



## Rabbis Without Borders Student Retreat

# Re-Imagining Synagogues and the Rabbinate

There is a growing consensus that the institutions of American Jewish life are not changing rapidly enough to meet the needs of the Jewish community. Synagogues are often the target of the harshest criticism in this regard. If there is to be a vibrant Jewish future in America, it will have to be shaped by rabbis who have the creativity and the know-how to re-imagine, both the synagogue and the rabbinate. This retreat will introduce participants to some of the most innovative thinking in the field. It will also provide practical training for future rabbis who want to acquire the skills to help shape new approaches to American Jewish life.

**Date:** Nov. 19-22, 2015

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

**Faculty:** Rabbis Lizzi Heydemann, Peter Rubinstein and  
Sid Schwarz

*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

**Lizzi Heydemann** is the founder and rabbi at Mishkan Chicago, a dynamic spiritual community founded in 2011 whose mission is to spread inspired, down-to-earth Judaism and to reach out to people who have felt on the edges of Jewish life-young adults, LGBT Jews, Jews in interfaith relationships and non-Jewish partners, and is a welcoming space for all. Lizzi was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in 2010 and, while there, trained at IKAR-first on the *davening* team, then as a rabbinic intern, and then as the first Revson Rabbinic Fellow. Lizzi grew up on the South Side of Chicago, is a Young Judaea Year Course alum, graduated with honors from Stanford University in 2004, and is a graduate of Clal's Clergy Leadership Incubator program.

**Peter Rubinstein** is the Director of Jewish Community and the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life at the 92Y in New York City. He is also the Rabbi Emeritus of Manhattan's Central Synagogue, a Reform congregation where he served as the Senior Rabbi for 23 years. He is presently the Director of the Be Wise Fellowship in Jewish Entrepreneurship at the HUC-JIR in New York City. In addition to his professional affiliations and responsibilities, Peter is a founder and chair of the Rabbinic Council of the World Union for Progressive Judaism; co-chair of the Partnership of Faith in New York City which includes the senior clergy of the city's major congregations; and chairperson of the Rabbinic Vision Initiative aimed at the evolution of Reform Judaism in North America. Peter serves as the Co-President of the U.S. Board of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and is the immediate past Chair of the Board of Auburn Theological Seminary. Peter has been named both on *Newsweek's* list of America's 50 Most Influential Rabbis and by the *Forward's* list of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis.

**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, 2013).

## Comments from past participants

I learned that there are many ways to be an effective spiritual leader and we have much to learn from people in the other movements as well as other future rabbis who are in different stages of their life.

Shira Rosenblum, Jewish Theological Seminary

I learned how important it is that rabbis and congregations have to devote time and energy to articulating a mission to chart a direction for where you want to go.

David Fain, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah

I really appreciated the chance to get to know other students and rabbis from many different sectors of the Jewish community.

Rebecca Kamil, Hebrew Union College

I came to appreciate how many different models there can be for one's rabbinate and it opened my eyes to the potential to create a new model for myself.

Tali Adler, Yeshivat Maharat

The retreat gave me a language to understand and talk about synagogue dynamics and organizational change.

Rachel Marder, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

I learned that one can create a meaningful and spiritually enriching community even with individuals who are radically different from one another.

Nora Woods, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College