



**RECONSTRUCTING  
JUDAISM**



**PROJECT  
RENEWAL**

# **NEW YORK DAY OF LEARNING**

**A JEWISH RESPONSE  
TO HOMELESSNESS IN  
THE NEW YORK AREA**

**SAJ: JUDAISM THAT STANDS FOR ALL**

**JAN. 26, 2020, 12:30 – 6 P.M.**

# SCHEDULE

**12:30 P.M.**

Kaplan Lounge  
*2nd Floor*

## Registration

**1 P.M.**

Social Hall  
*2nd Floor*

## Keynote

### *Introduction*

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., President of Reconstructing Judaism

### *The State of Homelessness in the New York Area and a Jewish Framework for Action*

Eric Rosenbaum, President & CEO of Project Renewal

Rabbi Lina Zerbarini of Kehillath Shalom, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.

**2:30 P.M.**

Room 400  
*4th Floor*

## Breakout Sessions

### *Homelessness & Racism*

Koach Baruch Frazier and Kaedon Grinnell

*Please note: The fourth floor is only accessible via stairs. You can take the elevator up to the third floor and then one flight of stairs to the fourth floor.*

Sanctuary  
*1st Floor*

### *Homelessness & NIMBYism (Not in My Backyard)*

Rabbi Lester Bronstein, Jesse Krasnow and Richard Nightingale

Social Hall  
*2nd Floor*

### *Homelessness & Incarceration*

Abraham Clott and Robert Blocker

Room 300  
*3rd Floor*

### *Homelessness, Substance Abuse & Mental Illness*

Rabbi Jodie Siff and Douglas Warn

Room 302  
*3rd Floor*

### *Homelessness & Queer Youth*

Nora Woods and Jazmine Perez

**4 P.M.**

Sanctuary  
*1st Floor*

## Closing Program: “Political Responses to Homelessness”

Gale A. Brewer, Mark Levine and Helen Rosenthal

Jody Rudin, Executive Vice President and COO of Project Renewal

**5:15 P.M.**

Social Hall

## Wine & Cheese Reception

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**ERIC ROSENBAUM** is currently the president and chief executive officer of Project Renewal in Manhattan, a leading New York City homeless services nonprofit agency. Before he began his tenure at Project Renewal, Mr. Rosenbaum served as CEO of Lantern, a nonprofit that works with formerly homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness. He also served as COO of Win, Inc., a provider of family homeless shelters and family supportive housing.

Mr. Rosenbaum serves on several boards, including Reconstructing Judaism and Homeless Services United, the umbrella organization that represents the city's homeless services organizations. In addition to his nonprofit experience, he has more than two decades of experience in corporate management, working for companies such as Colgate-Palmolive. He earned an MS in public health and an MBA from UNC Chapel Hill, and a BA in biology from UCLA.

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**RABBI LINA ZERBARINI** of Kehillath Shalom Synagogue in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. has spent her rabbinic career sharing the Jewish message of *b'tzelem elohim* ("Everyone is in the image of the Eternal") and the mission of *tzedek, tzedek tirdof* ("Justice, justice shall you pursue") with individuals and communities within and beyond synagogue walls.

Rabbi Lina is committed to building community. To strengthen communal ties and support rabbinic development, she has served on the leadership of boards of rabbis in each community where she has lived and is currently president of the Long Island Board of Rabbis. She is on the executive committee of the Board of Governors of Reconstructing Judaism.

# BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS

## *Homelessness & Racism*

### ROOM 400 - 4TH FLOOR

*Please note: The fourth floor is only accessible via stairs. You can take the elevator up to the third floor and then one flight of stairs to the fourth floor.*

**Koach Baruch Frazier, Au.D.** is an audiologist, musician, co-convener of the Tzedek Lab, a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, a dismantler of racism, and a sonic and spiritual healer.

**Kaedon Grinnell**, a lifelong New Yorker, has been with Project Renewal for nearly a decade, serving in a variety of roles in housing and shelter programming, as well as launching Marsha's House, the first LGBTQ+ shelter for young adults.

## *Homelessness & NIMBYism (Not in My Backyard)*

### SANCTUARY - 1ST FLOOR

**Rabbi Lester Bronstein** has served Bet Am Shalom Synagogue in White Plains, N.Y., since 1989. He is a past board member of the RRA. He currently serves as president of the New York Board of Rabbis.

**Jesse Krasnow** has been a board member of various Jewish organizations and is currently the chair of the board of Westhab, the leading not-for-profit provider of affordable housing in lower Westchester and the Northern Bronx.

**Richard Nightingale** is the president and CEO of Westhab and also serves on the board of Nonprofit Westchester and the Community Planning Council of Yonkers.

## *Homelessness & Incarceration*

### **SOCIAL HALL - 2ND FLOOR**

**Abraham Clott**, New York State judge, presides over felony cases in Manhattan. He is a former Board Chair of SAJ: Judaism That Stands for All and a member of the Board of Governors of Reconstructing Judaism.

**Robert Blocker** is the director of Reentry Services at Project Renewal and a faculty member and trainer at the Academy of Justice Informed Practice. He has been with Project Renewal for 20 years.

## *Homelessness, Substance Abuse & Mental Illness*

### **ROOM 300 - 3RD FLOOR**

**Rabbi Jodie Siff** grew up at the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore in Plandome and now serves as their rabbi. Rabbi Jodie's fusion of body, mind and spirit with Jewish tradition has defined her rabbinate.

**Douglas Warn** is the director of clinical practice at Project Renewal and a trauma-trained psychotherapist. He has worked with dually diagnosed homeless adults for more than 30 years.

## *Homelessness & Queer Youth*

### **ROOM 302 - 3RD FLOOR**

**Nora Woods** is the Interfaith Chaplain of Bryn Mawr College and is in her final semester at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Nora has also worked at Georgetown University and with survivors of human trafficking in New York City.

**Jazmine Perez, LMSW**, has been a leader in the LGBTQ+ community for more than 20 years and serves as the program director at Marsha's House, a shelter for LGBTQ+ young adults.

# POLITICAL PANEL SPEAKERS



**GALE A. BREWER** is the 27th Borough President of Manhattan. Since she took office in 2014, she has successfully passed legislation to reform the deed restriction process, add “caregivers” to the city’s anti-discrimination law, remove criminal history questions from initial employment applications (the “Fair Chance Act”) and enforce requirements for street numbers on buildings in Manhattan (to aid emergency workers). She has also spearheaded community-planning initiatives at the South Street Seaport, in East Midtown and in other neighborhoods to address development and zoning issues.



**MARK LEVINE**, New York City Council Member, has represented the 7th District in Upper Manhattan since 2014. Serving as chair of the Council Committee on Health and as a member of the Progressive Caucus, he is a leader on many issues, including tenants’ rights, health care, transportation, education, economic justice and the environment. Council Member Levine has been a lifelong advocate for addressing inequality in New York City. In 2017, he won the fight to get legal representation for low-income tenants facing eviction in housing court by passing landmark “Right to Counsel” legislation, the first of its kind in the nation. As parks chair, he also successfully fought for greater equity for parks in New York City’s low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.



**HELEN ROSENTHAL**, New York City Council Member, was elected to the New York City Council in 2013 with the highest vote total of any candidate for City Council in New York City, a feat she repeated in her 2017 re-election. Over the past six years, Helen has passed legislation to stop sexual harassment in the workplace, trained the New York City police in victim-centric and trauma-informed investigations of sexual assault, improved health outcomes for black women in pregnancy and childbirth and addressed gender-wage parity. Helen served on Manhattan Community Board 7 from 2002-13 and was elected chair in 2007. She has also served on the boards of various nonprofits, including NARAL ProChoice America, ParentJobNet, Inc. and WomenCare, Inc.

## MODERATOR



**JODY RUDIN**, Executive Vice President and COO of Project Renewal, has 15 years of progressive experience in homeless services, including as Deputy Commissioner of Adult Services at the New York City Department of Homeless Services, where she led efforts to reduce street homelessness by 40 percent and end veteran homelessness.

## INTRODUCTION AND CLOSING REMARKS



**RABBI DEBORAH WAXMAN, PH.D.**, is the first woman rabbi to head a Jewish congregational union and a Jewish seminary. Since becoming the president of Reconstructing Judaism in 2014, she has drawn on her training as a rabbi and historian to be the Reconstructionist movement's leading voice in the public square.

## FAIR TRADE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT



After the Day of Learning, SAJ: Judaism That Stands for All invites you to a concert at 7 p.m. by the Fair Trade Chamber Music Society, featuring SAJ member Ashley Windle on Violin, Kallie Ciechowski on viola and Jeanette Stenson on cello.

A separate ticket is required and can be purchased at the door.

The Fair Trade Trio will present a varied program of music, including New Zealand composer Natalie Hunt's "Clarinet Quartet" with guest artist Bixby Kennedy, "Songs of My People" by longtime Juilliard professor and local composer Michael White, and Schnittke's "String Trio," which takes the "Happy Birthday" rhythm on a truly wild musical ride, a fitting note (pun intended!) on which to start off their fifth anniversary concert season. Meet the musicians at a reception sponsored by the SAJ following the performance!



## RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

is the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement. Reconstructing Judaism trains the next generation of rabbis, supports and uplifts congregations and *havurot*, fosters emerging expressions of Jewish life and encourages people to be their best selves—always helping to shape what it means to be Jewish today and to imagine the Jewish future.

Reconstructionists approach Judaism—and life—with deep consideration of the past and a passion to relate it to the present. Reconstructionists have originated many of the core innovations of today's Judaism and lead efforts to make congregations and *havurot* even more groundbreaking, inclusive and relevant.

**[ReconstructingJudaism.org](http://ReconstructingJudaism.org)**



## PROJECT RENEWAL

has pioneered programs that provide health, homes and jobs that empower individuals and families to renew their lives. Those innovative programs have been replicated around the nation, helping even beyond the 16,000 homeless New Yorkers served by Project Renewal every year.

Project Renewal is one of New York City's largest providers of comprehensive health services to homeless individuals. Project Renewal provides award-winning emergency, transitional and permanent housing to homeless New Yorkers, including veterans and families. Project Renewal also incorporates employment services into every aspect of programming: connecting clients to services that match their needs, getting them into competitive jobs quickly and helping them stay employed.

**[ProjectRenewal.org](http://ProjectRenewal.org)**