



# AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE GLOBAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP FOR NEW YORK METRO AREA LEADERS 2014-2015

**The AJWS Global Justice Fellowship** is a selective, year-long program designed to inspire, educate and train key opinion leaders in the American Jewish community to become advocates in support of U.S. policies that will help improve the lives of people in the developing world.

AJWS has launched the ninth Global Justice Fellowship program, which will take place in the New York Metro Area. The fellowship period is from January to December 2015 and includes travel to the Dominican Republic, during which participants will learn from grassroots activists working to overcome poverty and injustice. The travel experience will be preceded and followed by innovative trainings that will prepare participants to mobilize and organize their communities and networks to advance AJWS's campaigns and other efforts for global justice.

The 17 New York Metro Area Global Justice Fellows represent a broad array of backgrounds, communities, professional experiences and networks.

## NEW YORK METRO AREA FELLOWS



### ELAINE SHIZGAL COHEN

Elaine Shizgal Cohen recently retired from a career in Jewish education, most recently as the director of the Schechter Day School Network. Her professional experiences included teaching at the high school and university levels and heading

two multi-campus Jewish day schools, one in Montreal and one in New Jersey. She has also been a mentor for the Day School Leadership Training Institute. Elaine is an active leader in her synagogue and has four grandchildren.

### MARY COX

Mary Cox helps organizations increase their impact by devising strategies to identify and reach their goals. Her unique combination of domestic and international experience, in both the private and nonprofit sectors, allows her to understand what works within different contexts and cultures to equip organizations to achieve greater results. Previously, Mary worked for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, T-Mobile USA and international nonprofits and enterprises.



### ABIGAIL DOWNS

Abigail Downs works at the Center for Constitutional Rights, focusing on its international human rights docket and Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative. Previously, Abigail worked on a range of social justice issues, including worker and women's rights and environmental sustainability. Her research and postgraduate work has included a focus on the Americas. Abigail is an alumna of the AJWS Alternative Spring Break program and a former AJWS intern.



### ADAM FISHER

Adam Fisher is an energy management consultant, assisting commercial buildings in curbing excess energy consumption to reduce both costs and carbon emissions. Adam is an alumnus of USY, Ramah and Hillel and is passionate about applying Jewish values to everyday life and work. After participating in a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip for LGBTQ-identified individuals, Adam has focused on the intersection of Judaism, feminism and "queer" values.



**RACHAEL NAOMI FRIED**

Rachael Naomi Fried is currently pursuing a master's in fine arts in Transdisciplinary Design at Parsons, The New School for Design in New York City. She spends her summers in Camp Neshar in the Poconos, where she currently serves as the program

director and the director of interactive marketing. During her years in graduate school, Rachael started a crafts group for Holocaust survivors to combat social isolation and raised close to \$30,000 for synagogues that were destroyed during Hurricane Sandy.

**JONAH GEFFEN**

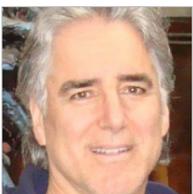
Jonah Geffen is the national rabbinic director for J Street. He served for two years as a rabbinic fellow at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City. For nearly a decade, Jonah has dedicated himself to teaching about and promoting the cause of peace

as refracted and understood by the Jewish tradition. He served as the senior coexistence educator for Kivunim: New Directions and has taught for Encounter and Pardes. Jonah was a Kollel Fellow at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, a Summer Fellow at Yeshivat Hadar and a CLAL Rabbis Without Borders Fellow.

**STEFANIE GREENBERG**

As the director of volunteer services at Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, Stefanie Greenberg helps create meaningful service opportunities for more than 2,000 volunteers annually, inspiring people to devote their time and talents to

give back to their communities. In 2006, she moved to New York to volunteer full time through AmeriCorps\*VISTA. She participated in the Jewish Greening Fellowship, Community Connections Fellowship and Senior Leaders Program at Columbia University. She also serves as the treasurer of the board for New York Association for Volunteer Administrators.

**STUART HIMMELFARB**

After an encore career as the head of marketing for a local Jewish federation and director of a Jewish leadership learning program, Stuart Himmelfarb co-founded a nonprofit with a mission of engaging—or re-engaging—baby boomers in Jewish life.

He also recently became president of the New York Jewish Week newspaper and is a research fellow at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

**MARGIE LAUTER**

Margie Lauter works as the Northeast regional advocacy coordinator for CARE—a global poverty-fighting humanitarian organization. Based in New York, she works with advocates and volunteers from Maine through Delaware to influence U.S.

government policy to combat global poverty and promote women's empowerment. Prior to joining CARE, Margie worked for the Freedom Foundation in India and the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Global Health Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

**MEY TAL MISRAHI**

Meytal Misrahi currently serves as an international programs coordinator for AFS USA, a leading provider of international high school student exchange programs. She volunteered for many years to help individuals with

special needs, is an alumna of an AJWS service trip to Ghana and has worked with the Global Poverty Project.

**RABBI DR. STEVEN MOSS**

Rabbi Dr. Steven Moss has served B'nai Israel Reform Temple in Oakdale, NY since 1972. He has served as chairperson of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission for 23 years and is the founder of the Suffolk County Anti-Bias

Task Force, and director of STOPBIAS, a program dedicated to preventing crimes caused by intolerance. He is the current president of the Suffolk County Board of Rabbis and the vice chair of the Center for the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding.

**DAVID NEWMAN**

David Newman has worked in the Jewish communal sector for nearly 15 years. He currently serves as the executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Long Island, where

he coordinates the community relations agenda between the Jewish and general populations and works to enhance the quality of Jewish life. Previously, David worked for Hillel on three campuses: Northwestern University, NYU and Hofstra University, where he served as the executive director. David has also worked for AIPAC.



### **HENRY RAMER**

Henry Ramer is a graduate student at Rutgers University's Division of Global Affairs, where he will receive a master's degree in May 2015. Previously, Ramer earned a degree in law from Columbia University, then worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Brazil, encouraging local legal aid to adopt outreach programs for mothers living in poverty. After returning to New Jersey, he practiced law and ran for State Assembly. Recently, he helped his synagogue organize a coalition of congregations to house the homeless. He has also served as the chairman of the New Jersey-Israel Commission.



### **SABRINA ASSAYAG VICTOR**

Sabrina Assayag Victor is a litigation attorney focusing on personal injury and sex abuse cases. She served as the coordinator of the Cardozo Advocates for Battered Women and was a legal writing teaching assistant at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. After graduating from law school, she lived in Jerusalem, conducting grant-funded research on water conservation law; and in Cape Town, South Africa, working for the refugee clinic at the University of Cape Town as an advocate for asylum seekers from other African nations.



### **BINA RASKIN**

Bina Raskin is the director of Mosaic of Westchester, working with local and national Jewish and secular organizations, Jewish professionals and lay leaders to fully integrate LGBTQ Jews into Westchester Jewish life. Bina is a licensed psychologist with more than 20 years of experience in a variety of roles, including clinical care, community organizing, resource planning and education, innovative program design, leadership and administration. She currently lives with her wife, Jama, a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

### **DAVID JOSEPH WISE**

David Joseph Wise serves as the rabbi to Hollis Hills Jewish Center in Queens. In his pulpit he strives to bring relational Judaism to all areas of congregational life and has sought to bring greater awareness of food insecurity issues to his community. After his ordination in 1996 from the Jewish Theological Seminary, he served as a rabbi in Somerset, NJ, for nine years. He has also served on the faculty of Solomon Schechter, Camp Ramah in the Berkshires and the Academy for Jewish Religion. He is married with two teenage children.



### **AARON STEINBERG**

Aaron Steinberg is the associate director of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance and sits on the boards of Bnei Akiva New York and the Hebrew Institute of White Plains. Ever since his first experience of leadership in the Bnei Akiva youth movement, he has been seeking new ways to help guide the Jewish community. He and his wife Adina have two children, Dahlia and Judah.