

ACADEMY  
*for* JEWISH  
RELIGION

AJR Newsletter  
Academic Year  
2019-2020

# A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



“God is near to all who call unto God; to all who call out to God in sincerity” (Psalms, 145:18)

The measure of the intimacy of our personal relationship with God has never been one based on geographic proximity or the media/communication distribution platform we use. Rather, it reflects our willingness to take risks, to extend ourselves and communicate to and with a caring and loving partner who seeks commitment from us as we do from God.

Who would have guessed last year when I wrote my *D'var Torah* for the newsletter that I would find myself at the onset of 5781 not having set foot in AJR's building or in either of the synagogues to which I belong since February. The challenges of the pandemic, individually and on familial, communal, national and global levels, are diverse, significant and historic; fraught with stress, loss, separation and pain - and also characterized by moments of resilience, growth and joy. As is always the case in life even in the best of times, the question is, what is our response to the realities that confront us? I am filled with pride in reflecting on our ability to seamlessly transition the Academy to a fully functioning online model in which we have continued to grow as a school and meet the educational, theological, spiritual and psychological needs of our students, faculty and executive and administrative staff. In the midst of the pandemic, we effectively created the first-ever remote site visit for accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools, culminating in our receiving the highest level, 7-year initial accreditation, in June. And as a loving and nurturing family, we have shared together in intimate, albeit distanced ways, in everything from classes, prayer services and ordination ceremonies, to funerals and shivas. We are a stronger and better AJR as a result of the ways in which we reach out to not only God but, perhaps even more importantly, to each other, with love, care, concern and steadfastness that reflects our commitment. Whatever the coming months have in store for us, for the U.S. and for the world, we hope that you will call upon us to continue to be a beacon of light for Torah in its fullest and most pluralistic expression.

*-Dr. William Liss-Levinson*

ויעשו כולם אגודה אחת לעשות רצונך בלבב שלם

ALL SHALL UNITE TO DO GOD'S WILL WITH A WHOLE HEART

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO & ACADEMIC DEAN

The process of training clergy involves many different areas. Students need to become well-versed in sacred texts, becoming scholars of Bible, Talmud, Jewish law, liturgy, and much more. Students need to learn pastoral skills, counseling, how to lead life cycle events, how to lead a large variety of prayer services, and how to become their best spiritual selves. I could go on and on with this list, as learning to be rabbis and cantors takes years of studying, practicing, searching, and struggling with important theological ideas.



Yet, listing all of those things does not get us to some of the most important parts of clergy education at AJR, and what our students and alumni have been showcasing this past year. Due to the pandemic, our clergy have needed to use all of the above skills, funneling them through their willingness to be creative and to constantly rethink the status quo, and through their understanding that warmth and caring for each individual leads to the growth and strength of communities. AJR models and trains our students to recognize the beauty of each individual, each approach to Jewish life, and each other. We model and train our students to appreciate creative thought and to be willing to experiment and change, and try new things.

These are the gifts that our students and alumni have been bringing to their communities through these complicated times. The pandemic has led to changes in Jewish life. We do not yet know how these changes will play out once we are in a post-pandemic society. We do, however, know that AJR clergy are fully prepared to be there to serve, to lead, and to adapt creatively to the inevitable changes ahead. This is the strength of AJR. We understand our commitment to our tradition, and our curriculum makes that clear. We also understand our commitment to the present and the future, and our curriculum makes that clear as well. Our students know how lovingly and carefully to study our sacred literature, and then how lovingly and creatively to apply these teachings to our contemporary Jewish community. Already steeped in tradition, they know how fully to embrace new and fresh expressions of Jewish life.

It has been a complicated year. Yet, we move forward with confidence and strength, knowing that we are continuing to build and strengthen the leadership that will make our future bright and our Jewish communities vibrant. We hope you will join us in this holy work.

*-Dr. Ora Horn Prouser*



# AJR is Accredited!

Earning accreditation is a tremendous achievement for AJR. After a thorough evaluation, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) granted us the maximum number of years of initial accreditation, affirming the high caliber of education that we offer our students. ATS accredits a wide variety of seminaries and theological schools including major institutions such as Harvard Divinity school, Yale Divinity school, and Princeton Theological Seminary. AJR is the only Jewish school accredited by ATS and we are excited to explore the new opportunities available to us as part of this renowned association. This important step in AJR's history enables us to become an even more powerful force in shaping 21st century Judaism.



“Your determination to cherish difference, to have a generous and inclusive posture to those who are different... is not only a witness that has never been needed more than now in our world but it creates you in the role of teacher to the rest of the Association of Theological Schools.” – Dr. Barbara Mutch, ATS Director of Accreditation (AJR Ordination June 30, 2020)

## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

This has been an elaborate collaborative process and we could never have achieved this moment without the help of so many people. Thank you to all of those in our community today as well as all of those who worked as part of our community throughout this entire process. Special thanks to the past and present AJR administration, staff, and Board of Trustees who dedicated so much time and energy to ensuring the success of our important work with ATS.



# HONOREE CEREMONY & ORDINATION



Rabbi Sid Schwarz



Cantor Meredith Greenberg



Rabbi Enid Lader



As experts in hybrid and online education, AJR was able to quickly shift all of our activities to the digital realm in response to the coronavirus pandemic. We are most proud of having hosted two separate Zoom celebrations, our Honoree Ceremony on May 12th and our Ordination on June 30th, that both shared the warmth and intimacy of our community with hundreds of attendees. In May we honored the four members of the B'nei Mitzvah class who graduated in 2007 together with eleven Mehadrin alumni who have served the Jewish community with dedication for over 25 years. We were also very pleased to bestow upon Rabbi Sid Schwarz the Marbeh Shalom Community Service Award and to present Cantor Meredith Greenberg with the ARC Alumna of the Year Award. Rabbi Enid Lader received special recognition for her many years of hard work serving as the president of the Association of Rabbis and Cantors.

In June we worked with our ordinees to reimagine our ordination, creating a ceremony that was spiritually meaningful and professionally significant, and that expressed the warmth and intimacy of the AJR community. Our process was so valuable that we will now be absorbing parts of this new ceremony into our ordination when we are able to once again celebrate in person. Mazal tov to our four new rabbis, two of whom are graduates of our Cantors to Rabbis track: Luis Cattán, Robert Green, Idan Irelander, and Lisa Sacks.



[WATCH A SELECTION FROM OUR CELEBRATION HERE!](#)

[CHECK OUT OUR ORDINATION JOURNAL HERE!](#)





# *Antisemitism: History, Context and a Charge to the Clergy*



FALL  
RETREAT  
(Nov. 17-20, 2019)

The AJR Retreat is a time for our full community to come together to learn, to share, to pray, and, as importantly, to just grow together as friends and colleagues. What is always clear to us at Retreat is that despite the fact that our community is often separated geographically, we are an intimate group that profoundly cares for its members.



At this Retreat we dealt with the very serious issue of Antisemitism. A resurgence of Antisemitism pervades the western world and our Fall Retreat equipped our students with the necessary tools for understanding this growing threat. Hatred of Jews and the Jewish people emerges from many sectors and its



manifestations from the political left differ from the forms it exhibits on the right. Baseless hatred, targeting people for their religion, skin color, or nationality, is one of the most systemic and insidious hazards for all minority groups. Today's Jewish clergy must understand the multifariousness of this mindset in order to safeguard and serve the modern Jewish community in all of its forms.

This intense experience challenged the more than 80 students, alumni, faculty, administration, and Board members who attended (before the pandemic) to share their own encounters with Antisemitism and to encounter the ordeals faced by others. Bolstered by multiple processing sessions from music and art to Jewish humor, our Retreat provided a supportive environment for cultivating a spirit of resilience within our community.



# *Netivot Peli'ot/Wondrous Paths: Exploring Spiritual Modalities in a Jewish Context*

*Tranquility doesn't spell the end of our spiritual struggles; it's the inner quality that equips us to handle them. - Alan Morinis*

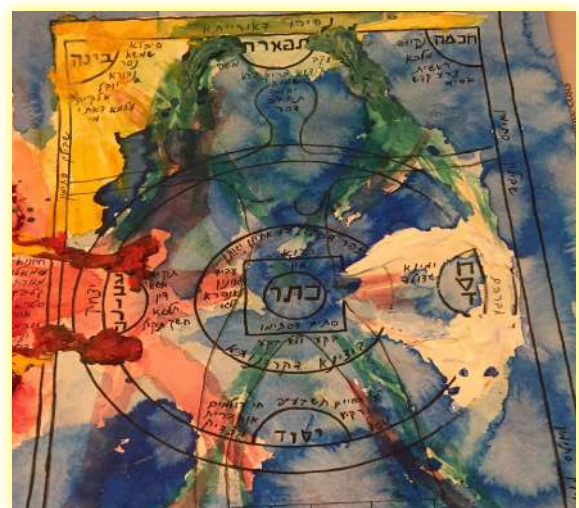
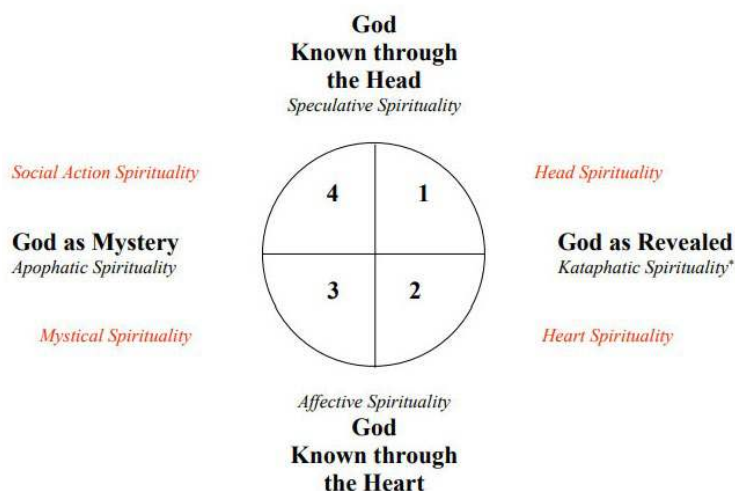
How do we connect to the Divine? What spiritual modalities most speak to us as individuals and how can we challenge ourselves to encounter the transcendent in new ways? Before the pandemic struck, in our 2020 Spring Intensive we explored various paths for evoking awareness of the immanence of divinity all around us. From meditation and composition to dance and social justice, our community convened to propel ourselves into spiritual practices that both resonate with, and test the limits of, our comfort zones. At a time when many in the liberal Jewish world feel alienated from God, future clergy must cultivate their own relationships with the Divine in order to facilitate connection for others.



## SPRING INTENSIVE (Feb. 10-12, 2020)



This initial foray into multiple access points to sacred intimacy laid the foundations for AJR's newly developed spirituality program, *Shalosh Regalim* (Three Journeys). Launched in Fall 2020, this experience provides students with an opportunity to experience various spiritual modalities, to deepen their own spiritual journey, and to enhance their ability to help others reflect on spiritual questions as well. Guided by our Director of Spiritual Education, Rabbi Dr. Jill Hammer, AJR's Spring Intensive and the inauguration of *Shalosh Regalim* this Fall enhance students' self-awareness and relationships with the Eternal.



*Keep matter happy, so that both matter and spirit will be satisfied. - R. Yaakov Yosef of Polennoye*



# 2019-2020 COURSE OFFERINGS

## Fall 2019

The Book of Genesis  
 Prophets of *Haftarot*  
 Advanced *Nusah* Shabbat I  
 Popular Yiddish Folk and Theatre Music  
 Introduction to Codes II  
 Hebrew I  
 Hebrew IIA  
 Hebrew IIB  
 Ideas and Debates of Jewish History II  
 Tefillah and Seminar  
 Festival Liturgy  
 Medieval Philosophy  
 Life Cycle I  
 Jewish Leadership in the Eye of the Storm  
 Field Work Support Seminar  
 Introduction to Mishnah  
 Introduction to Midrash  
 Intermediate Talmud  
 Advanced Talmud  
 Architecture of Ritual

## Fall-Spring Intersession

Sacred Arts - Circus Texts

## Spring 2020

The Book of Exodus  
 Studies in the Book of Job  
 Introduction to Modes  
 Introduction to Peace Studies  
 Advanced *Nusah* Shabbat II  
 Conducting  
 Responsa  
 Hebrew IB  
 Hebrew Reading for Accuracy  
 Hebrew IIIA  
 American Jewish History and Culture  
 Illness and Healing  
 Liturgy of *Yammim Noraim*  
 Mechina Hebrew I  
 Pluralism  
 Anger, Evil, and Death in the Zohar  
 Life Cycle II  
 Leading Through Innovation  
 Field Work Support Seminar  
 Intermediate Midrash  
 Introduction to Talmud  
 Intermediate/Advanced Talmud  
 Jewish Dreamwork  
 Ritual Skills Workshop

## Spring-Summer Intersession

Inspiring Models and Best Practices of Informal Education

## Summer 2020

Disturbing Biblical Texts  
 Studies in the Book of Samuel  
 The Book of Deuteronomy  
 Cantillation  
 Responsa Writing: Zoom Minyan  
 Biblical Hebrew  
 Hebrew IIA  
 Hebrew IIIB  
 Israeli History and Culture  
 Introduction to Liturgy  
 Mechina Hebrew II  
 Bioethics  
 Modern Philosophy  
 Counseling I  
 Practicum in Conversion to Judaism  
 Clergy and Bikkur Holim  
 Difficult Conversations  
 Field Work Support Seminar  
 Introduction to Talmud  
 Intermediate/Advanced Talmud

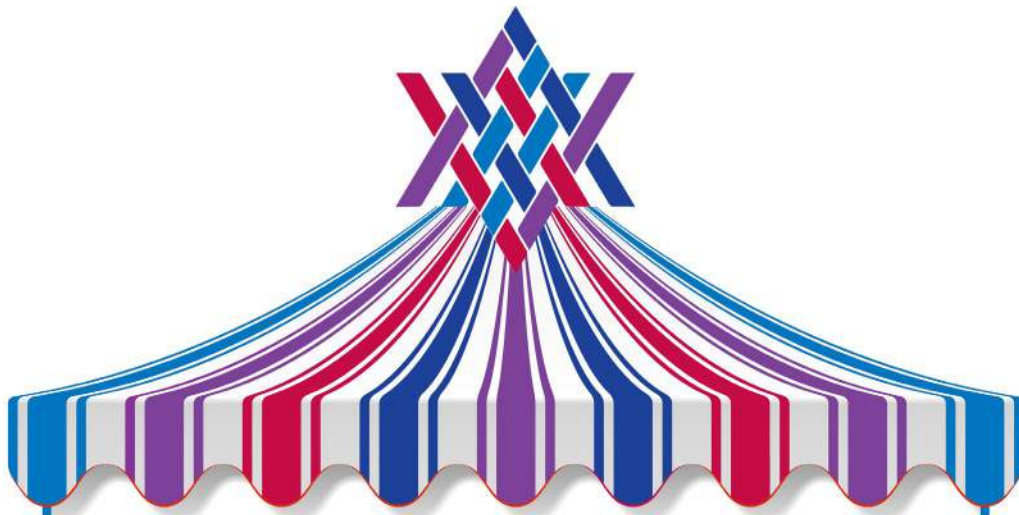
## Summer-Fall Intersession

Developing Your Own Prayer Leadership Style I & II

Our course offerings this year engaged with a number of highly relevant and timely topics. This summer our Responsa class focused on the question of constituting a minyan online, particularly within a pluralistic community. Jewish Leadership in the Eye of the Storm offered an existential laboratory of Jewish leadership to confront many of the challenges facing the contemporary Jewish community in America. Probing the depths of difficult topics, our Disturbing Biblical Texts course and Anger, Evil, and Death in the Zohar confronted core theological questions that resonate with us so strongly in the contemporary moment. We were also very excited to launch the first course in our Peace Studies progression, focusing on Jewish approaches to conflict resolution. In addition, in 2019 we began offering regular intersession courses, which are an ideal opportunity for students from across the US to come in for a short two or four-day period to take classes onsite (after the pandemic).







HOW IS  
THE ACADEMY FOR JEWISH RELIGION  
LIKE THE CIRCUS?

SUPPORT. STRENGTH. FLEXIBILITY.  
COOPERATION. WIT. BALANCE.

Circus performers use these to create  
awe-inspiring acts.

AJR uses them to create a close community  
of learners who develop deep bonds  
of trust and confidence. Through innovations  
including the Peace Studies program  
and Torah through Circus Arts, students take  
chances and learn to fly. Through AJR they  
become ready to inspire others.



WE ARE GRATEFUL AND EXCITED TO APPLAUD  
AJR'S 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
AND ACCREDITATION!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE CELEBRATION  
JANUARY 10, 2021 7:00PM EST

Zoom link to follow with registration.

Program to include music, learning, circus, community, and more!

Your support is a vital part of the whole picture. With you, and  
because of you, we continue soaring together, ever higher.

Please **[CLICK HERE](#)** to learn how you can support AJR.



# OUR FACULTY

## Full-Time Faculty



**Ora Horn Prouser**  
*CEO  
Academic Dean  
Full Professor*



**Jeffrey Hoffman**  
*Rabbi-in-Residence  
Director of Institutional  
Assessment  
Full Professor*



**Jill Hammer**  
*Director of Spiritual  
Education  
Full Professor*



**Matthew Goldstone**  
*Assistant Academic Dean  
Assistant Professor*



**Michael Kasper**  
*Dean of Cantorial Studies  
Director of Student Life  
and Placement  
Senior Lecturer*



**Lisa Klinger-Kantor**  
*Dean of Admissions  
Senior Lecturer*



**Sol Zim**  
*Full Professor of Cantorial  
Studies*

## Part-Time Faculty



**Len Levin**  
*Full Professor*



**Job Jindo**  
*Associate Professor*



**Ilana Davidov**  
*Associate Professor*



**David Almog**  
*Lecturer*



**Jef Segelman**  
*Lecturer*

## Adjunct Faculty (2019-2020)

Yifat Avner  
Elan Babchuck  
Nathaniel Berman  
Aryeh Bernstein  
Mollie Cantor  
Hillel Deutsch  
Ira Dounn  
Yakir Englander

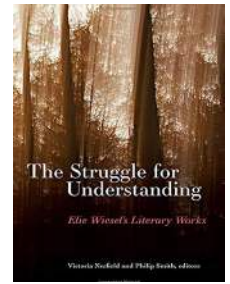
Scott Glass  
Jill Hackell  
Donna Herzog  
Sandy Horowitz  
Robin Joseph  
Peg Kershenbaum  
David Markus  
Eric Miller

Bronwen Mullin  
Michael Nachmany  
Debra Orenstein  
Ayal Prouser  
Maya Resnikoff  
Lisa Sacks  
Rob Scheinberg  
Jennifer Shaw

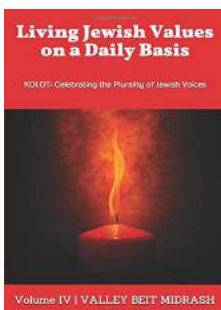


# FACULTY UPDATE!

## Recent Publications, Presentations, and Accomplishments for the 2019-2020 Academic Year



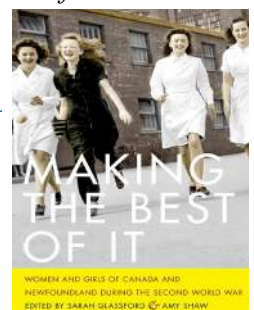
**Rabbi Ira Dounn** - Featured in a [Princeton University podcast](#) speaking about grief and staying connected. ~ **Dr. Yakir Englander** - "The Death of Humanity and the Need for a Glory Culture: The Existential Project of Elie Wiesel," in V. Nesfield and P. Smith eds., *The Struggle for Understanding: Elie Wiesel's Literary Works* (Albany: SUNY Press): 25-50. ~ **Rabbi Dr. Matthew Goldstone** - "Towards a New Understanding of the Defining Features of Rabbinic Midrash," in W. D. Nelson and R. Ulmer eds., *Torah is a Hidden Treasure: Proceedings of the Midrash Section, Society of Biblical Literature*, vol. 8. (Piscataway: Gorgias Press, 2019): 69-96; "Parrhesia: Rabbinic Judaism," in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (forthcoming); "Global Trauma and the Social-Psychological Propaganda of the Rabbis," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego [Recipient of a AJS Knapp Foundation Travel Grant]; "Challenge of Standing up for What's Right" & "Jewish Responses to Exigent Circumstances," Summer of NewCAJE. ~ **Dr. Ora Horn Prouser** - "[Active Sitting in the Round: How the Body Can Learn Sacred Texts through Circus Arts](#)," *AJS Perspectives: The Body Issue*, Fall 2019; "Divine Spectrum: Can we Read the God of the Bible as Having Disabilities?," & "Challenging the Bible and Challenging Ourselves: Disturbing Biblical Texts," Summer of NewCAJE; "[Aaron Finds his Voice](#)," *The New York Jewish Week*; "A Close Reading of B'tzelem Elohim," Havurah Institute; "Pluralism: Not Just a Buzzword" & "In the Beginning God Created," Limmud NY, 2020; "Divine Disability: Disability Studies Approach to God and the Bible" and "Two Jews, Three Rings: Circus Arts and Biblical Studies," Limmud Chicago, 2020. ~ **Dr. Job Jindo** - "Cain and Abel: Moral Agency and Cultivation of Virtues," "Reflections on Particularism and Universalism in the Hebrew Bible," "The Trial of Jesus: What Was the Trial About?," & "The Trial of Jesus and the Trial of Socrates," New York University (Texts and Ideas, College of Arts & Sciences); "Some Reflections on Antisemitism, Xenophobia, and Otherness from a Biblical Perspective," AJR Retreat, Connecticut, November 2019. ~ **Cantor Michael Kasper** - "Prayer Leading in a Pandemic," Summer of NewCAJE; "In the Beginning God Created," Limmud NY, 2020. ~ **Rabbi David Markus** - "The Spiritual Duty to Vote," in A. Frost ed., *Kolot: Living Jewishly on a Daily Basis*, vol. 4 (Valley Beit Midrash, 2019): 183-190; "[Ask the Rabbi: Is There Anything We Can't Forgive?](#)," *Moment Magazine* (Sept. 2019); "How 'Why' Grew Up: The Evolving Divine Call for Sacred Relationship in Genesis," and "The Devil You Know: The Evolution of Ha-Satan in Jewish Textual History," Limmud Toronto, University of Toronto, ON (2019); Scholar in Residence at Shir Chadash Synagogue, Ashland, OR (June 5-6, 2020); Scholar in Residence at Williams College, Williamstown, MA (2020). ~ **Rabbi Bronwen Mullin** - "In the Beginning God Created," Limmud NY, 2020. ~ **Ayal Prouser** - "[Active Sitting in the Round: How the Body Can Learn Sacred Texts through Circus Arts](#)," *AJS Perspectives: The Body Issue*, Fall 2019; "Under the Bi(g) Top: An Investigation of the 'Bisexual Vantage' in Circus Cinema," in Teresa Cutler-Broyles ed., *Circus Space: "The Big Top on the Big Screen"* (Jefferson N.C.: McFarland & Co.): 132-148; "In the Beginning God Created," Limmud NY, 2020; "Two Jews, Three Rings: Circus Arts and Biblical Studies" Limmud Chicago, 2020. ~ **Rabbi Lisa Sacks** - Began work as the Director of Community Engagement & Lifelong Learning at Bet Torah, Mt. Kisco, NY (2019); Received ordination from the Academy for Jewish Religion (Summer 2020); Received AJR Student Association Leadership Award. ~ **Rabbi Dr. Rob Scheinberg** - Received his Ph.D. in Jewish Liturgy from the Jewish Theological Seminary. ~ **Jennifer Shaw** - "A Token Jew Everywhere": Canadian Jewish Women on the Home Front," forthcoming in S. Glassford and A. Shaw eds., *Making the Best of It: Women*



and Girls of Canada and Newfoundland during the Second World War (Vancouver; 111-125; "[I Do Think We War Efforts Committee of the 1939-1946](#)," *Canadian Jewish*



*Can Carry On': The Women's Canadian Jewish Congress, Studies*, vol. 28 (2019): 54-73.





# CANTORS TO RABBIS TRACK & *KOLBO* PROGRAM

Responding to emerging trends within the Jewish world and job market, AJR has innovated two major opportunities that have met with growing success. Our Cantors to Rabbis track empowers ordained and invested cantors to pursue rabbinical studies at an accelerated pace, providing them new, potent skills for serving the wider Jewish community. Following on the heels of our pioneer, Rabbi Cantor Sam Levine, this year two more cantors graduated from this special track and seven others are in the midst of their studies, preparing to magnify their impact on their current and future congregations.



Rabbi/Cantor Sam Levine  
*First Graduate of the Cantors to Rabbis Track*



Cantors to Rabbis Students  
*Spring Intensive (February 2020)*



Rabbi/Cantor Idan Irelander (Left)  
Rabbi/Cantor Luis Cattán (Right)  
*2020 Cantors to Rabbis Graduates*



*KolBo* Students  
*Spring Intensive (February 2020)*

For those whose musical and spiritual passions drove them to gain the skills of both cantor and rabbi, our *KolBo* Program provides an expedient option to earn both ordinations simultaneously. A joint curriculum that requires only 20 credits beyond either of the ordination options alone, the *KolBo* Program allows talented individuals from across the United States to pursue their dream. Currently comprised of six unique individuals, this program produces singing scholars who can meet the complex needs of today's Jewish communities.

## Spotlight on a Student

Davey Rosen

With an MA in Jewish Education in hand and 10 years of experience in the field as an Assistant Director at a Camp Ramah and Associate Director at the University of Michigan Hillel, I was confident in my ability “how to teach”, but “what to teach” continued to be a passionate pursuit. Each professional conference was an opportunity to learn, moments I found spiritually and intellectually meaningful, reminding me of my desire to return to rabbinical school, to delve deeply into Jewish tradition, to strengthen my Jewish spirit and bring that passion to others in my personal and professional life. I had attended rabbinical school for a time in my early 20’s. Nearly 20 years later, my passion for Jewish learning continued and my partner, Jillian, and I, decided it was time to pursue my calling to be a rabbi. Going back to school, leaving a full time position and having two kids at home, wouldn’t be simple, but thankfully, I’m an AJR student. Thankfully because AJR brings the curriculum to each student, meeting each student where they are, recognizing we are each unique, and, from a practical perspective, recognizing that life circumstances change.



At AJR I became a part of a community that crosses the country, bringing together people who share and value a love for learning about Judaism and Jewish texts, and a love for the Jewish people. But, we’re not seeking sameness or standardization when it comes to practice or belief. It is as an AJR student that I have learned to truly value pluralism, to not only accept that others have different opinions, but to really cherish the other, the person, and to understand that “*Eilu v’eilu*,” both sides of a respectful debate in the pursuit of holiness, as is taught in the Talmud in Bavli Eruvin 13b, are the living words of the Eternal.

As an AJR rabbinical student I feel even more part of the ongoing Jewish narrative - called to uphold our *Brit* and to engage with the voices of generations past to forge a world of kindness and meaning for today and the future. In addition to the strong Jewish textual knowledge I have gained through classes at AJR, AJR is incredibly relevant to life today, in the moment, asking students to consider how to teach or preach a text that is relevant to the people we engage. At AJR we learn to teach from the heart, and to seek spiritual meaning and a sense of wonder and awe.

# In Loving Memory of Cantor Gladys Gruenwald z”l

Shortly before *Rosh Hashannah*, the Academy for Jewish Religion lost Cantor Gladys Gruenwald z”l, one of its most ardent supporters and a dear friend and colleague to so many. Gladys grew up in a home filled with Jewish life, lore and music. She had begun singing in a youth choir, and she loved and enthusiastically participated in choral singing throughout her life. Like so many of us, Gladys found her way to AJR after a long career; hers was in special education.

Gladys came to AJR without specific plans to become clergy. However, following her ordination as a Cantor in 2011, it was obvious she had found her true place in the Jewish world. “Gladys sang with conviction and she was devoted to the Cantorate” (- R. Peg Kershenbaum).

That devotion was never more in evidence than at meetings of AJR’s Board of Trustees, to which Gladys was elected after her ordination. In some ways, she served as the Board’s conscience. As the only Cantor serving on AJR’s Board for most of her tenure, she took a keen interest in, and strongly supported, its Cantorial program and, especially, her future Cantorial colleagues. Dr. William Liss-Levinson, AJR’s Board chair said that “her love for, and devotion to, AJR was palpable.”

Gladys was very active in AJR’s fundraising and recruitment activities. One would encounter Gladys every summer at Choral Festivals, where she sat at a table filled with information about AJR and where, as in many other venues, she worked tirelessly to recruit students to the school and to raise money for its operations.

Gladys was my High Holiday Cantor for many years and everyone should be so fortunate to be blessed with such a partner, both on and off the *bimah*. Her enthusiasm is infectious. She couldn’t wait to get my congregants to sing along with her and she was truly delighted when they joined in. She loved it and they loved her. And when Gladys was singing in my sanctuary, no one was in a hurry for the service to end.

Throughout AJR, Gladys was “admired for her keen aesthetic sense, her honesty, her fierce love of Judaism and her loyalty to Israel. . .” (- R. Peg Kershenbaum). Wherever she went, people found Gladys to be “so delightful and caring” (- R. Steven Altarescu and R. Sam Yolen). “[She] made a lasting impact on the people whose lives she touched” (R. Linda Shriner-Cahn), including mine. Gladys has left us with her permanent imprint on the tapestry of the Academy for Jewish Religion and a legacy of service, song, and friendship.



- Rabbi Michael Kohn





## ***SUPPORT AJR!***

We look to you, our friends and colleagues, to support our work.

Partner with us in training the leaders that the Jewish world needs today.

Partner with us in spreading our message of cherishing those we agree with as well as those who challenge us.

Partner with us in encouraging and shaping communities that are built on pluralistic dialogue and understanding.

### **Two Ways to Make Your Donation to AJR Go Further:**

1. **Donate appreciated stock:** If you hold shares of publicly traded stock that you have held for more than a year and that are now worth more than when you acquired the shares, rather than sell the shares and donate the proceeds, you may transfer those “appreciated” shares to AJR. The Academy will sell the shares and receive the current value for them. The gain on those donated shares is not taxed on your return.
2. **Make your donation from your traditional IRA:** If you have a conventional IRA and are older than 70 ½, you are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA each year. If you instruct your IRA custodian bank or brokerage to make your Qualified Charitable Distribution (“QCD”) directly to a charity, that distribution is not taxable income to you. While you do not get a deduction for the contribution, the distribution is untaxed income.

AJR does not give tax advice and the tax laws are complex. Before initiating either of these transactions, consult your tax advisor to find out how it will affect your return.

When initiating either of these transactions with respect to a contribution to AJR, please contact the AJR office so that we will know how to record the transaction.

