



THE DANA GERSHON AND RABBI JONAH PESNER  
**NORTHEAST LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2017**

Northeast Teen Collective | [www.NortheastJewishTeens.org](http://www.NortheastJewishTeens.org)

## FACULTY & STAFF

**Chen Arad, Boston Media Room Manager, [chen@israeliamerican.org](mailto:chen@israeliamerican.org)**

**Act.IL, [www.act-il.com](http://www.act-il.com)**

Chen Arad is the Act.IL Program Manager for the Boston Israeli American Council (IAC). Chen oversees all IAC regional strategy and programming regarding Israel activism. Chen formerly worked as a journalist and is a contributor to various Israeli media outlets. Between 2007-10 Chen served as an Israel Defense Forces Foreign Press Spokesman. He holds a BA, MA and an MBA from Brandeis University, where he was also a lecturer in Media and Politics. He co-founded Brandeis Visions for Israel in an Evolving World (bVIEW), promoting a more constructive discourse surrounding Israel on US campuses. Act.IL is a joint venture of the Israeli American Council and the Interdisciplinary Center. It's vision is to create an online community that will act to promote a positive influence on the international public opinion towards the state of Israel via social media platforms. Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: ACT.IL SIMULATION ROOM: LEAD AN ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR ISRAEL**

**Wilson Baer, Assistant Director, [wbaer@urj.org](mailto:wbaer@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner Camp, [www.urjeisnercamp.com](http://www.urjeisnercamp.com)**

Ever since Wilson was three years old he has loved Eisner Camp. He rose through the units as a camper and eventually grew to become a staff member at camp. He is a graduate of Brown University where he studied ancient Greek and Latin in addition to serving as a leader of the Brown University Band. Wilson also spent two years teaching middle and high school Latin in central Massachusetts. By applying his experience he looks forward to the opportunity to help bring continued success to the Eisner Camp community. Since 1958, URJ Eisner Camp has embodied the transformative power of Jewish camping. Children from Union for Reform Judaism congregations across the Northeast join together each summer to experience the fun and magic of this special community.

**Renee Berkowitz, Campus President, Binghamton University Chapter, [rberkow1@binghamton.edu](mailto:rberkow1@binghamton.edu)**

**Challah For Hunger, [www.challahforhunger.org](http://www.challahforhunger.org)**

Renee Berkowitz is currently a Junior at Binghamton University studying Psychology and Anthropology. She has been involved in Challah for Hunger since her freshman year and has been President since her sophomore year. Renee has been going to Eisner since 2008, and has been on staff for the last 4 years! Challah for Hunger brings people together to bake and sell challah to raise money and awareness for social justice. We make a difference in the world by investing in the next generation of entrepreneurs, social activists, and philanthropists.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: TURN PASSION INTO ACTION**

**Louis Bordman, Senior Director, [lbordman@urj.org](mailto:lbordman@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner Camp, [www.urjeisnercamp.org](http://www.urjeisnercamp.org)**

Louis has been a leader in the field of Jewish Education and Jewish camping for over 25 years. Over the last 20 years, his vision and direction inspired the URJ Eisner Camp's renaissance. He guided the redevelopment of Eisner's facilities and program and the addition and renovation of virtually every building in camp. During his tenure, Eisner has become one of the most respected camps in the country boasting an average camper return rate of over 94% and home-grown staff return rate over 85%. Since 1958, URJ Eisner Camp has embodied the transformative power of Jewish camping. Children from Union for Reform Judaism congregations across the Northeast join together each summer to experience the fun and magic of this special community. Louis has also been a visionary partner in the formation of the Northeast Teen Collective.

**Scott Brockman, Executive Director, [scott@oasisofpeace.org](mailto:scott@oasisofpeace.org)**

**American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam, [www.oasisofpeace.org](http://www.oasisofpeace.org)**

Scott's journey to become a peace entrepreneur and informal educator started in NFTY, here at Eisner Camp. Time in Israel soon after college led to a lifelong commitment to service. Scott's alphabet soup of institutions he has led or worked for includes, NFTY in Israel, New Israel Fund, Outreach and Expansion Director for the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach, Executive Director for the Hillel of Broward & Palm Beach, Southern Regional Director for J Street & now Executive Director of American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam. The American Friends of NSWAS raises funds for the first bilingual, binational, multicultural Primary School in Israel, a School for Peace, a Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center. All of these programs exist in Israel's only deliberate multicultural bi-national village of 60+ families. Half Israeli Arab and half Jewish. Scott is the proud father of two NFTYites now.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: IDENTITIES IN CONFLICT - MAKING SENSE OF THE DUAL NARRATIVES OF ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: MY STORY**

**Corey Cutler, Director of Development, [ccutler@urj.org](mailto:ccutler@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camp, [www.urjnortheastcamps.org](http://www.urjnortheastcamps.org)**

Corey has led the fundraising efforts at Eisner and Crane Lake Camps for the past 10-years. Since 1958, URJ Eisner Camp has embodied the transformative power of Jewish camping. Children from Union for Reform Judaism congregations across the Northeast join together each summer to experience the fun and magic of this special community. Previously, Corey had a successful 15-year career in public relations and investor relations. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the SUNY Albany. In 2013, Corey received the "Development Professional Award" by



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JCamp180, a Harold Grinspoon Foundation program, recognizing his accomplishments in successful fundraising for the Camps. Corey attended Eisner as a camper and counselor. He enjoys traveling, yoga, the New York Mets and music of all types. A member of Temple Sharey Teflo-Israel, Corey resides in West Orange, NJ with his daughter.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: GIVING TOGETHER**

**Steve Eisenbach-Budner, Executive Director, [Steve@tivnu.org](mailto:Steve@tivnu.org)**

**Tivnu: Building Justice, [www.Tivnu.org](http://www.Tivnu.org)**

Steve Eisenbach-Budner is the Founding Director of Tivnu: Building Justice, which offers the first Jewish Gap Year in the United States, in Portland, Oregon. Steve grew up in a large affordable housing development in Manhattan and was heavily involved in Young Judaea, serving as National President as a senior. Before founding Tivnu in 2011, Steve worked as a carpenter, general contractor and construction trainer. From 2002-2011, Steve worked with the at-risk young adults of Portland YouthBuilders, a job-training and life-skills program. In 2012, Steve was awarded a \$100,000 Joshua Venture Group Fellowship, enabling him to fully focus on Tivnu. Tivnu offers the first Jewish Gap Year in the U.S. Participants discover the Pacific Northwest, connect Jewish life and social justice through individualized internships, and live together in beautiful Portland, Oregon. Tivnu Fellows develop confidence, purpose, and skills teaching, building, and advocating for a country in which all are included.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS, AND YOU; WHAT'S BEING JEWISH GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: YOUR PURPOSE, PASSION, AND A WORLD THAT NEEDS OUR HELP**

**James Gelsey, Director of Operations, [jgelsey@urj.org](mailto:jgelsey@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner Camp, [www.urjnortheastcamps.org](http://www.urjnortheastcamps.org)**

James is the Director of Operations at Eisner Camp and is part of the full time team for Eisner, Crane Lake and 6 Points Sci-Tech. Eisner, Crane Lake and 6 Points Sci-Tech are the UJR camps serving Reform congregations in the northeast. James joined the Eisner summer staff in 2008 to work on camp's amazing 50th Anniversary Celebration. He spent the next few summers as Program Director and Summer Administrator before joining the full-time staff in 2011. James's varied professional background includes Jewish camping, education, and youth work; commercial theater in New York and Toronto; and authoring over 60 children's books (the "Scooby-Doo! Mysteries" chapter books among them). James grew up in Miami, spending nine summers at URJ Camp Coleman, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. James and his family live in northern New Jersey and belong to Temple Beth El of Northern Valley, where James served six years as chairperson of the Education Committee and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees. His wife is an Eisner alum, and both of their children have been at camp since 2007.

**Dana Gershon, Attorney, [dana@danagershon.com](mailto:dana@danagershon.com)**

**Ankner & Levy, PC, [www.anknerlevy.com](http://www.anknerlevy.com)**

Dana Gershon is an attorney with a private practice that specializes in employment law. She represents clients both independently and through an affiliation with Ankner & Levy, PC. Prior to starting her own practice, Dana worked at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. in Boston and at Goodwin Proctor, LLP. She has also taught at Boston University School of Law and in the Genesis Program at Brandeis University. Dana received her J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, and her B.A. from Cornell University. Dana is a past-President of the Board of Trustees of the Rashi School in Dedham, MA and a former trustee there. She also served on the Board of Trustees on the Boston Jewish Community Relations Council and on the Council at Temple Israel in Boston. Dana co-chaired CJP's Boston-Haifa Connection and was instrumental in the founding of the Parents at the Center Program in Haifa, Israel which provides assistance to families with children at risk. Dana is also on the Board of Advisors of the New England Center for Children in Southborough, MA. Dana recently moved to the Washington, DC area, where she lives with her husband, Rabbi Jonah Pesner, and three of her children. Her oldest child is a college student at Harvard University.

**Roberta Glick, Immediate Past Chair, [robertafrancoglick@yahoo.com](mailto:robertafrancoglick@yahoo.com)**

**Eisner & Crane Lake Camps, [www.urjnortheastcamps.org](http://www.urjnortheastcamps.org)**

Roberta Franco Glick is the immediate past chair of Eisner & Crane Lake Camps where she served as chair for 4 years up until July, 2016. She currently sits on the Executive Committee as the Governance Chair as well as being a member of URJ's North American Board. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education. Her favorite place to be is at Eisner & Crane Lake Camps!

**Rabbi Andrew Goodman, Asst. Dir., Recruitment & Admissions, [agoodman@huc.edu](mailto:agoodman@huc.edu)**

**HUC-JIR, [www.huc.edu](http://www.huc.edu)**

Rabbi Andrew A. Goodman is the Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admissions for HUC-JIR based out of the NY Campus. Rabbi Goodman studied in HUC-JIR's rabbinical program in New York, where he was ordained in 2008. Before joining the HUC Recruitment team, he served as Campus Rabbi and Director of Religious Social Responsibility at the University of Richmond. Rabbi Goodman focuses his work recruiting the future student body of HUC-JIR and the next generation of Jewish professional leadership for North American Jewry and beyond, focusing his work on the ground throughout the eastern region. HUC-JIR is the center of innovation for Jewish life and learning – preparing rabbis, cantors, leaders in Jewish education, Jewish nonprofit professionals, pastoral counselors, and scholars to apply their knowledge, commitment, vision, and expertise to strengthen and transform the Jewish community and larger world.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: EATING JEWISH: A MODERN ETHIC OF FOOD**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: NETWORKING AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING**



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**Rabbi Eric Gurvis, Rabbi, [gurvers6@verizon.net](mailto:gurvers6@verizon.net)**

**Temple Shalom of Newton, [www.templeshalom.org](http://www.templeshalom.org)**

Rabbi Gurvis is a life-long product of the Reform movement. Active in his own teen years, he was an officer in LIFTY (then the Long Island Federation of Temple Youth.) He has served as Rabbinic Advisor to several regions around the country during the past 36 years. He was ordained as a rabbi by HUC-JIR in 1983. His relationship with URJ Camps goes back to his first summer on staff at Eisner Camp. He served Temple Shalom of Newton as Senior Rabbi from 1999-2017 and is now Rabbi Emeritus at the congregation.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: THE JEWISH ROAD TO CHARACTER**

**Aaron Gurvis, NFTY NE Regional Advisor, [agurvis@urj.org](mailto:agurvis@urj.org)**

**Union for Reform Judaism, [www.northeast.nfty.org](http://www.northeast.nfty.org)**

Aaron Gurvis is the new NFTY NE Regional Advisor. Aaron has spent the past three years working at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham, has spent seven of the past eight summers on the staff and Leadership Team at URJ Eisner Camp, and has been a group leader for NFTY in Israel and Keshet Birthright. Perhaps most importantly, Aaron is a proud alumnus of NFTY NE. NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. Together, we pursue tikkun olam, personal growth, youth empowerment, and deep connections, all rooted in Reform Judaism.

**Laura Gurvis, Associate Director, [lgurvis@urj.org](mailto:lgurvis@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner Camp, [www.urjeisnercamp.org](http://www.urjeisnercamp.org)**

Laura began working at Eisner in 2000 as our Camp Mom. Since then, she has been our Parent Liaison, Camper Care Director, and now is a full time Associate Director. She has served as the Jewish Educator at both the URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, MS, and the URJ Joseph and Betty Harlam Camp in Kunkletown, PA. She has held various positions in the Jewish community such as Educator at Temple Shaaray Tefila in New York, NY, and as the Director of the Children's Department at the YM-YWHA of Washington Township, NJ. Since 1958, URJ Eisner Camp has embodied the transformative power of Jewish camping. Children from Union for Reform Judaism congregations across the Northeast join together each summer to experience the fun and magic of this special community.

**Beckie Hamroff, Operations Coordinator, [beckie.hamroff@jdc.org](mailto:beckie.hamroff@jdc.org)**

**JDC Entwine, [www.jdcentwine.org](http://www.jdcentwine.org)**

Beckie Hamroff is a proud member of the JDC Entwine team, where she works as an Operations Coordinator. Beckie graduated from NYU in May 2016. She majored in Global Liberal Studies and minored in Spanish and Multi-faith Leadership. At NYU, she was active in Hillel and Multi-faith communities. She spent her Junior year in Madrid, Spain. In Madrid, she worked at a governmental center for refugee resettlement. Most recently, Beckie was the Assistant Program Manager at NECHAMA-a Jewish Response to Disaster. There, she organized logistical and curricular pieces for domestic service-learning projects. Beckie is a NFTY NAR and Eisner alumna. Entwine is a movement of young Jewish leaders who make an impact on global Jewish needs and humanitarian issues through service experiences. Entwine is an initiative of JDC, the largest Jewish humanitarian organization. JDC works in 70 countries, specializing in humanitarian aid, Jewish community renewal, and disaster relief.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: GLOBAL JEWISH RESPONSIBILITY**

**Brett Hausler, Assistant Director, [bhausler@urj.org](mailto:bhausler@urj.org)**

**URJ Crane Lake Camp, <http://www.cranelakecamp.org>**

Brett joined the Crane Lake Camp full-time staff as Assistant Director in 2014, after growing up at Crane Lake Camp as a camper, general counselor and songleader, and unit head. Brett graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a BA in Social Thought & Political Economy. His experience inside the camp setting includes participating in the Crane Lake Machon program, Olim and Cornerstone Fellowships, and the Roswell Klal Yisrael Fellowship. Brett is also a graduate of the FJC Yitro Leadership Fellowship, which provides training for Jewish camp assistant and associate directors.

**Rabbi Liz Hirsch, Assistant Director, [lhirsch@urj.org](mailto:lhirsch@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner Camp, [www.eisnercamp.org](http://www.eisnercamp.org)**

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Originally from outside Boston, Liz was a camper and staff member at Eisner and active member of NFTY. Liz graduated from Brown University with a degree in Environmental Studies. Between college and rabbinical school, Liz was a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. Honoring her academic and leadership achievements, Liz was a Wexner Graduate Fellow and Tisch Fellow during rabbinical school. Liz and her husband, Rabbi Neil Hirsch, live in the Berkshires and recently welcomed their first child, Lior.

**Alana Hollander, Program Associate, [alana@jtfn.org](mailto:alana@jtfn.org)**

**Jewish Teen Funders Network, [www.jtfn.org](http://www.jtfn.org)**

With over a decade of experience as a Jewish professional, Alana began her career in the field at Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. She later spent seven years as the Office Supervisor for Hillcrest Jewish Center, a conservative egalitarian synagogue in Fresh Meadows, NY. Last summer, Alana joined the Jewish Teen Funders Network team and currently serves as their program associate. An Eisner alum, she is



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thrilled presenting at the Leadership Summit. The Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN) serves as a central resource for the quickly growing field of Jewish teen philanthropy. We work to grow and strengthen the field of Jewish teen philanthropy in North America.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: GIVING ON PURPOSE**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: GIVING TOGETHER**

**Samara Hutman, Director, [samarahutman@gmail.com](mailto:samarahutman@gmail.com)**

**The Righteous Conversations Project, [www.righteousconversations.org](http://www.righteousconversations.org)**

After NYU Film School and Barnard College, Samara designed sets and props for more than 20 feature films. In 2011, her daughter Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah inspired her to co-found, with Rebecca, The Righteous Conversations Project, a collaboration of Holocaust survivors and teens dedicated to the power of reflection, intergenerational relationship, creativity, and acts of conscience. Hutman envisions a movement of young people and elders working together to flex their moral muscles and exercise their creative hearts and conscience as they co-create new media that can be used to inspire and shape a more just and humane world. Righteous Conversations Project believes in the power of dialogue, reflection and intergenerational creative work to shape a more just and humane world. In RC PSA (public service announcements) and DSW (digital storytelling workshops), teens and Holocaust survivors collaborate to create new media as an act of conscience.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: RIGHTEOUS CONVERSATIONS**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: THE IMAGINATIVE LANGUAGE OF CONSCIENCE: WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE RIGHTEOUS CONVERSATIONS PROJECT**

**Laura Hyman, Boston Director, [lhyman@movingtraditions.org](mailto:lhyman@movingtraditions.org)**

**Moving Traditions, [www.movingtraditions.org](http://www.movingtraditions.org)**

Laura Hyman, Boston Director, oversees community partnerships, programming and development in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Prior to Moving Traditions, Laura directed Havayah: The Teen Community at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA, where she oversaw all aspects of programming for teens in Grades 8-12 and worked as a congregational educator in Los Angeles. An avid yogi, baker and collector of vintage American dishware, Laura holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a joint Master's Degree in Jewish Education and Communal Service from HUC-JIR, Los Angeles. Laura lives in Natick with her husband and two sons. Moving Traditions emboldens teens by fostering self-discovery, challenging sexism, and inspiring a commitment to Jewish life and learning. Moving Traditions' educational programs, Rosh Hodesh and Shevet Achim, have trained nearly 1,400 educators and impacted the lives of more than 19,000 teens.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: JEWISH SEX? IS THAT A THING?**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: EMPOWERED COMMUNICATION: IT'S A JEWISH THING!**

**Rebecca Katz, Training and Education Manager, [rebecca.katz@wepair.org](mailto:rebecca.katz@wepair.org)**

**Repair the World, [www.wepair.org](http://www.wepair.org)**

After moving back to her hometown of Brooklyn, Rebecca Katz joined Repair the World as their Education and Training Manager. Prior to Repair, Rebecca spent two years as the Director of Social Justice Initiatives at Texas Hillel in Austin, Texas, engaging UT students in different modes of social justice through a Jewish lens. In Chicago, Rebecca taught Jewish teens to create systemic change as the Director of Teen Programs at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs. Repair the World was founded in 2009 to make meaningful service a defining element of American Jewish life. Repair mobilizes tens of thousands of young Jews to volunteer in tackling pressing local needs each year and to build transformative relationships between diverse communities through service.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: CONSTELLATIONS OF IDENTITY: EXPLORING POWER AND PRIVILEGE IN RELATION TO SERVICE**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: TURN THE TABLES DINNER DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Leah King, Regional Director of Youth Engagement, NFTY Northeast Region, [lking@urj.org](mailto:lking@urj.org)**

**Union for Reform Judaism, [www.northeast.nfty.org](http://www.northeast.nfty.org)**

Leah King is passionately committed to helping youth connect with Jewish life in vibrant and meaningful ways. NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. With experience in congregational, camp, and communal settings, Leah's work has included teen leadership development, project-based learning, and creating safe spaces. She graduated from McGill University and is currently pursuing an Executive Masters in Jewish Education from HUC-JIR. Leah lives outside of Boston with her fiancé Craig.

**Rachel Landman, Assistant Director, [rlandman@urj.org](mailto:rlandman@urj.org)**

**6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, [www.6pointsscitech.org](http://www.6pointsscitech.org)**

Rachel is the Assistant Director at URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy. This summer, she launched the inaugural Sci-Tech Israel program, which focused on exploring Israel through the lens of science and technology. Growing up at Crane Lake Camp, she was a camper, Machon (counselor-in-training), Soccer Coach, and Teva (Nature) Director. Rachel graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in Biology and then spent a year in Washington D.C. as a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center, focusing on Environmental Justice, Refugees, International Issues, and Interfaith Relations. 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy is a Jewish overnight camp where science and technology meet Judaism and fun. Campers spend two weeks exploring robotics, video game design, environmental science, digital media, and a host of other fun activities with friends who share similar interests.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: MISSION POSSIBLE: BECOMING CHANGE AGENTS**



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**Sarah Lauing, Associate Director, [slauing@urj.org](mailto:slauing@urj.org)**

**URJ Crane Lake Camp, [www.cranelakecamp.org](http://www.cranelakecamp.org)**

Sarah joined the full time Crane Lake team in 2015 as Associate Director, after serving for four summers as Director of Jewish Life. Sarah enjoys integrating Jewish learning and values into the already amazing camp day of boating, playing sports, and ziplining. Sarah holds an MA in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College's Rhea Hirsch School of Education in Los Angeles, and a BA in Religion from Middlebury College in Vermont. Sarah's favorite camp event is Fight Song and her favorite camp meal is macaroni & cheese! Previously a privately-owned camp, Crane Lake Camp brings deep history and traditions to create a special community. Since joining the cohort of Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) camps in 1998, Crane Lake has become a second home to many.

**Dan Levenson, Associate Regional Director, [dlevenson@adl.org](mailto:dlevenson@adl.org)**

**Anti-Defamation League New England, [newengland.adl.org](http://newengland.adl.org)**

Daniel E. Levenson is Associate Regional Director at ADL New England. Much of his work for ADL focuses on community outreach and relations, helping individuals and communities respond to incidents of hate and bias and fostering dialogue. Before coming to ADL he held a number of different leadership roles in the Jewish community, including serving as Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Daniel holds a BA in anthropology, a Master's degree in English literature and has studied Jewish thought, culture and history at institutions in the US and Israel. In 1913, ADL was founded on Jewish values. It has always meant stopping anti-Semitism and defending the Jewish people. Today, it also means fighting threats to our very democracy, including cyberhate, bias in schools, terrorism, hate crimes, coercion of religious minorities, and contempt for anyone who is different.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: WORDS TO ACTION**

**Rose Levenson, Intern, [ilevenson@brandeis.edu](mailto:ilevenson@brandeis.edu)**

**Northeast Teen Collective, [www.NortheastJewishTeens.org](http://www.NortheastJewishTeens.org)**

Rose Levenson is a south Central Pennsylvania native, hailing from the sweet town of Hershey, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA with a degree in Psychology and Education. Through a process of self-directed learning and progressive education, Rose found the bridge between her academic work and her passion: overnight Jewish summer camp. After six years working at URJ Crane Lake Camp, Rose is overjoyed to pursue an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership and an MBA in Non-profit Management at Brandeis University in the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. Rose is honored to be a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar in Class 30. As part of her graduate program, Rose has had the opportunity to do her fieldwork at the Northeast Teen Collective.

**Brett Lubarsky, Associate Director, [brett.nsti@gmail.com](mailto:brett.nsti@gmail.com)**

**Jewish Teen Initiative of Greater Boston, [www.jewishteeninitiative.org](http://www.jewishteeninitiative.org)**

Brett Lubarsky is the Associate Director of the Jewish Teen Initiative of Greater Boston, a national model for Jewish teen engagement and communal collaboration. Over the past fifteen years, Brett has worked with Jewish youth and professionals at congregations and organizations throughout the country, specializing in adolescent, teen and emerging adult engagement, youth leadership and team development, service learning, educational technology and youth communications strategy. Brett is a Senior Educator with M2: Institute for Experiential Jewish Education, a Birthright Israel Fellow and spends his summers at Jewish overnight camp. Jewish Teen Initiative builds community among Jewish teens through institutional collaboration, innovative programming and participation in regional and national opportunities. By collaborating across the Metrowest and Northshore communities of Boston and offering innovative programming rooted in Jewish values, JTI connects teens with their peers and motivates participation in Jewish life.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: WHO SHARES YOUR STORY: SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

**Scott Magat, Director of High School Engagement, [smagat@aepi.org](mailto:smagat@aepi.org)**

**Alpha Epsilon Pi, [www.aepi.org](http://www.aepi.org)**

Scott serves as the Director of the High School Engagement Division for Alpha Epsilon Pi. He is from Richmond, Virginia and currently lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from James Madison University in the Spring of 2016 with a degree in Finance. In high school, Scott was very involved with BBYO and served in several leadership roles including local city president and Regional Vice President of Judaism and Social Action. Alpha Epsilon Pi is the Jewish Fraternity on the college campus. We are currently on over 190 campuses and in 8 countries around the world. Alpha Epsilon Pi develops leadership for the Jewish Community and serves as a link between High School and Career for the Jewish College man.

**Barak Malkin, Assistant Director, [bmalkin@urj.org](mailto:bmalkin@urj.org)**

**URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, [www.6PointsSciTech.org](http://www.6PointsSciTech.org)**

Barak blends his life's passions as Jewish Professional and Mathematician as the Assistant Director of the URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy. Barak earned a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Ramapo College of New Jersey (where he ended up taking every math course the college had to offer) and also completed the certification program in Jewish Education for Adolescent and Emerging Adults from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Barak is an alum of the URJ Kutz Camp and worked with teens in the NFTY GER and NFTY SoCal regions 12 years prior to being at 6 Points Sci-Tech. At 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, scientific inquiry meets fun! Campers entering grades 5-10 spend two weeks exploring robotics, video game design, environmental science, digital media, and a host of other fun activities in a friendly setting with friends who share similar interests.



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**Eric Maurer, Executive Director, [eric@jtconnect.org](mailto:eric@jtconnect.org)**

**Jewish Teen Learning Connection (JTConnect), [www.jtconnect.org](http://www.jtconnect.org)**

Eric Maurer grew up in Burlington, MA and was a member of LEFTY at Temple Isaiah. Eric holds dual Master's degrees from Brandeis University's Hornstein Program in Jewish Professional Leadership and Near Eastern & Judaic Studies and a BA in Judaic Studies from the University of Hartford. In his work at JTConnect, Eric aspires to connect teens to experiences to explore, deepen and celebrate their Jewish identity. He lives in West Hartford with his wife Becca, son Ami, and fluffy cat Krembo. JTConnect is a learning and social program for Jewish teens from throughout Greater Hartford. We are a pluralistic community, welcoming students from all backgrounds - from all levels of Jewish observance and knowledge. At JTConnect we inspire Jewish teens to become passionate leaders and active participants in the Jewish community.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: AHAVAT YISRAEL AND THE POWER OF PLURALIST THINKING**

**Emily Messinger, Director, [emessinger@urj.org](mailto:emessinger@urj.org)**

**Northeast Teen Collective, [www.northeastJewishteens.org](http://www.northeastJewishteens.org)**

Emily Messinger, MARE, is the inaugural director of the Northeast Teen Collective, which is an ambitious initiative to increase the number of teens participating in Jewish life throughout New York, New Jersey, and New England. We empower highly engaged teens to use their individual passions as inspiration to create meaningful Jewish experiences that will capture the interest of their less involved friends. Through Machon Summer Leadership Institute at URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camps, the Dana Gershon and Rabbi Jonah Pesner Northeast Leadership Summit, and ongoing Pop-up and Co-op Events—all powered by the Union for Reform Judaism in partnership with Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Jim Joseph Foundation—we inspire more young Jews to embrace Jewish life and community as a path to meaning, purpose, and joy. Previously Emily served as the Co-Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Isaiah in Lexington, MA. For twelve years she held the role of Director of Teen Engagement at Temple Isaiah growing and strengthening youth engagement and learning in the congregation. Emily has Masters in Jewish Educational Leadership from HUC-JIR. Emily lives outside of Boston with her husband and two daughters and spends her summers at Eisner and Crane Lake.

**Ben Michaels, Registrar, [bmichaels@urj.org](mailto:bmichaels@urj.org)**

**URJ Eisner Camp, [www.urjeisnercamp.org](http://www.urjeisnercamp.org)**

Ben brings to Eisner years of experience working with Jewish youth as an Eisner staff member, a congregational Youth Director, and a religious school teacher. His love for Eisner started in 2006 when he was a camper and continued to grow throughout his years as a staff member. Ben graduated from SUNY Albany with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a minor in Business. Ben is passionate about nurturing the growth of Jewish youth through education, peer engagement, and camping. Since 1958, URJ Eisner Camp has embodied the transformative power of Jewish camping. Children from Union for Reform Judaism congregations across the Northeast join together each summer to experience the fun and magic of this special community.

**Nicole Nevarez, New York Director, [nnevarez@movingtraditions.org](mailto:nnevarez@movingtraditions.org)**

**Moving Traditions, [www.movingtraditions.org](http://www.movingtraditions.org)**

Nicole Nevarez, New York Director, manages Moving Traditions groups and development in New York and northern New Jersey. Nicole is also a supervisor and long time Rosh Hodesh group leader. Previously, Nicole was the Jewish Education Director at the Rosenthal JCC in Pleasantville, NY. Nicole also has a professional background in Theatre Management, performance and production. Nicole holds a B.A. from American University, DC and has spent much time learning formally in Israel. Nicole is a serious yoga and mindfulness practitioner and LOVES CAMP! She is married to R Jason Nevarez and lives in Westchester, NY with their 2 children. Moving Traditions emboldens teens by fostering self-discovery, challenging sexism, and inspiring a commitment to Jewish life and learning. Moving Traditions' educational programs, Rosh Hodesh and Shevet Achim, have trained nearly 1,400 educators and impacted the lives of more than 19,000 teens.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: JEWISH SEX? IS THAT A THING?**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: EMPOWERED COMMUNICATION: IT'S A JEWISH THING!**

**Jonah Pesner, Director, [jpesner@rac.org](mailto:jpesner@rac.org)**

**Religious Action Center, [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org)**

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner serves as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. He has led the Religious Action Center since 2015. Rabbi Pesner also serves as Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism. Named one of the most influential rabbis in America by Newsweek magazine, he is an inspirational leader, creative entrepreneur, and tireless advocate for social justice. Rabbi Pesner's signature accomplishment has been to encourage Jewish communities in efforts to reach across lines of race, class and faith in campaigns for social justice. In 2006, he founded Just Congregations (now incorporated into the Religious Action Center), which engages countless clergy, professional and volunteer leaders in interfaith efforts for the common good. Ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1997, Rabbi Pesner was a congregational rabbi at Temple Israel in Boston and at Temple Israel in Westport, Conn. A graduate of Wesleyan University and the Bronx High School of Science, Rabbi Pesner is married to Dana S. Gershon, an attorney. They have four daughters: Juliet, Noa, Bobbie and Cate.



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**Nicki Poliak, Engagement Associate, [nicki@uconnhillel.org](mailto:nicki@uconnhillel.org)**

**UConn Hillel, [www.uconnhillel.org](http://www.uconnhillel.org)**

Nicki is a recent graduate from the University of Delaware, where she completed her degree with a double major in Sociology and Criminal Justice. Nicki grew up on Long Island and spent all of her summers attending and working at URJ Camp Eisner. She was involved in UD Hillel as the Co-President of their Challah for Hunger chapter, a Freshman Fest Ambassador, and the Holocaust Education Intern. Nicki is also a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. In her free time, Nicki loves to read, hike, and spend time with her friends, family, and pets. Nicki is excited to share her passion for Judaism and community building with students and she is so happy to be a part of the UConn Hillel family!

**#STRATEGY Workshop: ENGAGEMENT 101: THE ART OF THE COFFEE CONVO**

**Justin Rosen Smolen, National Director of Youth Programs, [justin@keshetonline.org](mailto:justin@keshetonline.org)**

**Keshet, [www.keshetonline.org](http://www.keshetonline.org)**

Justin Rosen Smolen joined Keshet in 2015 as National Director of Youth Programs, a new senior position focused on creating inclusive, vibrant, and celebratory spaces for LGBTQ Jewish teens throughout the country. Leading the Keshet New York team, Justin cultivates partnerships with youth organizations and develops leadership-building opportunities for LGBTQ teens, including Keshet's LGBTQ and Ally Teen Shabbatonim. Justin is a graduate of the dual-degree program of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he earned bachelor's degrees in philosophy and Jewish thought. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, he holds an MPA and an MA in Jewish studies from NYU. Keshet is a national organization that works for full LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life. Led and supported by LGBTQ Jews and straight allies, Keshet cultivates the spirit and practice of inclusion in all parts of the Jewish community.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: BEYOND THE BINARY: GENDER & SEXUALITY IN JEWISH SOURCES**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: AN OPEN TENT: REIMAGINING AFFIRMING & INCLUSIVE JEWISH SPACES**

**Hannah Sachs, Founding Resident, [hsachs1@binghamton.edu](mailto:hsachs1@binghamton.edu)**

**Moishe House, [www.moishehouse.org/](http://www.moishehouse.org/)**

In September of 2016, Hannah became a Founding Resident of Moishe House Boston-Brookline. When she isn't planning programs with her fellow residents, she is a full-time higher education professional. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Binghamton University. Moishe House launched when four Jewish 20-somethings began hosting Shabbat for their networks. Fueled by demand for peer-led, home-based programming, Moishe House has become the leader of Jewish life for young adults. With 100 houses in 25 countries, we empower young Jewish leaders to create meaningful experiences in their communities.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: CREATING MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Josh Satok, Senior Assistant Director, [jsatok@urj.org](mailto:jsatok@urj.org)**

**URJ Kutz Camp, <http://kutzcamp.org>**

Josh Satok is the Senior Assistant Director of URJ Kutz Camp. From Toronto, Canada, Josh graduated from Yale University with a degree in Religious Studies, where he wrote his thesis on teenagers' experience of Jewish camp and Jewish school, and from Brandeis University with an MBA and Master's in Jewish Professional Leadership. Josh has worked with teens in a wide variety of settings- at camps, synagogues, a Jewish Montessori School, and the American Hebrew Academy, a Jewish boarding school. He can't wait to get to spend time with all the incredible teens at the Summit. URJ Kutz Camp is the Reform Movement's Teen Leadership camp, a home for teens from across North America and the world. Every summer, hundreds of teens come to Kutz to be part of an incredible community where they learn, have fun, build relationships, and grow Jewishly and as young people.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: THE VALUES SHOWDOWN: WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT, REALLY?**

**Laura Schultze, Communications Associate, [laura@jtfn.org](mailto:laura@jtfn.org)**

**Jewish Teen Funders Network, [www.jtfn.org](http://www.jtfn.org)**

Laura Schultze is the Communications Associate at the Jewish Teen Funders Network. She has lived all over California and moved to New York in 2014. Laura worked many years in Jewish education, working at JCCs, synagogues and Jewish camps. This past summer, she participated in the JTFN Camp program, and taught Jewish giving at both URJ Kutz Camp and Camp JRF. She continues her love of teaching Jewish teens as a Youth Director at a synagogue on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN) serves as a central resource for the quickly growing field of Jewish teen philanthropy. We work to grow and strengthen the field of Jewish teen philanthropy in North America.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: GIVING ON PURPOSE**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: GIVING TOGETHER**

**Debby Shriber, Director, [dshriber@urj.org](mailto:dshriber@urj.org)**

**Crane Lake Camp, [www.cranelakecamp.org](http://www.cranelakecamp.org)**

Debby Shriber is proud to be the director of Crane Lake Camp. She's been with URJ Camps since 2009 and has worked in the camping field for over 19 years. Since 2009 Crane Lake has built new facilities, significantly upgraded existing facilities, and seen a growth in campers and an increased retention rate of staff. Debby's favorite parts of her job are being out and around camp with the campers and staff during the summer and getting to know camp families during the school year. During the school year, Debby and her family live in Fort Lee, NJ.



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**Alison Simpson, Development Associate, [asimpson@urj.org](mailto:asimpson@urj.org)  
URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camps, [www.urjnortheastcamps.org](http://www.urjnortheastcamps.org)**

Alison Simpson is proud to be the Development Associate for Eisner and Crane Lake Camps. Alison has been part of the Eisner and Crane Lake community since 2006, working on staff at both camps, and accompanying a trip to Israel. Prior to working for Eisner and Crane Lake Camps, Alison spent five years working as a youth educator at a synagogue outside of Boston, MA with children preschool through high school. Alison attended the University of Vermont, where she received degrees in Geography and Political Science. Alison is passionate about sharing her excitement for Judaism and camping with others. Since 1958, URJ Eisner Camp has embodied the transformative power of Jewish camping. Children from Union for Reform Judaism congregations across the Northeast join together each summer to experience the fun and magic of this special community.

**Josh Squire, Regional Advisor, NFTY New York Area Region, [jsquire@urj.org](mailto:jsquire@urj.org)  
Union for Reform Judaism, [www.newyork.nfty.org](http://www.newyork.nfty.org)**

Josh Squire joined the NFTY-NAR team after his recent post as a Development Associate for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Josh is an alumnus of NFTY's Northeast region where he held multiple leadership positions including President of his TYG, MITYOR, at Temple Mishkan Israel in Hamden, Connecticut. Josh is also a proud alumnus of NFTY's Summer EIE Israel program. Josh continued his Jewish journey at the University of Connecticut, where he practiced his passion for Jewish leadership as Hillel president and founding father of historically Jewish fraternity, Sigma Alpha Mu. Josh has also spent multiple summers at URJ Eisner Camp as a counselor and Unit Head. Since graduating from UConn with a B.A. in Political Science, Josh continues to serve on the UConn Hillel Board of Directors to support active and vibrant Jewish life on campus. Josh has also exercised his love of Jewish teen engagement as a B'nai Brith Youth Organization advisor in the Connecticut Valley Region. In his spare time, you will find Josh at music festivals, searching for new coffee shops, exercising, and cheering on the UConn men's and women's basketball teams.

**Melo Taylor, Director of Youth Engagement, [mtaylor@urj.org](mailto:mtaylor@urj.org)  
NFTY Garden Empire, [www.gardenempire.nfty.org](http://www.gardenempire.nfty.org)**

Melo Taylor is the Regional Director of Youth Engagement for NFTY Garden Empire. She mentors teen leaders as they plan and facilitate immersive educational, religious, and social programs for their peers. Growing up in California, Melo spent summers at Camp Tawonga in Yosemite. She was an active member in NFTY-CWR. She attended California State University, Chico where she earned a B.A. in Theatre Arts. Her hobbies include tennis, creating art, playing guitar and ukulele, and hiking in the mountains with her dog, Roxie. NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. Together, we pursue tikkun olam, personal growth, youth empowerment, and deep connections, all rooted in Reform Judaism.

**Molly Tolsky, Editor, [molly@heyalma.com](mailto:molly@heyalma.com)  
70 Faces Media, [www.7ofacesmedia.org](http://www.7ofacesmedia.org)**

Molly Tolsky is the editor of Alma, a new online community for Jewish millennial women. She received an MFA in Fiction Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and is the former editor of Kveller.com. She is also senior editor of No Tokens, a literary journal. 70 Faces Media is the largest Jewish digital media company in North America, whose brands include Kveller, Alma, JTA, My Jewish Learning, The Nosh, and The Jewiverse.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: MAKING AN IMPACT: WRITING AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Evan Traylor, Presidential Fellow for Millennial Engagement, [ETraylor@urj.org](mailto:ETraylor@urj.org)  
Union for Reform Judaism, [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org)**

Evan Traylor, originally from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is serving as the inaugural Presidential Fellow for Millennial Engagement at the URJ. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas where he studied political science, Jewish studies, and leadership studies. Evan is an alum of the URJ Greene Family Camp, NFTY in Israel, the URJ Kutz Camp, and served as the 2012-2013 North American President of NFTY. Previously, he was an engagement intern for KU Hillel, a trustee on the URJ Board, a student member of the Hillel International Board of Directors, and a co-founder of the Hillel International Student Cabinet. Providing vision and voice to transform the way people connect to Judaism, we help congregations stay adept and agile, motivate more young Jews to embrace Jewish living, agitate for a more progressive society, and foster meaningful connections to Israel.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: START WITH HELLO: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS TO CHANGE THE WORLD**

**Robert Trestam, Regional Director, [rtrestan@adl.org](mailto:rtrestan@adl.org)  
Anti-Defamation League New England, [newengland.adl.org](http://newengland.adl.org)**

Robert O. Trestam is the Executive Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Boston office where he oversees the League's program delivery, advocacy initiatives and leadership development. He is an experienced Jewish professional dedicated to developing community partnerships and initiatives that provide justice, equality and fair treatment for everyone. Before taking the helm of the Boston office, he served as ADL's Civil Rights Counsel for eight years where he led the League's Cyberhate Response Team and played a key leadership role in meeting and working with Internet industry executives in Silicon Valley. In 1913, ADL was founded on Jewish values. It has always meant stopping anti-Semitism and





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defending the Jewish people. Today, it also means fighting threats to our very democracy, including cyberhate, bias in schools, terrorism, hate crimes, coercion of religious minorities, and contempt for anyone who is different.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE SYMBOLS OF HATE IN THE TRUMP ERA**

**Rabbi Josh Weinberg, *President*, [jrweinberg@arza.org](mailto:jrweinberg@arza.org)**

**ARZA, [www.arza.org](http://www.arza.org)**

Rabbi Josh Weinberg is the President of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem, and has is currently living in New York. Josh previously served as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of NFTY-EIE High School in Israel teaching Jewish History. Josh is a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson's unit, has hiked the Israel-trail, and came on Aliyah to Israel in 2003. Originally from Chicago, he has a B.A. from University of Wisconsin in Hebrew Literature, Political Science and International Relations, and studied for an M.A. at the Hebrew University in Jewish Education. ARZA is the Zionist wing of the Reform movement. We work to build the Reform Movement in Israel and bring Israel to the Reform movement in the United States.

**#KNOWLEDGE Workshop: Why Should I Care About Israel?**

**#STRATEGY Workshop: How to have conversations about Israel**

**Imogene Winkleman, *Regional Advisor, NFTY New York Area Region*, [iwinkleman@urj.org](mailto:iwinkleman@urj.org)**

**Union for Reform Judaism, [www.newyork.nfty.org](http://www.newyork.nfty.org)**

Imogene Winkleman is thrilled to be NFTY-NAR's new Regional Advisor after spending last year with the region as a part-time Program Associate. NFTY-NAR (New York Area Region) is a vibrant, teen-powered community of Reform Jewish teens from New York City, Long Island, Westchester and Fairfield County, CT. Imogene grew up in NAR, served two terms on Regional Board, and spent her summers at Camp Harlam and Kutz. She graduated from Clark University with a B.A. in Psychology and Women's & Gender Studies. While in college, Imogene oversaw Clark's All Kinds of Girls mentoring program and worked at TBE in Wellesley. After graduating, Imogene spent a year working in government relations at JBFCs and currently serves as an Activist Alliance Volunteer for NOW-NYC.

**Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller, *NFTY Director of Learning and Innovation*, [ezeller@urj.org](mailto:ezeller@urj.org)**

**Union for Reform Judaism, [www.nfty.org](http://www.nfty.org)**

Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller is NFTY's Director of Learning. Her prior congregational experience includes Temple Beth El (Tacoma, WA) and The Reform Temple of Forest Hills (Queens, NY) where, for five years, she was working as the Associate Rabbi Educator, developing and expanding youth programs, young family engagement, and outreach. Liz is a product of the Reform youth movement, having spent her formative years in NFTY and then working as a TYG advisor, herself. She spent over a decade at URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI). For four summers, Liz served on faculty at URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camps.

**#STRATEGY Workshop: COMMUNITY ORGANIZING 101**