developing ongoing relationships with African-American and Muslim congregations, and by fostering civil liberties for the LGBTQ community. As part of a committed pro-choice congregation, Rabbi Talve continues to stand on the front line of pro-choice, reproductive rights and other women’s health issues. Access to quality affordable health care has always been a passion for Rabbi Talve. In 2007 she became a founding member and president of Missouri Health Care for All, a statewide grassroots advocacy organization that is building a strong coalition and growing a voice for groups and individuals working to bring health care access to all Missourians. Rabbi Talve was ordained by Hebrew Union

College in Cincinnati in 1981, where she earned a Master’s Degree in Hebrew Letters and a Doctor of Divinity. She and husband, poet and musician Rabbi James Stone Goodman of Neve Shalom Congregation, are proud parents of three wonderful adults.

**Vision** | “I have been described as a spiritual nudge. I would add the adjectives Jewish and feminist to nudge. I hope that this means that I help my community respond in holy ways to the challenges of our lives and the life of the planet. I am grateful that I have been able to be a part of building a caring and conscious community that provides opportunities for meaningful relationships and opportunities to serve. My vision includes always being open to the next idea that will push us to be more inclusive, more compassionate and more generous. It also includes sharing a passion for the tools and stories and values of the Jewish tradition by building relationships and by showing up at every opportunity to respond to suffering and to share simchas. “



**Rabbi Amy Wallk Katz** is the rabbi of Temple Beth El in Springfield Massachusetts. In addition, she serves on Chancellor Arnold Eisen's Rabbinic Leadership Cabinet, has a column in Moment Magazine, and teaches a class at the Jewish Theological Seminary in the Davidson School of Education. For most of her rabbinate, Amy has had some involvement with the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School. She has been a director of a Melton school and has taught Melton classes yearly since 1995. Amy received rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Her post-secondary education includes a bachelor's degree in Jewish Studies from Barnard College; a master's degree in Journalism from Northwestern University; a master's degree in Jewish Education from the University of Judaism, and a doctorate in Education from Michigan State University. She is married to Kenneth Katz, and the couple has three children Tamar, Gabriel and Nina. Rabbi Wallk Katz is an alumna of the Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship.

**Vision** | “I am an educator who happens to be a rabbi. I aim to use every moment to teach about Judaism. Whether under the Chuppa, on the Bima, at the bedside of someone who is ill, in a counselling session or at a meeting I teach. I am open to others' approaches to Judaism and work hard to make sure that those around me do not feel as though they are being judged. I am mindful that as a senior rabbi I must be a visionary leader for the synagogue, I must attend to the individual needs of my congregants and I represent the synagogue in the community.”



**Nahum Ward-Lev** is the Scholar-in-Residence at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe, NM. Nahum served congregations for fifteen years until 2000, when he left the pulpit rabbinate to focus on teaching and spiritual direction. Nahum is the founder of two Beit Midrash learning circles in Santa Fe, one predominately Jewish and the other for people from many backgrounds. Beit Midrash is an intensive learning community where traditional Jewish texts are studied in a manner that engages the intellect, heart, and soul of the student. Nahum has a particular passion for studying the spiritual experience of the Hebrew Prophets and mining that experience to inspire and guide contemporary social activism. He is one of the leaders of a multi-faith social justice summer institute for young adults. Nahum has taught Jewish meditation and mindfulness practice for many years. Nahum is also adjunct faculty at a medical residency program where he teaches spirituality and medicine. Rabbi Ward-Lev is an alumnus of the Rabbis Without Borders Fellowship.

**Vision** | “In my rabbinate, I nurture sacred learning communities, circles where people are vulnerable, thoughtful, honest, courageous and kind in engaging sacred text in the pursuit of wisdom, social justice and a growing relationship with the Divine Mystery. I find endless fascination in Jewish texts. As a rabbi, I practice deep listening. I seek to be fully present and attentive to each person and each moment in my life. Spiritual practice, including study, meditation and prayer, has become fundamental for me. My life has been

profoundly enhanced by friendships with people who practice Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. I am drawn to work in multi-faith settings.”



**Rabbi Sheila Weinberg** has served in multiple capacities in the Jewish community – including Hillel director, day school teacher and community relations professional. She is a 1986 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and has served as a congregational rabbi for seventeen years, including thirteen years at the Jewish Community of Amherst. In the last twenty- three years Rabbi Weinberg has studied mindfulness meditation and is a senior teacher and director of community outreach of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Weinberg has written extensively on a variety of subjects including Jewish spirituality, social justice, feminism and parenting and is developer and co-director of the Jewish Mindfulness Teachers’ Training. She is a major contributor to the Kol Hanesamah prayer book series. Her CD, *Preparing the*

*Heart: Meditation for Jewish Spiritual Practice* integrates Jewish sacred text and meditation. Her first book, *Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious Memoir* was published in 2010. Rabbi Weinberg is married to Maynard Seider. She is mom to Abby and Ezra, step-mom to Aaron and mom-in-law to Nathan, Olivia and Erin.

**Vision** | “I teach, write and counsel to create a deeper engagement among Jewish leaders with the wellsprings of Jewish spirituality as a force for personal and social transformation. I am a visionary innovator who creatively weaves different sacred traditions with Judaism. Through devotion to my own spiritual practice I seek to inspire others to engage more fully in their chosen practices. My prayer and hope is for us all to thereby work more effectively to heal the suffering of ourselves and our world bringing peace and justice.”