



## Rabbis Without Borders Student Retreat **Spirituality, Social Justice and the Rabbinate**

The sources of Judaism are filled with references to the values of *din*, *emet*, *shalom* and more. All of these point to the need for Jews to tend to the most vulnerable in our midst and address the social injustice we see in the world through acts of *chesed*, and *tzedek*. How do these principles shape our respective rabbinates? How do rabbis convey these values to the people that they serve? How do we fulfill our professional duties and also “walk the talk” of prophetic Judaism, especially when the two might come into conflict? Is it possible to engage with some of the most controversial issues of our time without causing conflict in our congregations? Finally, how do we balance the external work of *tikkun*—so important to the world—with the inner work we need to do on our spiritual lives?

**Date:** April 7-10, 2016

**Place:** Pearlstone Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD

**Faculty:** Rabbis Sid Schwarz, Lisa Goldstein and  
Nigel Savage

*Five students per seminary will be nominated by their school.*

Registration is a \$100/student with a generous travel subsidy provided

For more information, contact Zahara Zahav at [zzahav@clal.org](mailto:zzahav@clal.org) or 212-779-3300 x123.

**Co-Sponsoring Seminaries:** Hebrew Union College (New York, Cincinnati, and Los Angeles), The Jewish Theological Seminary, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbinical School at Hebrew College (Boston), Academy for Jewish Religion (NY and LA), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School, Yeshivat Maharat, International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism and ALEPH Rabbinic Program.

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## Faculty Bios

**Rabbi Lisa Goldstein** is the Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She started her rabbinic career as the assistant rabbi at Congregation Shaare Emeth in St. Louis and then moved on to become the Executive Director of Hillel of San Diego where she garnered local and national recognition for her devotion to students and her leadership. She has been a service learning group leader for American Jewish World Service. As a Mandel Jerusalem Fellow in 2009-10 she designed a new methodology for combining local justice work and contemplative practice within a Jewish framework.

**Nigel Savage**, originally from Manchester, England, founded Hazon in 2000, with a Cross-USA Jewish Environmental Bike Ride. Since then, Hazon has grown the range and impact of its work in each successive year. Today it has more than 60 staff, based in New York City, at Hazon's Isabella Freedman campus, and in other locations across the country. Hazon plays a unique role in renewing American Jewish life and creating a healthier and more sustainable world for all. In 2008 Nigel was named a member of the *Forward* 50, the annual list of the fifty most influential Jewish people in the United States. Before founding Hazon, Nigel was a professional fund manager in London. He has an MA in History from Georgetown, and has learned at Pardes, Yakar, and the Hebrew University. He was a founder of Limmud NY, and serves on the board of Romemu.

**Sid Schwarz** serves as a senior fellow at Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership where he directs the Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI) a program that trains rabbis to be visionary spiritual leaders. He founded and led PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years. He is also the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD where he continues to teach and lead services. Dr. Schwarz holds a Ph.D. in Jewish history and is the author of two groundbreaking books--*Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue* (Jewish Lights, 2000) and *Judaism and Justice: The Jewish Passion to Repair the World* (Jewish Lights, 2006). Sid was awarded the prestigious Covenant Award for his pioneering work in the field of Jewish education and was named by *Newsweek* as one of the 50 most influential rabbis in North America. Sid's most recent book is *Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future* (Jewish Lights).

## Comments from past participants

The Rabbis Without Borders Student Retreat is one of the most effective learning events I have participated in during my rabbinic education. Where else can I find a place where I am simultaneously spiritually nourished, supported in exploring new approaches to social justice, and challenged to think strategically about the dynamics of the Jewish community?

Stephen Slater, Hebrew College, Boston

I didn't think I would be able to build life-long colleagues in one weekend, but I think I might have. I learned a great deal about what it means to work with rabbinic colleagues who don't necessarily share the same worldview as my own.

Dasi Fruchter, Yeshivat Maharat, New York

The retreat reignited my passion for social justice, pushed my boundaries, and brought me a network of allies in the pursuit of good.

Daniel Graber, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York

The retreat challenged me to think deeply and ask big questions. It provided both textual context as well as real life applications of what to do. I returned to LA fired up for action, ready to make change and eager to excite my student congregation.

Elana Nemitoff, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles

Each of faculty members served as role models for us, providing us with *tachlis*, practical ways to transform our Jewish values of *tikkun olam* into action. Their enthusiasm and devotion to repairing the world was contagious and provided me with the confidence to take steps, as I become a rabbi, to combine my Jewish values with action.

Shelly Barnathan, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA