# Rooted & Relevant: RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM IN 2018



NOVEMBER 15 – 18, 2018 PHILADELPHIA



and

Reconstructionist RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

Last month's attack in Pittsburgh occurred just as this program was going to press. We are making space in Convention programming to honor the memory of those killed and to pray for the complete healing of those who were wounded.

May those who lost their lives be remembered for a blessing.

#### **SOCIAL GUIDE**

Share your Convention experience with your network and see what others are saying on social media. Please use #Reconvention2018 in your posts - and remember to tag us!



@ReconstructingJudaism

#Reconvention2018



@ReconstructingJudaism

#Reconvention2018



@ReconJudaism

#Reconvention2018



Snapchatters, take a photo anywhere in the Doubletree and swipe to find our custom filter

Times and locations of all programs are on the

- 1 Daily Sheets
- 2 Schedule on the app
- 3 Schedule on www.Reconvention2018.org

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Enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi during the convention:

Network: DOUBLETREE-MEETING

Password: KAPLAN (use all capital letters)



During the Convention, photographers and videographers will be capturing everyone's images to be used for highlighting, uplifting and promoting the Reconstructionist movement. If you would like further information, please visit the Registration Desk.

# Reconstructing Judaism

#### **MISSION**

Reconstructing Judaism cultivates and supports Jewish living, learning and leadership for a changing world.

#### VISION

A more just and compassionate world where creative Jewish living and learning guide us toward lives of holiness, meaning and purpose.

#### **OUR VALUES**

We strive to realize these core values in every initiative and interaction:

#### TALMUD TORAH תלמוד תורה Sacred Study

We delve into the wellsprings of our tradition, taking hold of Torah and challenging it to speak to our lives today.

#### KEDUSHAH קדושה Holiness

We open ourselves to manifestations of the divine as transmitted in our tradition and experienced in our lives.

#### KEHILLAH קהילה

#### Diverse and Inclusive Community

We build diverse, participatory, joyfilled communities that embrace Jews, seekers and our loved ones. As we encounter difference, we strive to respect each other's voices, listening deeply and engaging with hesed (open and generous hearts).

# AHAVAT YISRAEL אהבת ישראל Hope and Healing

We act to bring about the vision that the Jewish people, in Israel and throughout the world, will flourish along with our neighbors in peace and security. We seek healing for the rending of our communities and our hearts.

#### TZEDEK צדק Justice and Sustainability

We fight for justice, sustenance and dignity for all peoples. We work toward sustainability for our world.

#### HIDDUSH חידוש Evolving Judaism

Inspired by Torah, the wider world and the Jewish people in all our diversity, we co-create new ways of expressing Jewishness.

#### Berukhim haba'im! Berukhot haba'ot!

On behalf of the leadership of Reconstructing Judaism, we are delighted to welcome you to Rooted and Relevant: Reconstructing Judaism in 2018. Over the next several days, this community will sing together, learn together and pray together. Together we will create, reflect, argue (maybe a little) and plan. We are grateful to the extraordinary team of volunteers and staff that has put together the rich program that we are all about to experience. It's our hope that we will all feel a deep and abiding sense of connection and belonging. We will build community that embodies the best of what it means to be Reconstructionist Jews.

Thank you for choosing to give your time, energy and resources to this gathering. We are all bringing our best selves and we hope that we will each be transformed—perhaps by an encounter that cracks us open, a powerful teaching, or a song that touches our hearts. We expect that all of us will return home full of renewed energy, ideas and relationships that will invigorate us as we continue the holy work of reconstructing Judaism and building communities in which we—and our children—can live and thrive.

Seth Rosen

Chair, Board of Governors

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D.

Deborah Wartunn

President

#### Dear Hevre,

Welcome to Philadelphia and to our convention: Rooted and Relevant: Reconstructing Judaism in 2018! We are thrilled with the response, attendance and support for this convention — the first in nearly a decade and the first since we became one organization supporting communities all over North America and around the world!

During our time together we will learn from and with experts, scholars and lay leaders; we will engage in conversations; we will ask questions; we will listen; we will pray together; sing together; dance together and celebrate all that we do every day in our communities to Reconstruct Judaism. We hope that during this time you will reconnect with friends from conventions past and form new friendships, deepening your sense of belonging to this community of communities. If this is your first convention, may it be the first of many!

From the inception of convention planning, more than eighteen months ago, our goal has been to create a gathering that combines joyous camaraderie and thoughtful grappling with relevant questions. We want to provide many takeaways --memories of delightful moments spent as well as resources, some answers, and even more questions. We will know that we have been successful if you return home excited about all you have experienced and inspired to share what you learned here that can strengthen your own communities.

Planning convention has been a labor of love for both of us. This has been a quintessentially Reconstructionist endeavor—lots of meetings, lots and lots of process, and a true and very rewarding lay - staff partnership. It would not have come together without the commitment, at every level, of the administration and staff of Reconstructing Judaism.

In addition, we would like to recognize our partnership with the staff and leadership of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association who made a conscious decision to modify the scheduling of their convention to coincide with our dates, thus enabling more rabbis to participate.

Add to that the generous support of the Reconstructing Judaism Board of Governors, the extraordinary creativity and enthusiasm of our far-flung Advisory Committee, and the knowledge and hospitality of the Local Committee. Of special note is the Affiliate Support team who put in countless hours—Tresa Grauer, Jackie Land, and Jacob Weinberg, with additional support from Taryn Wyron and Rabbi Maurice Harris. We add to this list the tireless Victoria Guentter from the Communications team. *Todah rabbah*.

L'Shalom,

Susan Beckerman Convention Chair

Lani Moss

Convention Vice Chair

## RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION PRE-CONFERENCE

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

## **8 A.M.** Registration and Coffee

9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Sing a New Song: Understanding Trauma and Creating Healing DIANE LANDSBERG, Ph.D., PHILIP MONROE, Psy.D.

12 P.M.

Address

# NAOMI ADLER, Esq., PRESIDENT & CEO OF JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

12:30 P.M.

Lunch

Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia for their generous sponsorship of this meal.

1:30 P.M.

Sing a New Song: Understanding Trauma and Creating Healing (Continued)

3 P.M.

Concluding Panel: Bringing Trauma-Awareness Into Our Communities and Rabbinates

#### RABBI NANCY EPSTEIN, RABBI JESSICA ROSENBERG, BARBARA BREITMAN

4:15 P.M.

Minkhah

#### **RABBI HANNAH SPIRO**

6 P.M.

Dinner and Bowling Party at North Bowl

Buses will run from the hotel at 5:30 P.M. and 6 P.M., returning at 8:30 P.M. and 9 P.M. North Bowl: 909 North 2nd Street, Phila., PA 19123 | Phone: 215.238.2695

# RENA MINI-CONFERENCE

Thursday, November 15, 2018

#### 9-9:30 A.M.

Community Building: Lesson in a Jar

#### 9:30-11 A.M.

How Are Jews Like Potatoes?
Our Diversity is Our Strength
Learning to Teach About the Diverse Jewish Movements

#### 11 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Sharing Successes, Building Skills

12:30-1:30 P.M. Lunch

#### 1:30-2:30 P.M.

**RENA Business Meeting** 

#### 2:30-4:15 P.M.

Embracing Nuance and Loving Israel: How Can Our Israel Education Be Intellectually Honest, Politically Astute, and Still Filled With Love?

Together we will grapple with the ways that diversity in congregational politics, the lessons of movements such as #YouNeverToldMe and If Not Now, and our own internal compasses influence decisions on Israel education.

## THURSDAY

November 15, 2018

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#### **ALL DAY**

Convention Registration

#### 8 A.M.

Shakharit

#### RABBI ANNA BOSWELL-LEVY, RABBI NATHAN MARTIN

Study

#### **RABBILES BRONSTEIN**

9:30 A.M.-6 P.M.

Affinity group meetings for Activists, Executive Directors, Instant Choir, Instant Klezmer, Joint Israel Commission, Presidents, RENA and RRA

9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

Session Block A/Off-Site Experiences

11:30 A.M.

Lunch On Your Own/Fair Food Action: Leafleting at Wendy's

1 P.M.-2:30 P.M.

Session Block B

2:45 P.M.-4:15 P.M.

Session Block C

4:30 P.M.-6 P.M.

Session Block D

6 P.M.

Minkhah/Ma'ariv

**RABBI JEREMY SCHWARTZ** 

6:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

Dinner/Formal Welcome

7:45 P.M.-9 P.M.

Opening Program: Reconstructing Jewish Communities

9:15 P.M.

Storytelling, A Moth-Style Storytelling Program

RABBI SETH GOLDSTEIN

10 P.M. Late Night Programing

Music, Comedy, Movie Screening, Storytelling

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Students will lead Beit Midrash sessions throughout the day. For more information please see the daily sheets or visit the RRC table in the vendor area.

#### SESSION BLOCK A

MUSIC

#### **Instant Choir**

#### **RABBI ELIZABETH BOLTON**

Come together and sing with Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton – create a Reconstructionist choir from all over the globe!

SESSION TIME: 9:30 A.M. -10:45A.M.

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### **Reconstructionism 101**

#### **RABBI AMBER POWERS**

An introductory session for those who want to learn more about a Reconstructionist approach to Judaism.

ACTIVISTS

# The Intersectionality of Racism and Antisemitism RABBI MORDECHAI LIEBLING, GRAIE BARASCH HAGANS

We will look at how racism and antisemitism function in society including: how they divide people, internalize oppression, and their role in the white nationalist movement. We will examine their origins in Christian hegemony. This will be highly experiential.

OPEN TO NON-RABBIS | SESSION TIME: 9:30 A.M. -4:15P.M.

LEADERSHIP

#### Leading from Strength

#### **NESHAMA MOUSSEAU, M.S.W., MICHAEL FREEDMAN**

Executive Directors face multiple issues serving different constituents. This clinic will look at cases from the field, and with experienced coaches, work through possible solutions. Take away tools that you can use when facing similar or other challenging circumstances.

OPEN TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

#### PRESIDENTS ONLY

#### **Sharing Session**

In the first block for Presidents only, we will share ideas, strategies, best practices and challenges from our communities. There will be chances to network and share in small and large groups.

#### SESSION BLOCK B

#### Creativity and Collaboration: The Art of Making Music for Community GAYANNE GUERIN, WILL ROBERTSON, RABBI JOSHUA LESSER

Creating meaningful congregational music is more challenging than we recognize. At Congregation Bet Haverim, the music program has thrived through a collaborative process. Join the members of the CBH Chorus, Band, and Strings as they deconstruct their process in creating a beloved cornerstone of the Atlanta Jewish community.

#### Crochet Your Own Kippah **ROSA COHEN**

Join Rosa Cohen in creating your own kippah through the craft of crochet!

#### Jewish Speech Ethics in a World Filled With Vitriol RABBI DAVID TEUTSCH, Ph.D.

Political discourse in the U.S.A. has become the most polarized it has been in our lifetime. The rich tradition of Jewish speech ethics can provide perspective and guide us in our relationships. We will talk about implementing that Jewish perspective in our personal lives and congregations.

# Make Your Own Shabbat Candles SHOSH LOVETT-GRAFF

Get crafty with Reconstructing Judaism as we melt, dip and pour our own beeswax Shabbat candles. This hands-on project offers you the chance to take home a homemade memento from Convention.

LIMITED TO 15 PEOPLE.

**LEADERSHIF** 

# The Synagogue Executive Director: A Changing Role for Changing Times CANTOR ADINA FRYDMAN AND KATE LAUZAR

We will review key findings from UJA-Federation of New York's recent study of the executive director/administrator role. Using these findings as a jumping off point, participants will workshop, with their leadership teams, staffing models, and discuss best practices in hiring, managing and supporting executive directors/administrators.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATORS. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS. RABBIS AND PRESIDENTS

#### SESSION BLOCK C

MUSI

# Experiencing Prayer Through Bluegrass and Old-Time Music With Nefesh Mountain DONI ZASLOFF, ERIC LINDBERG

Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg of Nefesh Mountain lead this spiritual and soulful workshop/song session, diving into the beautiful relationship between melody, harmony, text and prayer. Together, everyone will sing and discover the magic between bluegrass music and Jewish heritage, celebrating the majestic nature of the universe and natural world. Be sure to see Nefesh Mountain in concert on Saturday night!

NUSI S

# Instant Klezmer DANBLACKSBERG

Bring your instruments and join Dan Blacksberg in creating a klezmer band. You will get to share your talents after dinner on Thursday.

# Issues That Have and Have Not Changed RABBI JACOB STAUB, Ph.D.

Rabbi Jacob Staub was the editor of *The Reconstructionist* from 1983 to 1989 and now directs Evolve: Groundbreaking Conversations. Rabbi Staub will compare the issues we confronted in the 1980s with those before us today. Visit Evolve at *Evolve.ReconstructingJudaism.org* 

# From Strength to Strength SUSAN SPERO, MICHAEL FREEDMAN

How do you get to healthy relationships? What works, what doesn't – a safe space for dialogue between administrators, executive directors, rabbis and presidents.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, RABBIS AND PRESIDENTS

#### SESSION BLOCK D

### ISRAI

#### Alt+Neu Education: Innovative Intergenerational Programming YAEL ROSEN

Younger and older generations build intergenerational connections through technology and personal narratives. Engaging in mutual learning, youth and older members will use apps to share life experiences to the worldwide G2G: Generation to Generation story collection at The Museum of the Jewish People.

# RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### Hashivenu Salon RABBI DEBORAH WAXMAN, Ph.D.

Join Rabbi Deborah Waxman for a live *Hashivenu* salon, including an interview with board member Susan Levine about how Jewish practice and community helped her recover from a catastrophic accident, questions from the audience and conversation about resilience and podcasting.

MUSIC

## Instant Choir With Instant Klezmer DAN BLACKSBERG, RABBI ELIZABETH BOLTON

Bring your voices and your instruments together in one room for a lively musical session.

MUSIC

## Music Specialists Programming BARRY BRIAN, Ph.D.

Join Barry Brian in coming together to share Reconstructionist music and developing a plan to share music in the future.

CRAFT

# The Rule of Six VICTORIA GUENTTER

Together we will explore the significance of the number six in Judaism and the six (or more) aspects of our identities. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own personal hexagon art piece that they feel best represents themselves/their identities.

LEADERSHII

#### Moving Forward: Executive Directors, Administrators and Reconstructing Judaism MARLA COHEN, TRESA GRAUER, Ph.D.

Executive directors and administrators are reconstructing Judaism. Reconstructing Judaism as an organization is here to support our work as we collaborate with our congregational stakeholders. This session recaps what we've learned, what still needs to be answered, and where we can get support.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

PRESIDENTS ONLY

## Standing on the Shoulders of the Ones Who Came Before Us

In the fourth block for Presidents only, current presidents will learn from and share ideas with a panel of past presidents.

#### RRA CONVENTION DAY 2 - FOR RABBIS ONLY

RR/

PLENARY SESSION

# Beit Midrash: Kaplan on Salvation MEL SCULT, Ph.D.

While we do not ordinarily associate spirituality with Kaplan, he understood the fully-realized individual to be the goal of Judaism and of the religious life. Join Dr. Scult for an exploration of Kaplan's writing on spirituality and salvation.

OPEN TO RRA MEMBERS ONLY

PLENARY SESSION - RRA FULL MEMBERS ONLY

# Endogamy and the Reconstructionist Rabbinate: RRA Conversation

#### RABBI SETH GOLDSTEIN, RRA PRESIDENT

The decision of the RRC to graduate students with a non-Jewish partner has opened up the topic of intermarriage/interpartnering and the rabbinate in a new way. How do we as Reconstructionist rabbis engage with this issue both within our association and in the communities we serve? \*This session contributes to Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations. Visit Evolve at Evolve.ReconstructingJudaism.org

#### SESSION BLOCK B

RR.

WORKSHOP

#### New Thinking on Weddings

#### **RABBI RONI HANDLER**

Drawing on her experience at *Ritualwell.org*, Rabbi Handler will share exciting new trends in wedding rituals and guide a discussion of new horizons. In the ever-changing world of Jewish identity and shifting definitions of relationships, what do we as rabbis bring to this work that is meaningful and authentic?

# The Synagogue Executive Director: A Changing Role for Changing Times CANTOR ADINA FRYDMAN AND KATE LAUZAR

We will review key findings from UJA-Federation of New York's recent study of the executive director/administrator role. Using these findings as a jumping off point, participants will workshop, with their leadership teams, staffing models, and discuss best practices in hiring, managing and supporting executive directors/administrators.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, RABBIS AND PRESIDENTS

RR

WORKSHOP

## Trauma: Application of Our Learning RABBI JESSICA ROSENBERG

Learn about the exciting new initiative at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College on Trauma-Informed Rabbinic Training and explore how applications of trauma-awareness and healing modalities can be put into practice through ritual, prayer and text study, Shabbat and holiday celebrations and more.

WORKSHOP

#### Racial Justice and the Rabbinate: Continuing the Conversation

RABBI TOBA SPITZER, RABBI JOSHUA LESSER, RABBI LINDA POTEMKEN, RABBI SANDRA LAWSON AND RABBI JACOB ADLER

As (mostly) white rabbis serving (mostly) white communities, how do we bravely dive into the conversations about white supremacy, privilege, and power without tripping over ourselves? This will be a continuation of the conversation started at our mini-conference on racial justice. \*This session contributes to Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations. Visit Evolve at Evolve.ReconstructingJudaism.org

#### SESSION BLOCK C

R R COHORT

## Community-Based Rabbinate RABBI ELISA GOLDBERG

Join other colleagues working in community settings (e.g., chaplaincy, agency, campus) to discuss the rewards and challenges of serving in this nontraditional (but increasingly more common) rabbinate.

R

#### COHORT

# Retired or Thinking-About-Retirement Cohort RABBI STEVEN CARR REUBEN, Ph.D.

Join an engaging conversation for retired rabbis and those contemplating retirement.

RRA

#### COHORT

#### 15 Years-Plus Cohort

#### **RABBI LINDA POTEMKEN**

This group will continue to explore the opportunities and the challenges for those who have served one community over time.

줐

#### COHORT

#### **New Pulpit**

#### **RABBI ELYSE WECHTERMAN**

Rabbis in their first pulpit or returning to the pulpit after working elsewhere are invited to share concerns, challenges, and triumphs and offer mutual support.

LEADERSHIP

# From Strength to Strength SUSAN SPERO, MICHAEL FREEDMAN

How do you get to healthy relationships? What works, what doesn't – a safe space for dialogue between administrators, executive directors, rabbis and presidents.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, RABBIS AND PRESIDENTS

#### THURSDAY November 15, 2018

PLENARY SESSION

# Ethics Plenary: Case Studies From the #MeToo Movement RABBI MIRA BETH WASSERMAN, Ph.D.

Within and beyond the Jewish community, victims and survivors of sexual harassment and other institutional abuses of power are telling their stories. How can Jewish texts and traditions guide our responses to this #MeToo moment, helping us to act with justice and compassion? This session will combine hevrutah study of classical Jewish texts and small-group discussions of case studies.

#### FAIR FOOD ACTION

JUSTICI

#### Leafleting at Wendy's, 15th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia

Join representatives of the Alliance for Fair Food, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and members of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association for an afternoon action against the Wendy's Company, the last holdout against worker-driven food justice in the fast food industry. Information and details available at the T'ruah table in the vendor area. #TomatoRabbis

#### **EVENING PROGRAMS**

PLENARY SESSION

#### **Reconstructing Jewish Communities**

RABBI SID SCHWARZ, Ph.D., RABBI LAUREN GRABELLE HERRMANN, RABBI SHIRA STUTMAN, RABBI MICHAEL STRASSFELD

This plenary session is an intergenerational conversation among RRC graduates who are leading the way around communal innovation and expanding notions of community, both inside and outside of synagogues. How do we create communities that are both rooted and relevant?

## Storytelling RABBI SETH GOLDSTEIN

A Moth-style storytelling program hosted by Rabbi Seth Goldstein.

#### OFF-SITE EXPERIENCES



#### Field Trip to the National **Constitution Center**

The National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life by hosting interactive exhibits and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American

constitutional tradition. As the Museum of We the People, the Constitution Center features hundreds of interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. Meet the signers in Signers Hall and see a special exhibit about Alexander Hamilton!



#### Serve Meals at the **Broad Street Ministry**

The Broad Street Ministry says "We thought we would change the world. Turns out we can change the neighborhood, which isn't too bad." On Thursday (from 10:30 am – 1 P.M.),

Convention attendees will have the opportunity to participate in Radical Hospitality at the Ministry and fulfill various volunteer roles in the preparation and service of the lunch time meal to the Ministry's guests. Guests are welcomed into the Sanctuary-Dining Room where they receive the service one would receive at a fine restaurant, and with the hospitality you would feel at your family's holiday meal.

THIS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE HAS A LIMIT OF 20 PEOPLE.



#### Field Trip to the National Museum of American **Jewish History**

The National Museum of American Jewish History, on Independence Mall, presents educational programs and experiences that

preserve, explore, and celebrate the history of Jews in America. On each of the core exhibition's three and a half floors you will encounter people, episodes, ideas, and experiences that highlight the religious, social, political, and economic lives of American Jews. You will see historical objects, enter period environments, and experience cutting-edge interactive technology.

## FRIDAY

November 16, 2018

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7:30 AM Yoga Shalom

8 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Convention Registration

**8 A.M.** Breakfast Individually

**8 A.M.** Shakharit

9 A.M. Welcoming Gathering for Everyone

9:45 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
Reconstructing Food and Justice Panel

11:30 A.M. Pick Up Box Lunches

11:45 A.M.-1:15 P.M. Session Block A

1:30 P.M.-3 P.M. Session Block B

3:15 P.M.-4:45 P.M. Session Block C

4:45 P.M. Shabbat Preparation

4:45 P.M.

Minkhah and Memorial Service

5:45 P.M. Kabbalat Shabbat

**7:15 P.M.** Dinner

9 P.M.-10 P.M.

Evening Program: CBH Chorus, Band, and Strings

10:15 P.M. Late Night Programming Storytelling, Music, Comedy

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Students will lead Beit Midrash sessions throughout the day. For more information please see the daily sheets or visit the RRC table in the vendor area.

#### **Friday Services**

Shakharit RABBI RACHEL WEISS

Study RABBI NINA MANDEL

Movement LISA LEVINE

## Minkhah and Memorial Service RABBI DEBORAH WAXMAN, Ph. D., RABBI ELYSE WECHTERMAN

This year, hate crimes have burst into the headlines and struck Reconstructionist communities directly. Last winter, University Synagogue of Irvine, Calif., was rocked by the murder of Blaze Bernstein, z'l. This fall, Dor Hadash of Pittsburgh lost their beloved Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, z'l, and is still praying for the recovery of Dan Leger. At this service, we will honor the memories of all the departed, offer and take comfort together, and pray for resilience.

Kabbalat Shabbat RABBI KATIE MIZRAHI, RABBI BENJAMIN BARNETT

> Erev Shabbat Drash RABBI JOSHUA LESSER

#### PROGRAMMING OPEN TO ALL

#### MORNING PROGRAMS

# Welcoming Gathering for Everyone RABBI ISAAC SAPOSNIK, RABBI JACOB STAUB, Ph.D., LANI MOSS

Berukhim haba'im!

Come join everyone at Convention for an interactive and enthusiastic "Shalom!" with Camp Havaya and Havaya Arts' executive director, Rabbi Isaac Saposnik. Celebrate our community of communities with old friends and soon-to-be new friends from across North America and beyond. Then hear from Rabbi Jacob Staub, Ph.D. about Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations, an online communal conversation about the urgent issues of our day. See you there! Visit Evolve at *Evolve.ReconstructingJudaism.org.* 

# Reconstructing Food and Justice SETH GOLDMAN, JUDITH BELASCO, MIKE DAHL, RABBI DEBORAH WAXMAN. Ph.D.

This plenary session conversation will use different lenses to examine how Jewish values can be included in the work of food justice, and to consider how food is used to advance the work of social justice in different ways.

#### **EVENING PROGRAM**

#### CBH Chorus, Band, and Strings

Join the CBH Chorus, Band, and Strings (Atlanta, Ga.) to celebrate Shabbat with music and song!

#### DIRECTOR

Will Robertson

Gayanne Geurin Kim Goldsmith Rebecca Green Carrie Hausman Valerie Singer Linda Weiskoff McKenzie Wren

#### **TENORS**

Lisa Barrios Brad Davidorf Henry Farber Alan Hymowitz Josh Youdovin

#### BASSES

Dan Arnold

Gregg Bedol David Borthwick Gary Falcon Rich Goidel Bill Thompson Howard Winer Bill Witherspoon

#### **BAND**

Sarah Zaslaw, Violin Jordan Dayan, Bass Reuben Haller, Mandolin Mike Zimmerman, Drums

#### SOPRANOS

Ellie Emerich
Tobi Ames
Bonnie Levine
Julie Fishman
Nancy Gerber
Colleen Goidel
Rebecca Leary Safon
Theresa Prestwood
Faith Russler
Valerie Wolpe

#### **ALTOS**

Shana Cohen Elke Davidson Ariela Freedman

#### **SESSION BLOCK A**

# IDENTITY

## The Torah of #MeToo RABBI MIRA BETH WASSERMAN, Ph.D.

This #MeToo moment is an unprecedented opportunity for transformative change. How can Jewish ethical texts help us address abuses of power with compassion and justice? Join Professor Wasserman for study and discussion of power and consent; rebuke and repentance; ethics of speech. For more information about the Torah of #MeToo, search "The Center for Jewish Ethics" on ReconstructingJudaism.org

# DENTITY

# A New Model for the Honored Elderly in Congregational Life

#### RABBI JEFF EISENSTAT, RABBI SARAH MESSINGER

We are living longer with vitality. According to *Pirkei Avot*, at age 70 acknowledge the silver hair, at 80 one has super-added strength and at 90 one has a bending stature. We will explore old and new ways to engage and energize our honored elderly.

# JUSTIC

#### Challenging Our Modern Pharaohs: Judaism and Worker Justice Today JONATHAN ROSENBLUM, REBECCA HORNSTEIN

From today's Poor People's Campaign to the Civil Rights Movement to that walk out of Egypt 3,000 years ago, Jews have long been engaged in worker struggles. Come learn about leading struggles today and practical steps for engaging your members.

# COMMUNITY

# Dialogue Across Difference MCKENZIE WREN

It is more important than ever to courageously engage in honest and meaningful conversations with those around us. With a grounding in Jewish values and ethics, and through participatory experiences, McKenzie will show you how to improve your listening skills and ask powerful questions.

#### Dual Dialogues in Israel/Palestine **RABBI MEGAN DOHERTY**

Explore the birth of Jewish and Palestinian national aspirations and their divergent experiences. Discuss how these narratives shaped peace negotiations, how they live on, and how mutual recognition could pave a path forward.

#### First Chapters of a New Era: Reports From the Field On Interfaith Welcoming in the Jewish Community RABBI MAURICE HARRIS, RABBI MALKA PACKER, ALLISON HOLTZ, RABBI JODIE SIFF

Our panelists have each had a front row seat to the shifting landscape of the liberal Jewish community's approaches to welcoming interfaith families and active non-Jewish participants in synagogues. Come hear their stories and take part in the discussion!

# RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### Innovators Circle of RENA and the Kaplan Center RABBI JEFFREY SCHEIN, Ph.D., SUE PENN

View the challenges of Jewish education as Mordecai Kaplan would see them today. Meet seven innovative Reconstructionist educators working to move the vision forward and reconstruct it at the same time. Walk away with enough ideas to keep your head spinning!

#### Introduction to Gender: Beyond the Binary in Reconstructionist Spaces ANDREA JACOBS, Ph.D.

Andrea Jacobs will introduce the Genderbread Person, a model for thinking about gender beyond the binary. There will be discussion on how this model aligns with Reconstructionist values, and how you can bring it back home to your communities. Bring questions and an open mind.

#### Leadership Development LISSY MEDVEDOW, ROB GREENLY, ILENE SEMIATIN, **ROBERT WEINTRAUB**

Leadership from Dorshei Tzedek in Mass. and Bet Am Shalom in N.Y. will present their synagogue leadership plans as models for others. The presentations will be followed by a discussion of leadership development.

#### Politics and the Pulpit: A Systems Approach to Hard Conversations RABBI ELYSE WECHTERMAN. RABBI BARBARA PENZNER

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman will lay out a framework to help rabbis and congregations understand when, how and in what way rabbis and communities can raise their voices on issues of the day. Rabbi Barbara Penzner will bring examples from her community.

# COMMUNITY

#### Practical Implications of the Rabbi-Congregation Relationship

#### RABBI JOEL ALPERT, RABBI FREDI COOPER, HON. ABRAHAM CLOTT

We will cover: understanding clergy housing allowance and social security; issues related to time-on and time-off; how best to maximize the relationship with ongoing communication; and regular review of the congregational system.

OPEN TO NON-RABBIS

# RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### **Reconstructing Ourselves:** The Reconstructionist in Kaplan's Universe MEL SCULT. Ph.D.

Join the author of the biography of Mordecai Kaplan, Judaism Faces the Twentieth Century, for a discussion about Rabbi Kaplan. Mordecai Kaplan was revolutionary in seeing Judaism as the vehicle through which the individual can become their best self morally and in terms of their full potential. "Reconstruct yourself," he tells us, and the reconstructing of Judaism will follow naturally.

#### Voice, Water, Place: God in Metaphor **RABBI TOBA SPITZER**

Do traditional God concepts turn you off? Confuse you? Make you want to learn more? This class will explore ancient metaphors for the divine in order to reconstruct them for our lives today.

#### Welcoming the Stranger: A Jewish Value and a **Reconstructionist Practice**

#### RABBI RENEE BAUER, REBECCA KIRZNER

Join refugee advocates Rabbi Renee Bauer (Jewish Social Services of Madison) and Rebecca Kirzner (HIAS) to learn about the global refugee crisis and threats to the U.S. refugee program. Discuss how we can take a stand, and explore the Jewish values and texts that compel us to take action.

#### SESSION BLOCK B

#### Advancing Health Care Justice: What Can We Do Now?

#### **BRIAN ROSMAN**

Healthcare is a fundamental issue of justice. Understanding its complex economics and politics is critical to progress. States are working around the Trump administration's policies, and advancing further. We will discuss challenges and opportunities for advancement by looking at models from progressive states.

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### A Reconstructionist Approach to Hevrah Kaddishah: How and Why to Create One **RABBI LINDA HOLTZMAN**

The Reconstructionist Hevrah Kaddishah of Philadelphia is based on the process of Jewish Values-Based Decision Making. In this session, learn about this process and about how you could create and maintain a progressive Hevrah Kaddishah in your community.

JUSTICE

## Critically Radically Inclusive Jewish Communities RABBI SANDRA LAWSON

Have you ever been in a community where you were made to feel incredibly welcomed? How did it feel? This class will explore what it means to be welcoming in Jewish spaces. We will do this through discussion and text study.

DENTITY

#### Disability and Inclusion

## GABRIELLE KAPLAN-MAYER, RABBI MICHELLE GREENFIELD, SHEIRA DIRECTOR-NOWAK, MARY MEYERSON

This panel will share best practices and suggestions for the most effective ways to make those with disabilities feel like respected and welcomed members of the community.

**JUSTIC** 

#### EcoJudaism

### RABBI ARTHUR WASKOW, Ph.D., RABBI FRED SCHERLINDER DOBB, BEC RICHMAN

What motivates environmental activism? How does connection to the natural environment reflect interpersonal connection? Based on original research conducted in 2012 at Camp Havaya, we will explore the role of community and connected interpersonal relationships in effective environmental action.

COMMUNIT

# From Barely Surviving to Fully Thriving: Does Any of This Sound Like You?

**NESHAMA MOUSSEAU. M.S.W.** 

In this workshop you will learn practical strategies to slow down, manage your stress and start to breathe and thrive again so that you can be fully present for your life and your community.

# COMMUNITY

# Hesed/Kindness: Instructions from Mussar: Jewish Ethical Literature

RABBI JACOB STAUB, Ph.D.

We will look at passages from the recent *mussar* classic *Alei Shur* that recommend ways to practice kindness.

# Multiple Civilizations: Straddling the Line Between Two Denominations JILL HAMILTON, RABBI ALEX LAZARUS-KLEIN

A congregational journey to straddle the line between two denominations – lessons from a successful merger of a Reconstructionist and Reform congregation.

RRA

# Rabbinic Evaluation RABBI ELYSE WECHTERMAN, CRAIG LEVINE

Rabbis need to and should be evaluated. But how to do it and how to do it well? Learn a system-based approach and help us develop a standard of practice. Rabbis and lay leaders are encouraged to attend.

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

## Reinventing Judaism in the 21st Century RABBI MICHAEL STRASSFELD

How can we radically change Judaism for our time? If traditional prayer no longer works, what can replace it? If traditional *halakhah* needs to be rejected, how can we create new Jewish practices? We will together explore ideas for such practices.

JUSTICE

# Spiritual Activism: Prophetic Empathy and Radical Love CAT ZAVIS. RABBI MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN

Learn how to infuse activism with prophetic empathy and radical love so we can embody the transformation that we seek in our world. Learn about the predominant worldviews and their impact on our work.

SKAL

# The Joint Israel Commission and You RABBI MEGAN DOHERTY, RICH FREEDMAN, RABBI MAURICE HARRIS

Almost all 18 members of the Joint Israel Commission are attending Convention, and they'd like the opportunity to hear from people across the movement, learn what's important to people on Israel-related matters, and to share a little about themselves and their interests.

#### SESSION BLOCK C

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### Hevrah Kaddishah While Standing On One Foot

#### DAVID ZINNER

This session explores the evolution of the *Hevrah Kaddishah* from 1626, including a short study of the *taharah* liturgy and basics of infection control, and the *Hevrah Kaddishah* role in providing comfort and facilitating conversation. You will also learn about resources including *Hevrah Kaddishah* conferences, on-site synagogue training and online leadership education.

IDENTIT

# Addiction and Recovery RABBI ELISA GOLDBERG, RABBI JODIE SIFF

Learn the basics of addiction, hear personal stories, experience Torah study as recovery tools, and hear how colleagues are supporting their communities. Led by those with significant experience in the field, the session will be an opportunity for learning, discussion and planning for how to help our communities.

#### Changing From Within Together: Two Synagogue Models for Educating Ourselves About Systemic White Supremacy and White Privilege

#### LAURIE GOLDSTEIN. FRAN ZAMORE. JAYME EPSTEIN

Learn about two synagogues' efforts to grapple with systemic anti-Black racism. Hear about the successes and challenges of planning and implementing two transformative experiences: Adat Shalom's Racial Justice Discussion Group and Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation's trip to the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama.

#### **Embodied Storytelling:** Mixed Race Identities, Activism, Diaspora SARAH WAISVISZ

Join writer and performer Sarah Waisvisz for a workshop geared to anyone who wants to bridge the cerebral and the embodied, the dormant and the expressive, in order to boldly tell the stories of the heart. Participants will do some writing and reflection and some gentle movement as they experiment with storytelling using the mind, body and heart.

#### Jewish Food Justice Workshop **NATI PASSOW**

This experiential workshop will offer an introduction to food systems and Jewish food justice, facilitated by staff of the Jewish Farm School. We will outline different modes of food justice engagement and offer direction for getting started in your community.

#### Judaism-Informed Art and Art-Informed Judaism REUBEN POSNER, JULIANNE SCHWARTZ

Havaya Arts' unique focus on process and original creation provides space to dive into art, Judaism, and self-exploration. Join Havaya Arts' director and assistant director for a hands-on workshop where creating art will help you discover what being Jewish means to you.

# Leviticus: A Feminist Commentary? TAMAR KAMIONKOWSKI, Ph.D.

Have you thought about biblical sacrifices from a feminist perspective, considered the roles for a priest's wife and daughter, or read tazria-metzora (skin conditions and discharges) from a multicultural perspective? Join Professor Kamionkowski as she shares what she learned by writing a feminist commentary on Leviticus.

JUSTICE

# New Sanctuary Movement in Congregations RABBI ELLIOTT TEPPERMAN, RABBI LAURIE ZIMMERMAN, RABBI SETH GOLDSTEIN

Rabbis from three Reconstructionist congregations that have declared themselves "sanctuary congregations" will discuss how and why their congregations made their decisions, the opportunities and challenges in being a sanctuary congregation, and multiple ways synagogues can address issues of immigrant justice.

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

#### Reconstructionism and Social Justice: Changes and Communities ERIC CAPLAN, Ph.D.

In this session, we will examine Reconstructionist writings and resolutions on social issues from the 1930s to 2018 and use these to chart changes and continuities in the movement's approach to addressing public policy in a Jewish voice.

COMMUNITY

# Standing on the Edge in the Heat: Expanding Inclusion and Growing Vibrancy in Synagogue Life RABBI LAUREN GRABELLE HERRMANN

The Torah says that when Abraham welcomed guests, he sat "on the edge of the tent" and "in the heat of the day." Through texts and model-sharing, we will explore moving beyond "welcoming" towards transformational inclusion in synagogue life.

#### The New Face(s) of American Jewish Life RABBI SID SCHWARZ. Ph.D.

In a pioneering new national project called Kenissa (entrance-way): Communities of Meaning Network, Rabbi Schwarz is uncovering an array of organizations across North America that are literally reinventing conceptions of Jewish identity and Jewish life. This talk will provide some insight into the people and ideas that make these Jewish communities of meaning tick.

#### The Story of Israel Through the Eyes of Its Artists SHARON GERSHONI, Ph.D.

This talk explores how Israeli artists perceived the shifts and fragmentations in what was supposed to be a unified national identity. These artists, in turn, helped to shape, represent and reflect Israeli identity back to us. We will create artwork in response to the talk!

#### Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof: In Pursuit of a Just World RABBI JULIE GREENBERG. RABBI SHAWN ZEVIT

Leaders drawn from three Reconstructionist congregations will discuss faith-based community organizing on many justice issues, including racial, environmental and economic issues. They will share their understanding of the values and potential inherent in congregationbased community organizing.

## SATURDAY

November 17, 2018

#### SHABBAT SHALOM

Times and locations of all programs are on the

- 1 Daily Sheets
- 2 Schedule on the app3 Schedule on www.Reconvention2018.org

Fuller program descriptions and presenter biographies are on the

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- 2 Schedule on www.Reconvention2018.org

7:30 A.M.

Shabbat Morning Preparation Breakfast

8:30 A.M.

Torah Study in Small Groups

9:45 A.M.

Shabbat Morning Services - Multiple Services

11 A.M.

Torah Service/Concluding Service
- Entire Convention Body

12:45 P.M.

Lunch

2 P.M.-3:15 P.M.

Beit Midrash/Shabbat Session 1/Free Time

3:30 P.M.-4:45 P.M.

Beit Midrash/Shabbat Session 2/Free Time

5 P.M.

Minkhah Service

5:30 P.M.

Dinner On Your Own

7:30 P.M.

Havdalah

8 P.M-10:30 P.M.

Celebration: Program and Concert

10:45 P.M. Late Night Programming

Storytelling, Music, Comedy, Movie Screening

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Students will lead Beit Midrash sessions throughout the day. For more information please see the daily sheets or visit the RRC table in the vendor area.

### **Shabbat Services**

Torah Study RABBI AVI WINOKUR, RABBI VIVIE MAYER

> Torah Study RABBI JOSH WAXMAN

Torah Study
RABBI LINDA POTEMKIN

Torah Study
RABBI ARI LEV FORNARI

Shakharit-Essential Reconstructionist
Prayer Experience
RABBI ELLIOTT TEPPERMAN, RABBI RACHEL GARTNER

Shakharit-Musical RABBI JAMIE ARNOLD, RABBI YAEL RIDBERG

Shakharit-Soulful/Mindful/Musical RABBI SHAWN ZEVIT, RABBI YAEL LEVY, RABBI MYRIAM KLOTZ, RABBI MARGOT STEIN

Experiential RABBI DARIA JACOBS-VELDE, RABBI BORIS DOLIN

Torah Service RABBI AMY BERNSTEIN

Shabbat Morning *Drash*RABBI DEBORAH WAXMAN, Ph.D.

### Shabbat Minkhah RABBI FRED SCHERLINDER DOBB. RABBI/HAZZAN RACHEL HERSH

#### SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

### Havdalah RABBI ISAAC SAPOSNIK, RABBI JEFF EISENSTAT, **RABBI STEVE SEGAR**

On Saturday evening, we will gather for a "Camp"style Havdalah, followed by a ceremony to celebrate Reconstructionist Judaism - past, present and future.

### Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Reconstructionism.

### Concert with Nefesh Mountain DONI ZASLOFF, ERIC LINDBERG AND THEIR BAND

We are really excited to welcome Nefesh Mountain, Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg and their "Jewgrass" band, who are members of our very own Bnai Keshet in Montclair, N.J.

### SATURDAY November 17, 2018

#### SESSION BLOCK A

## SHABBAT

## A Year With Mordecai Kaplan: Wisdom on the Weekly Torah Portion

#### **RABBI STEVEN CARR REUBEN**

Quoting from his first volume in the JPS Daily Inspiration Series, Rabbi Reuben interweaves Mordecai Kaplan's thoughts to each Torah text with an intimate story drawn from his 40+ years as a congregational rabbi to guide 21st-Century spiritual, reflective and purposeful living.

## SHABBAT

## Creating a Circle of Love: **Healing Music for Turbulent Times**

#### RABBI MARGOT STEIN, RABBI RAYZEL RAPHAEL, JULIET SPITZER

Immerse in "the living waters of sound" to heal troubled hearts and souls, accessing inner courage and strength. Pray, laugh, sing with the women of MIRAJ and raise our struggles to a higher vibration where serenity and joy await us.

## SHABBAT

### From Gratitude to Blessings and Back RABBI DAVID TEUTSCH, Ph.D., MARYLIN L. PRICE

Join the co-authors of From Gratitude to Blessings and Back on how to use this book. We will explore some of Judaism's common blessings, stories from everyday life, and tales and wisdom from Jewish tradition to give you cause for reflection and spiritual growth. Please visit the Reconstructionist Press table to peruse or purchase a copy of their book.

## SHABBAT

### **Infusing Shabbat With Blessing RABBI FREDI COOPER**

We will explore why we eat what we eat on Shabbat and determine how we can reconstruct these traditions.

SHABBA

## Performance: Monstrous SARAH WAISVISZ

Sarah's solo play, *Monstrous* explores the murky experience of mixed-racedness, the dual inheritance of histories of violence (the Holocaust and Atlantic slavery), and, above all, the power of female resistance.

This performance is a pared-down version of the 65-minute one-woman show, and includes the use of technology.

SHABB/

## Lessons in Humility, or, Why God Chose a Bush SARRA LEV, Ph.D.

This text study will focus on two rabbinic sources, one from Talmud and one from early *midrash*, that enable us to learn something about the value of humility, with a twist.

SHABB/

### Museum-Telling: Family Roots, Heritage and Heirlooms are Brought to Life in Creative Ways Around the Jewish World

#### YAEL ROSEN

Throughout the world, Jewish youth research their roots and document their heritage. Together with their families, they create remarkable artistic installations that capture the essence of their Jewish traditions, heirlooms, language and stories with the My Family Story methodology.

#### SESSION BLOCK B

SHABBA

### Anger, Joy, Grief: Jewish Tools of Spiritual Resistance

#### **RABBI DANYA RUTTENBERG**

This is a lively, interactive learning experience on the emotional and spiritual modalities that can sustain us through these challenging times. It will unpack unique, often surprising insights from our tradition to offer sustenance for the long haul. Rabbi Ruttenberg is the Wenkart Writer-in-Residence.

SHABBAT

## Don't Just Welcome. Celebrate! RABBI ISAAC SAPOSNIK, SHEIRA DIRECTOR-NOWAK, JOSHUA STERNBURG

Creating and maintaining accepting and dynamic communities takes work! Hear how a rabbi, social worker, and M.B.A. collaborate on their business, values, and relationships ... and explore how to build similarly celebratory communities in your synagogue, school or organization.

SHABBAT

## Jewish-Muslim Dialogue RABBI NANCY FUCHS KREIMER, Ph.D., Dr. HOMAYRA ZIAD

Join long-time friends Nancy Fuchs Kreimer and Homayra Ziad as they invite you into the study of a text from Quran and one from Torah using methods they have learned from their multifaith encounters.

SHABBAT

### Rabbinic Time Zones:

## What the Beginning of the Mishnah Has to Say About Our Experience of Time and Power ELSIE STERN, Ph.D.

In Mishnah Berakhot, the rabbinic sages discuss when and how Jews should recite the shema. We will explore how these concrete and procedural mandates reflect rabbinic insights into our experiences of time and express rabbinic ideas about power and authority.

SHABBAT

### Reconstructing Sinai in Our Prayers: A New (Reconstructionist) Approach to Our Torah Service Liturgy

#### **RABBI/HAZZAN RACHEL HERSH**

Traditional prayers for the ceremony of Torah-reading include several passages that challenge a contemporary spiritual sensibility. Join Rabbi/Hazzan Rachel Hersh for an exploration of familiar *siddur* passages, the music for singing them and some possibilities for moving the needle on liturgical evolution.

### Storytelling: Social Justice Tales CINDY RIVKA MARSHALL, MARC YOUNG, MARILYN L. PRICE

Hear Cindy Rivka Marshall, Marc Young and Marilyn L. Price tell folktales, midrashic and literary tales on the theme of social justice. See how stories can be a jumping-off point for teaching and learning for all ages.

SHABBAT

### The Task of Being Ourselves JESSICA De KONINCK

We will look at poems by contemporary Jewish writers, discuss what makes them "Jewish" and, with even more chutzpah, what makes them Reconstructionist. We will try writing our own poems and see what we can learn about ourselves. All writing levels are welcome.

Please note: This session involves writing on Saturday.

#### SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

### Havdalah Celebration and Concert with Nefesh Mountain

Join us as we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and celebrate with a special performance by Nefesh Mountain from Bnai Keshet, located in Montclair, N.J.

## SUNDAY

November 18, 2018

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Fuller program descriptions and presenter biographies are on the

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### 7:30 A.M. Shakharit/Yoga

8 A.M. Breakfast On Your Own

> 8 A.M.-10:15 A.M. Plenum

9 A.M.-10:15 A.M. Session Block D

**10:30** A.M.-11:45 A.M. Session Block E

12 P.M.-2 P.M.
Brunch/Reconstructing Shark Tank/Closing Ritual
2 P.M.

Board of Governors Meeting

## SUNDAY November 18, 2018

### **Plenum Meeting**

The Plenum of Reconstructing Judaism will hold its semi-annual meeting at Convention. Plenum Representatives (or their designated proxies) from all of our affiliated communities are welcome to attend. (A light breakfast will be served.)

#### SESSION BLOCK D

# American J Historical P REENA SIGMAN Why have so marights, civil libert important contributions or speeches of the second state of the second stat

## American Jews and Social Justice: Historical Perspectives

#### REENA SIGMAN FRIEDMAN, Ph.D.

Why have so many Jews been drawn to the labor, anti-poverty, civil rights, civil liberties and women's movements, among others? What important contributions have they made? We will discuss the writings or speeches of Jewish activists, exploring how traditional Jewish values, historical experience and societal trends shaped their activism.

COMMUNITY

## Challenges and Opportunities for Progressive Jews, and Judaism on Campus RABBI ISABEL De KONINCK, RABBI JOSHUA BOLTON, RABBI JESSICA LOTT

This session will explore lessons from the field with current Hillel professionals.

COMMUNITY

## Creative Use of Space in Our Communities RABBI SHAWN ZEVIT, RABBI ELLIOT SKIDDELL, REB IRWIN KELLER, BILL HALPERN

Four synagogues will present the creative ways that they use space to make their communities more viable and vibrant.

## Exploring Anti-Black Racism and the Wealth Gap: A Model for Educating White Jews About America's Racist Past and Present

FRAN ZAMORE, JAYME EPSTEIN, LAURIE GOLDSTEIN

Members of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation (Md.) build on the "Changing from Within Together" panel. The session focuses on the historic foundations and persistence of the racial wealth disparity in the United States.

## COMMUNITY

### Fair Trade and Ethical Consumption in Your Synagogue

#### **BETSY TEUTSCH, MARK PINSKI**

Synagogues have a golden opportunity to express their values by incorporating fair trade purchasing into their communal consumption, directly supporting global farmers and artisans. Learn how with Betsy Teutsch, former chair of the Fair Trade Judaica Advisory Committee. (Coffee! Chocolate!)

# **RECONSTRUCTIONISM**

### Inspiring Wonder, Awe and Empathy: Spiritual Development in Young Children

### **DEB SCHEIN, Ph.D.**

In this workshop, participants will explore a definition of spiritual development that begins at birth as stage-development (love, positive sense of self, wonder and empathy) and evolves into a system that can be easily supported by parents, educators and synagogues.

### Models of *Tikkun Olam* Work in Congregations JAKE EHLRICH, ANGELA MILSTEIN, JOAN ROSEN, LAURA SOLOMON

Three panelists from congregations Bet Am Shalom (N.Y.), Kehillat Israel (Calif.), and T'Chiyah (Mich.) will share models for how they steward tikkun olam work, and will share best practices that you can apply in your own congregation or havurah.

IDENTI

## Pastoral Care for the Aging RABBI RAYNA GROSSMAN, RABBI MERYL CREAN, SANDY WARSHAW

This workshop will deal with compassionate care for the elderly.

DENTITY

### Preventing and Responding to Hate

#### ABBY STAMMELMAN HOCKY, RUE LANDAU

What are ways to stand in solidarity with our diverse neighbors? Two Jewish professionals, one a lawyer and one a social worker, cross paths in moments of civil tension and ethnic intimidation in Philadelphia. They will relate stories of preventative and responsive actions.

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

### Shame as a Tool for Maintaining Social Norms: A Story From the Zohar

#### JOEL HECKER, Ph.D.

Current events have demonstrated the power of public shaming, but ethicists have begun to raise questions about this social tool. This session will consider a story from the Zohar which validates public shaming and is likely to give us pause.

#### SESSION BLOCK E

JUSTICE

## Poor People's Campaign RABBI MICHAEL POLLACK, REV. MARIE TRIBBLE

The Poor People's Campaign is uniting tens of thousands of people to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality. Come learn about the campaign and how to join!

# RECONSTRUCTIONISM

### Co-Leadership

## HALLE BARNETT, LILA HANFT, KEN LERNER, BILL KWITMAN, JULIA LAGER-MESULAM, ROSANNA WERTHEIMER

This panel will be a presentation by three groups of co-presidents, and how having co-presidents works in their communities.

## C

### Coffee: History, Culture and Jewish Life

#### **RABBI MICAH BECKER-KLEIN**

A journey through the history of coffee that focuses on the introduction of coffee into Jewish communal life with a conversation about contemporary coffee consumption.

## COMMUNITY

### **Endowments**

#### **MARK NUSSBAUM**

An introduction to endowments. What they are and are not. What you need to do to start one in your organization. Why this may be the best gift you can bring back to your community from Convention.

## ISR/

## Hope and Hard Work: Progressive Jewish Values and Grassroots-Work in Israeli Society RABBI DONNA KIRSHBAUM, GARY LEVY, YONA SHEM TOV, RABBI MAURICE HARRIS (MODERATOR)

Our panelists represent a few of the dozens of Israeli groups involved in promoting human rights, pluralism, shared society and democracy in Israel. We'll hear about what they are currently trying to accomplish, what challenges they face, and how we can help.

**IDENTITY** 

## Introduction to Jewish Spiritual Direction BARBARA BREITMAN D. Min., RABBI JACOB STAUB, Ph.D.

This will be a presentation of the practice of Jewish Spiritual Direction, which seeks to discern how the divine/holy manifests in our lives. You will have the opportunity to participate in some experiential exercises that will provide a taste of the practice.

RECONSTRUCTIONISM

### It's All in the Family: Family Education as a Core Component of Jewish Communal Living and Learning RABBI ERIN HIRSH, TEHILAH EISENSTADT, CAROL MORRIS, DEBORAH EISENBACH BUDNER

Our Jewish communities sponsor countless wonderful programs geared to individuals of different ages, yet programs that successfully engage entire families in Jewish learning and living are fewer and farther between. Participants in this workshop will have the opportunity to learn about vibrant family education models in three Reconstructionist communities, to contemplate key characteristics of effective Jewish family education and to contemplate how what they have learned can inform family education programs in their home community.

ISRA

## Jewish Stories Around the World YAEL ROSEN

The renewing museum and databases of the Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot are giving voices to Jewish communities worldwide, past and present. Learn about the museum and the stories it holds.

DENTIL

## Say True Things: Finding Resilience in a Spiritual Writing Practice

#### **RABBI DANYA RUTTENBERG**

This interactive session will look at writing as a powerful tool for spiritual reflection, insight and healing. It will offer concrete tools, practices and exercises and talk about the lines between writing for oneself and for other readers. Rabbi Ruttenberg is the Wenkart Writer-in-Residence.

## Shiva Minyan Nusakh

This workshop will provide an easy way to learn and integrate traditional weekday prayer modes into your service-leading repertoire, and address other practical – and spiritual – aspects of leading *shiva minyanim*.

## The Implications of the U.S. Midterm Elections: What Happens Next?

ANDY LEVIN, RUTH MESSINGER, SETH KREIMER, SETH ROSEN

The panelists will discuss the outcome of the 2018 U.S. midterm elections, and consider the meaning of moral and ethical leadership.

## Technology and Community Engagement JACOB WEINBERG, SHOSH LOVETT-GRAFF

Whether through podcasts, learning networks, or social media, technology has opened up numerous, creative ways to engage our communities. Come join the discussion about strategies that have worked and those you wish to learn more about.

#### PLENARY SESSION

### Reconstructing Shark Tank

Building on our values of hiddush (new ways of expressing Jewishness) and kavod (honoring each individual), Reconstructing Shark Tank will be a playful, inspiring and informative variation of the ABC television program Shark Tank. Listen to three congregations' innovative ideas to strengthen community. Then, vote to determine who will receive startup funds of \$8,000, \$5,000 or \$3,000. Rabbi George Wielechowski, a national innovation leader, will host as Rabbi Haim Shalom of Kehillat Mevakshei Derech, Dr. Amy Robertson of Congregation Bet Haverim and Steve Kramer and Jim Caffee from Columbia Jewish Center share their bold ideas.

## Rooted and Relevant: Reconstructing Judaism in 2018

### **Convention Steering Committee**

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CONVENTION CHAIR

Lani Moss
CONVENTION VICE CHAIR

Tresa Grauer, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR AFFILIATE SUPPORT, RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Jackie Land
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF AFFILIATE SUPPORT,
RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

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Eric Caplan, Ph.D.

Marla Cohen

**Emily Galpern** 

Rabbi Elisa Goldberg

Andy Gordon

Victoria Guentter

Lorie Kraus

Alex Rubin

Lori Rubin

Rabbi Isaac Saposnik

Craig Schneider

Elsie Stern, Ph.D.

Stella Sytnik

**Robin Trilling** 

Rabbi Ariann Weitzman

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Lori Rubin, Local Committee Chair OR HADASH

### **Members**

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KOL EMET

Bobbi Cohen LEYV HA'IR

Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer
MISHKAN SHALOM

David Nerenberg

DORSHEI DEREKH

Lisa Pack
SHIREINU

Carolyn Savitzky
OR HADASH

Naomi Segal KOL TZEDEK

Roz Spigel
MISHKAN SHALOM

Jennifer Waterston **BETH ISRAEL** 

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### Rabbi Jacob Staub

Rabbi Jacob Staub is the director of Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations. He is Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Spirituality at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he directs the Program in Jewish Spiritual Direction. He served as editor of the Reconstructionist 1983-89. He co-authored with Rebecca Alpert Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach.



### Rabbi Ariana Katz

Rabbi Ariana Katz is the Evolve project manager. She is the founding rabbi of Hinenu: The Baltimore Justice Shtiebl in Baltimore, MD. Ariana graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in the spring of 2018. Ariana was the creator and host of Kaddish, a podcast about death and identity (kaddishpodcast.com).





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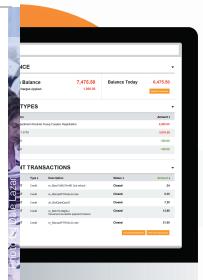
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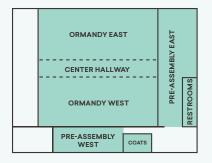


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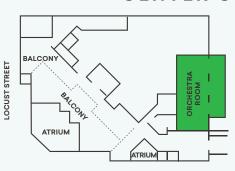
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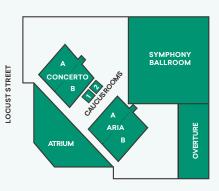
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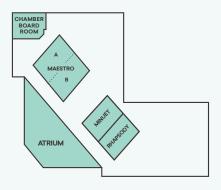
Lobby Level



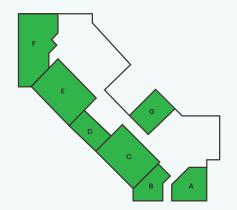
Mezzanine Level



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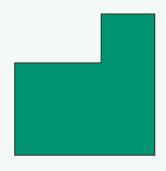


Fourth Floor



Fifth Floor Assembly on Five

LOCUST STREET



Fifth Floor
The Terrace

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