

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
RABBINIC
CONVOCAATION

Celebrating the Class of 1999

**Honoring Rabbis Who Have Served
the Conservative Movement and the Jewish People
with Distinction for Over 25 Years**

**February 23, 2026 / 6 Adar 5786
10:30 a.m.**

**The Jewish Theological Seminary
3080 Broadway, NYC**



Greetings from the Chancellor

דברי הנגידה



It is with the deepest respect and great pleasure that I extend a heartfelt mazal tov to the rabbis who are being awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of 25 years of distinguished service to the Jewish community.

Each of you has shown extraordinary commitment, integrity, and leadership through your contributions to synagogues, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and most importantly, to *K'lal Yisrael*. You have exemplified excellence through your dedication and unwavering sense of mission, and, as we will hear during the ceremony, rabbinic service has been more than a profession for you; it has been a sacred calling.

It is difficult to believe that 25 years have passed since your ordination. I remember that day clearly and continue to be amazed by all that you have accomplished since then. It has been a true privilege to witness, through my roles at JTS, how you have remained steadfast in strengthening Jewish life, nurturing community, and advancing the values that bind us together during moments of both challenge and joy. As I move forward in my own career transition, I eagerly look forward to watching all that you will continue to achieve.

With deep regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shuly R. Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shuly Rubin Schwartz
Chancellor

Greetings from the Board Chair

דברי ראש הועד



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and our Advisory Boards, it is my great pleasure to extend a personal *yasher ko'ach* and *mazal tov* to our honorees and to their families and friends on this joyous and momentous occasion.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we also express our sincere gratitude. The legacy you have built over these 25 years will continue to shape and strengthen the Jewish community for generations to come. Your service to the Jewish people reflects both perseverance and expertise. We hope this recognition serves as a symbol of the profound appreciation and admiration you have so richly earned.

Guided by the legacy you leave, JTS has continued to invest in new programs that will nurture future religious leadership. Initiatives such as the Low-Residency Mekhinah and the “From the Beit Midrash to the Streets” were created to strengthen and expand The Rabbinical School pipeline. Over the past two years alone, we have welcomed thirty-nine new students to the Division of Religious Leadership, and we could not be prouder of the promising students who will follow in your footsteps.

It is with great joy and deep appreciation that I congratulate you and celebrate this extraordinary milestone. May you take pride in all that you have accomplished, and may your work continue to be a source of blessing and inspiration.

B'shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Levine, Esq.

Chair, Board of Trustees, JTS

Greetings from the Vice Chancellor

דברי סגן הנגידה



As a fellow Rabbinical School alum, whose convocation is coming up in a few years, I celebrate this milestone with added enthusiasm. Over the course of your careers, I have had the privilege of knowing many of you and learning from you as mentors, role models, and colleagues. It is a true honor for me to congratulate you now, in my role as Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement of JTS.

Throughout the past 25 years, you have led with wisdom, integrity, and grace. You have mentored, taught, served, and inspired, leaving an enduring legacy that will continue to have an impact on all you reach.

Each year when we welcome alumni of Conservative Movement institutions back to JTS for the Convocation, I find myself comparing their faces to those of The Rabbinical School students I see every day in our hallways. I am always struck by the concept of *l'dor va'dor* and how moving it is to realize that the students learning, studying, and growing today will one day stand where you stand now, celebrating years of leadership, service, and impact.

We hope you consider JTS as part of your legacy, whether you studied here or not. By investing in JTS, you help ensure that the Conservative Movement remains a vibrant, compelling home for committed Jews for generations to come. Together, we can continue your legacy and secure a Jewish future worthy of the values you have lived and taught.

Rabbi Joel Seltzer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Seltzer'.

Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL ENSEMBLE

Matt Arons, JTS Rabbinical School

Shira Bodnar, JTS Rabbinical School and H. L. Miller Cantorial School

OPENING BLESSING

Rabbi Bill Lebeau

WELCOME

Alan Levine, Esq., Chair, JTS Board of Trustees

D'VAR TORAH

Rabbi Jay M. Kornsgold, President, Rabbinical Assembly

REMARKS

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor, JTS

AZKARA (In Memoriam)

Rabbi Dorothy Richman

REFLECTION ON BEHALF OF THE HONOREES

Rabbi Alexander Davis

Rabbi Beth Naditch

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREES

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor, JTS

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Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen, Pearl Resnick Dean of The Rabbinical School and
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Dr. Jeffrey Kress, Provost and the Dr. Bernard Heller Professor of Jewish Education, JTS

CLOSING BLESSING

Rabbi Gordon Tucker, Vice Chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, JTS

RECESSIONAL ENSEMBLE

Matt Arons, JTS Rabbinical School

Shira Bodnar, JTS Rabbinical School and H. L. Miller Cantorial School

Class of 1999 Rabbis

Rabbi Shaina Bacharach
Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz
Rabbi Edward Bernstein
Rabbi Michael Bernstein
Rabbi Andrew Bloom
Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal
Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove
Rabbi Justin David
Rabbi Alexander Davis
Rabbi David Englander
Rabbi David Fine
Rabbi Eli Garfinkel
Rabbi Shai Held
Rabbi Joshua Heller
Rabbi Micah Hyman
Rabbi David Lerner
Rabbi Neal Loevinger
Rabbi Mitchel Malkus

Rabbi Anat Moskowitz
Rabbi Beth Naditch
Rabbi Michael Pont
Rabbi Amy Rader
Rabbi Dorothy Richman
Rabbi Michelle Robinson
Rabbi Peretz Rodman
Rabbi E. Noach Shapiro
Rabbi Abigail Nelson Sosland (Class of 1998)
Rabbi Barbara Speyer
Rabbi Robert Tobin
Rabbi Iscah Waldman
Rabbi Debi Wechsler
Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields
Rabbi Avigayl Young
Rabbi Roderick Young
Rabbi Sara Zacharia
Rabbi Neil Zuckerman

Rabbi Shaina Bacharach

You have embodied finding joy in our Jewish connectedness and embracing the sacred through your empathy as a teacher and your leadership at a small-town shul. As rabbi emeritus of Cnnesses Israel, you have brought Torah and joy, meaning, and connection to your community. Your work reminds us that vibrant Jewish community can be found in synagogues and towns of all sizes and that the world is brighter by learning.

Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz

Like the illuminated Haggadah you authored and illustrated, your Torah weaves the worlds of art and Jewish learning together in deep and substantive ways, enriching the lives of many. Over 24 years of working for JTS, the last 18 in Israel, and now serving as president of The Schechter Institutes, you have modeled not only an “out of the box” rabbinate, but a rabbinate for our times. We pray that your rabbinate will be filled with creativity, dear students and friends, and rooted deeply in the Land of Israel and the People of Israel.

Rabbi Edward Bernstein

You see the divine image in every person. Over 18 years in the pulpit and now in professional chaplaincy, you have provided dedicated and compassionate leadership to Beth El Synagogue Center in New Rochelle, NY; Congregation Shaarey Tikvah in Beachwood, OH; and Temple Torat Emet in Boynton Beach, FL. As a chaplain and creator of the NeshamaCast podcast, you foster respect for the chaplaincy profession. Your deepest commitments shine through your children; your book, *Love Finer Than Wine: The Writings of Matthew Eisenfeld and Sara Duker*; and your leadership in your professional communities. May God give you strength to be a source for healing on the path to a more peaceful world.

Rabbi Michael Bernstein

You have made a meaningful difference in the lives of congregants, community, and neighbors by sharing Torah and Jewish practice and insight. In your career as a pulpit rabbi, and now at Gesher L' Torah, you have helped to guide remarkable candidates for conversion who have become the backbone of the community. Throughout your rabbinate you have cultivated personal and profound relationships with colleagues of other

faiths that have lasted through difficult times. You remind us that Judaism is personal and that each person's story is an invaluable source of Torah. Learning from and with each other is the core of who we are as a community.

Rabbi Andrew Bloom

In your work as rabbi at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, you have built bridges between Judaism and the broader Texas community, emphasizing rooted outreach, partnership, and a deeply human-centered approach to both congregation and community. Your belief that Judaism is strongest when it is lived in relationship has guided your rabbinate, as has your conviction that faith must meet people where they are and elevate the dignity of every person. May you shine as you make Judaism shine, distinct and luminous, a tradition woven fully into the way people live, act, and relate to the world around them.

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal

You help others find the strength to move through life with meaning, joy, and purpose. In your work building and creating institutions and communities for Jews of all ages, and as CEO of the Rabbinical Assembly and USCJ, you are always looking for opportunities to strengthen partnerships and the Conservative/Masorti Movement. Forming relationships is at the center of your work, and you take pride in learning from and giving strength to congregants, leaders, and colleagues. May the Holy One grant you health, strength, patience, and wisdom to continue bringing people together and growing community in joy, holy purpose, loving connection, and peace.

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove

You understand that at its core the work of a rabbi is to serve the Jewish people. As a congregational rabbi, first at Anshe Emet in Chicago and now as the senior rabbi at New York's Park Avenue Synagogue, you look at your rabbinate inch by inch, through building relationships, exploring hard questions, and always continuing to learn. May you continue to thrive as a rabbi, as a Jew, and as a person, and may you leave the Jewish people stronger by way of your labors.

Rabbi Justin David

You notice relationships and the connections you've made. In your rabbinate, at Beacon Hebrew Alliance and at Congregation B'nai Israel in Northampton, you focus on what is most pressing for the people you are serving. You hold the wider world in dialogue with the needs, questions, and aspirations of your community, and you let them define what a synagogue should be. May you continue to be a voice of reason, empathy, and genuine human connection.

Rabbi Alexander Davis

Your rabbinate has been guided by *b'khol derakhekha darkheihu* and the belief that Torah has something to say about every aspect of life. In your role as senior rabbi at Beth El Synagogue, a shul with a strong day school and Ramah contingent, you have taken the most pride and pleasure in the everyday moments. There, you have developed a reputation as a good listener, wise counsel, and kind heart. May you always share with your students a Judaism that is meaningful and accessible and that comes from a strong place of creativity and joy.

Rabbi David Englander

You have grown along with your congregations, at B'nai Torah Congregation in Florida and in your current role as senior rabbi at Congregation Beth El in New Jersey. You are steady in your service of the Jewish people, and you operate at the intersection of sincerity, compassion, and good humor. We pray with you that God will continue to bless you with the health and strength to serve our community, the Jewish people, and Israel in ways that will have lasting and enduring positive effects.

Rabbi David Fine

As senior rabbi at Temple Israel and JCC in Ridgewood, NJ, you have engaged in teaching, ritual, management, and pastoral relationships. You have emphasized both reserving time for ongoing learning and writing and in learning the business of managing a synagogue, from finances to building projects to educational programming. You have also lent your wisdom to rabbinic training in your role on the faculty of the Abraham Geiger College. May you be strengthened as you strengthen your community and continue to contribute to our Torah.

Rabbi Eli Garfinkel

The question, "Of my members, with how many do I have a personal relationship?" has guided your tenure as rabbi at Temple Beth El in New Jersey. Throughout the years, you have learned that a rabbi's main job is not sermonizing or teaching, but tending to the fire that burns in the heart of every Jew, especially when that fire is threatened by suffering of any kind. You care deeply about the growth in the numbers and commitment of Conservative Jews. May the fire in your heart continue to burn brightly.

Rabbi Shai Held

You have found your calling as a teacher, opening up the world of texts and ideas to people who are hungry to learn and grow. Your approach is informed by never talking down to anyone, teaching with your heart and mind, and helping people to think and feel deeply at the same time. Your values and understanding of what Torah demands of us has led you to found and build two institutions: Kehilat Hadar and the Hadar Institute. May you continue to work towards embodying the theology and ethics you love throughout your career.

Rabbi Joshua Heller

You seek to bring Jews closer to each other and to God through study, observance, community, and helping others, translating the tradition and making it accessible to people wherever they may be. This has influenced your work as senior rabbi at Congregation B'nai Torah in Georgia, where you have been a leader in navigating the halakhic aspects of virtual services during the pandemic and beyond. As you look towards the future, may you further strengthen the relationships you have had with your community for another generation and feel gratitude for all you have accomplished.

Rabbi Micah Hyman

Your work as a pulpit rabbi goes beyond any single movement. You have generously shared your wisdom across the Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform traditions, and you continue to do so in your role as senior rabbi at Congregation Beth David in California. Throughout seasons of personal and congregational change, and even in the most challenging moments, you have led with resilience and compassion. May your rabbinate continue to offer enduring wisdom to all those you inspire.

Rabbi David Lerner

While serving as senior rabbi at Temple Emunah in Massachusetts, you have strived to make Judaism joyful and embodied, blending tradition with creativity, intellectual rigor with joy, and deep relationship with a commitment to justice. Listening to the stories, hopes, questions, and struggles of your congregants allows you to help them deepen their Jewish and spiritual lives. Your interactions with congregants have shaped and stretched you profoundly, and you aim to build a community where every person feels seen, valued, and inspired.

Rabbi Neal Loevinger

As rabbi at Congregation Temple Beth-El in New York and director of Spiritual Care and ethics coordinator at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, you serve others with humility and wisdom. As you strive to be of use to others, may you take in the blessings of a long and fruitful rabbinate and feel satisfaction in a life well lived.

Rabbi Mitchel Malkus

You seek to embrace the many different approaches to, perspectives on, and ways to engage Jewishly, and to make being Jewish a source of joy and meaning. As a rabbi, as an educator, and as head of school at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Maryland, your work is guided by drawing boundaries for further inclusion, and you have been honored to work with and touch a broad swath of the community. May you be blessed to enjoy the same level of partnership, support, and respect from your community and volunteer leaders in your next chapter, as we work to ensure a vibrant Jewish future.

Rabbi Anat Moskowitz

Yours is a rabbinate about living Judaism, opening the books and letting the sages of the past teach us about today and tomorrow. You are humbled by the privilege to transmit, interpret, guide, and journey with our Jewish people in relationships to Torah, community, and God. You have done important work normalizing a Jewish response to addictions and recovery and embracing the LGBTQ+ members of your community. May the Holy One bless you with the ability to share, express, and teach Judaism and to help open books and doors for all you encounter, and experience those blessings.

Rabbi Beth Naditch

Accompaniment, connection, and teaching have defined your 25 years in the rabbinate. You combine these themes and passions in your current role as director of CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife in Massachusetts. In both your chaplaincy and teaching, you bring as much care and attention to the people-as-text as you do to sacred texts and narrative. You understand story as a way of knowing, whether people's stories are told in words, in silences, in behaviors, or in the holding of a hand. As you continue your expertise in trauma-informed work, we pray your soul is nourished.

Rabbi Michael Pont

You aim to bring positive energy to the world through Torah, compassion, and love. This belief has guided you as senior rabbi of Marlboro Jewish Center in New Jersey, where you've inspired people to embrace Jewish life and ritual. May you continue to meet people where they are and encourage them to live their most fulfilling lives.

Rabbi Amy Rader

As senior rabbi and founder of the Neshamah Institute in Boca Raton, you feel the blessing of the building and maintaining connection with your community through decades and different stages of life. "What comes from the heart, enters the heart" has guided you in your truthful and intimate approach to your rabbinate and teaching, and personal connection has always been key to your rabbinate. May you overflow with gratitude for gifts of being with people at their sacred moments and for being able to live and transmit Judaism as it should be, that grows your *neshamah* and brings light, comfort, and expansion to yourself and others.

Rabbi Dorothy Richman

You take pride and joy in continuing to learn and experiment with Torah and spiritual practice. As rabbi emerita of Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco and in your work with Institute for Jewish Spirituality, you embody and model Jewish spiritual practice and opening yourself up to the invitations that come. Your soulfulness has enriched your music and your leadership in traditional and creative ritual. May the Holy One overflow your cup with blessing, and the knowledge that the sacred work that you do is *l'Tovah*—enriching our people and for the world.

Rabbi Michelle Robinson

You have been blessed to work at Temple Emanuel in Massachusetts since your graduation, a place you consider your home. Community building, sharing the joy of traditional text study, and facilitating personal connections to the beauty of prayer are central to your rabbinate. Outside your work, you see God's blessings every day in the faces of your four children and your husband Mike. May you continue to find joy and blessing in both your personal and professional life.

Rabbi Peretz Rodman

You give full attention to each person with whom you interact with as a *rav*, assess their needs, and provide whatever personal attention to them that you can. In Israel, hundreds of *giyyur* certificates in Israel bear your signature and even more list you as *av bet din*. We pray that you create a literary legacy of articles, books, and anthologies by which to enrich Jewish life and learning, so that you can share your values with your children, grandchildren, and even further.

Rabbi E. Noach Shapiro

As a psychoanalyst and rabbi, you are proudest of the deep connections with fellow human beings that you've made and the positive impact that has emerged from those relationships. In both roles, you are invited into the sacred spaces in people's inner lives and into their pain, grief, joy, and struggle for meaning. You admire those willing to take such emotional risks to become their best selves and to live lives of meaning. May you feel great joy in the awesome responsibility and deep privilege of your work.

Rabbi Abigail Nelson Sosland (Class of 1998)

You share your love of Judaism with honesty and generosity of spirit. You are deeply committed to your personal learning, including building your pedagogy and practice to become a better, more skillful teacher to students of all types in your current role at the Leffell School. You understand that by stripping away pretension, we can open paths of connection where people can see themselves reflected in our tradition. You teach with depth and without pretense, knowing that a willingness to expose the struggles of being human will open our minds and touch our souls. May you always continue to learn, sharing your love of Torah and embracing joy.

Rabbi Barbara Speyer

A chaplain at VA Hospital in Los Angeles, your gratitude enriches your practice. You take pride that your lifelong dream of becoming a rabbi became a reality, and you are committed to validating all the people with whom you interact. You find love in your religion, and its history, culture, and traditions. May Hashem watch over you and give you the ability to continue to be who you are, engaging with people who are in need of spiritual care and emotional support.

Rabbi Robert Tobin

You make a point of learning and living our traditions on ever deeper levels, inspiring your congregants at B'nai Shalom in New Jersey to continue their own personal Jewish journeys. You are a teacher for all ages and a role model for lifelong learning, as well as a mentor for Jewish exploration that blends credible tradition with joyous diversity. May you continue to serve in strength and health, be fully present for those in your community, and bring better understanding between all God's children.

Rabbi Iscah Waldman

You are currently the Director of Jewish Studies in the Upper School at Golda Och Academy, and you have spent your rabbinate working in a variety of forms of education. You seek to help your students understand what the rabbis were trying to accomplish in interpreting God's word and why their struggle is also our own. You embody your belief that we bring all our constituents closer to Jewish life through education. May you continue to have the opportunity to teach those who wish to grapple with questions both big and small.

Rabbi Debi Wechsler

At Chizuk Amuno in Baltimore, you have had the distinction of being the first female rabbi in the congregation's 125-year history. For you, the rabbinate at its heart is about building relationships, and you are grateful and fulfilled by the relationships that you have experienced. May you continue to touch people and bring them closer to God and Torah and form deep and rewarding relationships, and may you inspire other rabbis to have rich, rewarding rabbinates.

Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields

The executive director of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, you aim to make Judaism, especially Conservative/Masorti Judaism, relevant, meaningful, and personal in individuals' lives and to meet them where they are in their connections to Judaism. Using your own personal religious observance as guidance, you encourage people to connect to God, Torah, and Israel in their own personal ways. May each interaction you have be filled with Godliness and goodliness, perpetuating God, Torah, and Israel in this imperfect world, and may you continue to see God in other people.

Rabbi Avigayl Young

As chaplain at Seven Acres Senior Care, you help those near end-of-life find peace within themselves. You also care for their loved ones, helping them find acceptance and comfort in their journeys of mourning. You are guided by the principle that we all have more in common than we think, and you strive to understand what all people are feeling. You draw on the rich Jewish traditions of practice, history, and healthy debate to find or stake out common ground, helping people realize their inner strength and the divine meaning of their lives.

Rabbi Roderick Young

Key to your rabbinate is bringing those who feel excluded back into the center of Jewish life, ensuring that our heritage belongs equally to every single Jew. You embodied this in your first role as first assistant rabbi at Congregation Simchat Torah, New York, the world's largest LGBTQ+ synagogue, and now as rabbi and founder of Kehilat Meir, the first egalitarian minyan and the only synagogue in the County of Norfolk, UK. JTS wasn't ready for you when you were ready for rabbinical school. May this be a measure of *tikkun* as we celebrate your service to the Jewish people, and may God be with you as you build egalitarian, knowledgeable, open, Shabbat-observing, queer-friendly, and thriving community.

Rabbi Sara Zacharia

No matter where you've lived or what position you have held, you have emphasized creating and maintaining relationships with students. This has guided you as an independent entrepreneurial rabbi, where your experiences include Hillel International, JCC Manhattan, and the 92nd Street Y. A visionary leader and innovative educator, you are committed to nurturing an inclusive and welcoming community built on strong interpersonal bonds, open dialogue, creative programming, and mutual understanding. May you continue to walk on the rabbinic journey with intention, gratitude, and grace, noticing the Divine in all things great and small.

Rabbi Neil Zuckerman

You have enriched the community of Park Avenue Synagogue. You are devoted to lifelong learning and bringing the Jewish people together. When looking at the most difficult questions in our times, you turn towards our sacred tradition. Last June, you wrote, "May our community be a source of strength and comfort. And may we continue to build a Jewish life rooted not in rebellion but in relationship." We echo this prayer with you.

Class of 1999 Testimonials

I, Paulette, was honored to be on the rabbinic search committee that hired **Rabbi Anat Moskowitz**. She was an incredible candidate and rabbi. Her knowledge, enthusiasm, and love for Judaism inspired the religious school, congregation, and the Colorado Springs community. She honored my husband, David, and me with the Temple Shalom Humanitarian Award for the work we had done in the Colorado Springs Community 23 years ago. She always does the right things for the right reason. We are lucky to still have her in our lives.
Paulette and David Grenberg

Rabbi Dorothy Richman brings deep spirituality, engaging learning, and joy to her followers at Congregation Beth Shalom and Makor Or. I am deeply grateful for her enduring presence in our community and in my life. **Adam Hertz**

Having known **Rabbi Eli Garfinkel** since we were preschoolers in Indiana, I am delighted to see this well-deserved honor bestowed on such a great teacher, leader, and gentleman, and I am also grateful that Rabbi Garfinkel not only taught my sons for their Bar Mitzvah, but that we continue to study Talmud under his guidance together. **Eyal H. Barash**

In barely more than a year, **Rabbi Justin David** has taken our broken and fractious congregation and transformed it into a joyous, vibrant (and only occasionally fractious) home for Jewish life in New York's Hudson Valley.
Joan Pirie

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal—You see over the horizon as few people can, navigating obstacles and learning lessons along the way as you lead people toward your vision. It is a privilege to call you my teacher and my friend. **Ned Gladstein**

Rabbi Roderick Young's growing involvement over the last few years in our small community, comfortably well away from the UK's main Jewish centers, has brought a new breadth, depth, and inspirational energy and ambition to what we can offer to our members, and to what our Jewish community can offer to those around us; his contribution has been transformative, and is enormously valued. **John Cadywould**

Rabbi Sara Zacharia creates spiritual communities, in *hevruta*, in larger classes, around her Shabbat table, throughout the globe, and right here in NYC. Honored to be her friend and colleague over all these years.
Karen Fox

I have personally witnessed **Rabbi Avigayl Young** deliver comfort and dignity to residents and their loved ones, at both Seven Acres and the Medallion, countless times. These acts have and continue to inspire our staff, me, and others in the community to live lives filled with greater compassion, purpose, and pride in our religion.
Marsha Cayton

I have known **Rabbi Iscah Waldman** since we were freshmen in List College. Rabbi Waldman has always been a woman who says what she thinks and is true to her word. She is honest without being unkind. She is smart and knowledgeable and is able to impart what she knows to others, which I have always felt is a true sign of someone being smart. **Stacey Rockman**

At a time when many synagogues face member attrition, **Rabbi Michael Pont** has guided Temple Ohev Shalom (Marlboro Jewish Center) to achieve more than a decade of consistent, year-over-year membership growth—a testament to his vision and leadership. For this and countless other reasons, we are truly fortunate to have Rabbi Pont as our pulpit rabbi. **Allen Basis**

Rabbi Shaina Bacharach, following her retirement, went above and beyond to provide continuing rabbinic support, at her initiative, to our Green Bay Jewish community during a period of time when we were without a spiritual leader, always keeping our congregation's best interests at the top of her priorities.
Harvey Medress

Rabbi David Fine is my one true go-to friend whose rare blend of intellectual capacity, emotional steadiness, and an extraordinary command of world history allows him to engage thoughtfully with virtually any inquiry into Jewish history and Middle East geopolitics, and I love him for it! **Jason Straus**

During Covid, **Rabbi Micah Hyman** was the associate rabbi at Kehillat Israel. During his tenure, we became friends, and I found him to be an inspirational teacher and exemplary congregational rabbi. He did a video surrounding the song “Over all of these” written and composed by Naomi Shemer. The video and the rabbi’s teaching leave me inspired to this day. **Rick Entin**

Over the past 14 years, **Rabbi Andrew Bloom** has been not only my rabbi but my friend—someone who inspired me by showing up with wisdom and compassion in our darkest moments, lifting us in times of joy, and shaping my life and Jewish journey through his steady, meaningful presence. **Marti Herman**

Rabbi Robert Tobin is an inspiring teacher who brings wisdom, warmth, and openness to every lesson, making Torah feel alive and deeply relevant to today’s world. He is also a gifted community builder who creates spaces where people truly feel seen, connected, and cared for. **Jesse Schneider**

Rabbi Michelle Robinson is a truly inspirational spiritual leader who is tirelessly dedicated to serving each member of our very large congregation; her incredible ability to deeply connect with congregants through times of sorrow and times of joy, the depth and breadth of her knowledge and her ability to draw from multiple sources and perspectives in guiding our community, and her unmatched warmth and sensitivity, have enabled Rabbi Robinson to have a profound impact, and has ensured the vibrancy of our Temple Emanuel community. **Lisa Hills**

While serving as co-chairman of the Ethics Committee at Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie, NY, I grew to know **Rabbi Neal Loevinger** quite well. While teaching or doing ethics consultations in the hospital together, he was deeply thoughtful, compassionate, and empathetic, assisting patients and families in dire circumstances. He taught me to understand pure heartfelt Yiddish empathy. Calling him a mensch is truly an understatement. **Michael Rezak**

Rabbi Neil Zuckerman is not only a gifted educator, but a person whose quiet strength, kindness, and presence deeply shape the people around him. He has a rare ability to meet others exactly where they are, offering wisdom, compassion, and steady support without trying to solve everything—simply by being there in the way someone needs most. At home, he models patience, thoughtfulness, and love even in the most trying moments with our six children and two dogs. Through the way he lives every day, he instills in our family and community a deep love of Torah, a lifelong connection to Israel, and an enduring pride in being Jewish.

Allison Hoffman

Rabbi Amy Rader is a cherished colleague and friend whose profound knowledge, boundless creativity, and passionate spirit have inspired me and countless adults, teens, and children to embrace Judaism—to live it with joy and take deep pride in being part of the Jewish community. **Lori Neiberg**

As a former colleague and continual recipient of her expansive knowledge of Torah and her rare and beautiful soul, I know first hand how deserving my friend and teacher, **Rabbi Abigail Nelson Sosland**, is of this great honor! Mazal tov! **Joan Ashner**

Rabbi Edward Bernstein personifies what it means to be a mensch, demonstrated when he graciously returned after leaving our congregation to be there for my son’s bar mitzvah—a day we could not imagine celebrating without him. His wisdom, intellect, and deep caring for every person he touches continue to inspire our family and community. **Gregg Wiston**

Rabbi Michael Bernstein lives an inspiring life of *kiddush hashem* by weaving mitzvot and Torah teaching consistently in his actions, interactions, and reactions. **Jill Francis**

Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields was the very first assistant rabbi at my synagogue, Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove, IL, where she was beloved by the congregation and the youth groups because of her accessibility and joy of teaching us Torah and Judaism. Mazel tov!!! **Rhonda Cohn**

We are extremely proud of our son-in-law, **Rabbi Mitchel Malkus**, who has made a profound impact on the lives of Jewish young people. **Dennis and Susan Bunder**

We are deeply honored to honor **Rabbi Shai Held**, our neighbor, teacher, and dear friend, for all of the inspirational Torah learning he brings to the world and for his thought leadership in texts, spirituality, and gemilut chasadim.

Judy and David Gilberg

“Miriam received the Torah at Mount Sinai, and transmitted it to the daughters of Zelophehad, the daughters of Zelophehad transmitted it to Deborah, Deborah to Ruth and Ruth to Beruriah. They said three things: Speak up your mind, raise many students, and interpret the Torah.” (Rabbi Rinat Sefania)

Rabbi Beth Naditch, is an inspiring leader, friend, and role model. Like Miriam and D’vorah, she makes her beautiful voice heard in song and prayer; like Bnot Zelophehad, she speaks her mind and fights for justice; like Beruriah, she is a Talmidat Chachamim v’Chachamot, always eager to learn and she raises many many students of spiritual care; and like Ruth, she is loyal to her friends and family, and will do anything for them, and she brings new insights and meaning to texts of Torah and poetry. **Karen and Leor Nevo**

Caring, brilliant, insightful, and deeply respectful, **Rabbi Joshua Heller** is a phenomenal educator and engaging Pied Piper of our Jewish community—doubling synagogue membership in his first year—whose memorable sermons and classes, meaningful eulogies, openness to new ideas, and thoughtful, multigenerational vision, along with 21 years of compassionate support for my family and me, have made an enduring difference at B’nai Torah and in the lives of Jews everywhere. **Ilene Abrams**

Rabbi E. Noach Shapiro inspires all of us by his commitment and passion for justice and his deep care for those around him. He is a treasured friend and makes a passable chicken marsala.

Jeremy and Rachel Brown

I feel so lucky to be in the congregation of **Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove**. He brings a lens to Jewish life that honors the past and all of our traditions, shows a great depth of understanding of the present and what will resonate in this moment, and all while being mindful of what is important for the future of Judaism to thrive. **Amy Bressman**

Among **Rabbi David Lerner’s** many and indefatigable contributions to our community and my Jewish life, I appreciate greatly his prayer before the Torah is removed from the ark on Shabbat. Over the years they have become more personal and express both his astute sensitivity to the mood of the kahal as well as the rich prophetic voice into which he has grown. **David Landis**

Rabbi Anat Moskowitz is a dynamic and passionate leader who connected on a personal level with both of our children and enriched their Jewish identities, making a lasting impact on how they interact with their Jewish community as young adults. We couldn’t be more grateful for her presence in their lives during their formative years.

Ilene and Scott Raynes

Rabbi Eli Garfinkel’s warmth and compassion have gently nurtured my spirit over the years especially at challenging moments as when my husband died during the early days of covid and normal rituals were strained. I relish learning with the rabbi as I am challenged intellectually in a safe space and the welcome I feel when just dropping in for a chat. Our temple family is blessed to have Rabbi Garfinkel as our spiritual leader. Mazel Tov rabbi as you are honored today.

Betsy Antonoff

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal’s rabbinate is defined by his belief in a better future for Conservative Jewry and the commitment to engaging with the entire community as we strive to bring that future to life. **Jonathan Sokobin**

As president of the Norwich Synagogue and a deputy lieutenant of Norfolk, I am deeply grateful to **Rabbi Roderick Young**, one of the outstanding communicators of his generation, whose visionary leadership has reinvigorated a synagogue, doubled its membership, drawn Jewish people of all denominations and none, inspired children and families, and positioned our community at the heart of significant civic and county-wide initiatives in Norfolk. **Marian Prinsley**

Rabbi Sara Zacharia embodies a deep and rooted Judaism that shines through in her works of *chesed*, *tzedek*, and *chinuch*. Her career has been dedicated to mentorship of teens, college students and Rabbinical students. She has worked as a bridge of worlds, whether they be across faiths, heritages,

or Jewish denominations. She models extraordinary self awareness, and has demonstrated enormous resilience through adversity and challenge. We were privileged to have Sara as our M'sasderet Ketubah, and have the pleasure of seeing her name and signature on the wall of our home.

Joanna Dulkan

Rabbi Iscah Waldman is a wonderful colleague: deeply funny, passionate about making Judaics relevant, and unapologetic about naming what could be and how things could be made even better. **Paul-Michael Huseman**

Rabbi Michael Pont embodies a warm, approachable presence and inspires our entire community through his thoughtful words, meaningful teachings, and the genuine way in which he connects with every person he serves. **Dara Winston**

I had the pleasure and honor of succeeding **Rabbi Shaina Bacharach** as rabbi of Congregation Cnesses Israel in Green Bay, and I experienced firsthand her extraordinary generosity of spirit, mentorship, and unwavering passion for Judaism that left a lasting imprint on both me and the community. **Moishe Steigmann**

Rabbi David Fine is our brilliant teacher, sharing his incredible knowledge and passion for Judaism and a wonderfully competent administrator, attentive to all details of helping our synagogue run smoothly and on budget. **Johanna Resnick Rosen**

Rabbi Micah Hyman's pastoral skills are beyond excellent. I know many congregants would agree. For me he was particularly supportive during my husband's illness (Parkinson's with dementia) and his death with ritual and, more importantly, for me as I dealt with my emotions, stress, and grief. He remains available to and supportive of me all these many years later.

Sandy Edwards

Rabbi Robert Tobin, a remarkable scholar and teacher, powerfully embodies the depth and wisdom of our people's history, the beauty of our many voices in the present, and the promise of our future. No other rabbi in my life has had a greater impact on me personally.

Howard Kastner

Rabbi Neal Loevinger has served in various major capacities (including an executive officer) at Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC), which is the major organization for Jewish Chaplains worldwide. Neal has been a wise and incredibly helpful member of our team. His guidance, leadership, and common sense has had many important and positive effects for us. Coupled with his compassion and professional skill, this makes Neal a prime figure in the world of Jewish Spiritual Care. **Rabbi Joseph S. Ozarowski**

Rabbi Neil Zuckerman is a brilliant rabbi, a gifted teacher and a wonderful friend. I am blessed to learn from you, be guided by you and to call you my rabbi and even a better friend! **Darcy Dalton**

I have turned to **Rabbi Abigail Nelson Sosland** for my halachic questions as well as many ethical questions. Her down to earth, intelligent, and knowledgeable responses have been invaluable. While I may be biased as she is my sister, I think she is one of the smartest and most thoughtful rabbis I have encountered.

Rachel Sosland

Rabbi Edward Bernstein, BCC is an innovative, empathetic, and insightful leader. As a rabbi and chaplain, he lifts up all whom he serves with his Torah, warmth, and genuine kindness. His creation of our NeshamaCast podcast continues to innovatively and poignantly share the voice of chaplaincy through the pastoral care and Jewish communities. We are thrilled that he is receiving this well-deserved honor. Mazal Tov from all of us at NAJC!

Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn

My favorite attribute of **Rabbi Michael Bernstein** is that in addition to being a spiritual leader, an activist for social justice, and a supporter of Israel, he is also my friend and I treasure our relationship. **Don Pozin**

Hiring **Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields** as the executive director of Women's League has brought her guidance, knowledge, skills and compassion to our "congregation" of over 30,000 sisters. We are so blessed!

Carol S. Simon

As our head of school at CESJDS, **Rabbi Mitchel Malkus** has embodied a pluralistic rabbinate grounded in deep Jewish learning, moral courage, and respect for difference, inspiring our community to live Jewish values with openness, integrity, and profound purpose. For 13 years, through his steady presence, principled leadership, and profound commitment to Jewish learning and community, Rabbi Mitch Malkus has inspired CESJDS and our broader community to see Jewish life as both a calling and a responsibility. Through his steady leadership, Rabbi Mitch Malkus grounded our community in shared values while caring deeply for every individual who calls CESJDS home, showing up for people in moments of joy, challenge, and loss. As our head of school at CESJDS, Rabbi Mitch Malkus, was a constant presence who helped our CESJDS community navigate the ever-changing environment, guiding us with poise, purpose, and dignity through both growth and challenging times.

Stacy Mensh Schlactus

We celebrate **Rabbi Beth Naditch** who, with soulful davenning, passionate learning and text study, spiritual care, abundant poetry and story-telling, humor, wisdom, exquisite hazzanut, big heart and deep connection to our community's sorrows and joys, has led the Yamim Noraim of the Havurah Minyan of the Capital District for 24 years. **Anna Rosen**

Watching **Rabbi Joshua Heller** serve our congregants up close has been nothing short of inspirational. He has the unique gift of being able to give a meaningful lesson to a Kol Nidre crowd and also being able to connect a single individual during a time of grief. When we talk of the mission of the Jewish people being Tikun Olam, Rabbi Heller is the ultimate example!! **Michael Siegel**

Rabbi E. Noach Shapiro reignited a spiritual path that I had lost in my youth through his honesty, curiosity, and passion in helping me find my own Jewish path forward.

Richard Freedman

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove has a deep love and respect for humanity. He approaches everyone he meets with generosity and compassion, living out the principle that every person is created in the image of God. We are inspired every day by him!

The Cosgrove Family

Rabbi Anat Moskowitz has brought the joy of Judaism to our family as a mentor and model of a strong Jewish woman for our two daughters who became bat mitzvah and as a friend and cultural and religious anchor for myself and my husband. **Sarah Levison**

As the week winds down, I become increasingly eager to hear, as **Rabbi Eli Garfinkel's** Shabbos sermon, the next installment of Gimme Some Torah, his popular YouTube series, and what it teaches about the week's events.

Robert Greenfield

Wishing tremendous mazal tov to **Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal** with recognition and deep appreciation for your ability to both dream lofty visions and to translate those visions into the lives of real people. I am grateful for your leadership and all you do for the Jewish people, for communities I care deeply about, and for me personally. **Adam Simon**

Rabbi Roderick Young was the associate rabbi at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah when we joined in 1998, and he was one of the reasons we felt at home there and compelled to become part of this community. He led Taryn through her conversion process with consummate skill and care and then conducted our marriage ceremony under a chuppah made of Japanese wedding kimonos, in a Tibetan spiritual center, investing it with meaning and love.

Ivan Zimmerman

Rabbi Sara Zacharia's profound spirituality and masterful textual knowledge are matched only by her extraordinary gift for tending to every *neshama* she encounters, with genuine compassion, practical wisdom, and a kindness that touches the heart.

Sarah & Seth Guthartz

Rabbi Iscah Waldman is an outstanding teacher who makes the text, especially midrash, come alive and jump off the page. She is engaging, exciting and not afraid to confront head-on whatever the text presents.

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky

You, **Rabbi Michael Pont**, personify the kindness and caring that makes a rabbi a leader of his congregation and a mensch for all the world. You bring blessing and honor to us all.

Love, Mom and Dad

In 2003 love was in the air when **Rabbi Shaina Bacharach** arrived from Mississippi with her husband Bob to lead our Green Bay, WI, congregation into the future; embracing authenticity, Rabbi exposed our families to the love of Judaism through services, classes, food, song and always with her ever present smile. **Sandra Burrows**

In just three short years, under **Rabbi Micah Hyman's** extraordinary leadership, he has transformed our congregation, fraught with a difficult history, into a vibrant community and set the foundation for the development of a long-term vision to sustain Jewish life on the Central Coast of California. **Abraham B. (Rami) Shani**

Rabbi Neil Zuckerman leads with his warmth and wisdom. His pastoral touch, inspiring teachings, and *ahavat Yisrael* are moving to everyone lucky enough to encounter him. I am so grateful that he is my mentor. **Shayna Golkow Zauzmer**

Rabbi Abigail Nelson Sosland, my rabbi and friend, teaches with both intellect and heart, humor, and the rare courage of a scholar unafraid to be wholly herself. **Barbara Glickstein**

I've had the privilege of being by **Rabbi Michael Bernstein's** side as he evolved from a graduate student exploring Emanuel Levinas' imperative to see the holiness in the face of the other, to realizing that this call would be best served by a career looking into the eyes of a congregant who is in mourning, or planning a *simcha*, or learning Torah; by speaking at the State House on behalf of those less visible, or building partnerships in interfaith dialogue and understanding, all of which he has done with compassion, sweetness, and wisdom. **Tracie Bernstein**

Hineini, I am here, in the joyous places and the hardest places; I am ready to support you and accompany you on this journey wherever it may lead. It is this art, skilled practice, and service of Hineini that has shaped **Rabbi Beth Naditch's** extraordinary career in the rabbinate. A chaplain's chaplain, a teacher's teacher, and a rabbi's rebbi, Rabbi Naditch has not only brought her pulpit to the bedside and to traumatized communities, but she has taken on the leadership mantle of training the Jewish community's next generations of chaplains, rabbis, educators, and spiritual first-responders. Because of her tireless work, our communal capacity for compassion, responsiveness, and healing continues to expand at a time when such needs are paramount. **Allison Cook**

Rabbi Joshua Heller's thoughtful and energetic leadership, both spiritually and communally, strengthens Am Yisrael, making all of us better. **Seth Greenberg**

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove is a brilliant thinker, gifted teacher, and visionary leader. His words echo around the Jewish world, and his impact is enormous. I feel very lucky to learn from him and call him my mentor. **Shayna Golkow Zauzmer**

Rabbi Roderick Young in one sentence is impossible, but for our family he has been the most thoughtful, inspiring and generous b'nai mitzvah teacher we could have ever hoped for.

Deborah Carpenter

Rabbi Iscah Waldman's belief in learning by doing and in giving students multiple ways to express their thinking, combined with her role as a thoughtful and creative collaborator, has helped us create interdisciplinary projects that bring Judaics and STEM together in more authentic and meaningful ways.

Dr. Shira Kelmanovich

Rabbi Shaina Bacharach has been and is my learned teacher, mentor, and friend; she has taught me valuable lessons in the complexities of halakah and she embodies the joy of reading Torah. **Martin W. Holden**

Rabbi Micah Hyman truly sees congregants as individuals, and his deeply personal approach infuses holiness into his rabbinate and every Jewish lifecycle event he leads.

Sonia Daccarett & Alex Bernstein

Rabbi Beth Naditch truly embodies the role of a teacher, grounding her work in curiosity and trauma-informed care to hold space with deep compassion, foster connection, and hope during times of great stress, and prepare her students to lead authentically while honoring the full range of human emotion.

Tammy B. Retalic

I am blessed to witness how you,

Rabbi Joshua Heller, build dynamic community with wisdom of the heart and wisdom of the mind.

Dr. Lynne Heller

רבות בנות עשו חיל ואת עליית על-פולנה.

Many women have done well, But you surpass them all.” If you know **Rabbi Iscah Waldman**, you know she would giggle at this *pasuk*; however, Iscah has surpassed the traditional rabbinic trajectory: a rabbi, artist, mentor, teacher, educator, and *poseket halakah* with a unique ability to bring Judaism to life with a blend of wisdom, humor, seriousness, and humility like no one else! From STEM *tefillah* to heated debates about cultured meat, we are excited for Rabbi Waldman reaching this milestone.

Rabbi Meirav Kallush

As president of Congregation Beth David, it is my honor and privilege to share that **Rabbi Micah Hyman** has been inspirational, bringing passion, knowledge, and kindness to every aspect of congregational life in our community.

Karin Traber

As an expert in trauma-informed spiritual care and a clinical pastoral educator, **Rabbi Beth Naditch** has shared her wisdom and inspiration with countless clergy-in-training and professionals in the helping professions both in the US and in Israel. **Katie Rimer**

Rabbi Iscah Waldman has inspired countless students and colleagues at Golda Och Academy as chair of the Judaic Studies department, through interdisciplinary work in our Maker Space, advising the Moot Beit Din team, and teaching courses in Business Ethics and Social Justice, Rabbinics, and Jewish History. She is most deserving of this honor! **Gail Shapiro**

Rabbi Dorothy Richman has been an extraordinary teacher, mentor, and colleague in my life, role modeling loving and strong feminine leadership and transmitting an embodied and creative path of Torah that is deeply rooted in tradition while joyfully expansive, emergent, and alive. **Rebecca Schisler**

Rabbi Robert Tobin has been an awe-inspiring force in our community, transforming lives (and futures!) through his tireless leadership—bringing clergy of all faiths together, empowering teens through interfaith leadership, and reminding us all, by example, how powerful one devoted life can be.

Stephanie Abrahams

I have had the privilege of being in a women’s learning group, Kevah’s Cool Women, for 13 years. With **Rabbi Dorothy Richman’s** guidance, we have studied the sacred texts of our traditions. We are a divergent group of women, and R. Richman has made these texts inviting and accessible. She is a gifted teacher and always has inspiring thoughts and commentary in response to our questions and curiosities. R. Richman is well deserving of this honor and recognition from The Jewish Theological Seminary. **Leslie Valas**

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