



Millstone
INSTITUTE

STRENGTHENING JEWISH LEADERSHIP

Fellows

Class of 2013

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LEADERS

LEADERSHIP



Eli Abeles is interested in youth and young adult programs to increase Jewish engagement and identity and assisting organizations to develop plans for long term success and accountability. Eli is an active board member of the JCC having served on several committees including Chair of the Camp Sabra committee, the Camp Sabra strategic planning committee and is currently on the Audit, Benchmarking and

Finance committees. Eli also serves on Jewish Federation's Audit committee and is an outgoing board member of Kol Rinah, formally Shaare Zedek Synagogue. Eli holds a BBA and MBA, both with concentrations in Accounting, from the University of Wisconsin and is a CPA with Abeles and Hoffman P.C. where he specializes in providing auditing, risk and consulting services. He and his wife Stacy, Director of Special Events at Gateway to Hope, are the parents of two young boys. They are members of Congregation Kol Rinah.



Patty Bloom is motivated by projects that ensure a vibrant Jewish future and the strength of Israel. Patty is a past recipient of the Jewish Federation's Grossberg Young Leadership Award and AJC's Netzach Award. She has served as President of Jewish Federation's Young Professionals Division and on the executive boards of Women's Philanthropy, CAJE (Central Agency for Jewish Education), and RJA (now

Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community Day School). Patty's commitment to Jewish education is reflected in her 16 years as a religious school teacher at Temple Israel and her current role as Director of Admissions and Marketing for Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School where she has earned national recognition for excellence in marketing. Patty has also represented Temple Israel on the Knesset Israel task force to increase Israel engagement in the Diaspora. Patty and her husband Jonathan have two school-aged children and are members of Temple Israel.



Shelley Dean is passionate about Judaism, parenting, marriage, music and children. Shelley's professional journey began as a USY youth director in Denver where she spent four years working with teens to build their organization into a number one USY chapter. Since arriving in St. Louis ten years ago, Shelley has taught Hebrew High School, staffed overnights for 3-6 graders through CAJE and has been a program Director for Camp Ki Tov. She also staffed teen leadership programs for the National CAJE conference. Shelley has been an active board member of Nishmah, the St. Louis Jewish Women's Project where she helped to start their young women's programming. Shelley and her husband Jeff started Rhythm 'n' Ruach, LLC which provides an interactive Jewish music experience for families and kids of all ages and together they run a business called SIGNTRONIX. Shelley is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a BA in Psychology. She and Jeff have four young children and are members of B'nai Amoona and Kol Rinah Congregations.



Tom Eidelman is interested in community building and networking by welcoming young adults and their families to the St. Louis Jewish community. His past involvements include serving on the boards of ADL (Anti-Defamation League) JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council), the YPD Executive board and the United Way Young Leadership Society. Currently Tom chairs Jewish Federation's

Montifiore Giving Society for financial professionals and is member of the Budget and Finance Committee. Tom is Vice President of Eidelman Virant Capital where he directs investment research and strategic development. Prior to joining Eidelman Virant Capital, Tom worked as a financial analyst for Microsoft Corporation in Seattle, Washington. Tom is a graduate of Indiana University with a BS in Business Finance and Computer Information Systems. He is married to Sarah Mermelstein, a Pediatrician and they have a one year old daughter. They are members of Congregations Temple Israel and B'nai Amoona.



Ted Flom is interested in focusing his time and resources on a variety of community issues including low income seniors, cancer and Jewish institutions. He currently serves as Treasurer on the boards of Crown Center for Senior Living and the St. Louis Men's Group Against Cancer. Board member and past President of the Institute of Internal Auditors, Ted also serves

on the JCC Board and serves on the Finance Committee of United Hebrew. Ted is the Partner-In-Charge of Brown Smith Wallace's Risk Advisory Services practice. He joined BSW after spending 13 years with KPMG LLP. A native of St. Louis, Ted graduated from the University of Texas with a BBA – Accounting. He and his wife Julie have two sons, ages 11 and 14. They are members of United Hebrew Congregation.



Burt Garland is interested in promoting a safe, secure and aware Jewish community and in promoting the interests of Israel. Burt is currently on Jewish Federation's Community Engagement Subcommittee and has served on Jewish Federation's Local Core Agency Planning and Allocations subcommittees. He is also on the board of Temple Israel and recently completed serving on the JF&CS board. Burt continues to

provide pro bono legal services to Temple Israel and JF&CS. Burt participated in the 2010 Jewish Federation Rubin Mission. Burt is a shareholder of the international labor and employment law firm Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart with 700 attorneys practicing in 42 offices in the US, England and Germany. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona (undergrad) and holds his JD & MBA from St. Louis University. Burt is married to Amy Handelman Garland. Burt and Amy have three school-aged children and are members of Temple Israel.



Jeff Glogower *is interested in Israel and professional development of young leaders to build the St. Louis Jewish community.* Jeff is currently a board member of the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) and previously served on the board for Jewish Federation's YPD (Young Professionals Division). Jeff also chairs the St. Louis Israel Connection Committee

and the Bais Abraham Legacy Committee and is a volunteer with Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts. Originally from West Bloomfield, Michigan, Jeff is an attorney in Polsinellio Shughart PC's Wealth Planning/Administration practice group working in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration, wealth management and transfer taxation. Jeff graduated from the University of Michigan with a BFA, received his J.D. from Wayne State University Law School and his LL.M. in Taxation from Washington University School of Law. Jeff is married to St. Louis native Dalia Oppenheimer and they are members of Bais Abraham Congregation.



Julie Gibbs *is interested in events that bring community together.* Julie is an active board member of United Hebrew Congregation and served as co-chair of their 175th Anniversary Gala. Julie focuses her volunteer involvement on community outreach and has co-chaired the Suzy Esstman Walk on Sunshine through St. Louis Hadassah. Julie works for the Jewish

Community Center overseeing alumni relations and development for Camp Sabra, the J's residential camp. Julie has 18 years of experience in marketing and fundraising and formerly worked as Director of Development for United Hebrew Congregation where she focused on implementing a Planned Giving Program and their "Torah Alive" project and worked in marketing and development at the St. Louis Symphony as well. Julie graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia where she served as President of the Panhellenic Association and a member of Mizzou's prestigious honor society, Mystical Seven. Julie is married to Ron and they have two teenage children. They are members of United Hebrew Congregation.



Tony Granillo *is interested in engaging the next generation of Jews to hold onto their heritage and become life-long participants in synagogue life and ritual obligations.* Tony moved to St. Louis from Phoenix, AZ in 2012 and is currently active on the building committee of Kol Rinah after the recent merger between Shaare Zedek and BSKI. In Phoenix he was a board member at Har Zion Congregation

and a member of the Rabbi Search Committee. He formerly lived in Seattle, WA and was a member of Congregation Ezra Bessaroth where he served on the Board of Directors and the Rabbi Liaison Committee. Tony has an extensive background in community service including with the University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs and the City of Seattle Human Rights Commission. Tony is an IT senior manager at Boeing. He holds a BA in Economics from the University of Washington and a MS in Management from Antioch University. Tony also attended the Wharton School of Business Executive Development Program. His wife Dr. Carole Baskin is an Associate Professor in the SLU Institute for Bio-Security. They live in University City with their young son where they are members of Kol Rinah.



Michael Kass *is interested in Jewish education and spirituality, Jewish unity, outreach/“in-reach”, and supporting the material needs of those in our community.* Michael is Vice President and Executive Board member of Torah Prep School and a member of the Board of Directors of Agudas Israel, where he served as Treasurer for several years. Michael also served on the Young Leadership Board of the St. Louis Kollel. Michael was raised in Columbus, Ohio.

He moved to St. Louis at the start of his legal career and is now a partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP where he represents clients on a wide range of employment law matters and serves as Practice Group Leader of his firm’s Employment and Labor Practice Group. Michael has been selected by his peers to be included in “The Best Lawyers in America” for 2013 and also as a Rising Star in the 2011 and 2012 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers magazine. Michael graduated from The Ohio State University with a J.D. and a B.A. in Political Science. He and his wife, Stacy, reside in University City with their six children and are both active in various Jewish community projects and organizations.



Jamie Kolker is interested in the built environment for congregations and the preservation of their past balanced with their present and future role in community and spiritual life. A 2012 graduate of Leadership St. Louis, he is a member of the Inaugural Class of Washington University's Professional Leadership Academy and Network and the Laumeier Sculpture Park Design Committee.

Jamie is a transplant from Philadelphia where he was a member of the Germantown Jewish Centre's Architecture and Design Committee and founding member of the Beth Sholom Congregation (the only synagogue designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) Preservation Foundation. Jamie is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Planning and Director of Capital Projects at Washington University in St. Louis where he is the campus planner and architect guiding Washington University on numerous planning, design and construction projects. In Philadelphia, Jamie was Principal at the internationally known firm of Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates where he led projects at the University of California Santa Barbara, the University of Michigan, Dartmouth College and Storm King Art Center, among others. He has also focused on the design and preservation of synagogues and their associated structures. Jamie is a graduate of Columbia University with a BA and Master of Architecture.



Sarah Bauer Kovenock is interested in community engagement and strengthening the St. Louis Jewish community. A 2012 participant in the Rubin Israel Experience, Sarah is involved with the Cardozo Society of the Jewish Federation and serves on the Jewish Federation Planning and Allocations Committee. Sarah is a corporate attorney at Viasystems Group, Inc., a publicly-traded electrical component manufacturing

company based in St. Louis. She grew up in Maine and has a B.A. from Columbia University in New York and a J.D. from Washington University School of Law. Sarah is married to Brad Gross.



Amy Bender-Levy is passionate about helping others and learning about Israel. She enjoys trying to make a difference in people's lives. A 2009 participant of the Rubin Israel Experience, Amy serves on the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation and is on the executive committee of Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation as co-chair of the Social Action committee. She also serves on the United Hebrew Rabbinical

Transition Committee, is immediate past chair of the Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section and serves on the board of St. Louis Girls on the Run. In 2012, Amy and her husband co-chaired the Israeli Independence Day celebration. Amy has worked for Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry since 2005, providing free legal representation in the areas of domestic and probate law and serves as a guardian ad litem in child order of protection cases. Amy is married to Rich Levy and they have 3 children. They are members of United Hebrew Congregation.



Kimberly Lieberman is interested in educating community about why we need a strong Israel. Serving as "Rosh" or chair of the 2012 Rubin Israel Experience, she has been a volunteer with Room at the Inn at Congregation Shaare Emeth, which serves as a homeless shelter once a month, and serves on the religious school task force. In addition to her volunteer

work at Shaare Emeth, Kim is a volunteer for Junior Achievement and Read, Right and Run. Growing up in Evansville Indiana, Kim attended Murray Sate University where she attempted to form a Hillel. She met her husband, St. Louis native Steve Lieberman and they moved back to St. Louis where she took a position in Pharmaceutical Sales for Pfizer and Alcon Laboratories. Currently Kim stays home with her children and teaches Pilates at the JCC. She is a member of Congregation Shaare Emeth.



Jacob Milder is interested in building community through meaningful conversations with others across the spectrum of the Jewish community. Jacob recently moved back to St. Louis from Chicago, where he was active with the Jewish Enrichment Center, a not-for-profit after-school enrichment program for nursery and elementary school students. Currently Jacob is a member of Jewish Federation's Ben Gurion

Society. As a high school student, he was involved with music and a youth leader with BBYO. Jacob graduated from Washington University and currently works as a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch. He was formerly VP of Sales for Goldman Sachs in Chicago and worked in financial services in Denver. Jacob and his wife Julie, a neuroscientist who works for a Chicago-based Epilepsy non-profit, have a young daughter and 2 dogs.



Dr. Julia Partin is interested in engaging professionals to become actively involved in the community. A 2012 participant of the Rubin Israel Experience, Julia co-developed and oversees two Podiatric medical offices in the St Louis area. Originally from Indiana, Julia moved to Missouri where she graduated from the University of Missouri with a BS in Biology. Julia graduated from the Ohio College

of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland where she received a Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine and then went on to do a residency in elective and reconstructive foot and ankle surgery at University Hospitals in Cleveland. She moved back to St. Louis to begin a career and started two medical practices from the ground up. Julia and her wife Stephanie, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the ICU at Children's Hospital, have a young daughter.



Avigail Rosenzweig *is interested in all areas of Jewish life, particularly how we engage young families in the community.* Active at Congregation B'nai Amoona, Avi is the past chair of the Religious School and past member of their Commission on Jewish Life and Learning. She currently serves as member of the Women's League Board and has worked with students with special needs through the KULANU program for

the last 4 years.. Her background includes work in Jewish Family Education, Social Work and Jewish Communal work. She served as the Director of Education at Temple Emunah in Lexington, MA and is currently the Manager of Operations and Finance at KSquared Search. Avi received her MSW from the University of Maryland, and MA in Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University and an MA in Jewish Education from Boston Hebrew College. She is married to Steven, CFO of the Jewish Community Center and they have three children.



William "Billy" Rubenstein *is interested in helping unaffiliated young adult Jews get into the spirit of participating in the Jewish community.* Currently active in Jewish Federation's Young Professionals Division leadership series and campaign teams, Billy is a member of the Ben Gurion Society and recently attended the JFNA General Assembly in Baltimore. Billy grew up in Sullivan, Missouri and now resides in Clayton.

A graduate of Tulane University Freeman School of Business, he started his career in the freight forwarding industry and has lived and worked as a Global Account Director in Chicago, Shanghai PRC, Minneapolis, and St. Louis. Billy currently works for 5 year-old Houston based freight forwarder Crane Worldwide. He is married to Weiwei and they have a 2 year old daughter.



Lilly Gutwein Scharff *is interested in childrens' causes and outreach to engage young families in Jewish life and customs.* Lilly recently moved back to St. Louis from New York City where she was a senior associate of the international law firm Latham & Watkins. Lilly represented high-level executives, leading financial institutions and corporate clients in securities, white collar,

complex commercial and anti-trust matters, as well as government and internal investigations. Her volunteer work in St. Louis has included serving as co-captain for the Little Projects, Little Hands site at the JCRC & Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis' Jewish-Muslim Day of Service and serving on the Jewish Federation's New Year's Donor Appreciation Event Committee in 2012. Lilly received The Legal Aid Society of New York's Pro Bono Publico Award in 2008 and 2009. She is married to Dan Scharff of Northwestern Mutual & the Todd Organization, and they have a 2 year old daughter. They are members of Bais Abraham Congregation



Anna Shabsin *is interested in LGBT acceptance, diversity education on privilege and oppression, including Jewish attitudes on white privilege, and teen engagement in the Jewish community.*

Anna has been involved in leadership roles with the Jewish Federation's YPD and the Planning and Allocations committees, New City School, American Jewish Committee, Crown Center for Senior Living and Catholic Charities Community Services Southside. A Senior Lecturer at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, Anna earned her MSW from Washington University, a J.D. from Washington University School of Law and her BA in English from Indiana University. She teaches courses on privilege and oppression and their interplay with politics, strategy and policy. She has been selected twice as the recipient of the Brown School's Excellence in Teaching Award and is an invited speaker at the annual White Privilege Conference. Prior to joining the faculty of Brown, she practiced law in St. Louis in both the corporate and law firm settings. Anna is married to Michael, a lawyer and yoga instructor, and they have two teenage sons. They are members of Congregation Shaare Emeth.



Abbey Small *is interested in engaging families in Jewish life in St. Louis and supporting health care issues related to women and children.* A 2010 participant in the Rubin Israel Experience, Abbey currently serves as Co-Chair of the Parents' Committee for the Deutsch Early Childhood Center at Temple Israel and on the Executive Committee of Jewish Federation's Women's

Philanthropy as co-chair of the community campaign. She also volunteers as an adoption advocate to help educate interested parties about the adoption process. Previously, Abbey served on the JCC's Mom's Action Committee, the BJC Friends of Wings Big Bear Brunch Committee and coached the Girls on the Run program at Green Trails Elementary. Abbey began her career at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where she evaluated federally funded HIV service programs throughout the state of Maryland. Upon moving back to St. Louis, she worked at the Saint Louis University School of Public Health in the Center for Tobacco Policy Research. Abbey received her Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan and a B.S. in Anthropology from Emory University. She is married to Jeff and they have two children in preschool.



Aaron Vickar *is interested in ensuring the future of Jewish life and community.* Currently on the Executive Board of Shaare Zedek and member of the merger steering committee, he also serves on the Executive team of the Anti-Defamation League chairing the International Affairs committee. Aaron is the Wealth Advisor and Director of BAM Risk Management, helping clients with their risk management needs

including life, health, long-term care and property and casualty. He has written several articles that have been published in Employee Benefit Plan Review and Eastern Missouri Psychiatry. Aaron received his B.S. from Lake Forest College. Prior to becoming a financial advisor, he played professional hockey for several teams around the country, including the Missouri River Otters. Aaron and his wife Cynthia have three young children and are members of Shaare Zedek.



Rob Wasserman *is interested in contributing to building the St. Louis Jewish community.*

Rob is currently on the board of KIPP Inspire, one of the St. Louis' highest performing charter schools. Before moving to St. Louis in 2009, he co-founded a charter school in Los Angeles and later developed the US Bank Military Job Training seminar for St. Louis veterans. Rob is on the board of Bais Abraham Congregation and on the AIPAC St. Louis Steering Committee. Working with Tax Credit Investments for US Bank Community Development Corporation, Rob specializes on acquiring, underwriting, closing and syndicating Low-Income Housing, New Markets, Historic, and Renewable Energy tax credit investments. Rob holds a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law and an M.B.A from the Anderson School of Business at UCLA. He is married to Renee and they have three daughters. They live in University City and are members of Bais Abraham Congregation.



Margy Weisman *is interested in Israel and ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people.*

Margy is currently on the board of Central Reform Congregation and the St. Louis chapter of the American Corporate Counsel Association where she serves as treasurer. She is an active volunteer with Washington University Law School Career Services and Cultural Leadership. Margy is the Assistant General Counsel at ESCO Technologies, a global technology manufacturer. She handles legal matters in all areas of business. Margy holds a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis where she was Order of the Coif, an editor of the Washington University Quarterly Law Review and a member of the national moot court team. She received a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Illinois and is a Certified Public Accountant. She is married to Doug Weisman and they have two teenage sons.



Dan Winograd *is interested in inspiring others to take on leadership roles and strengthening organizations to impact the current and next generation of Jews.* Dan is past President and current Treasurer of Aish HaTorah and serves on the board of the Jewish Student Union. He received his B.A. in Accounting and Business Administration from Truman State University and works for Nidec Motor Corporation (formerly

Emerson Motors) as the Director of Accounting and Audit. Prior to his current role, Dan spent 17 years at Emerson, Ingersoll Rand, CitiMortgage, a private equity firm, and in public accounting. Dan is married to Melanie, a marketing Manager at the Impact Group, and they have two young boys. They are members of Young Israel Congregation.



Margo Newman *is passionate about connecting young leaders and helping them to navigate the Jewish community in order to find a meaningful Jewish engagement.* This one on one concierge-approach is one that she believes will create positive and sustainable relationships with Jews and their community. Margo has worked as a Development Professional for the past 10 year at Jewish Federation of St. Louis. The project she's most proud of is The Rubin

Israel Experience, a ten-day, no cost Israel trip for individuals 27-45. This experience has helped to grow her passion for Israel and for helping young adults form their own special relationship with Israel. In addition to this, Margo manages the Young Ben-Gurion Society, National Young Leadership Cabinet and other young leadership projects. Margo was the recipient of the very first Jewish Professionals Association (JPro) Award for Emerging Young Leader in 2005. Originally from the Washington D.C. area, Margo attended Bradley University where she earned her BA in International Studies. She and her husband Drew have a 2-year old daughter and are expecting their second baby in August.



Karen Sher is passionate about building and empowering leadership to strengthen the St. Louis Jewish community. Karen is the Senior Program Associate for the Millstone Institute for Jewish Leadership and oversees several of its key initiatives including the Millstone Fellows program. Prior to her work with the Millstone Institute, Karen served on several boards within the Jewish community including the JCC, St. Louis Hillel at Washington University, Jewish

Federation of St. Louis and was the founding President of Nishmah, the St. Louis Jewish Women's Project. Karen was a member of JFNA's National Young Leadership Cabinet and received Jewish Federation's Grossberg Young Leadership Award in 2003. She is a graduate of the Baltimore Institute for Jewish Communal Service where she received her MA in Jewish Studies at Baltimore Hebrew University and MSW at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and worked for the Jewish Federation in the Development Department. Karen attended Indiana University where she earned her BA in Sociology. She is married to Howie, entrepreneur and founder of "Whatayanuts" snack food and they have three children.



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