

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Hillel
Forum on Social Justice

February 25 - 27, 2007



Hillel

TZEDEK
Tzedek Means Justice.

Faculty Biographies

Michael Abdurakhmanov (J-Track)

Michael Abdurakhmanov was originally from Tashkent, Uzbekistan and is currently a junior at Pace University. After his first trip to Israel with Taglit-Birthright Israel, Michael became more active in the Jewish community on the Pace campus, helping to promote on and off campus Jewish events. This past fall he was elected President of the Pace Hillel and has been working hard in raising Jewish awareness on campus.

Batya Abramson-Goldstein (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Batya Abramson-Goldstein was appointed Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council in 2003. She first joined the St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council in 1988, she previously held the positions of Director of International Affairs and Associate Executive Director. She received a Master's Degree in Social Work from Tel Aviv University and was Director of Social Services at the Rehabilitation Center of Petach Tikva from 1982-1987. She also has a Master's Degree in History from the University of Rochester. She is co-chair of the Interfaith Breakfast Dialogue Group, the oldest existing such group in the country. She is also co-chair of the St. Louis Jewish/ Presbyterian dialogue group initiated by the JCRC and the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy in 2004, co-chair of the Eden Theological Seminary/Jewish community dialogue group, and a founding member of All Gods Children, an organization providing a progressive voice from the faith traditions in the public square. She is a member of the Cabinet of the Interfaith-Partnership of St. Louis. Batya was the 1993 recipient of the Jewish Federation's Fred A. Goldstein Memorial Service Award. This award is given annually for outstanding innovative achievement in the field of Jewish communal service.

Rachel Ackoff (Workshop)

Rachel Ackoff got her start organizing the Sierra Student Coalition's national Fair Trade Campaign to make international trade policy clean, green, and fair. After three years of trade justice organizing, Rachel joined the fight to stop global warming and is currently organizing the SSC's state-wide network in Pennsylvania. She also serves on the SSC's Executive Committee. Originally from Claremont, California, Rachel is currently a senior at Swarthmore College. She enjoys camping and hiking, playing board games, and cooking vegan Shabbat dinners.

Jessica Arons (Workshop)

Jessica Arons is the Director of the Women's Health and Rights Program at the Center for American Progress. She also is a member of the Center's Faith and Progressive Policy Initiative. Most recently, Jessica served as a staff attorney fellow with the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project. Prior to working at the ACLU, she practiced labor and employment law at James & Hoffman, P.C. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Elizabeth B. Lacy on the Supreme Court of Virginia. She also worked at the White House and on the 1996 Pennsylvania Democratic Coordinated Campaign prior to law school. Jessica is an honors graduate of Brown University and William and Mary School of Law. At William and Mary, Jessica was an Associate Editor of the William & Mary Law Review, Managing Editor of the William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law and a Board Member of the William & Mary Public Service Fund. She has been seen on ABC News and heard on Clear Channel radio.

Ariel Beery (J-Track)

Ariel Beery is the editor and publisher of PresentTense Magazine, co-editor of BlogsofZion.org and a graduate student at NYU studying nonprofit management and Judaic Studies. He received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University, where he majored in economics and political science, served as President of the School of General Studies Student Body, and was co-founder and co-coordinator of a lecture series on Minorities in the Middle East at Columbia. During the 2004-2005 academic year, Beery was a member of Columbians for Academic Freedom who went head-to-head with Columbia University's over abuse of Zionist students by professors.

Michal Bilick (Workshop)

Michal Bilick is a junior at American University. She is passionate about the environment and is planning to attend law school in order to practice environmental law.

David Bronstein (Workshop)

David is a freshman at St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, where he leads the Students for a Sustainable Future. The group, (which was recently honored as a winner in the MTV's national "Break the Addiction" competition) is currently working toward getting 50% of the college's electricity from renewable sources. Last year as the President of the Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists (MCSEA) David organized a successful campaign to get 20% Clean Energy for Montgomery County. He is also an active member of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville, MD and participates in its chorus and youth group. He is involved with the Jewish Club on campus as well.

Megan Brudney (Workshop)

Megan is the Pollin-Cohen Fellow at PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. She is a graduate of Duke University, where she studied linguistics and Spanish. She was Religious Vice President at the Freeman Center

for Jewish Life on campus and occasionally returns to campus to help lead services. Megan has participated in an Alternative Spring Break trip to Uruguay, interned for the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education and taught youth classes on Judaism and political activism. After her year at PANIM, Megan plans to continue working in and for the Jewish community and to obtain a Masters in a relevant topic.

Tom Canahuate (J-track)

Tom Canahuate is a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department. After joining State in 2002, he served in Monterrey, Mexico, for two years, followed by a two-year tour in Washington with the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. His next assignment will be in Kabul, Afghanistan. Before moving to State, Tom worked as a journalist in Washington D.C., first as a foreign correspondent for the Saudi Press Agency, and later as a reporter for the weekly newspaper Defense News. He is a graduate of the American University and holds a Master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University. He is married with two children.

Rabbi Michael Cohen (Workshop)

Rabbi Cohen is a graduate of the University of Vermont and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He was the Rabbi of the Israel Congregation in Manchester Center, Vermont from 1990-2000. He has also served as President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. Presently, he is the Executive Director of the North American Office of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.

Moshe Cohen (Workshop)

Moshe Cohen is currently the Interim Program Coordinator for Hillel at LSU. He is a native of New York and is working on his PhD in Mathematics at Louisiana State University. He is active within the environmental organizations on campus and locally. Moshe enjoys commuting to school by bicycle.

William Daroff (Workshop)

William Daroff became the Vice President for Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of the United Jewish Communities (UJC) in November 2005. He serves as the chief lobbyist for the umbrella organization of North America's Jewish community federation system, as well as its principal spokesman on issues of public policy. Daroff has been involved in the political process since he was seven years old, having served in senior positions in both state and federal governments; as well as working on political campaigns at all levels -- local, state, Congressional and Presidential. Daroff earned his Bachelor Degree (*summa cum laude*) in Political Science & History, Masters Degree in Political Science and Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He also holds a certificate in the history of Eastern European Jewry and the Holocaust from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Jeremy Deutchman (Workshop)

Jeremy Deutchman is Director of Communications & Development for MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Jeremy has worked in the Jewish community as a New Leaders Project fellow, a Hillel JCSC and a member of Hillel's International Board. Prior to his arrival at MAZON, Jeremy helped direct grassroots communications at KCET, Southern California's flagship public television station. He holds degrees from Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley.

Noam Dolgin (Workshop)

Noam Dolgin grew up in Vancouver, Canada and is a graduate of the University of British Columbia. He currently serves as the Associate Director of the Teva Learning Center, North America's foremost Jewish environmental organization, and as chairperson of the Green Zionist Alliance. A passionate Zionist, environmentalist and Jewish educator, Noam has been developing Jewish environmental and eco-Zionist programming throughout North America for more than nine years.

Matt Dorf (J-Track, Workshop)

Matt Dorf is the Managing Partner of Rabinowitz/Dorf Communications. A veteran award-winning journalist and a lobbyist, Matt joined the firm in 2000 from the American Jewish Congress, where he served as Director of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs. He has worked on You the April 2002 Washington Israel rally and Gov. Howard Dean's presidential campaign, among other projects. For more than five years he served as the Washington Bureau Chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, known as the "AP of the Jewish world." A graduate of The George Washington University, Matt has appeared on numerous television networks as a Middle East and American Jewish analyst.

Nadine Epstein (J-Track)

Nadine Epstein is Editor & Executive Publisher of Moment Magazine, the independent national Jewish magazine founded by Elie Wiesel and Leonard Fein in 1975. She is also executive director of the Center for Creative Change in which Moment is housed. Ms. Epstein was a journalist for 25 years before taking over Moment in 2004. Her articles, essays and op-ed pieces appeared in The New York Times, The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post, Smithsonian, The Christian Science Monitor, Ms., and other publications. She covered politics and news for

The New York Times Chicago bureau and worked as an editor and reporter at The City News Bureau of Chicago. She has published three books, contributed to several anthology collections and co-written a documentary film, which was selected as a semifinalist of the 2001 Academy Awards. Ms. Epstein was selected as a Kellogg Fellow for Public Service in Journalism in 1990, part of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program. She has been the recipient of many grants, including the D.C. Commission on the Arts/National Endowment for the Arts and the Fund for Investigative Journalism. During the nineties, she taught journalism in the Master's Program in Journalism, Communications Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She earned her B.A. in international relations with a specialization in Middle Eastern Studies and her M.A. international relations at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a University Fellow at Columbia University where she did Ph.D. work in political science. Ms. Epstein lives in Washington D.C.

Sarah Fairchild (Workshop)

Sarah Fairchild is Program Director for Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program. Before beginning her career at the Sierra Club in 2001, Sarah participated in a fellowship program with Population Connection, developing curricula and training teachers and future educators across the country. Prior to her fellowship, Sarah taught at an environmental education school in southern Chile and served as a translator for natural resource conservation and community service initiatives. Sarah has extensive knowledge of the connections among global health, women's rights and the environment. She is dedicated to mobilizing youth activists, Sierra Club members and the general public around sustainable development solutions, including universal access to reproductive health information and services as well as education and economic opportunity for women and girls. Sarah graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies and Spanish.

Jacob Feinspan (Workshop)

Jacob Feinspan is a Senior Policy Associate and directs American Jewish World Service's advocacy on global AIDS, international debt cancellation, and Darfur in Washington, D.C. In addition to representing AJWS on Capital Hill, he coordinates the grassroots advocacy of thousands of AJWS supporters around the country. He also serves as a group leader for week long service learning programs for teens and college students in Latin America. Before joining AJWS, Jacob worked for a year at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and he continues to advise the Reform Movement's disaster relief grant making. He has also spent time the past seven summers with Jewish teens at Camps Swig and Newman in California. Jacob graduated from Wesleyan University in 2002 with a B.A. in government and sociology.

Cara Fisher (Workshop)

Cara Fisher is a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Her issue portfolio includes immigration, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, election reform and voter registration. Cara's hometown is Beachwood, Ohio and she is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

Wayne Firestone (Workshop)

As of September 1, 2006, Wayne L. Firestone is the President and CEO for Hillel the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. He joined Hillel in 2002 as the Founding Executive Director of the Israel on Campus Coalition and later the Executive Vice President for Hillel in the US. A Washington DC trained lawyer and lobbyist, Wayne is a graduate of the University of Miami where he double majored in Judaic Studies and Politics and Public Affairs and gained national prominence as a Hillel student Soviet Jewry activist, playwright and intercollegiate debater. Wayne received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law School and worked for the prestigious DC law firm Patton Boggs following a summer internship with a law firm in Monrovia, Liberia.

Joanna Flatt (Workshop)

Joanna is a third year student at McGill University in Montreal, studying social context business strategy and marketing. Currently, Joanna is involved in two sustainable initiatives at McGill. The first is focused on creating a sustainability center/resource intended for students, faculty and staff at McGill. The second is geared towards greening the campus Hillel. She also conducted a cross-cultural sustainability research project last semester comparing France, Canada and Argentina based on education, cultural values and government policy. Joanna was born in Toronto, Canada.

Lois Frank (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Lois Frank serves as Chair of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. Her volunteer service to the Jewish community began in 1967 when she took her first trip to Israel. She first moved to Atlanta to attend Emory University and Atlanta University, which was historically a black college. She has served as Chair of the Community Relations Committee of the Atlanta Jewish Federation, National Advocacy Chair for the American Jewish Committee and national chair of the Jewish Coalition for Literacy. Additionally, she has served on the Georgia Juvenile justice Commission Board (2000 - 2005), and on the Board of the Southern Regional Council, a civil rights organization for 14 Southern states. Currently, she is also president of Women's Philanthropy in Atlanta and National Vice President of the American Jewish Committee. She has been honored by the National Conference for Community and Justice

in 2002, and also received the Atlanta Selig Distinguished Service Award in 1999 and the Advocacy Award in 2006 from the American Jewish Committee.

Avi Friedman (Host)

Avi Friedman is the Senior Talent Recruitment Coordinator for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. Prior to joining Hillel, Avi was the Assistant Director of Philanthropic Planning at the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. Avi attended Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management, where he received his M.B.A., and the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service, where he received his M.A. Avi has served as the Program Director at the Hillel at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and as the Assistant Director at Camp Ramah in Nyack, New York. Originally from Long Island, New York, Avi received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When not searching for talented individuals to join Hillel's professional team, Avi is busy planning his upcoming wedding to Dr. Amy Goldstein.

Elissa Froman (Workshop)

Elissa Froman is a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. She graduated from the George Washington University in 2006 with a double major in Women's Studies and Judaic Studies. While there, she founded the Jewish Progressive Political Association. As a student, Elissa interned in the Washington and Israel offices of the National Council of Jewish Women, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and in the Capital Hill Office of Congressman Rahm Emanuel. She is currently on the board of Jews United for Justice and teaches at Temple Micah, a Reform congregation in Washington, D.C.

Yosef Gillers (Workshop)

Yosef Gillers is a freshman at Washington University in St. Louis and hopes to major in environmental studies and minor in architecture. His current interest is in pursuing a career in sustainable design. Yosef is deeply involved in both Jewish and Environmental groups on campus. He co-lead a Tu B'shvat seder with a friend, and will hopefully be planning an eco-Shabbat the weekend of Earth day, along with plans for the greening of St. Louis Hillel. Yosef will be spending the summer in Israel volunteering for Shomera, an Israeli religious environmental group.

Dr. Gabe Goldman (Workshop)

Gabe Goldman is nationally recognized for his development of JENE - Jewish Environmental and Nature Education. This approach integrates the teaching of Jewish values and practices with meaningful nature experiences and ancient Native American wilderness survival skills. Gabe has been a Jewish educator for 30 years, holds a PhD in Multi-cultural Education, developed his love for Jewish texts at the Yeshiva of the Bostoner Rebbe and learned his wilderness skills from the northeast Native Peoples. Gabe serves as Director of Experiential and Environmental Education at the Brandeis-Bardin Institute and as Director of the Masters Degree program in Experiential Education at the Fingerhut School of Education, University of Judaism. Gabe has written numerous articles, curriculum, teacher guides and children's stories. He is also the author of *Meditations for the Spiritually Perplexed: A Jewish Meditation Primer* and leads meditation workshops for an international clientele. Gabe has been married for 31 years, has four grown children and lives on the 3,000 acres of land at the Brandeis-Bardin Institute.

Clare Goldwater (Facilitator)

Clare Goldwater was born and raised in London, England and arrived in the US over two years ago to join Hillel. She is currently the Associate Vice President for Jewish Life, working with the education and engagement teams in the Schusterman International Center to help campuses find ways to reach more Jewish students with accessible and engaging Jewish programs and opportunities. Clare got her start in the student world working for the Union of Jewish Students in the UK. She then moved to Israel where she lived for 13 years, where, amongst other things, she worked as a tour guide and informal Jewish educator.

Emily Goodstein (Workshop)

Emily Goodstein is the Program Director of Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom (SYRF) at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Previously, Emily worked as Hillel's Tzedek fellow (Tzedek means justice!) where she helped Jewish college students organize and execute social justice initiatives on campuses across the country. Emily graduated from the George Washington University in 2005 with a degree in human services. During her second semester at GWU, Emily founded the university's chapter of Planned Parenthood, Voices for Choices. Over the past 6 years, Voices for Choices has grown to be a prominent student organization with more than 400 members, serving as a strong and vocal pro-choice presence on campus. In 2005, Emily became the youngest recipient of the Planned Parenthood Champions of Choice award for community partnership. Emily is an active member of the Professional Leaders Project, Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force (WACDTF), and the Women's Information Network (WIN) and recently became chair of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington's Young Professionals Board.

Kenneth Green (Speaker)

Kenneth Green is a Resident Scholar with The American Enterprise Institute where he studies public policy designed to manage environmental risk in areas such as climate change, energy use and exposure to environmental

chemicals. He has authored numerous policy studies, newspaper and magazine articles, several encyclopedia and book chapters, and a textbook for middle-school students titled *Global Warming: Understanding the Debate*. Before joining AEI, Green worked on both U.S. and Canadian policy, first at California's Reason Foundation, then for nearly three years at Canada's Fraser Institute.

Missy Green (Host)

Missy Green is the Program Associate for the Steinhardt Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellowship. In 2005, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Hearing Science and Public Health from The George Washington University. Missy began her career with Hillel as a JCSC Fellow at Hillel at Pierce and Valley Colleges in Los Angeles. Since returning to Washington, D.C., she has worked at the Schusterman International Center. Missy is a member of the Jewish Heritage Committee of Alpha Epsilon Phi National Sorority and currently serves as an advisor to the University of Maryland chapter. She loves traveling, the Philadelphia Eagles, and spending time with family and friends.

Danny Greene (Workshop)

Danny Greene serves as the Innovation and Implementation Associate at Hillel after having completed the one year Arline and David L. Bittker Fellowship at Hillel's Schusterman International Center. In this role, he continues to advance the implementation and planned-priority initiatives of Hillel's Strategic Plan through developing, coordinating, and collaborating on projects such as the Campus Entrepreneurs Initiative and the Outstanding Student Initiatives grants. As the Bittker Fellow, he coordinated and managed Hillel's Student Shabbaton at the General Assembly, oversaw the Student Initiatives Committee's distribution of programmatic grant money, gave presentations around the country on the Millennial generation and Hillel's future direction and staffed the Strategic Planning Process. Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, he is currently having a difficult time with the East Coast cold and is hoping to make it back to sunny California at some point in the future.

Allison Grossman (Workshop)

Allison Grossman is currently a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism where her legislative and advocacy portfolio includes foreign policy, international human rights, global HIV/AIDS, Darfur and international debt cancellation. She also helps to coordinate grassroots and congregational efforts surrounding these issues on behalf of the 1.5 million Reform Jews across North America. She is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona where she graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in political science.

Pamela Grutman (Workshop)

Pamela Grutman is the Dorot Fellow at PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. Grutman, originally from Manalapan, New Jersey, graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a major in Architecture. There she was involved in the Jewish community, serving as the Jewish Student Union President and Director of Programming, a member on the St. Louis Hillel Board of Directors and as a teacher of religious school. Additionally, she served on the Admission's Office Senior Campus Interview Team, was Coordinator of the Givens Ambassadors Program and completed the Hewlett Program in Architecture: Community Building, Building Community. After PANIM, she hopes to continue combining issues of housing and development with social justice.

Stephanie Hausner (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Stephanie Hausner is the Campus and Programs Coordinator for the UJC/JCPA Israel Advocacy Initiative, a three-year, nationally-coordinated strategy for Israel advocacy, funded by a grant from the UJC Israel Emergency Campaign. Since joining the JCPA staff in 2006, Stephanie has consulted with communities on building campus-community partnerships. Stephanie has created a manual on coalition building for students to improve Israel advocacy on university campuses. Additionally in her role as program coordinator, Stephanie organizes regional Israel advocacy workshops for both large and small communities. Stephanie received her Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.

Jennifer Heitel Yakush (Workshop)

Jennifer Heitel Yakush is a Public Policy Associate at SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, a national non-profit that advocates for the right of all people to access to accurate information, comprehensive education about sexuality and sexual health services. In this capacity, Jen concentrates her efforts on public policy and advocacy in the areas of sexual and reproductive health at the federal level by conducting policy maker education in the United States Congress and the Executive Branch. Previously, Jen served as the State Policy Coordinator at Advocates for Youth, where she focused on championing efforts to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Prior to her time at Advocates, she worked as Communications Associate at Catholics for a Free Choice. Jen sits on the National Advisory Council for Sexual Health convened by former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, is a member of the Pro-Choice Public Education Project's (PEP) Young Women's Leadership Council and serves on PEP's Steering Committee. She also serves as a clinic escort with the Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force (WACDTF). Jen graduated from the George Washington University with a degree in International Affairs and a

concentration in International Women's Studies. While at GWU, she founded the campus chapter of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

Graham Hoffman (Workshop)

Graham Hoffman is Director of Innovation and Implementation at Hillel's Schusterman International Center. He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis' Olin School of Business in Human Resource Management and Marketing. He began his professional career at global consulting firm, Accenture, specializing in Operations Improvement and Human Performance. He consulted Fortune 500 companies helping them to enhance employee productivity, increase operational efficiency and reduce infrastructure cost. He has been actively engaged in Hillel's Strategic Planning Process for the past 2 years. Now, he and his team work to incubate, develop, and advance innovative projects and approaches to deliver in Hillel's priority objectives and to coordinate the efforts of the International Center and local Hillels in the successful implementation of the plan. Among the most exciting projects emerging from the Innovation Center in partnership with Taglit-birthright israel is the *Campus Entrepreneurs Initiative Pilot*, currently in its first-year on seven campuses. This project, along with others, aligns with Graham's passion for leadership development, people enablement, and creating high-performance oriented culture in the Jewish sector and beyond.

Jacoba Johnson (Workshop)

Jacoba Johnson is a private environmental public affairs consultant. She has worked in Washington D.C. for 5 years lobbying and campaigning on global warming legislation, with the Environment Defense and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Previously, she lived in Seattle, Washington where she earned a Masters in Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, with a focus on environmental policy and economics. She has worked on two Presidential campaigns, two state-wide initiative campaigns, and a city council campaign. She has served on the political committee of the Board of Directors of the Seattle Group of the Sierra Club, and the Washington Conservations Voters. She has also served on the board of People for Puget Sound. She earned a B.A. from Brown University in 1994 with a concentration in political science and visual arts. In her spare time she is currently facilitating an on-line dialogue between students in the United States and students in the Middle East through the Soliya Connect program.

Danielle Josephs (J-Track)

Danielle Josephs, a senior at Rutgers University, has been fruitlessly advocating for Israel on the Rutgers Campus almost since she first stepped foot on her campus four years ago. When the Palestinian Solidarity Movement (PSM) held its annual rally at Rutgers during the fall of her freshman year, Danielle quickly became involved in Rutgers Hillel's week-long Israel Inspires program, sitting on the Executive Committee as chair of the media committee and pre-rally committee. Following Israel Inspires, Danielle assumed several leadership roles at Hillel including vice president of religious life and Israel Director. Her leadership was recognized further when she was elected to the International Board of Directors of Hillel. Most recently, Danielle was the driving force behind the Middle East Coexistence House, a new addition to Rutgers' Douglass Campus, in which Jewish and Arab women live together in an all-inclusive, living-learning experience. In May Josephs will graduate with degrees in political science and Middle Eastern studies. She hopes to make a career in Middle Eastern policy making and negotiation at the U.S. State Department.

Rabbi Douglas Kahn (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Rabbi Douglas Kahn is Executive Director of the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council. Among his activities, he has served as co-chairman of the Intergroup Clearinghouse, San Francisco's major organization addressing issues of intergroup tensions and hate violence. He serves on the board of an international interfaith organization based in San Francisco called United Religions Initiative. Prior to joining the JCRC staff in 1982, Rabbi Kahn served as Executive Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He received his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. He has published numerous articles on community relations issues.

Lia Katz (Workshop)

Lia Katz is the Smith Fellow at PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. She graduated from the University of Toronto after completing a degree in international relations. She was involved with the Hillel on her campus, serving as chair of Israel programming in her junior year and public relations coordinator in her senior year. She spent a summer volunteering in Ghana and Ukraine through the American Jewish World Service. During college, she worked as a news editor on an undergraduate international relations journal and volunteered as an adult literacy tutor in the Toronto Public Libraries. After the fellowship, Lia plans to continue to pursue her interests of education, journalism and politics.

Marc Katz (Workshop)

Marc Katz is a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, where he works on environment and health care policy. Currently, Marc sits on the steering committees for the Endangered Species

Coalition as well as the Clean Water Network. In addition, he was recently nominated as the Co-Chair of the Washington Inter-religious Staff Community, Energy and Ecology working group, where he will be helping to coordinate the environmental advocacy efforts of the major environmental religious communities in Washington. Marc graduated from Tufts University with a degree in comparative religion. Marc is currently in the process of applying to Hebrew Union College.

Abby Kiesa (Workshop)

Abby Kiesa is the Youth Coordinator at CIRCLE (Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) where she serves as CIRCLE's liaison to practitioner organizations across the country. She works to ensure that research on youth civic engagement can be used as a tool by educators, youth-serving programs and young people themselves to strengthen and support youth engagement. Previously, Abby worked at the national office of Campus Compact where she co-directed Raise Your Voice, a national campaign to increase college students' involvement in public life, and at Madison House at the University of Virginia where she advised student-led community partnerships.

Jonathan Kessler (Workshop)

Jonathan Kessler currently serves as AIPAC's Leadership Development Director, responsible for the expansion of AIPAC's highly acclaimed Political Leadership Development Program (PLDP). In addition, Jonathan directs AIPAC's Schusterman Advocacy Institute and Washington Professional Forum. Prior to his return to AIPAC in 2002 - after a 15 year hiatus - Jonathan served as Executive Editor of *Middle East Insight* magazine, and President of Kessler Associates, Inc., a Washington-based political consulting firm specializing in Middle East public diplomacy. He also has served as a consultant to a variety of national and international organizations involved in Jewish advocacy and Middle East affairs. When Jonathan was previously at AIPAC from 1980 -1987, he was responsible for developing AIPAC's initial student program, and co-authored a student Israel advocacy book. In addition, Jonathan served for four years as Development and Public Affairs Director for The National PAC (NatPac), one of America's major pro-Israel Political Action Committees. Jonathan received his B.A. in political science from Colgate University, and studied at the University of Haifa. Jonathan lives in Maryland with his wife and three children.

Jonathan Baruch Kesselman (J-Track)

Jonathan Baruch Kesselman was born and raised in the mean streets of the San Fernando Valley. He received his Bachelors degree from the University of Colorado, graduating Magna Cum Laude in Psychology with an emphasis in Neuroscience. After college, Jon spent two years in the corporate world as an Information Systems Consultant before being accepted into graduate school at the University Of Southern California School of Cinema/Television, where he received his Masters Degree in Film Production in 2001. While at USC, his short film, "The Hebrew Hammer," was a semi-final at the 2000 Austin Film festival, and was chosen by the USC Film archivists in a collection of their ten favorite student shorts from the 1950's to the present. While at USC, Jon also wrote, directed, edited and produced a web serial for Doug Liman's Internet film site Nibblebox.com Jon's first feature film, 'Hebrew Hammer', was greenlit by Ed Pressman's ContentFilm while Jon was a student at USC. Premiered worldwide at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival. It was distributed in theaters (Hanukkah 2003) by Strand Releasing in conjunction with Comedy Central and Paramount Home Video. Recently, Jon completed writing "The Orbit Of Bob" for Nickelodeon, which he will direct this year as "Odd Todd" for Paramount Pictures, which he co-wrote with Creator Todd Rosenberg. Additionally, Jon is working on 'The Hebrew Hammer 2: Hammer VS Hitler.' Jon is also working with David Bar Katz ("John Leguizamo's Pest, 'Freak') on the Muscial version of the Hebrew Hammer, and has also recently finished the screenplay "Pure Air" which he co-wrote with 'Da Ali G show' writer/producer, Jamie Glassman. Jon also writes a weekly column for Suicide Girls entitled, 'Jonathan Kesselman's Suicide Watch.'

Mary Jane Klocke (Speaker)

Mary Jane Klocke is the Director of the North American Shareholder Marketing BP p.l.c. Mary Jane Klocke joined BP's Investor Relations office in the U.S. in 2002. She had worked in BP's London headquarters for several years as Policy Advisor in the Government and Public Affairs Unit. Prior to her U.K. assignment, Mary Jane had a broad range of roles and responsibilities in BP America's government affairs organization in Washington, D.C. In addition to 23 years with BP, Mary Jane also worked as a legislative analyst for the Senate Judiciary Committee and as a government affairs associate for Shell Oil Company. In her current role as BP's Director of North American Shareholder Marketing, Mary Jane is responsible for the design and execution of BP's marketing program to individual investors and engagement with socially responsible investors. Mary Jane holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Iowa State University and a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the George Washington University.

Candice Knezevic (Workshop)

Candice Knezevic is the Assistant Director of the Washington, D.C. office of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. There, she organizes and carries out grassroots and congressional advocacy efforts in support of HIAS' immigrant and refugee protection agenda. She was previously the Program Associate for Human Rights First's Washington, D.C. Asylum Program. In that position, she coordinated the Asylum Legal Representation Program, which places asylum seekers with *pro bono* counsel, and assisted with the program's congressional and

administrative advocacy efforts. Candice holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia and a Master's Degree in International Human Rights from the University of Denver.

Debra Kolodny (Workshop)

Debra Kolodny is the Executive Director of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She oversees and supports all of the organizations projects, including the Sacred Foods Project as well as media work, outreach and visibility, fundraising and development. A veteran of several social justice movements, Debra has been working professionally with and for faith-based organizations, labor unions, civil rights organizations and other social justice non-profits for over 20 years. A graduate of the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the University of Pennsylvania Law School she continues her education today, as a rabbinic student. Debra served Shoreshim, a northern Virginia chavurah as spiritual leader for four years and is a lay leader at the Fabrangen chavurah in Washington DC.

Camille Kolstad (Workshop)

Camille Kolstad grew up in Saint James, Minnesota. She is currently a sophomore at Georgetown University. Her academic interests lie in the intersections of religion, politics and economics, thus leading her to pursue a political economy and theology degree. Through interning for Tim Walz for the U.S. Congress and Senator Mark Dayton, she has confirmed her passion for politics and gained substantial insight into the legislative process. In addition, she is President of Georgetown University Legislative Advocates, and thus has been able to turn her political passion for many issues, including sustainability, into insider and outsider lobbying campaigns.

Josh Kramer (Speaker)

Josh Kramer is a freshman at The Ohio State University. This past summer while working at Camp Ramah in Canada, Josh read the book *An Inconvenient Truth*. Reading the book spurred Josh into action. Armed with extensive involvement in Jewish youth activities such as Panim el Panim, AIPAC, Ramah, and USY, Josh joined the Climate Project where he was trained to lead and teach the concepts of an Inconvenient Truth.

Beth Kurtz (Speaker)

Beth Kurtz is currently the Weinberg Tzedek Hillel Fellow at Hillel's Schusterman International Center in Washington, DC. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Beth recently graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a B.A. in Political Science. While a student at Wash U, Beth created and led a Jewish social justice advocacy group, participated in her campus Hillel's Community Development Fellowship program, and was a member of the Campus Interview Team. Beth interned in a Congressional office as well as with advocacy organizations both in St. Louis and Toulouse, France, where she spent a semester of her junior year. Her current pastimes include exploring DC, drinking excessive amounts of Diet Coke, refusing to lose her French skills, informing the world that Tzedek means justice, and reading.

Michelle Lackie (Speaker)

Michelle Lackie has been the Director of Weinberg Tzedek Hillel at the Schusterman International Center since September 2003. She previously served as the Program Director and Director of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto from 1998-2002, where she instituted the Tzedek Hillel program. She is an experienced Alternative Break trip leader and pioneer of service programs to countries such as El Salvador, Honduras and Guyana. Before becoming the Director of Tzedek Hillel, Michelle completed her MBA in Social Policy and Non-Profit Management at the Heller School, Brandeis University. Michelle loves to travel and go camping with friends.

Anna Levy (Workshop)

Anna Levy is the Morningstar Fellow at PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. She graduated from Binghamton University where she majored in Philosophy, Politics, and Law and minored in International Studies. She worked full time her senior year as a Fellow for the Jewish Heritage Program. Anna has done service work abroad in Ghana and Ukraine with American Jewish World Service in addition to studying for a semester in Spain. While a fellow at PANIM, Anna is also working part-time as Program Manager for the Educated Consumer Project (ECP), which works to deliver financial literacy to low-moderate income high school students. Anna plans on furthering her degree in the next few years by studying some combination of International Economic Policy and/or Law.

Lynn Lyss (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Lynn Lyss is a current Chair of JCPA '09. She has held many leadership positions within the Jewish community including: President, St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council; Board Member & Executive Committee, National Hillel; Honorary National Vice President, National Council of Jewish Women; Past Member, United Jewish Communities (UJC), Board of Trustees; Former Chair, National Jewish Coalition for Literacy; and was a presidential appointee to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Council. She was a member of the Democratic Platform Committees in both 1992 & 1996. She has received many awards and honors including the St. Louis Federation Women's Division Award, NAACP Women's Gold Medal of Honor, 1994; American Jewish Committee "Netzach" Award, 1994; NAACP

Lifetime Achievement Award, 1991; Hannah G. Solomon Award, NCJW, 1987, CORO Foundation Leadership Award, 1984, and Missouri Volunteer Award, 1984.

Lindsay Madeira (Workshop)

Lindsay Madeira is the Sustainability Coordinator for American University, where she works with staff, faculty, and students to implement new and existing projects, programs, policies and teams that promote and facilitate AU's efforts and be a leader in the transition to more sustainable campus and global future. Lindsay works to make "the American Dream Green" a reality by infusing sustainability into the curriculum and university policies, helping the management division run the campus with the smallest foot print possible, promote student involvement in sustainability issues and projects, and maintain and forge partnerships with local and national organizations working to advance sustainability in Higher Education. Lindsay earned her dual Master's degrees in Natural Resources & Sustainable Development and International Affairs from American University and the United Nations Affiliated University for Peace in Costa Rica, where she focused her research on renewable energy technologies for rural development. This spring she has been invited to teach some applied workshops on bio-fuels and photovoltaic electricity to American University students.

Kathy E. Manning (Speaker)

Kathy E. Manning is the Chair of the United Jewish Communities' (UJC) Executive Committee, the first woman to serve in that capacity. She is the immediate past Chair of the UJC Budget & Finance Committee and was UJC's Treasurer. She is a past Chair of the Small Federation Steering Committee and past chair of the HSSP Public Policy and Legislation Committee. She is a former member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet and a recipient of the Young Leadership Award. Ms. Manning received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She was a partner at Smith Helms Mullis & Moore from 1989 through 2002. She currently specializes in Immigration Law at Manning & Associates, PLLC, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Erin Mazursky (Workshop)

Erin Mazursky co-founded Students Taking Action Now: Darfur at Georgetown, the group that would eventually become the model for the national organization, STAND: A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition, and for hundreds of STAND chapters around the country. Under her leadership, the National STAND Coalition has grown to more than 700 chapters, making it one of the fastest growing student organizations in the country and at the forefront of the movement to end the genocide in Darfur. She is currently a senior at Georgetown University majoring in culture and politics, with a focus in development and human rights.

Ruth Messinger (Speaker)

Ruth W. Messinger is the president and executive director of American Jewish World Service, an international development organization providing support to grassroots social change projects throughout the world. Prior to assuming this role in 1998, Ms. Messinger was in public service in New York City for 20 years, including having served as Manhattan borough president. She is an active member of her synagogue and serves on the boards of several not-for profit organizations. In tribute to her life's work, in 2005 Ruth Messinger was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, as well as the Union for Reform Judaism Maurice N. Eisendrath Bearer of Light Award. For the past five years, she has been named one of the 50 most influential Jews of the year by the *Forward*, putting her in the top spot on the list in 2005.

Andi Milens (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Andi Milens is the Associate Executive Director for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). Among her responsibilities is providing consultation to 125 member Community Relations Councils (CRCs) in their daily work of addressing important community relations and public policy issues. In addition to consulting, Andi oversees JCPA's "JCPA '09" strategic planning process and fundraising initiatives. Andi served as the primary coordinator of communication between the national Jewish agency system and local communities following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, working with Jewish communities around the country to mobilize their response. Prior to joining the JCPA, Andi spent nearly seven years with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland. Andi has a Master's Degree in Jewish Communal Service from the School of Jewish Communal Service at Hebrew Union College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Liore Milgrom-Elcott (Workshop)

Liore Milgrom-Elcott is the Campaign Coordinator for, "A Light Among the Nations" campaign. She received a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a concentration on Environmental Science and specifically on the scientific aspects of the environment and pollution and the role they play in societies. She went on to receive a Masters of Professional Studies in Environmental and Developmental Economics, focusing on how monetary factors play a role in environmental decisions. As an undergraduate, she sat on the Hillel programming board and founded Teva, the campus Jewish environmental group. After graduating, she spent five months representing the American Jewish World Service in its tsunami relief work in Kanchipuram, India. She has also worked in the Dominican Republic and Mexico on

environmental and social justice projects. Most recently she was a Community Liaison for Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) in her campaign and Assembly offices with a specific focus on environmental issues and advocacy.

Lyndsay Moseley (Workshop)

Lyndsay Moseley began working with Sierra Club's Environmental Partnerships Program in June 2005 to help with forming partnerships between Sierra Club and communities of faith. Lyndsay has spent the last 5 years working at the intersection of faith and the environment most recently from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment in where her work focused on grassroots organizing of the faith community around climate change and energy policy. Lyndsay has published several articles and co-developed and implemented a 12-week curriculum for evangelical Christians called, "Biblical Perspectives on Environmental Stewardship." Lyndsay holds an M.P.A., specializing in environmental policy from the University of Tennessee, and a B.A. in public policy analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ari Moskowitz (Workshop)

Ari Moskowitz is the Stone Fellow at PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. He graduated from Harvard University where he studied philosophy and the cognitive sciences. On campus, he was a Hillel vice president, senior editor of the *Harvard Review of Philosophy* and a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. Before attending Harvard, he studied at Yeshivat Ohr Hadarom in Israel. Following his fellowship at PANIM, Ari plans to pursue a business degree with a focus on non-profit management.

Andrew Nazdin (Workshop)

Andrew is a freshman at the University of Maryland, currently considering a major political science. Andrew devotes most of his organizing time towards the Sierra Student Coalitions national organizing endeavors, as well as sitting on the Trainings, and Environmental Justice and Executive Committees.

Charles Newman (Speaker)

Charles Newman is the founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of ReCellular Inc. Mr. Newman has been instrumental in demonstrating the commercial feasibility of the reuse of wireless handsets. ReCellular is the largest company in this field and currently processes over 300,000 phones per month. ReCellular has received numerous local, state and national environmental awards including being named the Michigan Recycler of the Year and one of Inc magazines "Green 50" companies. Along with his wife Sharon, he founded the Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor. Mr. Newman is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hillel, the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. Sharon and Chuck have four children and four grandchildren. They reside in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Michael Newman (Speaker)

Michael Newman leads ReCellular Sales and Marketing for ReCellular, Inc., the largest collector and recycler of used cell phones in the world. Under his leadership, they have grown to process more than 3 million used phones in 2006. Prior to joining ReCellular, Mr. Newman served as National Political Representative for the Sierra Club. In that role, he directed the organizations multi-million dollar political activities in 20 states. Mr. Newman was the organizational liaison for the Gore 2000 presidential campaign and successfully coordinated activities in seven states. He also served as a national spokesperson on electoral, clean water and related environmental issues. Mr. Newman holds a B.S. and M.B.A. from the University of Michigan. He serves on the board of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and is an active distance runner.

Allyson Neville (Workshop)

Allyson Neville is an advocacy associate at the Genocide Intervention Network. She primarily works to advocate for federal legislation and conducts research related to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. She has an M.A. in International Affairs with a focus in African regional studies. Her graduate research centered on the intersection of conflict and identity in central Africa and dynamics of reconciliation after genocide. She spent time in southern Africa in 2002.

Sara Oliveri (Workshop)

Sara Oliveri is an International Development and Political Science major at The George Washington University. She is an active member of both United Students for Fair Trade and the Student Trade Justice Campaign. Sara and other members of GW Students for Fair Trade hosted a very successful Fair Trade coffee house in collaboration with the Student Global Aids Campaign as part of AIDS Awareness Week. Sara is a 2006 Oxfam CHANGE Leader, working closely with Oxfam on numerous social justice issues.

Dr. Daniel Orenstein (Speaker)

Dr. Daniel Orenstein is a science and policy fellow at the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and a visiting fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. He completed his Ph.D. in environmental studies at Brown University in 2006. His research includes the ecological implications of land use change in Israel, trans-border environmental challenges and ecological conservation in Israel. He lived in Israel

between 1992 and 2001. During this time he completed his master's degree in desert ecology at Ben Gurion University, and taught environmental studies at the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies. He writes, speaks and teaches about local and global environmental challenges to anyone willing to listen, and hasn't given up on those who won't.

Stefanie Ostfeld (Workshop)

Stefanie Ostfeld is a policy associate at the American Jewish World Service. She primarily works on Darfur policy and universal access to education. Prior to joining AJWS, she organized students to take action in support of human rights, advocated on behalf of immigrant rights and animal rights and worked with an organization in Ecuador focusing on ending sexual harassment and violence in the school system. She has an M.A. in international human rights with concentrations in international development and global health.

Eli Pariser (Speaker)

Eli Pariser is Executive Director of MoveOn.org Political Action and interim Executive Director of MoveOn.org Civic Action. Eli joined MoveOn in November of 2001, and directed MoveOn's campaign against the Iraq war, tripling MoveOn's member base in the process. MoveOn now has over 3.3 million members. Eli was one of the co-creators of the Bush in 30 Seconds ad contest, and as Executive Director of MoveOn PAC raised over \$30 million from over 350,000 small donors to run ads, develop a powerful field program and support progressive candidates from John Kerry on down. Eli graduated summa cum laude in 2000 with a B.A. in Political Science from Simon's Rock College. He lives in Portland, Maine.

Josh Protas (Advanced Advocacy Track)

Josh Protas is the Director of the JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Southern in Tucson, Arizona. In his three years in this position, he has been involved in coalition building with other religious and community groups to address a wider range of issues and works actively with lay leaders in the areas of social action, community relations, Israel advocacy and Holocaust education. Josh earned his B.A. in American Studies and French Literature from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and his M.A. in Public History and Western American History from Arizona State University. Prior to working for JCRC, Josh worked in historical research, historic preservation and education, most recently as the director of a historic synagogue project in Tucson.

Steve Rabinowitz (J-Track)

Steve Rabinowitz is the President of Rabinowitz/Dorf Communications. A seasoned media consultant, publicist and political event planner, Steve served former President Bill Clinton as Director of Design and Production for the White House. As such, Steve designed and produced all of the President's public events in Washington and oversaw the press coverage of those and others outside the capital. Steve is also a founding partner in the high-tech media firm QRS Newmedia. Steve is married to Laurie Moskowitz, the former Coordinated Campaign Director at the DNC and a partner in the grassroots and field strategy firm FieldWorks. They live in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Washington, D.C. with their young sons Jake and Sammy and their golden retriever Henry.

Claire Roby (Workshop)

Claire Roby is President of Eco-Sense at American University in Washington, DC. Last Spring, the group as managed a successful student referendum on Clean Energy as part of the Campus Climate Challenge. This year they are promoting Bikes & Biodiesel, their 8-page, comprehensive proposal to make more convenient and environmentally friendly transportation options for the AU community. Claire is a sophomore environmental studies major from Tulsa, OK, and she is particularly interested in environmental justice issues.

Dr. Debra Rowe (Speaker)

Dr. Rowe is the President of the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development. She is also Senior Fellow at the Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, National Co-coordinator of the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium and Senior Advisory Councilor for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. She helps higher education associations and institutions integrate sustainability into mission, curricula, research, student life, operations and community partnerships. As a consultant to a national consortium of community colleges, Dr. Rowe created a model energy management degree, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. In addition, Dr. Rowe was the energy and sustainability consultant to the National Science Foundation funded National Science Database Library (Electronic Environmental Resources Library.) Debra has been professor of sustainable energies and behavioral sciences for over 26 years at Oakland Community College. She teaches online courses in renewable energies internationally. Debra earned a Ph.D., M.A. and M.B.A. from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Yale University.

Neil Rubin (J-Track)

Neil Rubin is Editor of the Baltimore Jewish Times. Prior to this, Neil spent 7 ½ years editing the Atlanta Jewish Times; served as the Director of Public Relations for the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization; was a writer at B'nai B'rith International; and served as Publications Editor for The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. He holds an undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland and a masters in

Modern Jewish Studies from the Baltimore Hebrew University. Neil is working on a Ph.D. from BHU, focusing on the attitudes of Christian religious groups regarding U.S. policy towards Israel and the response of American Jewry. He also teaches undergraduate courses at BHU on the History of Israel and Contemporary Jewish Issues. Neil, a Baltimore, MD native, is married to Ronit Alon Rubin and together they have two children, Leah (8) and Aryeh (6).

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb (Workshop)

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, the Rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda M.D., is a long-time social justice and environmental activist. President of the Washington Board of Rabbis and active in numerous communal organizations, he serves on the boards of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, Teva Learning Center, Religious Witness for the Earth and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

Tammy Shapiro (Workshop)

Tammy Shapiro recently graduated from University of Wisconsin - Madison where she started and ran Kavanah: A Progressive Jewish Voice for three years. She is currently the director of The Union of Progressive Zionists, a national network of Jewish campus activists who advocate for Social Justice and Peace in Israel and Palestine.

Nili Simhai (Workshop)

Nili Simhai grew up in Cleveland, OH and is a graduate of Ohio State University. Director of the Teva Learning Center since 1999, she has been central in the formation of many new initiatives in Jewish environmental education, including *Alumat*, the Jewish Gardening Manual, and Bringing it Back to Our School, a program to facilitate environmental change in Jewish day schools initiated by students.

Eliza Simon (Workshop)

Eliza has been the Sierra Student Coalition's National Campaign Organizer for the Campus Climate Challenge since August, 2006. She grew up in the Washington, DC area and attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut. After graduating with Honors and a BA in Anthropology, Eliza entered the world of professional organizing as a campus organizer for the New Voters Project, the largest youth voter registration and mobilization effort in history. Alongside a stalwart team of interns and volunteers, she coordinated the registration of more than 5,100 students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and helped turn out thousands to the polls on Election Day. After the 2004 election, Eliza moved to Madison, WI, to research, lobby, and organize around water issues as the Clean Water Associate for WISPIRG, the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group. Eliza worked for WISPIRG until 2006, also directing two citizen outreach offices in the summertime.

Rabbi Daniel Smokler (Workshop)

Rabbi Daniel Smokler is the Assistant Director for Student Leadership and Engagement at Hillel. He worked for several years as a community and labor organizer with UNITE-HERE and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He helped lead successful strikes at Yale University in 2003 and 2004, the Hotel Workers strike and contract campaign of 2004, and served as a consultant to the Writers United in their successful election campaign of 2005. He was ordained an Orthodox Rabbi by the Israeli Rabbinate in 2006.

Gina Sobel (Workshop)

Gina Sobel is a senior music and environmental studies double major at the College of William and Mary. She was president of the campus Hillel her junior year and is now the facilitator of the Student Environmental Action Coalition at WM, where they have been digging in and working hard to get an energy policy passed. Gina has trained for the Sierra Student Coalition and is co-directing the Virginia summer program for the SSC this July. She loves farming and the word sustainability, and believes that the secret to life is in a tomato.

Neil Spears (Speaker)

Neil Spears is the Bittker Fellow at the Hillel Schusterman International Center in Washington, DC where he works in the Center for Innovation and Implementation. After growing up in San Bernardino, California (60 miles east of L.A.), he moved to the beach and studied psychology and political science at the University of California, San Diego. Since moving out of America's Finest City, Neil is adjusting to life on the East Coast where houses have basements and Subway doesn't serve avocado. Neil loves to travel and has been fortunate to have visited many places in the U.S. and Europe, including a summer studying in Cambridge, England and prior trips to Israel (including Taglit-birthright Israel). Neil loves dogs and quite misses his family's Airedale Terrier, Zestie. If you know where he can visit an Airedale near DC, please let him know ASAP.

Matt Stern (Workshop)

Matt Stern While is the Mid-Atlantic Campus Coordinator for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. As a student at the University of Pittsburgh, pursuing a degree in Chemistry, he spent long hours studying climate science and paleo-climatology. Through these studies, he quickly realized the need for climate action and eventually he moved to Washington, D.C. Matt is lucky enough to work with students across D.C. and Maryland who are making their campuses more climate friendly. Before coming to CCAN, Matt was the Inaugural Co-Chair and National Youth Coordinator for the Institute for Sustainability's Youth Council on Sustainable Science and Technology (YCOSST).

Matt enjoys long walks on beaches that are unaffected by global warming-induced coastal erosion and is passionate about helping to secure such a future.

Bluma B. Stoller (Speaker)

Bluma is the Co-Chair of the Tzedek Committee and a member of the International Hillel Board of Directors; she is the recipient of Hillel's 2003 Exemplar of Excellence Award for her commitment to social justice and Tikkun Olam. She has been very involved in the Jewish Relations Council of Greater Boston; the Boston-Haifa Social Justice Committee; and Project Otzma. Bluma is currently working for Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the City of Boston's central office for its 46 municipal community centers and is developing an arts and culture curriculum for the City's children and teens.

Dr. Nir Tsuk (Workshop)

Dr. Nir Tsuk is the Director of the Global Fellowship. He joined Ashoka after wrapping up his PhD in political science in Cambridge. In his dissertation he looked at two intentional communities - the Israeli Kibbutz and the English Garden City - their love/hate relationship with the state, and the insights that can be drawn from such cases on the dependency of social cohesion and change on the political context, and on state-civil society interplay. His gradual realization that he prefers to 'work with' rather than 'look at' led him to Ashoka. His work on issues of community, solidarity and education led him to the Global Fellowship Program, which engages Ashoka Fellows worldwide in an enabling, creative and synergetic community. Prior to joining Ashoka, Nir was involved in policy research and analysis for the Community Development Foundation in London and for the Committee for Social Affairs in the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem.

Josh Tulkin (Workshop)

Josh Tulkin is the Organizing Director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. In high school, Josh was a local and regional leader in B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and organized a local leadership conferences and community services programming. Josh attended Pomona College where he received his B.A. in environmental policy with a focus in climate change and energy policy. Josh was invited to join a youth delegation to the U.N. Conference on Climate Change, and has continued U.N. advocacy since. In 2002, Josh helped found SustainUS, the U.S. youth network for sustainable development, which helps connect U.S. youth with the United Nations to raise awareness about the need for international cooperation on development challenges. After graduation, Josh worked as program coordinator for Clear the Air and helped organize the national campaign against mercury. Josh left Clear the Air to run the Madison Office for the New Voters Project. Following the election, Josh began his work at Chesapeake Climate Action Network where he currently conducts the education and advocacy campaigns to fight global warming in Maryland, Virginia and D.C.

Ilan Wagner (Facilitator)

Ilan Wagner made Aliyah to Israel in 1986 after years of activity in the Young Judaea youth movement where he served as educational director, and spent many summers at Tel Yehuda, beginning as madrich and reaching the position of head counselor. After his Aliyah, worked in education as a high school teacher, wrote an English language textbook for Israeli schools, became the head of the education committee at Kibbutz Yotvata, and supervisor of civics at the regional high school. In 1996, he and his family were sent by the Jewish Agency to the United States, where he worked as a national educational emissary for college students around the country, and worked in the summer as the Educational Director of Tel Yehudah. After moving to Jerusalem, he became the personal assistant for the Director-General of the Department of Education of the Jewish Agency. Ilan received his Masters Degree in Political Science from Tel Aviv University in 2000, and is currently pursuing his doctorate in Jewish education at the Hebrew University. From 2002 until 2004 he directed the Department of Education's global student activities and was the head of the Student Forum of the National Institutions in Israel. In September of 2004 he began his current position as the Jewish Agency's Shaliach to Hillel International and the representative for students in North America. Ilan is married and has two children. He once had a puppy.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow (Workshop)

Rabbi Arthur Waskow is the director of The Shalom Center, which he founded in 1983. The Shalom Center is a prophetic voice in Jewish, multi-religious and American life that draws on Jewish wisdom to work for justice, peace and the healing of our wounded earth. In 1996 Rabbi Waskow was named by the United Nations one of forty "Wisdom Keepers" -- religious and intellectual leaders from all over the world who met with the Habitat II conference in Istanbul. In 2001, he was presented the Abraham Joshua Heschel Award by the Jewish Peace Fellowship. In 2005, he was named one of the "Forward Fifty" by the Forward, a leading American Jewish newspaper. He is now leading a Shalom Center project on "Beyond Oil," involving religious communities in addressing both the personal and household addiction to oil and the political and economic structures that feed and intensify this addiction.

Matthew Weinberg (Workshop)

Matthew Weinberg is a legislative assistant for the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism. He was born in 1984 in New York City. He grew up there, attending Fieldston High School in the Bronx. Matthew then attended

Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, graduating last May. In August, he moved away from N.Y.C. for the first time to come to Washington, D.C. and work at the Religious Action Center.

Emma Wendt (Workshop)

Emma Wendt is in her first year of an MBA program at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Her focus is on bringing together businesses and environmental organizations to create solutions to environmental challenges that result in value for all parties involved. At Stanford, she is advising the Green Hillel Task Force, and is leading the business school's climate change initiatives. Prior to Stanford, Emma was the first Footprint Officer at the International Finance Corporation in Washington, DC, where she developed a program to improve the environmental and social impacts of IFC's internal operations. Emma received a BA from Harvard University in Environmental Science and Public Policy, and was born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Dena Wigder (Workshop)

Dena Wigder is a public policy advocate at the Human Rights Campaign, where she advocates for federal policy to secure equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. She lobbies Congress and the administration to protect and adequately fund federal HIV/AIDS treatment and care programs such as the Ryan White CARE Act, Medicaid and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS and to promote science-based HIV prevention, including comprehensive sexuality education. Wigder also works on legislation that would update our nation's hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity and protect GLBT students from harassment and bullying. Before joining HRC, Wigder was a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, where she advocated the policy positions of the Reform Jewish Movement in the areas of GLBT equality, health care, domestic HIV/AIDS and Israel. A native of Dallas, she graduated from Tufts University, with a degree in sociology and psychology.

Debbi Wilgoren (J-Track)

Debbi Wilgoren has been a reporter at The Washington Post for more than 15 years, covering crime, education, religion and economic development. She has written extensively about the transformation of downtown Washington, D.C. and other center-city neighborhoods, including a three-part narrative series in 2005 on tenants who purchased their apartment complex just off the trendy U Street corridor and converted it into an affordable cooperative. She also authored a series on Islam and a yearlong series on efforts to reform a District public school. Wilgoren graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in English, and spent several months reporting from Israel before coming to work for The Washington Post. She lives in Washington with her husband and two children.

Yochanan Zakai (Workshop)

Yochi Zakai is a program assistant at the Sierra Student Coalition, Sierra Club. As a sophomore at Walter Johnson High School in Maryland, Yochi was recruited to join the SSC's Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists. There he organized a county-wide recycled campaign that gained media attention and attracted the support of the county council. While an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan, Yochi founded a business partnership called Brewing Hope. Working with students, faculty and businesses interested in promoting the fair trade system, Yochi set up a program that not only sold coffee, but also created a relationships between coffee growers and latte drinkers. He then left Brewing Hope to study the connection between biodiversity, economic sustainability and coffee certifications in Central America. Yochi re-joined the SSC in as a staff member in December 2005, where he now has the privilege of working with the environmental movement's finest students. He was selected to be a part of the Jewish Funds for Justice 2007 Selah Cohort program.

Blake Zeff (J-Track)

Blake Zeff is a campaign spokesman for Hillary for President, interacting with reporters from throughout the nation and world on a variety of substantive topics. Previously he was the communications director for the New York State Democratic Party, where he created and oversaw the rapid response operation for New York's 2006 statewide ticket and several other high-profile campaigns; in that role, he helped lead the party to its first statewide sweep in nearly 60 years and helped deliver three GOP House seats to the Democrats. As the chief spokesman of the party -- and primary surrogate for the Clinton, Spitzer, and Gillibrand campaigns -- Zeff was hailed as the "Dems' secret election weapon" by the Daily News, and touted for "drafting press releases that caught the eye of jaded reporters" by Crains. Prior to this, Zeff was the communications director for Senator Charles Schumer in his Capitol Hill office, where he previously served as press secretary and special assistant. The New York native has degrees from Brown University in Political Science and Modern Culture & Media.

Jay Zeidman (J-Track)

Jay Zeidman, 23, works on the National Finance Team for Senator John McCain's Presidential Exploratory Committee. In addition, Zeidman handles Jewish outreach for the campaign. Prior to his work on Senator McCain's campaign, Zeidman handled Jewish outreach for the White House Office of Public Liaison. Prior to joining the Bush Administration in the summer of 2005, Zeidman was an undergraduate student at Texas Christian University where he served as the first Jewish Student Body President in the school's 130 year history.