

MEET OUR 2019 DAY OF DISCOVERY PRESENTERS

Rabbi Doug Alpert, Congregation Kol Ami

Rabbi Doug Alpert is the spiritual leader of Congregation Kol Ami - Kansas City's urban progressive synagogue. He is the president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City. Rabbi Alpert serves on the boards of a number of organizations addressing issues of injustice. He has made two trips to the Mexican border (Tijuana/San Diego and Juarez/El Paso) to witness firsthand the plight of asylum seekers.

Robbie Bossert, Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Banishing Bullying Behavior Project

Robbie Bossert was raised in Kansas City. She earned a B.A. degree from UMKC Conservatory of Music and an MBA from The Bloch School. Robbie has taught dance and preschool, and was Director of the Dona Ana Arts Council in New Mexico. She is a member of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood Banishing Bullying Behavior project.

Rabbi Javier Cattapan, Congregation Beth Torah

Rabbi Cattapan is a native of Argentina. In Argentina, his education included the Seminario Rabinico Latino Americano (Conservative) and the University of Buenos Aires. He came to the U.S. in 1994 to attend Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rabbi Cattapan received his M.A. in Hebrew Letters in 1997, and was ordained as a rabbi at the HUC-JIR in Cincinnati in 1998. In 2004, Rabbi Cattapan earned his M. Phil. in Hebraic and Cognate Studies. Before coming to Kansas City, Rabbi Cattapan served synagogues in Indiana and Ohio. On July 1st, 2016, he became the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Torah in Overland Park, KS.

Shelly Cline, Historian, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

Shelly Cline is the Historian at the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education in Overland Park, KS. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Her research focuses on the SS Aufseherinnen in the concentration camp system and the gendered perpetration of the Holocaust. Her research has been supported by grants from the University of Kansas and the Universität Hamburg. She has presented at national and international conferences. Cline has been an instructor in KU's Humanities Program and their Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, and has served on the faculties of the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Ronald D. Doctor, President of the Kremenets District Research Group, and past Coordinator of JewishGen Ukraine SIG

Dr. Ron Doctor began working on his family history in 1992, tracing his family to the mid-1700s. He is President of the Kremenets District Research Group, and is past Coordinator of JewishGen Ukraine SIG. In 2016 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Taly Friedman, Director of Volunteer Engagement at Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Greater Kansas City.

In her role at JFS, Friedman connects individuals and groups with meaningful and impactful volunteer opportunities to strengthen the agency's mission. Through her innovative approaches and collaboration, she is engaging new segments of the community in service, including young adults, families and homebound individuals. Friedman earned a bachelor's degree in Community Health from the University of Kansas. She was honored as a member of the inaugural class of the "18 under 40" Jewish professionals in the Kansas City Community and was selected as a Meyerhoff Early Career Professional Fellow through the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies.

Dawn Gale, Professor of Philosophy at Johnson County Community College

Dawn Gale is a Professor of Philosophy at Johnson County Community College. She received a sabbatical in 2018 to pursue an International Blended Masters in Jewish Education from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Her main interests are ethics, political philosophy, Asian philosophy, and feminism. She also works as a Jewish Educator at Congregation Beth Shalom and The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah.

Bob Gast, President and CEO, Turning Point Solutions

Bob Gast is President and CEO, Turning Point Solutions. He is a former President and CEO of Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado, and a former Executive Director of Jewish Federations of Greater Kansas City.

Martha Gershun, writer, consultant, and living kidney donor

Martha Gershun is a writer, consultant, and living kidney donor. She is currently writing *The Radical Altruism of Organ Donation* with John Lantos, M.D., to be released later in 2019. Martha belongs to Congregation Beth Torah with husband Don Goldman, CEO of Jewish Family Services. They have two adult children who are both writers.

Rabbi David Glickman, Congregation Beth Shalom

Rabbi Glickman serves as the Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom. He formerly served as an associate rabbi in Dallas, TX. He has also served as a congregational rabbi in Biloxi, a student chaplain in Seattle, and a program director at Camp Ramah. Rabbi Glickman received a B.A. in Jewish Studies from the University of Michigan, studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He participated in the Synagogue Transformation and Renewal (STAR) program and continues to be part of the alumni network.

Rabbi Moshe Grussgott, Kehilath Israel

Moshe Grussgott is senior rabbi of Kehilath Israel Synagogue in Overland Park, KS, and was previously senior rabbi of Congregation Ramath Orah in New York City. He has also served as a chaplain and captain in the U.S. Army reserve and as a hospital chaplain in New York.

Orit Kamara, Adjunct Professor of Hebrew in the Foreign Language Department at JCCC

Orit Kamara is an adjunct professor of Hebrew in the Foreign Language Department at JCCC, a position she has held since the Hebrew program was started in 2009. Orit has taught Hebrew for the past 11 years, teaching all levels - from absolute beginners to very advanced. She is an Israeli native born in Eilat. After serving in the army and traveling for a year in America, Orit graduated from Tel Aviv University with a degree in economics. Orit came to the U.S. in 2001 with her husband and two daughters. She has been living in Overland Park since 2003. Her daughters moved back to Israel after graduating from BVNW.

Rabbi Jon Kleinman, Chaplain

Rabbi Kleinman has served as a chaplain in both the hospital and hospice worlds. A native of Kentucky, he has a passion for bringing Judaism into the daily life of individuals and families. To him, God is the source of all the Good in life. Judaism is the quest for *shalom*, peace and wholeness.

Rabbi Josh Leighton, The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah

Rabbi Josh Leighton has served congregations in New Jersey, as URJ camp faculty, and as a regional rabbi for NFTY. Since moving to the Kansas City area, he has taught at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah and helped lead PJ Library's Gathering for Good program and last year's "Junk Food Seder."

Rabbi Mark Levin, DHL, Retired Founding Rabbi, Congregation Beth Torah

Rabbi Levin is the retired Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Torah. Since ordination at the Hebrew Union College in 1976, he has spent his career as a rabbi in greater Kansas City. Rabbi Levin remains involved in teaching, pastoral care, and with issues involving full Jewish rights for liberal Jews regarding Israel. Rabbi Levin holds a doctorate in Jewish liturgy from Hebrew Union College. He is the author of "Praying the Bible" and "To Hear, To Learn, To Teach and To Do: Sermons 1988-1996."

Stu Lewis, Author of Guidebooks for the KC Lyric Opera and Lecturer

Stu Lewis holds degrees in literature from SUNY Binghamton, Indiana University, and the University of Colorado, and also spent a year studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He currently writes opera guides for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He is a member of Beth Torah.

Rabbi Alan David Londy, D.Min, New Reform Temple

Rabbi Londy is a native of Troy, New York. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and his rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Rabbi Londy has been the spiritual leader of the New Reform Temple since 2011. He became one of the first rabbinic fellows of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality 17 years ago. In 2009, Rabbi Londy received his Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling sponsored jointly by the HUC-JIR and the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health. In recent years, he has studied Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Luke's Medical Center. He is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinic Cabinets of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, and the World Union of Progressive Judaism.

Rabbi Herbert Mandl, Rabbi Emeritus, Kehilath Israel Synagogue

Rabbi Mandl served as senior rabbi of Kehilath Israel Synagogue since 1977 and became Rabbi Emeritus in 2013. Rabbi Mandl received his bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Johns Hopkins University and his master's degree and Rabbinical Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He also holds Orthodox Ordination and a Ph.D. from the University of Montreal. Rabbi Mandl is past president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City, for which he served three terms.

Rabbi Yitzchak Mizrahi, Director, Vaad HaKashruth, and Interim Rabbi, BIAV

Rabbi Yitzchak Mizrahi arrived with his family in Overland Park last summer to direct the Vaad HaKashruth. Prior to this Rabbi Mizrahi served as the community rabbi of Wellington, New Zealand, and before that he was an associate rabbi in Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to his role with the Vaad, Rabbi Mizrahi is currently interim rabbi at BIAV.

Mark D. Nanos, Ph.D., University of Kansas, lecturer

Dr. Nanos is a lecturer at University of Kansas. He won the National Jewish Book Award in 1996 for his first book, *The Mystery of Romans*. He has followed up his 2015 co-edited volume, *Paul within Judaism*, with four volumes of his collected essays. In May he received an Honorary Doctorate at Lund University, Sweden, for his Jewish contributions to New Testament studies. He earned his Ph.D. from University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action

Rabbi Moti Rieber is Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action. A native of New Jersey, he has lived in Kansas since 2007. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. A life-long activist on peace, social justice, and environmental issues, Rabbi Moti brings a variety of congregational, interfaith and organizational experience to the work of KIFA.

Ellen Rothman, Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Banishing Bullying Behavior Project

Ellen Rothman is a native of Kansas City. She graduated from University of Kansas with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. She worked for the Jackson County Mo. Prosecuting Attorney as a legal assistant and has held staff positions in national and local political campaigns. Ellen belongs to the Beth Shalom Sisterhood.

Jay Robinow, M.D., and Margie Robinow, Community Volunteers/Leaders and Passionate Bakers

The Robinows have contributed to their congregation, BIAV and the community in innumerable ways, including spearheading the Anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel) legislation in the Kansas Legislature. Marjorie is a retired psychologist and currently serves as a business consultant for Israeli companies, and as CEO of Robinow Consulting. Jay is a radiation oncologist for Therapeutic Radiologists, Inc.

Rabbi Jonathan Rudnick, Jewish Community Chaplain, Jewish Family Services

Jonathan grew up in Kansas City, very connected to and involved with a wide variety of Jewish communal institutions. Having attended the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy through 8th grade, he is a graduate of The Barstow School. After a year of public service following college, Jonathan joined the staff of Jewish Family and Children's Services as a resettlement specialist, working on behalf of the Jewish community with

new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and Iran. While studying in rabbinical school, Jonathan was introduced to the existence of the field of chaplaincy outside of Israel. Upon his ordination from The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, he served as the first professional chaplain in an Israeli hospital. Jonathan moved to Israel in 1994, living in Jerusalem and building a family. They moved back to Kansas City in 2006, where Jonathan has the privilege of serving as Jewish community chaplain, based at Jewish Family Services.

Rabbi Neal Schuster, Senior Jewish Educator, KU Hillel

Rabbi Neal Schuster is the Senior Jewish Educator at the University of Kansas Hillel, and a faculty member in KU's Jewish Studies Program (where he teaches Jewish Film, among other things).

Aletha Simon, Docent, Nelson-Atkins Museum

Aletha Simon holds a B.A. in History from the Univ. of Michigan and a M.A. in Judaic Studies from U.M.K.C. She has been an active docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum for 40 years and has given many talks on Jewish art and Jewish history.

Rabbi Sarah Smiley, Associate Rabbi, The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah

Rabbi Sarah Smiley is the associate rabbi at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah. She was ordained from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in 2010. Prior to moving to the Kansas City area during the summer of 2018, Rabbi Smiley served for seven years at a congregation in New Jersey.

Blanche E. Sosland, Ph.D., Author and Professor Emerita, Park University, Parkville, Missouri

A Professor Emerita at Park University, Parkville, Missouri, Dr. Sosland is the co-author of two books on banishing bullying behavior. She earned her B.A. at Barnard College, Columbia University, and her doctorate at University of Missouri - Kansas City. Blanche is a founding parent of Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, National officer of USY, National Youth Commission United Synagogue, Past President Beth Shalom Sisterhood, and Life Board Member of Congregation Beth Shalom in Overland Park, KS.

Rabbi Beryl Padorr, Congregation Ohev Sholom

Rabbi Padorr is currently the Shared Vision Coordinator at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah. She recently attended a retreat on Advanced Wise Aging through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and leads a Wise Aging group now in its fourth year. She has previously served as a chaplain, teacher, rabbi and religious school director. Rabbi Padorr received her ordination from American Jewish University. She earned an undergraduate degree in Education from the University of Missouri, M.A. in Rabbinics and a M.A. in Education from the Fingerhut School of Education. She continued her postgraduate studies in communications, journalism and education before entering the graduate programs at American Jewish University.

Lara Steinel, Music Director, Congregation Kol Ami

Lara Steinel is the music director for Congregation Kol Ami in KCMO. She has meditated daily since October 1999, when she completed her initial instruction in Washington, DC. Lara facilitates monthly Jewish meditation sessions at Kol Ami as well as occasional meditation services on Shabbat and on Yom Kippur afternoon.

Rabbi Debbie Stiel, Temple Beth Sholom in Topeka, Kansas

Rabbi Debbie Stiel is a Reform Rabbi. She is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Sholom in Topeka, KS, where she has served for 13 years. She is co-chair of the Kansas Holocaust Commission, co-founder of the Topeka Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, and participates in many interfaith activities in Topeka. She is also an alum of the rabbinic training of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

Rabbi Linda Steigman, Temple Adath Joseph, St. Joseph, MO

Ordained at HUC-JIR in New York in 2004, Rabbi Steigman is also a clinical social worker (Bryn Mawr College, 1983). She is trained as a Chaplain and an Outreach Professional, working with interfaith couples and families. In addition to serving the St. Joseph Jewish community on a part-time basis, Rabbi Steigman works in Kansas City as a chaplain and tutor, and especially enjoys teaching adults.

Jacob Stoil, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies

Jacob Stoil is an Assistant Professor at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies. He holds a Ph.D. from Oxford University and an M.A. from King's College London. Jacob's research topics include contemporary security, military history, and morality and war.

Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel, Director, The Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Rabbi Tiechtel studied at Talmudic Institutions in Israel, France and the U.S. Since 2006, he has served as co-director of Chabad at KU, which serves the needs of the University of Kansas and surrounding Jewish community. In this role, he is a mentor and guide to hundreds of his beloved Jewhawks.

Carol Yarmo, Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Banishing Bullying Behavior Project

Carol Yarmo earned her B.A. from UMKC, and her master's degree from KU. She taught 27 years in the Shawnee Mission School District. Carol has led many workshops and served as a mentor and trainer for the Youth Friends Mentoring program. She is the VP and President of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, and the Banishing Bullying Behavior Project Chairman and presenter. Carol is also a co-instructor with Blanche Sosland for summer teacher education graduate course.

Rabbi Zevi Wineberg, Author, Educator, Former Radio Talk Show Host

Rabbi Wineberg received his Rabbinic Ordination from Chief-Rabbi of Canada, Rabbi Hirshprung OBM. He also received degrees in mediation and computer programming. Rabbi Wineberg was Lecturer of Hebrew and lectured on Jewish Mysticism at University of Kansas. He founded The Beth Medrash Program (advanced Jewish studies) at State University of New York, Binghamton and co-founded The Beth Medrash Program at Yale University Jewish Student Union. He served as Adult Education Director for Chabad House Center in Kansas City, Kansas. He is the author of over 20 personal guides based on Kabbalah/Jewish Mysticism. Rabbi Wineberg is a blogger on his website, www.kabbalahwisdom.org.

Rabbi Mendy Wineberg, Chabad House Center of Kansas City

Rabbi Wineberg has been a teacher of Jewish law, philosophy and Talmud for 21 years. Rabbi Wineberg received his doctorate of Rabbinic and Talmudic Law from the Rabbinical College of America. He is a member of the Jewish Learning Institute, the Program Director of Chabad House Center of Kansas City, and the Director of The Shul - Chabad of Leawood.

Rami Zeedan, Assistant Professor of Israel Studies in Jewish Studies Program, University of Kansas

Rami Zeedan is Assistant Professor of Israel Studies in the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Kansas. He is the author of two books: *Battalion of Arabs- the History of the Minorities' Unit in the IDF from 1948 to 1956* (Modan, 2015, in Hebrew) and *The Arab-Palestinians in Israeli Political System in the 21st Century- Integration vs. Segregation* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2019).

Leonard Zeskind, President, Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights

Leonard Zeskind has been working to oppose racism, white supremacy and anti-Semitism for over 40 years. He was a founder of the Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights in 1983. He has written widely on these topics in Germany and Britain as well as the USA. He has won many honors, including the MacArthur Fellowship, for his work.