

WRESTLING
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JEWISH
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HOOD

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April 10–11, 2016

National Museum of
American Jewish History

101 South Independence
Mall East, Philadelphia

Sponsored by
The Mordecai M. Kaplan
Center for Jewish
Peoplehood,
Temple University's
Feinstein Center
for American
Jewish History,
the Reconstructionist
Rabbinical College,
and the Department of
Jewish Studies of
McGill University.

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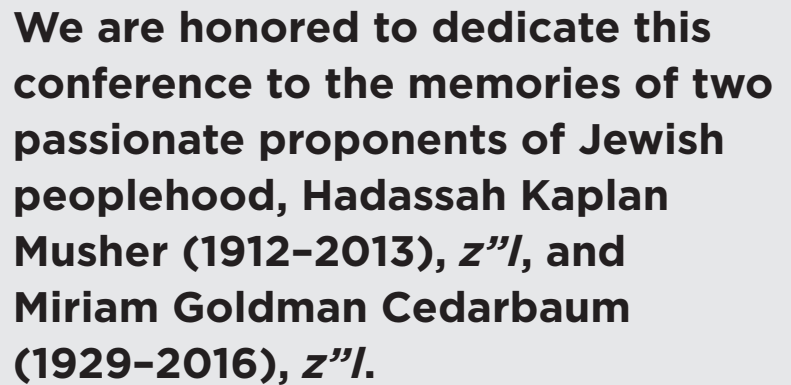


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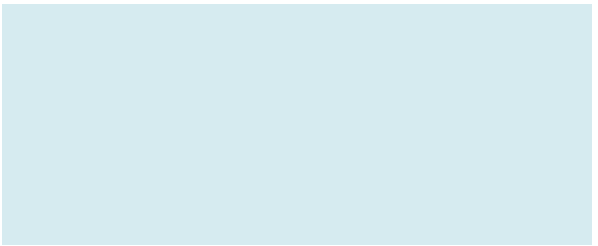
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We are honored to dedicate this conference to the memories of two passionate proponents of Jewish peoplehood, Hadassah Kaplan Musher (1912–2013), ז”ל, and Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum (1929–2016), ז”ל.



The conference organizers are grateful for the University of Pennsylvania’s Jewish Studies Program for support for the conference and express deep appreciation to the staff at the National Museum of American Jewish History for their enthusiasm and expert guidance at every turn.



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SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016

10:00- 11:00 Roundtables and Workshops

Genes and Jewish Peoplehood

Judith Neulander, Case Western Reserve University

Wesley Sutton, City University of New York

Moderator: Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

A Conversation about 21st Century American Jewish Identities

Debra Renee Kaufman, Northeastern University

David Teutsch, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Moderator: Lance Sussman, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

Peoplehood and the "Israeli Jewish Renaissance"

Roberta Bell-Kligler, Oranim Academic College

Esteban Gottfried, Beit Tefilah Israeli

Ofer Sabath Beit Halachmi, Hebrew Union College and Aspaklaria

Moderator: Adina Newberg, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Personhood and Peoplehood in the Thought of Mordecai Kaplan

Mel Scult, Brooklyn College and The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood

Allen Scult, Drake University

11:15-11:30 Welcome

11:30-12:45 Plenary I: Biographies of Peoplehood

Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, CLAL, The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Shaul Magid, Indiana University and University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Noam Pianko, University of Washington

Deborah Waxman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Moderator: Daniel G. Cedarbaum, The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood

12:45-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 Roundtables and Workshops

Innovators, Entrepreneurs, and Alternative Sites of Peoplehood

Aliza Kline, OneTable

Lex Rofes, Open Hillel

Shira Stutman, Sixth & I

Moderator: Rebecca Alpert, Temple University

Unpacking Definitions of Peoplehood

Vered Sakal, Tel Aviv University

Jacob Staub, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Moderator: Martin Kavka, Florida State University and University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Global Perspectives on Jewish Peoplehood

Lisa Grant, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Elisa Klapheck, Jewish Community of Frankfurt am Main

Shlomi Ravid, Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education

Natasha Zaretsky, Rutgers University

Moderator: Ken Koltun-Fromm, Haverford College

2:45-4:00

Plenary 2: The Price of Peoplehood: Philanthropy, Tzedakah, and Resource Distribution

Sally Gottesman, Moving Traditions

Joseph Kanfer, Lippman Kanfer Family Philanthropies

John Ruskay, UJA-Federation of New York

Margot Seigle, Resource Generation

Moderator: Lila Corwin Berman, Temple University

4:15-5:30

Plenary 3: Dissent and Peoplehood

Peter Beinart, City University of New York

Jane Eisner, *The Forward*

Deborah Dash Moore, University of Michigan

Moderator: Eric Caplan, McGill University

8:00

The Sound of (Klezmer) Philadelphia

A Concert With Hankus Netsky and The Philadelphia Klezmer Heritage Ensemble featuring Elaine Hoffman Watts, Susan Watts, and Dan Blacksberg

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016

9:00-10:15

Plenary 4: Inclusions and Exclusions in Jewish Peoplehood

April Baskin, Union for Reform Judaism

Steven M. Cohen, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Maurice Harris, University of Oregon

Sharon Kleinbaum, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah

Moderator: Elsie Stern, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

10:30-11:30

Roundtables and Workshops

Intersectionality: Implications for Peoplehood

Yavilah McCoy, Ayecha

Marriage, Partnership, and Conversion

Fern Chertok, Brandeis University

Matthew LaGrone, University of Guelph

David Mittelberg, Oranim Academic College

Jennifer Thompson, California State University

Moderator: Laura Levitt, Temple University

The Future of "Educational Peoplehood"

Shlomi Ravid, Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education

Jeffrey Schein, The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood

Cyd Weissman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Moderator: Fredi Cooper, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

11:45-12:45

Workshops and Study Sessions

“Indigeneity and the ‘Decolonization’ of Jewish Peoplehood: The Anatomy of an Emerging Movement”

Matthew Berkman, University of Pennsylvania

“Charles Taylor, Arjun Appadurai, and Pierre Bourdieu: What Can They Add to the Peoplehood Discussion?”

Alan Brill, Seton Hall University

“Notions of Peoplehood among Emerging Jewish Communities: Historical, Religious, and Political”

Nathan Devir, University of Utah

“‘Kol Yisrael Haverim’: Teaching Peoplehood in American Jewish Children’s Magazines after World War II”

Joshua Furman, Rice University

“Loving People and Loving Groups: What the Scholem/Arendt Exchange Has to Teach Us About the History of Jewish Thought”

Oliver Leaman, University of Kentucky

“Peoplehood, Liberalism, and American Jewish Ambivalence”

Zach Mann, Rodeph Sholom School

“Race and Judaism in the Classroom”

Elliot Ratzman, Temple University

“Jewish ‘Diasporic’ Identity and Contemporary American Literature and Film”

Roberta Rosenberg, Christopher Newport University

12:45-1:30

Lunch

1:30-2:45

Plenary 5: Expressions of Jewish Peoplehood

Sarah Bunin Benor, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Shai Held, Yeshivat Hadar

Frank London, Musician

Eli Valley, Cartoonist

Moderator: Josh Lambert, Yiddish Book Center

3:00-4:00

Roundtables and Workshops

Klezmer in Memory, Myth, and Motion

Dan Blacksberg, Musician

Mili Leitner, University of Chicago

Frank London, Musician

Moderator: Eric Caplan, McGill University

Zion, Diaspora and Problems of Jewish Peoplehood

Shaul Magid, Indiana University

Yossi Turner, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

Moderator: Catherine Madsen, Yiddish Book Center

Affording Peoplehood

Matthew Brookner, Brandeis University

Daniel Judson, Hebrew College

Mordechai Liebling, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Moderator: Beth Wenger, University of Pennsylvania

BIOGRAPHIES

Rebecca T. Alpert, Professor of Religion and Senior Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University, was among the first women in America ordained as a rabbi, at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1976. She is the author of five books, including *Like Bread on the Seder Plate: Jewish Lesbians and the Transformation of Tradition* (Columbia, 1997), *Whose Torah? A Concise Guide to Progressive Judaism* (New Press, 2008), and *Out of Left Field: Jews and Black Baseball* (Oxford, 2011). She is a recipient of a Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award, a member of the Academic Advisory Council of Jewish Voice for Peace, and a commissioner on the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations.

April Baskin is the Union for Reform Judaism's Vice President of Audacious Hospitality. Before coming aboard in August 2015, she served as the national Director of Resources and Training at InterfaithFamily.com. Baskin has spent 10 years advocating for Jewish diversity inclusion locally and nationally in a variety of ways, including facilitating LGBT educational trainings as a Keshet facilitator and writing a thesis about the experiences and identities of Jewish young adults of color in American Judaism. She is a member of the Selah Leadership Network and an alumna of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation's Insight Fellowship and Jews United for Justice's Jeremiah Fellowship in Washington, DC. Baskin is the immediate past President of the Jewish Multiracial Network and was an Americorps fellow for the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston.

Peter Beinart is Associate Professor of Journalism and Political Science at the City University of New York. He is also a contributor to *The Atlantic*, a senior columnist at *Haaretz* and a CNN political commentator. He is the author of *The Good Fight* (HarperCollins, 2006), *The Icarus Syndrome* (HarperCollins, 2010), and *The Crisis of Zionism* (Times Books, 2012). Beinart has written for numerous publications including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, *Slate* and *Reader's Digest*, and was Editor of the *New Republic Magazine* from 1999 to 2006. He has appeared on "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," "Charlie Rose," "Meet the Press," "The Colbert Report" and many other television programs. Beinart is a graduate of Yale University and University College, Oxford.

Roberta Bell-Kligler is Director of the International School at Oranim Academic College of Education in Israel where she teaches courses about identity, peoplehood and globalization. She has initiated many educational programs devoted to promoting Jewish peoplehood and particularly enjoys working with university students from North America, Germany,

Russia, South America and Israel. She has published articles about a variety of Israeli and international Jewish programs including American-Israeli school connection projects. She graduated from Brandeis University with BAs in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Russian Language and Literature. She received an MA from University of California at Berkeley in Bible, and a doctorate in Jewish Education from JTS.

Sarah Bunin Benor is Associate Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles) and Adjunct Associate Professor in the University of Southern California Linguistics Department. She is the author of *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* (Rutgers University Press, 2012), as well as many articles about Jewish languages, Yiddish, and American Jews. Benor is founding co-editor of the *Journal of Jewish Languages* and creator of the Jewish Language Research Website and the Jewish English Lexicon. She received her PhD from Stanford University in Linguistics in 2004.

Matthew Berkman is a fifth year PhD candidate in political science at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation is on comparative ethnic group politics in the United States, with a focus on the historical development of American Jewish institutions. He holds an MA in Near Eastern Studies and a BA in Religious Studies and Philosophy from New York University and has taught at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Lila Corwin Berman is Associate Professor of History at Temple University, where she holds the Murray Friedman Chair of American Jewish History and directs the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History. She is author of *Speaking of Jews: Rabbis, Intellectuals, and the Creation of an American Public Identity* (California, 2009) and *Metropolitan Jews: Politics, Race, and Religion in Postwar Detroit* (Chicago, 2015), and she is currently working on a book called "The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex: The Historical Formation of a Multi-Billion Dollar Institution." Her articles have appeared in many publications, including the *Journal of American History*, *Jewish Social Studies*, *American Jewish History*, *Religion and American Culture*, the *Forward*, and *Sh'ma*. She received her PhD from Yale.

Dan Blacksberg is a trombonist whose performances span avant-garde jazz, modern classical music, improvised music, and klezmer. A 2012 Pew Fellow in the Arts, Blacksberg has led numerous innovative projects including the Daniel Blacksberg Trio, and Hasidic doom metal band Deveykus. He is also co-leader of a new music duo Archer Spade, and noise duo Superlith. Blacksberg has performed

with numerous groups and musicians including the Anthony Braxton Quartet, Bobby Zankel Warriors of the Wonderful Sound, Alan Bern's The Other Europeans, Joe Morris, Danilo Perez, Frank London, and Elaine Hoffman-Watts. Dan has taught and performed in festivals all over the world, such as Klezkamp, Klezkanada, Lowell Folk Festival, the Krakow Festival of Jewish Culture, and Yiddish Summer Weimar, and has been an artist-in-residence at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Alan Brill is the Cooperman/Ross Endowed Chair for Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, where he teaches Jewish studies in the graduate program. Brill is the author of *Thinking God: The Mysticism of Rabbi Zadok of Lublin* (Yeshiva University, 2002), *Judaism and Other Religions: Models Of Understanding* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010) and *Judaism and World Religions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). As a Fulbright Senior Scholar, he researched and taught at Banares Hindu University in Varanasi, India and is completing a book tentatively entitled "Rabbi on The Ganges," a comparative theology seeking to understand Hindu religions with Jewish eyes. Brill is also engaged in long term research on a book on the varieties of Modern Orthodoxy. He received his BA, MA, and Ordination from Yeshiva University and his PhD from the Department of Theology at Fordham University.

Matthew A. Brookner is a doctoral candidate at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, where his research focuses on philanthropic behavior of Jewish youths and young adults, as well as philanthropic education within the American Jewish community. He also works as a Graduate Research Associate at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute. Matt holds masters' degrees in both Public Policy and Jewish Professional Leadership from Brandeis University.

Eric Caplan is Director of McGill's Jewish Teacher Training Program and an associate professor in its Faculties of Arts and Education. He is also Vice President of The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood. Caplan is the author of *From Ideology to Liturgy: Reconstructionist Worship and American Liberal Judaism* (HUC, 2002). His ongoing research focuses on Reconstructionist Judaism and liberal Jewish life in general. He is currently assembling an anthology of writings of Jewish social activist thinkers and organizations covering the years 1880 to the present and preparing for publication two volumes of excerpts from the diaries of Mordecai Kaplan, 1951-1978.

Daniel G. Cedarbaum is Executive Director, President and Treasurer of the Kaplan Center. Before co-founding the Kaplan Center, Cedarbaum was Director of Movement Growth Initiatives and

Special Projects and Acting Director of Individual Giving of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) where he also staffed the Chicago-area office. In addition to his professional roles, Cedarbaum served on the JRF board for twenty years. From 2002-2006, he served as board president and was a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Cedarbaum has served on boards of numerous organizations including the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the United Jewish Communities, the National Council of Synagogues, and Limmud Chicago. His articles on Reconstructionism have appeared in *The Reconstructionist* and *Reconstructionism Today*. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Fern Chertok is Research Scientist at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. She is a community psychologist and is the editor of *Researching Community Psychology: Issues of Theory and Methods*. She has conducted extensive research exploring the individual and collective identity and Jewish engagement of young adults and has also conducted research on intermarriage and the involvement of interfaith families in synagogues. Chertok recently co-authored *Millennial Children of Intermarriage: Touchpoints and Trajectories of Jewish Engagement* (Brandeis, 2015). She received her MA in Clinical and Community Psychology from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Steven M. Cohen is Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at HUC-JIR, and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ Stanford University. In 1992 he made aliyah, and taught at The Hebrew University, having previously taught at Queens College, Yale, and JTS. He has written hundreds of scholarly articles and policy-related reports, as well as a dozen books including *The Jew Within* (with Arnold Eisen) (Indiana, 2000) and *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experience* (with Charles Liebman) (Yale, 1998). He was the lead researcher on the *Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011* and a consultant to the recently conducted Pew Study of American Jews. Cohen received an honorary doctorate from the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, the Marshall Sklare Award, and a National Jewish Book Award. He serves as President of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry.

Fredi Cooper, EdD is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She has been involved in education, both secular and Judaic, for all of her professional career. Before becoming a rabbi, Cooper was an educational psychologist, both teaching about educational theory on a graduate level and working intensively with children and families concerning learning differences. She has

worked in a congregational setting as education rabbi and has worked for the Reconstructionist movement as an educational consultant to congregations. Currently, Rabbi Cooper is Director of Assessment and Mentoring at the RRC where she teaches courses dealing with Jewish Education. She also supervises Student Pulpit placements.

Nathan P. Devir teaches Jewish and Religious Studies in the Department of Languages and Literature at the University of Utah, where he also directs the Middle East Center. His doctoral research focused on the intersections of literary discourse, ethno-cultural affiliation, and biblical exegesis in modern Judaic cultural production. Articles based on this work have appeared in *Modern Jewish Studies*, *Jewish Culture and History*, *Religion and the Arts*, *Biblical Reception*, *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies and Gender Issues*, and *Studies in Jewish American Literature*. His current research, situated between Ethnography and Religious Studies, analyzes so-called “neo-Jewish,” “Judaizing,” or “emerging” Jewish communities in the developing world, particularly in India and sub-Saharan Africa.

Jane Eisner is the editor of the *Forward*, the US Jewish national weekly newspaper. Before she joined the *Forward* in 2008, Jane worked for 25 years at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In 2009, she became a fellow in the Punch Sulzberger executive news media leadership program at the Columbia School of Journalism, and in 2010, she was the Koepfel fellow in journalism at Wesleyan University, where she taught journalism and nonfiction writing. Eisner also hosts “The Salon,” the first-ever women’s show produced by The Jewish Channel, which debuted in 2009. Her book, *Taking Back the Vote: Getting American Youth Involved in our Democracy*, was published in 2004.

Joshua Furman is the Stanford and Joan Alexander Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies at Rice University. Furman is a specialist in American Jewish history, with research interests in family life and Jewish education since World War II. His work has been supported by research fellowships from the Center for Jewish History and the American Jewish Archives. He received his PhD in modern Jewish history from the University of Maryland in 2015.

Sally Gottesman has been involved in the Jewish community for nearly 30 years as both a professional and lay leader. On the professional side, for fifteen years Gottesman was a consultant to not-for-profit organizations, working both at KPMG and The Eleemosynary Group. She also served as the first NY/Tri-State Regional Director of the New Israel Fund, and was the first employee of the Israel Women’s Network in Jerusalem. As a lay-leader, Gottesman is the Co-Founder and Chair of Moving Traditions and is on the Board of Encounter. Her past Board service includes

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), Kolot at RRC where she was instrumental in the creation of ritualwell.org, Congregation B’nai Jeshurun (NYC), The Jewish Funders Network, American Jewish World Service, and The Jewish Women’s Archive. Her articles on philanthropy, Judaism, Israel, feminism, and class have been published in a variety of books and newspapers.

Esteban Gottfried is the co-founder, director and rabbinical leader of Beit Tefilah Israeli, the first independent progressive Jewish community in Tel Aviv which serves as a central organization for Israeli creative Judaism. Gottfried was ordained at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem, in 2012, and he is currently a fellow at the Israeli rabbinical Seminary—a joint program led by Hamidrasha and the Shalom Hartman Institute. Prior to his rabbinical career, Gottfried was an actor, playwright and director in Israel for more than 20 years. His plays and films have been produced in leading theaters in Israel, as well as on television. His work has been awarded many prizes, including seven Ophir prizes for his film “The Revenge of Itzik Finklestein” for which he won two prizes as screenwriter and actor.

Lisa D. Grant is Professor of Jewish Education at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Her research and teaching interests focus on adult Jewish learning, the professional development of Jewish leaders, and the place of Israel in American Jewish life. She has published widely on these topics in a range of academic journals, books, and teaching guides. Grant is co-author with Ezra Kopelowitz of *Israel Education Matters: A 21st Century Paradigm for Jewish Education* (Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education, 2012). She is also co-editor of the *International Handbook of Jewish Education* (Springer, 2011) with Helena Miller and Alex Pomson, and with Diane T. Schuster, Meredith Woocher, and Steven M. Cohen, *A Journey of Heart and Mind: Transformative Jewish Learning in Adulthood* (JTS Press, 2004). Grant is a Fellow at the Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education (www.jpeoplehood.org).

Irving (Yitz) Greenberg has served in the Orthodox Rabbinate, in academia (at Yeshiva University and City College City University of New York), and in Jewish communal life (Founding President, CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership; Founding President, Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation.) He has written extensively on post-Holocaust Jewish theology, the ethics of Jewish power, Jewish Christian relations, and religious and cultural pluralism. He is the author of *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays* (Touchstone paperback), *For the Sake of Heaven and Earth: The New Encounter of Judaism and Christianity*, and the just published book, *Sage Advice: A New Translation Commentary and Historical Introduction to Pirkei Avot: Ethics of the Fathers* (Koren Publishers).

Maurice Harris is an author and educator. His essays on intermarriage as a complex phenomenon requiring new adaptive thinking on the part of the Jewish community can be found online at Big Tent Judaism, InterfaithFamily, PresenTense, and JewishRecon.org. In his two books, *Moses: A Stranger among Us* and *Leviticus: You Have No Idea* (Cascade Books, 2012 and 2013), Harris explores ways that some of our ancient texts can help us look with fresh eyes at the challenges and opportunities facing the Jewish people now. Harris has served as Rabbi/Senior Educator for InterfaithFamily, Associate Rabbi and Head of School at Temple Beth Israel in Eugene, Oregon and has taught as an adjunct instructor in the Judaic Studies department of the University of Oregon.

Shai Held is Co-Founder, Dean and Chair in Jewish Thought at Mechon Hadar. Shai also directs Mechon Hadar's Center for Jewish Leadership and Ideas, for which he has written over a year's worth of weekly divrei Torah on the parashah. Previously, he served for six years as Scholar-in-Residence at Kehilat Hadar in New York City, and taught both theology and Halakha at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He also served as Director of Education at Harvard Hillel. Held is a 2011 recipient of the Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education and has been named multiple times to *Newsweek's* list of the top 50 rabbis in America. He has taught for institutions such as Drisha, Me'ah, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and the Rabbinic Training Institute, and currently serves on the faculty of the Wexner Heritage program. Held holds a doctorate in religion from Harvard; his main academic interests are in modern Jewish and Christian thought and in the history of Zionism. He is the author of *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence* (Indiana, 2013.)

Dan Judson serves on the faculty of the Hebrew College Rabbinical School where he teaches Jewish history and professional development. He received his doctorate in Jewish history from Brandeis University, where his dissertation was entitled, "Pennies From Heaven: The History of American Synagogues and Money." He is on the national faculty of the Union for Reform Judaism, consulting to synagogues across the country on financial issues. His research on synagogues which have eliminated dues has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *Reform Judaism* magazine and the *New York Jewish Week*.

Joseph S. Kanfer is Chairman and CEO of GOJO Industries. He is also a venture investor in the US and Israel and is Chairman of Startvest Partners which develops biotech startups in Israel, and of HeadSense, a company focused on measuring inter-cranial pressure and concussion. Kanfer is active in national Jewish affairs. He has served as Chair of JFNA/The Jewish Federations of North America, JESNA/the Jewish Education Service of North America, the Akron

Jewish Federation, and of The Lippman School. He has also served on the board of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Kanfer has a BS in Economics from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School.

Debra Renee Kaufman is Professor Emerita and Matthews Distinguished University Professor at Northeastern University where she was the founding Director of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and a founding Directors of the Jewish Studies Program. Her books include: *Rachel's Daughters* (Rutgers, 1991) and *Achievement and Women*, co-authored with Barbara Richardson and C. Wright Mills (Macmillan, 1982). Her edited volumes which relate to her current work on gender, Jewish identity, and post Holocaust narratives include: *From the Protocols of Zion to the Holocaust Denial Trials: Challenging the Media, the Law and the Academy* (Vallentine Mitchell, 2007) and a book tentatively entitled: *Post Holocaust Contemporary Identity Narratives: Young Jewish Adults On Religion in the 21st century*. Kaufman has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University, England, the Murray Research Center at Radcliffe College, and the Wellesley Center for Women.

Martin Kavka is Professor in the Department of Religion at Florida State University, where he teaches courses in philosophy of religion and Jewish studies. During the 2015-16 academic year, he holds a Ruth Meltzer Fellowship at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Elisa Klapheck is the rabbi of the liberal Egalitarian Minyan in the Jewish community of Frankfurt am Main and one of the key figures of a religious renewal of Jewish life in Germany. She has published several books, among them a biography of Fräulein Rabbiner Jonas entitled *The Story of the First Woman-Rabbi* (Arthur Kurzweil, 2004), and her widely acknowledged dissertation about the forgotten Jewish philosopher Margarete Susman, one of the trailblazers of Jewish Renaissance and secular Messianism. Klapheck is the editor of a new series named Machloket/Streitschriften which is created as a religious-secular platform for Jewish debate in Germany on contemporary societal challenges. She also teaches Jewish studies at the Goethe-University of Frankfurt and other academic institutions.

Sharon Kleinbaum serves as spiritual leader of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah. She was installed as CBST's first rabbi in 1992, arriving at the height of the AIDS crisis when the synagogue was in desperate need of pastoral care and spiritual leadership. Under her leadership as senior rabbi, CBST has become a powerful voice in the movement for equality and justice for people of all sexual orientations, gender

identities, and expressions, and a significant force challenging the radical right's dominance over religious and political life in the United States and the world. A committed (brokenhearted) progressive Zionist, Rabbi Kleinbaum has worked for peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians for over 30 years. *Newsweek* has called her one of the 50 most influential rabbis in America.

Aliza Kline is founding Executive Director of OneTable (onetable.org) a new online and in-person hub for millennials to end their week with intention and create unique Shabbat dinners, and of Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikveh and Education Center in Boston, an international model for re-imagining Jewish ritual open to the full diversity of the Jewish community. Kline has led a Design Thinking process for UpStart and The Jewish Education Project and managed a gender equity campaign for Advancing Women Professionals. As a trained coach, she worked with clients throughout North America and Israel. Kline earned her Bachelor's degree in History and Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis and her Master's in Public Administration from New York University and is the recipient of a 2009 Avi Chai Fellowship.

Ken Koltun-Fromm is professor of religion at Haverford College where he teaches courses in modern Jewish thought and material culture. His research focuses on Jewish conceptions of identity, authority, authenticity, and materiality. Koltun-Fromm has published four books—*Moses Hess and Modern Jewish Identity* (Indiana, 2001), *Abraham Geiger's Liberal Judaism: Personal Meaning and Religious Authority* (Indiana, 2006), *Material Culture and Jewish Thought in America* (Indiana, 2010), and *Imagining Jewish Authenticity: Vision and Text in American Jewish Thought* (Indiana, 2015)—and one edited volume, *Thinking Jewish Culture in America* (Lexington Books, 2014). His most recent co-edited project, *Imagining the Jewish God*, will be available in June 2016.

Nancy Fuchs Kreimer is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and the founding Director of the Department of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College where she was ordained in 1982. She also holds a masters degree from Yale Divinity School and a doctorate from Temple University. With support from the Henry Luce Foundation, Nancy has pioneered innovative community based learning opportunities for rabbinical students and their Christian and Muslim peers. Her recent project, "Cultivating Character: A Conversation across Communities," brings together Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Humanist leaders. Nancy is a founding board member of the Interfaith

Center of Philadelphia, Shoulder-to-Shoulder, and the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. She co-edited *Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of our Lives* (Wipf and Stock, 2013).

Matthew LaGrone is Assistant Program Head for General Electives, at the University of Guelph-Humber in Toronto where he teaches courses in religion, philosophy, and literature. His research interests include American and Anglo-Jewish intellectual history, Jewish thought, and Jewish-Christian/Jewish-Muslim relations. He received his PhD in Religion from the University of Toronto in 2008.

Josh Lambert is Academic Director of the Yiddish Book Center and Visiting Assistant Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is the author of *American Jewish Fiction: A JPS Guide* (JPS, 2009), and *Unclean Lips: Obscenity, Jews, and American Culture* (NYU, 2014), which won a Jordan Schnitzer Book Award from the Association of Jewish Studies and a Canadian Jewish Book Award. He serves as contributing editor to *Tablet*, and has contributed to the *Los Angeles Times*, *Haaretz*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Globe & Mail*, and the *Forward*.

Oliver Leaman is Professor of Philosophy and Zantker Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Kentucky. He writes on Islamic, Jewish and Asian philosophy and theology. He is series editor of Routledge Jewish Studies. His books on Jewish thought include, *Evil and suffering in Jewish Philosophy*, (Cambridge University Press, 1995; paperback 1997); *History of Jewish Philosophy*, ed. D. Frank & O. Leaman, (Routledge, 1996); *Moses Maimonides* (Routledge, 1997, 2nd Edition); *A Reader in Jewish Philosophy*, ed. D. Frank, O. Leaman & C. Manekin, (Routledge, 2000); *Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy*, ed. D. Frank & O. Leaman, (Cambridge University Press, 2003); *Lost in Translation: Essays in Islamic and Jewish Philosophy*, (Sarajevo, Buybook, 2004); *Jewish Thought: an Introduction*, London, (Routledge, 2006); and *Judaism: an introduction* (London, I B Tauris, 2011).

Mili Leitner is a PhD student in Ethnomusicology at the University of Chicago. Prior to this, she studied violin at a London conservatoire for five years, specializing in performance of contemporary classical Jewish compositions. Leitner's research applies intellectual influences from sociology and anthropology to present-day Jewish and Israeli musical practices. Her dissertation will concern processes of racialization in Israel as expressed through musical practice. She also works as Music Network Coordinator for Kulanu, connecting musicians from sub-Saharan African Jewish communities with the resources they need to launch profitable careers.

Laura S. Levitt is Professor of Religion, Jewish Studies and Gender at Temple University where she has served as chair of the department of Religion and directed both the Women's Studies and the Jewish Studies Programs. She is the author of *American Jewish Loss after the Holocaust* (NYU, 2007) and *Jews and Feminism: The Ambivalent Search for Home* (Routledge, 1997). She is an editor of *Judaism Since Gender* (Routledge, 1997) and *Impossible Images: Contemporary Art after the Holocaust* (NYU, 2003). Her current project, "Evidence as Archive" considers the relationship between material objects held in police storage and artifacts housed in Holocaust collections.

Mordechai Liebling is the founder and director of the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College of which he is a graduate. Prior he was Executive Vice-President of Jewish Funds for Justice. Earlier he was Executive Director of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. He serves on the boards of T'ruah: a Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, The Shalom Center, and the Faith and Politics Institute. He was the founding chairperson of Shomrei Adamah: Guardians of the Earth. He has been a Spiritual Director for 15 years; has been trained in "The Work that Reconnects" by Joanna Macy; and has completed the Jewish Meditation Teacher Training program. He has published numerous articles. His family was the subject of the award winning documentary *Praying With Lior*.

Frank London is a trumpeter and composer and member of the Klezmatics. He has performed with John Zorn, LL Cool J, Mel Torme, Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy, LaMonte Young, They Might Be Giants, and David Byrne, and is featured on over 100 cds. His own recordings include "Invocations" (cantorial music); Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars' "Di Shikere Kapeleye" and "Brotherhood of Brass"; the soundtrack to "The Shvitz"; and four releases with the Hasidic New Wave. He has been featured on HBO's "Sex and the City", at the North Sea Jazz Festival and the Lincoln Center Summer Festival, and was a co-founder of Les Miserables Brass Band and the Klezmer Conservatory Band.

Catherine Madsen is the author of *The Bones Reassemble: Reconstituting Liturgical Speech* (Davies Group, 2005) and *In Medias Res: Liturgy for the Estranged* (Davies Group, 2008), as well as many articles on liturgy. She served as a contributing editor to *Cross Currents* for eight years and wrote the libretto for Robert Stern's acclaimed oratorio *Shofar*. She is a lay leader at the Jewish Community of Amherst, Massachusetts and works as Bibliographer at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst.

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Zach Mann received his PhD in modern Jewish studies from JTS. He is the author of "How Much Eastern Europe in American Jewish Thought?: The Case of Jacob B. Agus," which appeared in *Reappraisals and New Studies of the Modern Jewish Experience: Essays in Honor of Robert M. Seltzer* (Brill, 2014). He currently serves as the chair of the Department of Jewish Studies at the Rodef Shalom School in Manhattan.

Yavilah McCoy is CEO of the international diversity consulting group, VISIONS Inc. in Boston. She is also the founder of Ayecha, one of the first nonprofit Jewish organizations to provide Jewish diversity education and advocacy for Jews of Color in the United States. As an educator, activist and spiritual teacher, McCoy has worked extensively within multi-faith communities to increase racial justice and expand equity and inclusion. In celebration of the musical traditions passed down to her from three generations of her African-American Jewish family, McCoy is also the writer, producer and performer of the Jewish Gospel theatrical production, "The Colors of Water."

David Mittelberg is Chair of the Steering Committee for the International School at Oranim where he is also Associate Professor for Sociology on the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Mittelberg is also Adjunct Research Associate in the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization, Monash University, and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Kibbutz Research at University of Haifa. He is the author of *Strangers in Paradise: The Israeli Kibbutz Experience* (Transaction, 1988); *The Israel Connection and American Jews* (Praeger, 1999); *Between Two Worlds: The Testimony and the Testament* (Devora, 2004), and has numerous published articles on ethnicity, migration, gender, tourism, kibbutz education, Jewish Peoplehood education, and the sociology of Diaspora Jewry. He received his BA from Monash University, MA from University of Haifa, and PhD from Hebrew University.

Deborah Dash Moore is Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. An historian of American Jews, she has published an acclaimed trilogy examining the years from 1920 to 1960, including the experience of Jewish soldiers in World War II. Her work regularly garners awards. Her most recent book, *Urban Origins of American Judaism* (University of Georgia Press,

2014), examines how new religious forms emerged on the streets of American cities and includes a chapter on photographs of American Jews.

Hankus Netsky is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist. He is Chair of New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation Department and founder and Director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band, an internationally renowned Yiddish music ensemble. He has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, collaborated closely with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Robin Williams, Joel Grey, and Theodore Bikel and produced numerous recordings, including ten by the Klezmer Conservatory Band. His recent projects include the musical, "The King of Second Avenue," produced in 2015 by the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown and a collaboration with Itzhak Perlman, "Rejoice," which aired on PBS Great Performances in 2014. He is also the author of *Klezmer, Music and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia* (Temple, 2015). Netsky has taught widely and is the recipient of numerous awards for his music and his teaching.

Judith S. Neulander is Co-Director of the Judaic Studies Program in the Department of Religious Studies at Case Western Reserve University. In her research, Neulander has refuted claims of a significant crypto-Jewish presence among New Mexican Hispanic folkways, and has challenged use of disease as a Jewish ethnic marker in any population. Her most recent publication on pseudo-science and Jews appears in *Jews and Genes* (JPS, 2015), first runner up in the National Jewish Book Awards for 2015. In another recent research project, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Center for Genetic Research Ethics and Law, she helped create the first genetic-ethnographic database for historical crypto-Jews in Portugal. Neulander is the recipient of the Don Yoder Award of the American Folklore Society, and received an Emmy nomination for her work on folklore segments of PBS.

Adina Newberg has been a lecturer in Asian and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Her current research focuses on contemporary religious organizations and the spiritual journeys of those who participate in them—especially within the growing renaissance of liberal Jewish life in Israel. At RRC and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, Newberg serves as the channel for involvement with progressive Israeli Judaism in general, as well as the new Israeli-Jewish renaissance. She manages Gateways to Israeli-Jewish Renaissance on Facebook. Newberg studied for her Bachelor of Arts at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and holds a doctorate in planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Noam Pianko is the Samuel N. Stroum Professor of Jewish Studies and Associate Professor in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington where he also directs the Samuel and Althea Stroum Center for Jewish Studies and serves as the Herbert and Lucy Pruzan Chair of Jewish Studies. He is the author of *Zionism and the Roads not Taken: Rawidowicz, Kaplan, Kohn* (Indiana, 2010) and *Peoplehood: An American Innovation* (Rutgers, 2015). Pianko has published articles in leading journals, including the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* and *Ab Imperio: Studies of New Imperial History and Nationalism in the Post-Society Space*. He also serves on the Executive Board of the American Jewish Historical Society and the Association for Jewish Studies board. Pianko is the recipient of a Mellon Foundation Fellowship, a UW Technology Teaching Fellowship, and a Royalty Research Award.

Elliot Ratzman is assistant professor in the Religion Department and the Program in Jewish Studies at Temple University where he teaches courses in race, religion, and social justice, including the popular course "Race and Judaism" which examines the arts and sciences of racial inequality in Europe, Israel, and America. Ratzman completed his PhD in Princeton University's Religion Department; his dissertation addresses issues of global poverty, distance responsibility, and post-Holocaust thought. He is currently writing about the religious dimensions of "downpassing" when journalists and activists disguise themselves as "the other" in order to experience their suffering. He is also involved with the Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival and serves on the advisory board of Extend, a progressive trip dedicated to dialogue with Palestinians.

Shlomi Ravid has been a pioneer in developing Peoplehood education. He was the founding director of the Israel Center of San Francisco, the founding director of the International School for Jewish Peoplehood Studies at Beth Hatefutsoth and the founding director of the Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education. Ravid initiated and edited publications such as the *Peoplehood Papers* and *Peoplehood Now* as well as the educational kit, *Israel: the Vision and Venture of the Jewish People*. He has published over two dozen articles and studies on Jewish Peoplehood in the last five years, and most recently initiated the Jewish Peoplehood Toolkit—www.jpeoplehood.org. He has a PhD in Philosophy from Tel Aviv University.

Lex Rofes is a Jewish Educator and Organizer currently serving as the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator of the Institute for the Next Jewish Future, facilitating its *Judaism Unbound* project and podcast. He is also a student in the rabbinic program of ALEPH: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal. While

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Roberta Rosenberg is Professor of English at Christopher Newport University where she teaches courses in American Literature and Culture and Civic Engagement. She has published four scholarly books including, most recently, *Service Learning and Literary Studies in English* with Laurie Grobman (MLA, 2015). Her essays on American literature and culture have appeared in the journals *MELUS*, *Early American Literature*, *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, and *Pedagogy*, among others. Her work in Jewish-American literature includes essays in *Studies in American Jewish Literature* and *Shofar*. At present, she is working on a co-edited volume for the Modern Language Association on *Options in Teaching Jewish American Literature*. She is a member of the MLA Executive Committee on Teaching and was a Fulbright Teaching Fellow in Taiwan.

John Ruskay, PhD has served in positions of senior Jewish communal leadership including Education Director of the 92nd Street Y (1980–1985), Vice Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (1985–1993), and Executive Vice President and CEO of UJA-Federation of New York (1999–2014). He has written extensively and speaks nationally on how the American Jewish community can most effectively respond to the challenges and opportunities of living in an open society; on the critical role of Jewish philanthropy and the central role of community. John and his wife Robin are the founders of JRB Consulting Services which provides executive coaching, strategic and fundraising strategy for a range of clients including UJA-Federation of New York, the Educational Alliance, Birthright Israel, Innovation Africa, the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute, and the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace.

Ofer Sabath Beit-Halachmi has a graduate degree in Talmud from the University of Haifa and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem. Ofer served as rabbi of the Progressive (Reform) Congregation Tzur Hadassah, in a suburb of Jerusalem, for eight years. Together with Israeli silversmith Ori Resheff, he founded *Aspaklaryia*, which forms study communities for Israeli and Diaspora artists to explore Jewish texts, create new art, and imagine new possibilities for the intersection of intellectual and artistic creativity between Israeli and Diaspora Jews. Ofer edited and authored several pieces in a volume entitled *El ha-Lev: Toward the Heart*, a collection of original liberal Israeli prayers and ceremonies and has also authored several

articles on Jewish identity, the creation of new liturgy and ritual, and the ethical dilemmas of Israeli soldiers serving in the occupied territories.

Vered Sakal is a fellow at the Minerva Humanities Center in Tel Aviv University. She holds an MA and PhD in Jewish thought from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and completed a post-doctorate at the Tikva Center for Law and Jewish Civilization at NYU. She was also ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. Her fields of research are modern Jewish thought and liberal theory. She wrote her MA thesis on Mordecai Kaplan's concept of 'Nationhood'.

Jeffrey Schein is Senior Educator at the Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood and Director of "Text Me: Judaism and Technology." Previously, he served as Professor and Director of the Education Department at the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies and served as Education Director to the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. He also served on the faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He is the author (or co-author) of many books and articles about Jewish, religious and general education including most recently, *Kol Ha-No'ar: The Voice of Children* (Reconstructionist Press, 2005). Schein has served as national program chair for the Coalition for Alternatives in Jewish Education (CAJE), and as President of the Association of Institutions of Higher Learning for Jewish Education. Schein graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and received his PhD from Temple University.

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Mel Scult is Vice President of The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood and Professor Emeritus at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. He has also taught at Brandeis, Vassar, The Jewish Theological Seminary, and the New School for Social Research. Scult is the author, most recently, of *The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan* (Indiana, 2013). He also authored *Judaism Faces the Twentieth-Century: A Biography of Mordecai M. Kaplan* (Wayne State, 1994). He is the editor of a selection from the twenty-seven-volume Kaplan diary entitled, *Communings of the Spirit* (Wayne State, 2002). A second volume of selections will appear in the fall. In addition, he has published essays on Solomon Schechter and Henrietta Szold.

Margot Seigle is a founding organizer of Lefty Shabbaton, a retreat that brings radical Jews together to build resilient community grounded in Jewish ritual, traditions and practices. She is also a leader with Resource Generation (RG), a group that organizes young people with wealth around the redistribution of land, wealth and power. Seigle has spent the past two years working in the Transformative Experiences Department at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center where she co-created the Let My People Sing! Jewish Song Weekend Retreat. She is also part of a team within Jews for Racial and Economic Justice that is creating curriculum around resisting anti-semitism in ourselves and in our movements. In addition, Seigle is a student of Shefa Gold's Kol Zimra Hebrew Chanting Program, a ritual weaver, and somatic healer in training.

Jacob Staub is Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Spirituality and Director of the Spiritual Direction Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College where he has served on the faculty since 1983 and served as Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1989–2004. He was also editor of *The Reconstructionist* from 1983 to 1989. He has authored and edited several books, including *The Creation of the World According to Gersonides* (Brown, 1982); *A Guide to Jewish Practice: Shabbat* (Reconstructionist Press, 2013), and a special edition of *ZEEK* magazine entitled, "Reconstructionism: Denominationalism That Works?" (2010). Staub has taught Jewish spiritual direction across North America and co-directs the HUC-JIR Jewish Spiritual Director Training Program, Bekhol Levavkha. He is also a faculty member at Nehirim: GLBT Jewish Culture and Spirituality. Staub has received several awards for his service to the Reconstructionist movement, including RRC's *Keter Shem Tov* in 2004. He graduated from RRC in 1977.

Elsie Stern is Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College where she is also Associate Professor of Bible. Stern is the author of *From Rebuke to Consolation: Exegesis and Theology in the Liturgical Anthology of the Ninth of Av Season* (Brown, 2004) and is a contributor to the *Jewish Study Bible* and *The Women's Torah Commentary*. In addition, her articles on Bible and its reception in Jewish settings have appeared in several publications including the *Jewish Quarterly Review* and the *Biblical Theology Bulletin*. She is currently co-editing the *Dictionary of the Bible in Ancient Media* and is working on a book on the orality and textuality in rabbinic conceptions of scripture. She is past board chair of AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps.

Shira Stutman is Director of Jewish Programming at Washington, DC's innovative Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, where she and her colleagues strive to create a spiritually connected, reflective, intellectually

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Lance J. Sussman is the Senior Rabbi of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel. A "Rabbi Doctor" in the tradition of KI's Dr. Bert Korn, Sussman is a renowned author and dynamic lecturer. He has published numerous books and articles, including *Isaac Lesser and the Making of American Judaism* (Wayne, 1995) and *Sharing Sacred Moments* (Keshet Press), and served as an editor of *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook* (Greenwood, 1993). He has appeared in several PBS specials on Judaism in America and co-produced a documentary of his own, *Voices for Justice* with Dr. Gary P. Zola. Rabbi Sussman served as national Chair of the CCAR Press and is currently President of the Association for Progressive Judaism. He was Chair of the Jewish Studies Department at Binghamton University-SUNY and has taught at Hebrew Union College in New York City, Princeton University, and Gratz College. Rabbi Sussman is a Senior Fellow of The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood.

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David Teutsch is Director of the Center for Jewish Ethics and the Louis & Myra Wiener Professor of Contemporary Jewish Civilization at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he previously served as President. He is the author of dozens of books and articles including the recent award-winning *Guide to Jewish Practice* (Reconstructionist Press, 2011-14). Teutsch was also

Editor-in-Chief for the groundbreaking seven-volume *Kol Haneshamah* Reconstructionist prayer book series. He has served on the boards of numerous organizations and is a past president of the Society of Jewish Ethics and of the Academic Coalition for Jewish Bioethics and a past member of the Conference of Presidents. He was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and earned his BA from Harvard University and PhD from the Wharton School.

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Yossi Turner is professor of Jewish Thought and Philosophy at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. He is an ordained rabbi who combines advanced scholarship with activities in public education. He has written extensively on Mordecai Kaplan and various areas of Jewish cultural, social, and religious thought. He authored a book on the philosophy of Franz Rosenzweig, and more recently *The Relation to Zion and the Diaspora in 20th Century Jewish Thought* (Kibbutz Hame'uchad, 2014). His current project concerns national individuality, social justice and universal humanity in modern Jewish thought.

Eli Valley is a writer and artist whose work has appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Intercept*, *Gawker*, *Saveur*, and elsewhere. His art has been labeled "ferociously repugnant" by *Commentary* and "hilarious" by *The Comics Journal*. He was the 2011-2013 Artist in Residence at the *Forward* newspaper and has given multimedia performances fusing comics with personal narrative in the United States, Europe, Africa and Israel. His comics collection, *A Creature Such as You, Diaspora Boy*, is forthcoming in 2016 from OR Books. His website is www.elivalley.com.

Deborah Waxman is president and the Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman presidential professor of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Waxman

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Cyd Weissman is the Director of Reconstructionist Learning Networks at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities. She also serves on the faculty at RRC where she teaches courses in entrepreneurship and education. Before coming to RRC, Weissman was the Director of Innovation in Congregational Learning at the Jewish Education Project and the Director of The New York RE-IMAGINE Project of the Experiment in Congregational Education. She also taught for a decade at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Beth S. Wenger is Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at the University of Pennsylvania. Her most recent book is *History Lessons: The Creation of American Jewish Heritage* (Princeton, 2012). Wenger's other works include *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America* (Doubleday, 2007), companion volume to the 2008 PBS series *The Jewish Americans* which was named a National Jewish Book Award finalist. She is also the author of *New York Jews and the Great Depression: Uncertain Promise* (Yale, 1996) which was awarded the Salo Baron Prize in Jewish History from the American Academy of Jewish Research.

Natasha Zaretsky is Senior Lecturer at New York University and Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University, where she edits the *Argentina Trial Monitor* and chairs the Latin America Working Group. She has also taught at Princeton University. Zaretsky is co-editor of *Landscapes of Memory and Impunity: The Aftermath of the AMIA Bombing in Jewish Argentina* (Brill, 2015) and has published articles about Yiddish music and social change, the generational transmission of Holocaust memory in Argentina, and post-Soviet Jewish cultural practices in *Tablet*, *Latin America Goes Global*, and *Foreign Affairs*. Zaretsky earned her doctorate in cultural anthropology from Princeton University.

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