



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 30-May 3, 2015

Place: Pearlstone Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD

Faculty: Rabbis Sid Schwarz, Marc Soloway, Toba Spitzer

Five students per seminary will be nominated by their school.
Registration is \$100/student with a generous travel subsidy provided

For more information, contact Zahara Zahav at zzahav@clal.org or 212-779-3300 x123.

Co-Sponsoring Seminaries: Hebrew Union College– Jewish Institute of Religion (New York, Cincinnati, and Los Angeles), The Jewish Theological Seminary, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbinical School at Hebrew College (Boston), Academy for Jewish Religion, 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

Sid Schwarz serves as a senior fellow at Clal 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 newest book is *Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future* (Jewish Lights, 2013).

Rabbi Marc Soloway grew up in London, England, where he was an actor, storyteller and practitioner of complementary medicine before training as a rabbi. He was ordained from the Ziegler School at AJU, Los Angeles in 2004 and has served as rabbi of Congregation Bonai Shalom in Boulder ever since. Marc is on the national board of Hazon, serving as the chair of the Rabbinical Advisory Board. He was in the 5th Rabbinic cohort of IJS (Institute of Jewish Spirituality), he travelled to Ghana as part of an AJWS rabbinic delegation in 2012 and is a fellow of CLAL's Rabbis without Borders. He is the host and narrator of a 2012 PBS documentary tracing the legacy of the Baal Shem Tov, called *A Fire in the Forest*. In 2014, Marc on the Jewish Forward list of America's most inspiring rabbis. Every Sunday morning Marc gathers eggs and milks goats as part of Boulder's Jewish farm co-ops.

Rabbi Toba Spitzer is the spiritual leader of Reconstructionist Congregation Dorshei Tzedek in West Newton, MA, and a former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. She currently serves as Treasurer of *Truah: A Rabbinic Call for Human Rights*, and is on the Advisory Council of J Street. She has taught, written, and been active on issues of social and economic justice and Middle East peace for many years.

Comments from past participants

"The retreat gave me some tools which I can use to apply my vision of the rabbinate in the real world. It served as a wake-up call to what being a rabbi is all about and how I can elevate that pursuit to a fulfilling, successful and holy endeavor."

Ben Chaidel, Jewish Theological Seminary

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"I always viewed social justice as a component of my rabbinical path but I now better understand the importance of raising the issue to a higher level. If I want my community to be concerned with justice issues I have to model that behavior."

Jesse Charyn, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

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"I was thrilled to discover commonalities and kindred spirits regarding values, belief in God, love of Jews, Judaism and tradition. My *tefillah* has been very much deepened because of my exposure to different models of prayer from different denominations."

Bracha Jaffe, Yeshivat Maharat

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"Because I have been working full time in a synagogue for some number of years, even preceding my rabbinical studies, I know how valuable the lessons from this retreat are to future rabbis. Very little of what the weekend covers can be taught in the theoretical setting of a seminary."

Marsha Tilchin, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

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"I've been exposed to a lot of leadership training and have enjoyed four years as a Wexner Fellow. Yet I can't remember ever learning as much from rabbinic faculty as I did this weekend, especially with a focus on social justice issues."

Shoshana Friedman, Hebrew College

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