

KENISSA

COMMUNITIES OF MEANING NETWORK

Fourth National Consultation

March 3-5, 2019

Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center
Falls Village, CT



Institute for Jewish Spirituality

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Kenissa is funded by the William Davidson Foundation
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Rationale

American Jewish life is in a time of transition that calls for bold, new thinking and the development of new models for identification. Membership and affiliation patterns that have sustained synagogues and other legacy Jewish institutions for more than a century are eroding. At the same time, we see a dramatic growth of interest and energy in new expressions of Jewish community. Some are focused on learning; some are focused on social justice; some are focused on contemplative practice and spirituality; some are focused on food and environmental sustainability; some are focused on prayer. Some look like synagogues; some do not. Each sector has seen one or more organizations emerge that have either seeded the phenomenon or have created a network to sustain and support the phenomenon.

Defining “Communities of Meaning”

What the sectors have in common is that they employ a particular idiom unique to contemporary American culture that attracts other Jews with similar interests. The richness of the Jewish heritage is literally being re-invented in our time by the way in which Jewish wisdom is being applied to the challenges that confront our world today. If properly nurtured and encouraged, these “communities of meaning” can form the nucleus of an American Jewish renaissance. Communities of meaning are networks of individuals that are inspired by ideas or practices that enrich the lives of participants and/or significantly improve conditions in the world for others.

Using the Hebrew word for “portal” or “entranceway”, the *Kenissa* Network brings together the people leading contemporary efforts to re-define Jewish life and community so that they can learn from each other and be supported in their efforts to create communities of meaning.

Program

- At annual Consultations every March, *Kenissa* convenes 50+ individuals whose work reflects innovative approaches to Jewish life. Participants benefit from seeing their particular endeavors in the context of a changing socio-political landscape and a rapidly changing Jewish community. Significant thinkers and practitioners beyond the Jewish world also enrich and broaden our conversation.
- Our website hosts a weekly blog, providing thought leadership for this emerging trend.
- Every Nov-Dec, *Kenissa*’s national “Cross-Training” enables similarly focused organizations to come together for skill building and network building. Our most recent training included affinity tracks for Jewish learning and spirituality; Next Gen engagement; new spiritual communities; new paradigm *mikvaot* (ritual baths); and Boomer engagement.
- Network members are invited to participate in ongoing peer consulting, one or more Communities of Practice ranging from sustainability to organizational culture, and periodic webinars.
- *Kenissa*’s most ambitious project is to create a national database of communities of meaning in American Jewish life. Individuals who would like to have their projects listed should fill out the website form.

Kenissa is an independent project housed at Hazon and is led by Rabbi Sid Schwarz, the founder of several cutting-edge Jewish organizations and initiatives and the author of, among other books, *Jewish Megatrends: Charting the Course of the American Jewish Community*. Co-sponsors of the Initiative are the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, JOIN for Justice, Hadar and UpStart. Over the course of the next five years we intend to build and collect a body of knowledge and broaden the universe of participants. It will eventually incorporate thinkers and practitioners from other faith communities in America. The *Kenissa: Communities of Meaning Network* is being supported by lead funding from The William Davidson Foundation.

Kenissa National Consultation, March 3-5, 2019
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Consultation Goals:

As a result of participating in the Consultation you will:

1. Feel that your connection to the growing *Kenissa* Network will support collaboration, learning, and growth in your work and organization over the long term.
2. Understand key themes that are central to emerging Jewish communities of meaning and explore how these themes might relate to your work.
3. Contextualize your work within larger social trends in American society and the Jewish community and explore similarities and differences in your work with other *Kenissa* participants.

Sunday, March 3

Sunday sessions located in the Library

4 – 4:45 pm	OPENING: WELCOME AND GROUNDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Participants understand the overall purpose and outcomes of Consultation, and are introduced to Venn Diagram</i>
4:45 – 6pm	CONNECTING: SHARING OUR STORIES, part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Group begins relationship-building through reflections on leadership and hopes for gathering. We begin to see the range of the landscape through individual stories and themes.</i>
6 – 7:30 pm	DINNER
7:30 – 8:30 pm	CONNECTING: SHARING OUR STORIES, part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Group continues relationship-building through reflections on leadership and hopes for gathering. We begin to see the range of the landscape through individual stories and themes.</i>
8:30 – 9:00 pm	CONNECTING: THEMES & PATTERNS FROM ESSAY 2 facilitated by Rob Weinberg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>We will reflect on the range of responses reflected in the participant essays in response to the themes raised in Jewish Megatrends.</i>
9:00 – 9:15 pm	CLOSING THE DAY

Monday, March 5

- *All sessions in the synagogue, unless otherwise noted.*

<p>7:00 am</p>	<p>MORNING SPIRITUAL GATHERING <i>Two concurrent options</i></p> <p>Traditional <i>Shacharit</i>: Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever (<i>Synagogue</i>)</p> <p>Soulful <i>Shacharit</i>: Rabbis Bella Bogart, Evan Krame, and David Evan Markus (<i>Library</i>) With song, chant and poetry, we move through the morning service acknowledging the traditional and uncovering new portals to the sacred.</p>
<p>8 am</p>	<p>BREAKFAST</p>
<p>9:00 – 10:15 am</p>	<p>KENISSA: WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA? Rabbi Sid Schwarz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>We will learn about some of the trends and ideas that inform the Kenissa Network—why it matters and how it can support your work and organization.</i>
<p>10:15 – 10:45 am</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>10:45 – 12:00 pm</p>	<p>PEER CASE STUDY SESSIONS: 3 Concurrent Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Through peer-sharing, we will learn, reflect and offer ideas on our organizations’ strengths and challenges.</i> • <u>Kedusha/Sacred Purpose</u> in the Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator: David Bronstein, Taproot ○ Presenter: Kohenet Keshira haLev Fife, Kesher Pittsburgh • <u>Chochma/Wisdom</u> in the Synagogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator: Libby Parker, Jewfolk, Inc. ○ Presenter: Rabbi Zohar Atkins, Etz Hasadeh • <u>Kehilla/Intentional Communities</u> in the Great Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator: Rabbi Laurie Phillips, Beineinu, NYC ○ Presenter: Roger Studley, Urban Moshav
<p>Noon – 1 pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>

<p>1pm – 2:15 pm</p>	<p>PEER RESOURCE SESSIONS: 3 Concurrent Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Through peer-sharing, we will learn, reflect and offer ideas on our organizations' strengths and challenges.</i> • <u>Kehilla/New Spiritual Communities</u> in the Great Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator: Rabbi Ben Spratt, Minyan ○ Presenter: Eleyna Fugman, Alberta Shul & TischPDX • <u>Tzedek/Social Justice</u> in the Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator: Cherie Brown, National Coalition Building Institute ○ Presenter: Cindy Rowe, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action • <u>Yetzirah/The Arts and Creativity</u> in the Synagogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitator: Talia Liben Yarmoush, Achayot: Sisterhood of Jewish Women Writers ○ Peer Case-Study Presenter: Andrew Davis, The Bible Players
<p>2:15 – 2:45 pm</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>2:45 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>HOW WE GATHER Casper ter Kuile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Casper is a Ministry Innovation Fellow at Harvard Divinity School and a Strategist at On Being, about new forms of community and spirituality on the American social landscape</i>
<p>4:00 – 4:30 pm</p>	<p>PLAYING WITH VENN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>We will create a collective map of our work using the Venn Diagram, and experiment with the creation of our own diagrams.</i>
<p>4:30 – 5pm</p>	<p>BREAK/NETWORKING</p>
<p>5:00 – 6:00 pm</p>	<p>MINCHAH/SOUL BREAK OPTIONAL SESSIONS</p> <p>5 – 5:30: Make a Move: Improvising with our Minds and Muscles (Library) Andrew Davies, The Bible Players</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This 30-minute session of improv games will open up our minds and muscles. We will explore how to express ourselves without words, and how to listen with our bodies. Don't miss this chance to laugh and play together and learn games you can bring home to your community. <p>5 – 5:50: Soulift: Healing into Action (Synagogue) Cherie Brown, National Coalition Building Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This session will teach a set of tools for healing from trauma: the grief fear and shame that can get internalized as a result of oppression. We will first identify how internalized oppression robs us of our deepest humanity---and then learn a healing practice for releasing the emotions that prevent us from practicing courageous and powerful leadership.

6 – 7pm	DINNER
7:00 – 8:00 pm	<p>PANEL & DISCUSSION: BUILDING INCLUSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITIES</p> <p>So much of the work of organizations and leaders within the <i>Kenissa</i> Network is about creating space and community where Jews that have often felt marginalized are able to fully be themselves. In this panel we will hear from three individuals who have wrestled with this phenomenon. We trust that what they share in their brief presentations will open up the space for us to have a full group conversation about the challenges of creating a truly inclusive Jewish community. Moderated by Amanda Silver.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asher Gellis, JQ International • Becky Havivi, IfNotNow • Rinah Rachel Galper, Our Sacred Circles
8:00 –8:30	<p>CLOSING THE DAY: REFLECTION AND CHECK IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>We will close out the day reflecting on key insights and learning.</i>
8:30 – 9:30	<p>BEIT CAFÉ (Library)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enjoy a fun evening showcasing the creativity of the <i>Kenissa</i> Network. MC: Daniel Brenner, Moving Traditions

Tuesday, March 6

- *All sessions in the synagogue, unless otherwise noted.*

7:15 – 8:00 am	<p>MORNING SPIRITUAL GATHERING <i>Two concurrent options</i></p> <p>Traditional Shacharit: Rabbi Debra Cantor (<i>Synagogue</i>)</p> <p>Yisurim Shel Ahava: Rabbi Ariel Stone (<i>Library</i>) Rabbi Ariel Stone will offer an alternative morning spiritual experience called <i>Yisurim Shel Ahava</i>, an extended meditation on the second sentence of the Shma.</p>
8 – 8:55 am	BREAKFAST
9 – Noon	<p>COMMUNITY PARTNERS THINK TANK (Library)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Community Partners delegation will use this time to consider how to use their experience at the Kenissa Consultation to support new models of Jewish life and community that are bubbling up all across North America.</i>
9:00 – 10:30 am	<p>APPLICATION: BRINGING IT TOGETHER WITH PEER CONSULTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Provide and receive support from peers on a current question, challenge or goal that you have to advance your leadership, organization and/or sector.</i>

10:30 – 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 – 11:45 am	APPLICATION: TAKING IT HOME - COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Learn about Kenissa communities of practice, and experience the value of being in conversation and exploration with peers about a topic of pressing interest</i>
11:45 – 12:00	BREAK
12:00 – 12:30 pm	CLOSING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Report out from the Community Partner Think Tank Session</i> ○ <i>Share next steps for staying connected with one another and the Kenissa Network overall</i> ○ <i>Provide feedback for future Kenissa gatherings</i>
12:30	LUNCH

Working Agreements

Participate fully

Personalize your wisdom/speak from the “I”

Move up/move back

Invite curiosity and imagination

Sort for what’s useful

Respect the people, respect the program

- be on time for sessions
- technology off or silent during sessions
- confidentiality

Sharing Our Stories: Small Groups

In small groups, please share:

- Name
- Organization
- What is a moment in your life that has led you to be here in this room now?
- What is one thing that you would like to leave at the door so you can fully be here?

Sharing Our Stories: Circle Share

- Name and Affiliation
- 1 thing you want us to know about you
- 1 breakthrough you want to see in the impact of your work

Peer Case Study Session 1

Small Group Reflection Questions

- What does what you've just heard from the presentations **spark for you** (for example: on an individual level, organizational level and/or day-to-day work...).
- What is it about what you do—as a manifestation/expression of this theme/portal—that appeals to Jews who are searching for new ways to express their Jewish identity or have an experience of “community”?
- What are the core ideas, principles, or assumptions that guide what you do and make it different, in important ways, from conventional practice in the Jewish community today?
- What would it take for your organization/community to enjoy greater visibility, acceptance and support (financial and moral) in the larger Jewish community?
- What would you like to learn from others doing similar work and what might they learn from you?

Peer Case Study Session 2

Small Group Reflection Questions

- What does what you've just heard from the presentations **spark for you** (for example: on an individual level, organizational level and/or day-to-day work...).
- What is it about what you do—as a manifestation/expression of this theme/portal—that appeals to Jews who are searching for new ways to express their Jewish identity or have an experience of “community”?
- What are the core ideas, principles, or assumptions that guide what you do and make it different, in important ways, from conventional practice in the Jewish community today?
- What would it take for your organization/community to enjoy greater visibility, acceptance and support (financial and moral) in the larger Jewish community?
- What would you like to learn from others doing similar work and what might they learn from you?

What are We Learning: Reflection and Check-In

What's most important to remember from your time at Kenissa so far?

<i>Sunday Sessions</i>	<i>Monday Sessions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introduction• Connecting: Sharing Our Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Kenissa</i>: What's the Big Idea?• Peer Case Study Sessions 1 and 2• How we Gather with Casper ter Kuile• Networking• Minchah/Soul Break Options• Building Inclusive Communities Panel

- What are you learning about yourself, your leadership, and/or your organization so far?

- What have you found surprising?

- What are some important takeaways that you want to take forward?

- What questions are surfacing for you?

***Kenissa* Consultation**

Peer Consulting Process Prep Work

Criteria for choosing an issue:

- It is something that is bothering you enough that your thoughts regularly return to it
- Is it something that is not already on its way to being resolved
- It is important to you and you want to act on it
- You feel comfortable sharing this issue with others and getting feedback on it

My issue/challenge is:

My question for the group to respond to is:

***Kenissa* Consultation**

Peer Consulting Groups

Purpose:

- To provide participants with an opportunity to consult with peers on a current issue or challenge

Outcomes:

- Learn a replicable model for collaborative problem solving that you can use with *Kenissa* Network members, peers & colleagues, and in your organizations
- Practice active listening, feedback, and coaching skills
- Receive input and advice from peers

Guidelines for the group:

Peer consulting is designed to provide an opportunity for each participant, in a small group setting, to consult with other colleagues on a specific personal, leadership, or programmatic challenge. Each consultation is scheduled for 25 minutes and should have both a designated presenter and timekeeper. (Rotate after each consultation.) Groups should consist of 3 – 4 people. Order of presentations and timekeepers is decided by the group.

Suggested format for group discussion:

- 5 minutes: Present the issue & question for the group
- 5 minutes: Group asks clarifying questions*
- 10 minutes: Group discusses, brainstorms, develops action steps/recommendations for presenter (presenter listens – does not comment)
- 5 minutes: Presenter reacts

Guidelines for the Presenter: Please describe the issue or challenge you are thinking about using the following guidelines:

- **Describe the issue or challenge from your perspective.** What are the major factors influencing the challenge? Who are the major players, and (very briefly) what are their major interests? Why is this important to you?
- **Help the group to understand what has been done** (by yourself or others) to address the situation. Describe as concretely as possible the actions that you (and/or others) have taken or that you intend to take related to the issue. The goal here is to enable the group to help you generate new ideas, not take you back over territory that you and your colleagues have already covered.
- **Highlight the challenges that this is raising for you as a leader.** Where do you feel pulled in different directions? What leadership ideas are sitting with you as you contemplate this situation?
- **Pose a specific question** that you would like the group to help you to consider. It can be a question about the situation itself or about your own leadership in the situation. The more focused the question, the better the group will be able to assist you. Your presentation should end with the question.

Guidelines for Group Members Asking Clarifying Questions:

- **Ask questions that tease out the facts.** For example: Who are the major players, what has presenter done so far? What would success look like?
- **Ask questions that will help in the diagnosis of the problem,** e.g. – what is at stake here? What values are impacting the issue? What are the hidden agendas that may affect the issue?
- **Practice active listening.** Notice if/when you want to jump in immediately with suggestions and solutions. Practice active listening and reflection before immediately doing so.
- **Offer advice, opinions, observations from a place of curiosity.** Some ways to begin statements include: “I wonder if..”; “They might consider..”, or “This is what I have learned from my experience...”

Guidelines for Timekeeper:

- Timekeeper must keep group on track, enforce the time schedule, and make sure that the presenter does not dominate. Please try to keep to the time table to ensure that every group member has a chance for a consultation.

Peer Consulting Notes

***Kenissa* Communities of Practice: Group Protocol**

Purpose:

Kenissa Communities of Practice (CoPs) are designed to bring members of the *Kenissa* Network together for sharing, thought partnership and mutual support regarding topics of common interest and concern. Each CoP is led by volunteer members of that group.

Group Protocol

1. Each person share with your full group one recent experience that made this topic especially salient to you.
 - What was the **situation**?
 - How did you deal with it/what did you **do** (or what were you wrestling with)?
 - What did you **learn**?

Listen well as you'll have a chance to respond to the person sitting next to you (pick pairs now if you want)

2. Turn to the person next to you and take turns responding to what they shared with statements that begin:
 - I notice...
 - I appreciate... or
 - I wonder...

Reflect and Plan: Taking the Consultation Home

<p><u>Key Learnings</u> Thinking about every session you attended, every full group discussion, and every informal conversation. From your time here, what are the key learnings that stand out for you?</p>	<p><u>New Questions</u> What new and important questions emerged for you?</p>
<p><u>Goals</u> What are one or two goals for applying learning (or pursuing questions) from the Consultation that you are ready to commit to? These should be goals that, when you achieve them, will markedly advance your leadership, your organization, and/or your sector.</p>	<p><u>Actions</u> What actions will you take to achieve your goal(s)?</p>

Supports

What supports might you need (or benefit from) and achieving your goals? How do you imagine *Kenissa* might play a role in those?

***Kenissa* Network: Staying Connected**

1) Join the *Kenissa* Listerv

kenissanetwork@googlegroups.com

2) Sign up for a

***Kenissa* Peer Consulting Group or
Community of Practice**

Stay tuned for an invitation to register this Thursday.

3) Participate in a *Kenissa* Learning Webinar

Offered 3 – 4 times per year on
different topics of interest to the Network.

4) Join us at the next *Kenissa* Cross Training

December 8 – 10, 2019
Pearlstone Conference Center,
Reisterstown, Maryland

5) Grow the Network

Recommend others who should be a part of the *Kenissa* Network.

Bios-Kenissa National Consultation **March 3-5, 2019**

Network Participants

Rabbi Dr. Zohar Atkins is the founder of Etz Hasadeh and the author of *Unframing Existence* (Palgrave, 2018) and *Nineveh* (Carcenet, 2019). A Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, he is the recipient of an Eric Gregory Award for Poetry.

Rabbi Bella Bogart is a gifted prayer leader, teacher, musician and healer, with over 30 years of congregational experience. She holds a vision of the wisdom and vibrancy of our heritage as a profoundly relevant Judaism for today and tomorrow.

Rabbi Daniel Brenner was described by the *New York Times* as a "rabbi, storyteller, and aerobics instructor." He is chief of education and program for Moving Traditions. He lives with his beloved Lisa and their three children in Montclair, New Jersey.

David Bronstein is a grassroots educator passionate about making liberatory spiritual education accessible. He is an organizer of Taproot, and helped start Alt*Div, an alternative to divinity school.

Cherie Brown is the founder and executive director of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI). Cherie leads workshops around the world on anti-Semitism and the intersection of anti-Semitism and Racism. She has been an adjunct faculty at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College teaching courses on diversity, conflict resolution, and a progressive understanding of anti-Semitism.

Rabbi Debra Cantor has served as a congregational rabbi, camp director, BJE consultant and adjunct professor. She is also an artist and social activist, with a particular interest in interfaith relations and racial justice.

Andrew Davies is the Co-Founder of The Bible Players, a comedy team that's improv-ing Jewish Lives, and co-founder of CharacTours, interactive walking experiences in New York City. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife Molly Wernick and his tiny dog Ducky.

Sara Fatell is an organizer from Philadelphia who calls DC home. Her upbringing in a typical Jewish home and her roots in politics and movement building make her uniquely suited for the work of OneTable.

Joshua Fenton is the founding Executive Director of Studio 70 - A Jewish Learning Laboratory. He lives with his wife and children in Berkeley CA.

Kohenet Keshira haLev Fife is the founder and leader of Keshet Pittsburgh, an independent, everyone-friendly, post-denominational Jewish community. She is also an avid traveler, a community weaver, a ritual creatrix and a songstress who delights in sprinkling sparkles, disrupting expectations, and offering blessings wherever she goes.

Rabbi Brian Fink is the Director of UJA-Federation of New York's Engage Jewish Service Corps at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (<http://jccmanhattan.org/engage>). He graduated from Tulane University and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Lilli Flink is the Co-Founder of Spruce Street Minyan and a fourth-year medical student at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. She is especially proud of her Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Barnard/JTS roots and credits them with informing her traditional egalitarian practices today.

Eleya Fugman is a full-time Jewish community organizer, based in Portland. She works both within and outside the organized Jewish community to create spaces for marginalized Jews: young Jews; unaffiliated Jews; Jews of mixed parentage/heritage; radical Jews; Jews of color; and Jews finding their way towards Jewish ritual

and community. Recent projects include building the Alberta Shul community and managing TischPDX, a cohort of young emerging Jews in Portland.

Kohenet Rinah Rachel Galper, Maggidah ha lev, is the founder of Our Sacred Circles, a multi-faith women's collaborative in Durham, North Carolina and a co-founder of Sacred Monsters, a non-Zionist Jewish worship community. She is a spiritual guide, ritualist, magic maker, arts educator, and activist.

Asher Gellis is the founder and executive director of JQ International, a pioneering LGBTQ and ally Jewish community building and direct service organization that has transformed the landscape of the Jewish world. His innovative and cutting edge identity building programs have engaged, inspired, and supported activists across the world in their efforts to create and build queer Jewish community and design programs that foster the healthy fusion of LGBTQ and Jewish identities.

Mo Golden, M.A. is an artist and educator with expertise in immersive/experiential learning, intercultural training, and healing ancestral trauma through the expressive arts. She has worked with organizations such as HIAS, Avodah, Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, and Asylum Arts and she has lived/worked in Spain, Nicaragua, Peru, Argentina, and Ecuador.

Becky Havivi is a community organizer, facilitator, strategist and resource mobilizer within the progressive Jewish sphere. She currently works full-time supporting IfNotNow, with a particular focus on cultivating the infrastructure and resources needed to support a mass movement (i.e. fundraising, finance/operations, staff support, and more!)

In her role at the Jewish Initiative for Animals, **Melissa Hoffman** consults with Jewish organizations across the country to develop and implement ethical food practices, as well as curriculum and programs that foster compassion for all living beings through the lens of Jewish values.

Rabbi Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill is a former schoolteacher, a graduate of Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and the author of three books. At present, she is spiritual leader of Tidewater Chavurah, a small "congregation without walls" in Virginia Beach, VA.

Na'amah Wendy Kenin founded Imeinu Birth Collective in 2008 so she could attend births at night as a doula while working and raising her children during the day. As an advocate for wellness and social change, Na'amah is a certified domestic violence counselor and a sought after community organizer also known for countering antisemitism, and provides social media "grassroots communications" consulting for nonprofits, small businesses, and educational institutions.

Caroline Kessler is the co-founder of Ashreinu, an egalitarian *kehilla* in St. Louis. Currently based in Oakland, she is also a poet and the Editorial Manager at UpStart.

Rabbi Evan J. Krame was ordained by ALEPH: the alliance for Jewish Renewal in January 2015. He is the co-founder of The Jewish Studio and Bayit, and continues in his career as lawyer focusing on estate planning and disability law.

Talia Liben Yarmush is a writer and editor, and co-founder of Achayot: Sisterhood of Jewish Women Writers. You can find her at www.TaliaYarmush.com.

Rabbi David Evan Markus serves as rabbi of Temple Beth El of City Island (New York, NY), rabbinics faculty at the Academy for Jewish Religion (New York); spiritual direction faculty and past Board Co-Chair at ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal; and senior builder at Bayit (a spiritual innovation start-up). In his parallel career in government service, he presides in the New York Judiciary as North America's only pulpit rabbi simultaneously to maintain a full-time oath of office.

Though rejected from rabbinic school, **Libby Parker** has spent an inordinate amount of time working in the Jewish community, creating Jewish content, and basically cheerleading and recruiting for the Jewish people. She lives in the Minneapolis suburbs and directs Jewfolk, Inc. by day and her three children's academic, social, and religious lives by night.

Rabbi Laurie Phillips is the founder and director of Beineinu. Using Judaism to hold people in love, Beineinu is an independent initiative offering personalized pathways to Jewish life and learning with hubs currently functioning in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Harlem.

Cindy Rowe is the Executive Director of JALSA and JALSA Impact. Prior to starting this position a year ago, she was the principal of an consulting practice which worked with over 60 non-profits in Massachusetts to advise them on fundraising, volunteer management, and public policy campaigns. She serves as Social Justice Community Chair at Temple Israel/Boston and was a member of the URJ's Commission on Social Action for many years.

Robert J. Saferstein is an interdisciplinary creative, entrepreneur, and development strategist who harnesses media, design, and technology to craft digital and analog outputs that drive social good. He is the founder of Eighteen:22, a global network of Jewish LGBTQ+ and ally changemakers working to advance positive change.

Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz, a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, has been spiritual leader of Temple Bnai Israel in Willimantic, CT since 2000.

Hazzan Jodi M. Sered-Lever is the founding spiritual leader of Congregation Mekor Shalom in Tampa, FL, where the presence of each person matters and the participation of each person makes a difference. A graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary (including its H.L. Miller Cantorial School), she is a fan of all Chicago sports teams.

Idan Sharon is a *shaliach*, an Israeli Emissary, to Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD for two years. Idan has experienced a wide range of progressive Jewish organizations, movements and communities in Israel. His permanent home is in Bet Shemesh.

Lauren Spokane is the lead instigator and founding board chair of the New Synagogue Project, an emerging Jewish community in DC that is spiritually vibrant, radically inclusive and reflects a vision of justice, equity, and liberation. She has been involved in building innovative Jewish communities and in faith-based social justice organizing for more than a decade.

Rabbi Ben Spratt is the Senior Associate Rabbi of Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Manhattan. His passion continues to be building community beyond existent walls and boundaries and in partnership with many others sparked Shireinu, Tribe, New Day Fellowship, and Minyan.

Miriam Steinberg-Egeth manages two community networks, the Center City Kehillah and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, while also freelancing as a consultant, postpartum doula, and advice columnist. She is passionate about creating a cohesive and supportive Jewish landscape in Center City Philadelphia, where she lives with her husband and their two children.

Rabbi Ariel Stone has guided Jewish communities from Ukraine to Oregon in creating innovative visions of the Jewish future grounded in Torah study. She is the rabbi of independent Congregation Shir Tikvah of Portland Oregon and the convener of Portland Interfaith Clergy Resistance.

Roger Studley is the founder of Urban Moshav, convener of the Berkeley Moshav effort to create Jewish cohousing in Berkeley, CA, and currently serves as the Hakhel advisor for six Jewish cohousing groups. He has been an organizer of independent *minyanim* (including San Francisco's pluralist Mission Minyan), and co-chair of a Hazon Food Conference.

Community Partners Delegation

Elkana Bar Ethan works as Senior Director at Authentic Israel and is the North America representative for the Kol Ami Leadership Academy. He has been active in the field of informal education and social entrepreneurship for 15 years, focusing on community building, social awareness, humanities, and Jewish identity. Elkana spent a year volunteering with children at risk in the development town of Ofakim and served for three years in an elite commando unit in the IDF in Lebanon. Elkana is a Hebrew University graduate and a licensed social worker. He also received an MA in public diplomacy and political science from Bar Ilan University.

Julie Brodsky is the Assistant Vice President for Young Families at the Jewish United Fund of Chicago. She oversees programs for families with children ages 11 and under including: jBaby Chicago, PJ Library & JUF Right Start. Prior to working at JUF, she was employed for 10 years at a synagogue pre-school where she taught in the classroom and was the assistant director.

Julie Golde is Senior Director of Community Impact at the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund. She is passionate about the creation of Jewish communities where every person can experience a sense of belonging.

Rabbi Andy Kastner is the interim executive director of the Jewish Federation of the East Bay. He lives in Berkeley, CA with his family and loves fermenting and running the endless trails of the Bay Area.

Josh Keyak is the manager for the Synagogue Leadership Initiative at the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey. Josh is a native of San Francisco and, before joining Federation, worked at both for profit and Jewish non-profit organizations.

Rabbi Frederick 'Fred' Klein is Director of Mishkan Miami: The Jewish Connection for Spiritual Support, a program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and serves as Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami.

Jeffrey Lasday is the COO of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. Jeff served as national Executive Director for the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), Executive Vice President of St. Louis' Central Agency for Jewish Education and founding director of the Columbus Commission on Jewish Education.

Dr. Vanessa Ochs is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Jewish Studies Program at the University of Virginia. She is also a rabbi, ordained in 2012. Her books include *Inventing Jewish Ritual*, winner of a 2007 National Jewish Book Award, *Sarah Laughed*, and *Words on Fire: One Woman's Journey into the Sacred*. Her forthcoming book is a biography of the Passover Haggadah.

Melanie Schneider is Sr. Planning Executive in UJA Federation of New York's Department of Jewish Life. Melanie holds a Masters in Jewish Communal Leadership from Brandeis, studied at the Institute for Non-Profit Leadership at Columbia, and was the NY/NJ Director for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. She and her partner Marla Gayle, live in Manhattan and have two young adult children, Sasha and Eliana.

Natana Shek has raised over \$180 million dollars for Jewish education and engagement and has implemented hundreds of programs that are transforming the Montreal Jewish communal landscape. She currently leads the community-wide Passport to Jewish Life Program in Montreal.

Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar is the Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), the nonprofit that catalyzes and accelerates advancement and innovation in the Jewish educational sector of Miami. She is a graduate of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Clergy Cohort.

Kenissa Professional Team

Lisa Sacks is the program associate for *Kenissa*. A rabbinical student at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, NY, she serves a Conservative congregation in York, PA as the student rabbi. Her prior career was in the public sector where she worked in politics, for the City of New York, and most recently as the CFO of Hazon.

Rabbi Sid Schwarz is the project director of the *Kenissa* Network. Rabbi Sid is a rabbi, educator and social entrepreneur who has successfully founded and led several Jewish organizations and national projects. As the founder/president of PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values for 21 years, Rabbi Sid pioneered a methodology that integrated Jewish learning, Jewish values and social responsibility. Using his experience as the founding rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, MD, he has played a leadership role in the synagogue transformation movement for close to 20 years. He is currently a Senior Fellow at Hazon and he blogs regularly at rabbisid.org.

Amanda Silver is *Kenissa*'s training director. A consultant, trainer, and executive coach, her unique approach draws on expertise in mindfulness, emotional-intelligence, and strength-based mindsets. Amanda's clients include higher education institutions, public school districts, social service agencies, advocacy organizations, faith-based institutions and entrepreneurs. Amanda previously served as the Director of the Selah Leadership Program and Network at Bend the Arc.

Dr. Robert Weinberg oversees *Kenissa*'s network of Communities of Practice. A Ph.D. in organizational behavior, Rob spent 15 years as the director of the Experiments in Congregational Education of HUC-JIR. He also has been the project director for HUC's Jim Joseph Educational Initiative.

Guest Presenter

Casper ter Kuile is a Ministry Innovation Fellow at Harvard Divinity School and a Strategist at *On Being*. Casper is the co-author of *How We Gather*, a cultural map of Millennial communities, and the co-founder of the *UK Youth Climate Coalition* and *Campaign Bootcamp*. He's a graduate of Harvard's Divinity and Kennedy Schools and his work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe* and on NPR.

Kenissa Venn Diagram

