

# TORATHON TURNS 10

A Community-Wide Night of Jewish Learning

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**5:10 PM - 10:20 PM at Herzl-Ner Tamid**

## ❖ Bios of Our Distinguished Faculty ❖

**Rainer Waldman Adkins** is a freelance artist (painting, drawing, muralism, printmaking and Hebrew calligraphy) and educator (extensive teaching in the Jewish community working with all ages, as an visual art instructor, and as co-leader of the Launch program at Kimball Elementary School, Seattle). As an artist, educator and activist for peace and justice, Rainer believes in an integrated approach to the spectrum of Jewish experience in arts, culture, spirituality, traditional learning, history, social activism and more. You can see installations of Rainer's art at the Kline Galland Home and Congregation Beth Shalom, and via many ketubot in Seattle-area homes.

**Simon Amiel** is a Seattle native and veteran non-profit executive. After a 13-year career with Hillel as a Hillel Director and VP, Simon moved back to Seattle with his family and has been an executive leader in the education reform arena in Washington State for the past six years. He is currently president of Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation, where he often facilitates conversations on Jewish values and contemporary life. He and his wife Amy live in Seward Park with their four wonderful children. Simon is a percussionist and was once given a standing ovation on the Sally Jesse Raphael Show.

**Rabbi David Basior** is new (again) to Seattle after spending six years in the Emerald City in his 20s. During that stint, he worked with Hillel UW, Jconnect Seattle, Hadassah, Temple de Hirsh Sinai, BBYO, and Jewish Voice for Peace. David graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College with a focus in his studies in pursuing peace, conflict transformation, and healing from trauma.

**Nevet Basker** is the founder and director of Broader View, an Israel Resource Center. She is an independent consultant, public speaker, educator, and policy adviser specializing in modern-day Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A native of Israel and former director at Microsoft, Nevet speaks regularly to youth and adults, Jewish and non-Jewish, and leads discussion groups about current events in Israel and the Middle East. She focuses not only on education but also—and especially—on building community, emphasizing shared values, collective identity, and respectful discourse. Nevet holds degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Stanford University, and the University of Washington.

**Rabbi Olivier BenHaim** has been a student of Torah and of the Jewish way for most of his life. He lived in Israel for close to 10 years, where he studied in Jerusalem with many teachers of the Jewish spiritual path, both in yeshivas and scholarly circles. He is a teacher of non-dual Judaism, anchored in Jewish tradition. He approaches Torah as a paradigm for spiritual awakening.

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**Rabbi Dana Benson** is new to UW Hillel and to Seattle. She grew up in Michigan and received her BA in Communications from Michigan State University. After college, she went to the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati where she received her Rabbinic Ordination. It was during her time at HUC-JIR that she realized she wanted to work within the Hillel world. She spent her time outside of studying and coursework creating weekend retreats for high school and college students, teaching and exploring new curricular models.

**Hamutal Davis** is New Israel Fund's Director of Outreach for the Western US. She joined NIF's Jerusalem office in 2013, where she worked to strengthen connections between American Jewish leaders and Israeli civil society leaders. She has a BA in French from Willamette University and an MA in Romance Languages from the Hebrew University. Born in Israel and raised in Portland, she is excited to be back in the Northwest after seven years in Jerusalem. She returns with her Israeli husband, Daniel, a career IDF officer, whom she imported. Hamutal is a proud bookworm and cooking enthusiast.

**Rabbi Moshe Edelman** created the Torahthon at the North Shore Jewish Center on Long Island in 1978!! The adult version was complemented with a kids version on the Sunday after the Saturday night "happening." Rabbi Edelman served as the Director of Leadership Development for Conservative Judaism (1992-2011) after being a congregational rabbi for almost 20 years. He is a popular scholar in residence in settings all over North America. Moshe resides in Riverdale/Bronx and serves as an interim rabbi, restaurant mashgiach, lecturer for Senior camp settings, Torah L'Shema student and proud abba/zeyde.

**Rabbi Gartenberg** served Congregation Beth Shalom in Seattle from 1988 to 2004 and went on to found Panim Hadashot-New Faces of Judaism-New Faces, a community committed to Jewish Hospitality. Dov is a passionate teacher of Judaism and an advocate for persons living with mental illness and disability. He was the co-founders of the Shaarei Tikvah program of the Jewish Family Service that brings Shabbat and Festival programs to the community for special needs individuals and their families. He is also a NAMI peer educator for the NAMI Family to Family Program and the NAMI Family Support Group.

**Talya Gillman**, committed to ideals of human dignity, equity and interdependence, works with Jewish and secular organizations to help them engage their constituents in meaningful efforts to address social needs - in ways reflective of and accountable to those values. With a background in Jewish and secular service-learning program design, curriculum development and facilitation, Talya is a recipient of the Covenant Foundation's Pomegranate Prize for emerging Jewish educators (2014), a member of the ROI and StartingBloc communities, and a former American Jewish World Service World Partners Fellow (Mumbai, 2009-10). She is currently pursuing a Masters in Transformational Leadership at Seattle University.

**Rabbi Ruz Gulko** is a freelance rabbi and Cantor who has served the Seattle community for 32 years. She loves to work with people of all ages and believes that learning Torah and eating chocolate together could save the world.

**Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg** is the senior rabbi of congregation Kol Ami in Woodinville. She has served the greater Seattle area as a Jewish educator and leader for the past 13 years.



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**Rabbi Yechezkel Kornfeld** has led Island Synagogue Shevet Achim since 1996. He is well known for his previous role as Educational Director for Seattle's Chabad-Lubavitch program of outreach. In that role, he taught two generations of Seattle teenagers at the non-denominational Jewish Community High School.

**Eliyahu Krigel** began as the Director of Education at HNT in June 2015. He grew up in Kansas City and along with a BA from Naropa University in Religious Studies, he holds a Masters of Education from JTS. He is a graduate of the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute and on the Board of the JEA. He is a trained Soulful Educator through Ayeka. Eliyahu is also working on his Doctorate of Jewish Education from Gratz College. He is a nature enthusiast, marathon runner, and percussionist who is married to Shanti Krigel with two children ages eleven and fifteen.

**Cantor Bradlee Kurland** has been enriching services at Herzl-Ner Tamid for over 30 years. He works with B'nai Mitzvah students, leads services, and teaches adults and kids how to chant Torah and tefillot. He comes from the Boston area and has a Master's Degree in Education in addition to his ordination.

**Rabbi Jason Levine** serves at the Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth Am in North Seattle. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. A child of the Midwest, he grew up in St. Louis and Cleveland before studying Neurobiology & Behavior and Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University. Rabbi Levine has worked for multiple Hillels and studied in a range of Jewish organizations. He approaches Judaism with a love of text and tradition but also believes that Judaism is at a generational turning point, a time for new ideas, approaches, and direction for American Jews.

**Rabbi Ron-Ami Meyers** is currently serving as Interim Head of School at Northwest Yeshiva High teacher and as a day school administrator. He has a degree in Political Science from the University of Winnipeg and ordination from Rav Yitzchak Koltitz and Dayan Avraham Kopschitz. This year's position runs alongside his role as Rabbi of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth in Seward Park. Prior to his role at NYHS, Rabbi Meyers taught at Seattle Hebrew Academy for five years, where he served as Rav Bet Sefer.

**Rabbi James Mirel** serves as Spiritual Leader of the congregation in Sun Valley, Idaho. He is also Rabbi Emeritus of Temple B'nai Torah where he served as Senior Rabbi for 29 years. Prior to that, he was a Rabbi at Temple De Hirsch Sinai.

**Danniell Nadiv**, born and raised in Metro-Detroit, recently joined the JCC as the Jewish Life and Learning Professional. She is passionate about Jewish programming and education, interreligious dialogue, disability rights and awareness, and communal involvement. Danniell looks forward to hiking the beautiful national parks in Washington State and helping individuals delve into their heritage through education and experiences at the SJCC.

**Rivy Poupko Kletenik** is in her eleventh year as Head of School of the Seattle Hebrew Academy.

**Wendy Rosen** is the AIPAC Washington and Oregon Area Director, overseeing all development, grassroots and political outreach for the pro-Israel community in these areas. Prior to her role at AIPAC, Wendy served as the Regional Director of American Jewish Committee's Seattle Regional Office, the Northwest Chapter Director for the American Technion Society and as the Women's Division Co-Director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Wendy received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Washington.

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**Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum** is Senior Rabbi of Herzl-Ner Tamid. He loves baseball and movies, and brought the Torahthon program to Seattle. He has also created programs like “Make a Lulav Shake,” “Sneak Into Shul on Yom Kippur,” “Men Cooking for Shabbat,” and “Iron Mensch.” He is on the National Council of AIPAC and started a Muslim/Jewish Dialogue group at HNT, now in its fifth year.

**Michael A. Rosenthal** is Professor of Philosophy and the Samuel and Althea Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies at the University of Washington, in Seattle. He is the co-editor of Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide (2010) and the author of numerous articles on modern philosophy, which have appeared in journals such as the Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, the Journal of the History of Philosophy, New German Critique, and the Journal of Political Philosophy. He is currently working on a book on Spinoza’s Theological Political Treatise.

**Roland Roth** is the Director of JNF for the PNW. JNF is all about the People and the Land of Israel and is the largest provider of Zionist Education in the United States. Roland has a BA in Education (SJSU) and an MA in Jewish Education (Gratz College) and loves teaching about Israel, Jewish History, and Jewish Continuity. He and his wife and 2 year old son live in South Everett. Roland and Alissa Hartnig (AMHSI) work out of the Seattle JNF office and love connecting Israel with the PNW!

**Rabbi Mark Spiro** is the Educational Director of Living Judaism, a Seattle-based organization that helps individuals enhance their level of personal well-being regardless of their circumstances, so that they can increase their level of enjoyment, wisdom and effectiveness within all of their roles and relationships.

**Michal Waldfoegel**, a Philly native and avid traveler, loves exploring other cultures and sharing her own. She is an experienced educator, dynamic facilitator, and certified yoga teacher with a penchant for combining seemingly unrelated things. Her insatiable curiosity and impulse to serve others in their own healing have led Michal to Seattle, where she returned to formal education at Bastyr University, one of the seven accredited naturopathic medical schools. As a naturopathic doctor Michael intends to continue and integrate the work she does as a singer-songwriter and yoga teacher: empowering others to recognize and trust in their true nature and capacity for self-healing.

**Laurie Warshal Cohen**, Ed.D developed and taught an award-winning Holocaust Literature class at Seattle Central Community College. She served as Co-Executive Director of the Holocaust Center from 2002 to 2012. In the last two years, she has reached out to possible new speakers with Holocaust legacy in their families, and assisted them in researching and developing their stories. The new speakers have included child survivors and children and grandchildren of survivors. Broadening the Holocaust Center’s Speakers Bureau, Laurie has worked with the daughter of a Dutch rescuer and a Japanese-American interned during WWII to prepare their stories for an audience.

**Rabbi Daniel Weiner** has been the Senior Rabbi of Temple De Hirsch Sinai since July 2001. He received a BA in Communication Studies from UCLA, where he was Commencement Speaker in 1986. He earned his Master’s Degree from the Hebrew Union College in 1989. Ordained in 1991, he served as the Assistant/Associate Rabbi at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation from 1991-1996 and then as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Ohev Sholom in Harrisburg, PA. He is the author of Good God: Faith for the Rest of Us, which works to get past the dangerous polarization between fanatical faith and soulless secularism.