



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 24-27, 2014

Place: Pearlstone Retreat Center, Reisterstown, MD

Faculty: Rabbi David Rosenn, Rabbi Laura Geller,
Rabbi 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 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

Rabbi David Rosenn is the Executive Vice President at the New Israel Fund, a leading-edge grantmaker supporting Israeli social change and social justice nonprofits. As the head of NIF's U.S. staff, David also works closely with NIF's CEO and with senior staff in Israel and the U.S. on aligning strategy and operations across the entire organization. David is a Conservative rabbi, ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, which he attended as a Wexner Fellow. Previous to completing rabbinical school, he held positions at Shatil, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, The Jewish Fund for Justice, and the National Council of La Raza. David the founder of AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, where he served as Executive Director for 13 years. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, and their two children.

Rabbi Laura Geller is Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills, California. Prior to being chosen for this position in 1994, she served as the Executive Director of the American Jewish Congress, Pacific Southwest Region, where she created the AJCongress Feminist Center, which became a model for other Jewish feminist projects around the county. She came to AJCongress in 1990 after fourteen years as the Director of Hillel at the University of Southern California. Rabbi Geller was named one of *Newsweek's* 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America and was featured in the PBS Documentary "Jewish Americans." She was ordained by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in 1976, the third woman in the Reform Movement to become a rabbi. She is married to Richard A. Siegel, and she is the mother of Joshua and Elana Goldstein and the step-mother of Andy and Ruth Siegel.

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).

Comments from past participants

"I was blundering through my spiritual wilderness, grasping for a handhold when a classmate recommended that I attend the RWB student retreat. The retreat was simply the most incredible learning experience; it was heaven..."

Meggie O'Dell, Jewish Theological Seminary

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"I was impressed by the excellent facilitation, effective community building and solid framing done by the program's faculty. From the opening hour I was clear on what I was doing here. Time was managed magnificently."

Michael Sheffrin, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion

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"The incredible value of this conference for me was the sense of hope for *klal yisrael*. It came out in the nuanced way we discussed support for and the moral accountability of the State of Israel. And it also came out the tensions around *keva* and *kavannah*, *minhag* and *halacha* as it played out in our prayer space."

Jessica Shimberg, Aleph Rabbinical Program

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"This was my second retreat and I am sad to have used up both retreat cards. The retreats are a jolt of joy, hope, questions and love and it left me on high once again. Our challenge will be to carry this energy into the community when we become rabbis."

Justin Pines, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah

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"The retreat re-connected me with why I chose to become a rabbi. It also gave me the resources, both human and intellectual, to help me on the journey ahead."

Laura Bellows, Hebrew College

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