T’ruah brings a moral voice and the power of the Jewish community to protecting and advancing human rights in North America, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

We do this by training and mobilizing our network of 2,000 rabbis and cantors, together with their communities, to bring our Jewish values to life through strategic and meaningful action.

“Like the staccato of the t’ruah blast of the shofar, T’ruah is a rallying cry to not stand idly, but rather rise up and demand the justice that our faith expects of us.”

—Rabbi Jesse Olitzky
Congregation Beth El, South Orange, New Jersey

HOW T’RUAH WORKS

We ORGANIZE rabbis, cantors and their communities to promote human rights in North America, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories.

We TRAIN rabbinical students and Jewish clergy to be the human rights leaders that our community needs now and in the future.

We AMPLIFY the voices of rabbis and cantors as moral leaders on the most important issues of our time.
Advocating for the rights of minority communities in Israel, including African asylum seekers and Palestinian and Bedouin citizens.

Working to end mass incarceration in the United States, as a step toward dismantling long-term systemic racism.

Organizing rabbis to act as a moral voice against torture, including the ongoing practice of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons.

Mobilizing rabbis to take action locally, through regional clusters.

Training rabbis, cantors and rabbinical students to be human rights leaders, including through a year-long program that introduces future clergy studying in Israel to human rights issues there; and a full-time summer program in New York focused on U.S. human rights.

Introducing rabbis and their communities to human rights issues on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territories, through day trips and educational opportunities.

Creating educational resources, prayers, and weekly Torah commentaries that connect Jewish learning and wisdom to today’s moral challenges.

Building alliances with other minority groups to fight white supremacy and white nationalism, anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia together.

“I don’t think it’s possible to overstate the importance of the voice of T’ruah. They are out there on issues that require a lot of courage, and with such a good, nuanced, clear message that is Torah-based.

— Rabbi Rachel Timoner, Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, New York

To learn more, visit www.truah.org or find us at @truahrabbis and on Facebook.
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**Our Mission**

T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights brings together rabbis and cantors from all streams of Judaism, together with all members of the Jewish community, to act on the Jewish imperative to respect and advance the human rights of all people. Grounded in Torah and our Jewish historical experience and guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we call upon Jews to assert Jewish values by raising our voices and taking concrete steps to protect and expand human rights in North America, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.

**Our Strategies**

- We organize rabbis, cantors, and their communities to make an impact through specific human rights campaigns.
- We train rabbinical and cantorial students and rabbis and cantors to be powerful human rights leaders.
- We amplify the voices of rabbis and cantors on the pressing human rights concerns of our time.
2018 Fiscal Year Program Service Accomplishments
(October 2017 - September 2018)

- As a founding member of the Worker-Driven Social Responsibility Network, working with this network to expand the Fair Food Program, created in the Florida tomato industry, to the Vermont dairy industry, and to other key crops in Florida and beyond.
- Organizing rabbis and their communities in more than twenty-five cities to oppose the Muslim ban and the inhumane immigration policies of the Trump administration, including through rabbi-led protests at more than two dozen ICE facilities in June and July (including many on Tisha B’Av), three delegations to the border, op-eds and other public testimony.
- Supporting Mikdash, a network of seventy sanctuary synagogues, including supporting and training leaders of synagogues committed to protecting immigrants facing deportation.
- Bringing together 100 rabbis for a convening in Berkeley, CA (following one for 200 rabbis in NYC in February 2017) that featured three days of training, organizing planning, and action.
- Training rabbis and Jewish community members about anti-Semitism through two trainings, one for campus rabbis in the Midwest (held in August in Columbus, OH); and one for other midwestern rabbis and lay leaders (held in April in St. Louis, MO).
- Being the only national Jewish organization on the ground in Charlottesville in August 2017 and August 2018. Our rabbis marched with other clergy, offered pastoral support on the ground, and returned to Charlottesville for the anniversary.
- Training more than 80 rabbinical students to be human rights leaders, through a year-long program for students studying in Israel and a summer program in New York.
- Bringing more than thirty-five rabbis and six groups of Jewish community members to the West Bank, in partnership with Breaking the Silence.
- Filing an IRS complaint against three US-based foundations that send more than $20 million altogether to extremist Israeli organizations, many of which associate with Meir Kahane, whose groups both Israel and the US consider terrorist organizations.
- Engaging rabbis and their communities in advocating for legislation that ends long-term solitary confinement in New Jersey. Though the previous governor vetoed this legislation, we are working with coalition partners to reintroduce this bill under the new legislature.
- Bringing a delegation of thirty-five rabbis and community leaders to the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL to jumpstart conversations about racism, and to train these leaders to bring their own communities on this journey.
- Publishing dozens of op-eds by rabbis using their moral voice to stand up for human rights.
Rabbi Michael Latz  
**Co-chair**  
Rabbi Latz is the Senior Rabbi of Shir Tikvah Congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Previously, he was the founding rabbi of Kol HaNeshamah in West Seattle. A Wexner Fellow during rabbinical school, Rabbi Latz was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2000.

Rabbi Michael Lezak  
**Co-chair**  
Michael Lezak is the staff rabbi at the Glide Center for Social Justice in San Francisco. Previously, he served 14 years as rabbi of Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael, California, where he oversaw the congregation’s Chevra Kaddisha and New Jim Crow Working Group. Rabbi Lezak is on the board of the Bay Area Organizing Committee. He is married to Rabbi Noa Kushner and is the proud parent of three daughters.
Rabbi Kenneth Chasen
Vice-chair
Kenneth Chasen is Senior Rabbi of Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles. In addition to his activism in support of immigrant rights, affordable housing and environmental sustainability, he has assumed a prominent role in promoting Israeli-Palestinian coexistence. Rabbi Chasen is the co-author of two books which guide Jewish families in the creation of meaningful Jewish rituals in the home. In addition, he serves on the adjunct faculty of the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, and he is a nationally recognized composer whose original liturgical and educational works are regularly heard in synagogues, religious schools, Jewish camps and sanctuaries across North America and in Israel. Rabbi Chasen is married to Allison Lee, Executive Director, Southern California of American Jewish World Service. Together, they share the joys and challenges of raising three children, Micah, Benjamin, and Eliana.

Rabbi Nancy Wiener
Secretary
Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener, D. Min., is the Clinical Director of the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling and was named the Paul and Trudy Steinberg Chair in Human Relations at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, NY in 2010. She was ordained at HUC-JIR, where she additionally earned a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling and a M.A. in Hebrew Letters. She also holds a M.A. in Jewish History from Columbia University. Rabbi Wiener also serves as the rabbi of the Pound Ridge Jewish Community. Her publications include Judaism for Two: A Spiritual Guide for Strengthening and Celebrating Your Loving Relationship Beyond Breaking the Glass: A Spiritual Guide to Your Jewish Wedding, Meeting at the Well: A Jewish Spiritual Guide to Being Engaged, co-authored with Rabbi Daniel Judson, “A Reform Understanding of To’eivah” in the CCAR Journal.

Eric Sloan
Treasurer

Eric Sloan is a partner with the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. He received his B.A., with honors in English Literature, from Northwestern University, his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, and his LL.M. (Taxation) with distinction from the Georgetown University Law Center. He clients include private equity and hedge funds and private and publicly traded corporations. He is a long-time member and former Treasurer of Kolot Chayeinu in Brooklyn. His wife, Dominique Bravo, a lawyer, is the founding Executive Director of Pathways to Apprenticeship. They live in Brooklyn with their three teenage children.

Rabbi Rachel Gartner

Rabbi Rachel Gartner graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2002 with awards in Practical Rabbinics and in Spiritually Motivated Social Action. She currently serves as the Director of the Jewish Chaplaincy at Georgetown University. Rabbi Gartner is a co-author of Moving Tradition’s, Rosh Hodesh: It’s A Girl Thing Sourcebook, and the author of multiple articles and op-eds. Rabbi Gartner serves on the board of the National Religious Coalition Against Torture Action Fund.
Board of Directors

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy
Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy is the spiritual leader of Congregation Kol Emet, a dynamic, inclusive Reconstructionist community in Yardley, PA. Her experiences in Israel were foundational to her decision to become a rabbi and sparked a passion for social justice. During rabbinical school, she was an Aaron Zeigelman Social Justice Fellow and an intern for Bat Shalom, an Israeli feminist peace organization. She was part of the first American Jewish World Service rabbinical student delegation to El Salvador in 2004, and in 2011 she went on the first T’ruah delegation to Immokalee, Florida to witness the living and working conditions of migrant farmworkers. In addition to being a co-chair of T’ruah, Rabbi Anna is also a member of the Board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and is a former Board member of RENA: Reconstructionist Educators of North America. She is a 2006 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Rabbi Anna lives in Huntingdon Valley, PA with her husband Josh, an attorney, and their daughters Adar, Olive, and Zara.

Rabbi Lester Bronstein
Lester Bronstein has served as rabbi of Bet Am Shalom Synagogue in White Plains, New York since 1989. He has served in leadership roles with the Westchester Board of Rabbis, the White Plains Religious Leaders Association, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, the UJA-Federation of New York, the JFNA Rabbinic Cabinet, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, and the New York Board of Rabbis. He attends the Hartman Institute, Hazon bike rides, and Institute for Jewish Spirituality retreats. For twenty years he sang and recorded with Beged Kefet, a tzedakah-based music group. He studies Torah every Wednesday with his White Plains rabbi chevra, hoping to gain strength for the ongoing work of advocating for human rights and dignity.
Rabbi Ayelet Cohen
Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen is Senior Director of the New Israel Fund’s New York/Tri-State Region. Previously, she was Director of The Center for Jewish Living and The David H. Sonabend Center for Israel at The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. She served for 10 years at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the world’s largest LGBT synagogue serving people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Passionately committed to progressive and feminist Judaism, she is an activist and an advocate for full inclusion and celebration of LGBT Jews in the Jewish world, and an advocate for LGBT civil rights. Rabbi Cohen has been profiled in the New York Times, was named one of the “Heeb 100,” Heeb Magazine’s “hundred people you need to know about,” and was honored at the 2005 Ma’yan Seder as a leading young Jewish feminist activist. She is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly and the New York Board of Rabbis.

Janice Fine
Janice Fine holds a Ph.D. from MIT in Political Science and is Associate Professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at the School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. She teaches and writes about low-wage immigrant labor in the U.S., historical and contemporary debates regarding federal immigration policy, dilemmas of labor standards enforcement and innovative union and community organizing strategies. Prior to coming to Rutgers in 2005, Fine worked as a community, labor, and electoral organizer for more than 25 years. Her ground-breaking book, Worker Centers: Organizing Communities at the Edge of the Dream, was released in January 2006.
Anne Germanacos
Anne Germanacos is the author of the short-story collection In the Time of the Girls (BOA Editions, 2010). Together with her husband, Nick Germanacos, she ran the Ithaka Cultural Studies Program on the islands of Kalymnos and Crete. She runs the Germanacos Foundation in San Francisco.

Marc I. Gross
Marc Gross is Managing Partner of Pomerantz LLP. His litigation has focused on securities fraud class actions and derivative actions, as well as antitrust and consumer cases. In 2012 and 2013, Benchmark Litigation named Mr. Gross a “Local Litigation Star” in New York. He has been selected by his peers as a Super Lawyer five times, most recently in 2013. He is a Vice President of the Institute of Law and Economic Policy, a not-for-profit organization devoted to promoting academic research and dialogue in securities law issues and litigation, and for many years was an officer of the National Association of Securities and Consumer Trial Attorneys.
Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann
Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann catalyzed the founding of Mishkan Chicago in September of 2011. She was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles in 2010. Selected for the Covenant Foundation’s Pomegranate Award in 2013 for promising early-career educators, Lizzi was a 2013 ROI Fellow, and was in the 2012 cohort of CLAL’s Rabbis Without Borders fellowship. Interested in creating spiritual experiences that integrate the spirit, body and mind, that meld music and harmony with intellectual rigor, Lizzi has studied Buddhism and every flavor of Judaism. She developed and performed music with the Nava Tehila Levites in Jerusalem, and the IKAR Davening Team in Los Angeles, and is committed to environmental sustainability, and local and global human rights.

Rabbi Esther L. Lederman
Rabbi Esther L. Lederman works at the Union for Reform Judaism directing the Communities of Practice program. Previously she was an assistant rabbi at Temple Micah. Before moving to Washington, DC, she served as the Marshall T. Meyer Fellow at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun of Manhattan, a prestigious and competitive position in one of the United States most dynamic synagogues. She was ordained in May 2008 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City.
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling is the Director of the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He previously served as the Executive Vice-President of Jewish Funds for Justice, the Torah of Money Director of the Shefa Fund, and the Executive Director of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. He is on the boards of the Faith and Politics Institute and the Shalom Center. He and his life-partner Lynne facilitate Awakening The Dreamer, Changing the Dream symposiums.

Rabbi Ellen Lippmann
Rabbi Ellen Lippmann is founder and rabbi emerita of Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, a progressive community in Brooklyn, where doubt can be an act of faith and whose members are creative, serious seekers who pray joyfully, wrestle with tradition, pursue justice and refuse to be satisfied with the world as it is. She served as the first social justice chair for the Women’s Rabbinic Network, and has served on numerous rabbinic advisory boards. She is co-founder of the 22-year-old Feeding the Homeless program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and co-founder of the Children of Abraham Peace Walk: Jews, Christians and Muslims Walking Together in Brooklyn in Peace. Rabbi Ellen Lippmann is a former Co-Chair of the Board of Truah.
Rabbi Paula Marcus
Rabbi Paula Marcus was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion in Los Angeles, a trans-denominational seminary. She has served Temple Beth El in Aptos, CA since 1979. Rabbi Marcus chairs the Ethics Committee of OHALAH-The Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal. Rabbi Marcus actively demonstrates her commitment to exploring spirituality and learning as a worship and ritual leader, teacher, peacemaker and social justice activist.

Rabbi Eric Solomon
Eric M. Solomon currently serves as a rabbi in Raleigh, North Carolina. He began his career as the Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in New York. He is married to Rabbi Jennifer Solomon, founding Director of the Libi Eir Community Mikveh, and has three children.
Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Rabbi Toba Spitzer has served Congregation Dorshei Tzedek since she was ordained in 1997 at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC). Rabbi Spitzer is a popular teacher of courses on Judaism and economic justice, Reconstructionist Judaism, new approaches to thinking about God, and the practice of integrating Jewish spiritual and ethical teachings into daily life. She has written innovative curricula for children on the Book of Exodus and in the Reconstructionist prayer book, Kol Haneshama. She served as the President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association from 2007-2009, and was the first lesbian or gay rabbi to head a national rabbinic organization. Rabbi Spitzer has received the honor of being included in Newsweek’s Top 50 Rabbis in America 2008 list, the 2008 Forward 50 list, as well as the 2010 Forward list of 50 Female Rabbis Who Are Making A Difference.

David P. Stone
David retired as a partner in the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, one of the largest New York-based international law firms, in 2004. At Weil Gotshal, Mr. Stone specialized in corporate, securities and mergers and acquisitions law. During the last decade of Mr. Stone’s 35 year career, his practice focused almost exclusively on the Middle East. At Weil Gotshal, he created and led the firm’s Israel Practice Group and Middle East Practice Group. During his tenure, the Israel Practice Group represented the issuers or underwriters of more than 90 public offerings by Israeli companies of equity and debt securities in the United States and Europe, and the Middle East Practice Group represented and advised governments and government agencies, as well as private enterprises and individuals, in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Since his retirement, David has studied 15th Century Flemish painting; taught International Securities and Capital Markets Law at the law school of the Michlala L’Minhal in
Rishon L’Tzion, Israel; and participated in the creation, management and operation of the Avichai Foundation Fellowship Program and the John Paul II Center for Religious Dialogue at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, Italy. In addition to serving on our board, he has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Uri L’ Tzedek and On-Track Innovations Ltd., a NASDAQ-listed company headquartered in Rosh Pina, Israel, and continues to serve on the Boards of Directors of Young Judaea and Ameinu; as a trustee of The Washington Institute for Near East Studies; as a member of the Finance Committee of J Street; and as an active member of the New Israel Fund. He is also a member of the Library and Jewish Studies Advisory Boards at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Rabbi Susan Talve

Rabbi Susan Talve is the founding rabbi of Central Reform Congregation, the only Jewish congregation located within the City limits of St. Louis. When other congregations were leaving the city for the suburbs, Rabbi Talve joined with a small group to keep a vibrant presence in the city to be on the front line of fighting the racism and poverty plaguing the urban center. Rabbi Talve leads her congregation in promoting radical inclusivity by developing ongoing relationships with African-American and Muslim congregations, and by fostering civil liberties for the LGBTQ community. She has performed same gender marriages since she arrived in St. Louis in 1981 and was on the first Marriage Equality bus to Iowa where she married her first legal couple and has since had the privilege of marrying more LGBT couples than she can count. As part of a committed pro-choice congregation, Rabbi Talve continues to stand on the front line of abortion and reproductive rights issues. In addition, access to quality affordable health care has always been a passion for Rabbi Talve. In 2007 she became a founding member and president of Missouri Health Care for All, a statewide grassroots advocacy organization that is building a strong coalition for groups and individuals working to bring health care access to all Missourians.
Advisory Board

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