



Presenter Bios

Rabbi Judith Targan Abrahamson is the Educational Resource Specialist at RRC, where she serves as a resource for faculty and students in the areas of learning styles, disability awareness and special education. She was ordained as a Reconstructionist rabbi in 2004 and her graduate education experience includes degrees in Learning Disabilities, Education and Jewish Studies. Abrahamson mentors student rabbis in their pulpits and educational positions and is also a learning consultant and diagnostician within the New Jersey public school system. As the parent of two daughters, one, an adult with disabilities and the other, a special education teacher, Abrahamson brings special passion and perspective to her calling.

Rabbi Daniel T. Grossman has been the rabbi of Adath Israel Congregation in Lawrenceville, NJ, for over twenty years. He is a graduate of Temple University, Hebrew University, Mirkaz HaRav Kook in Jerusalem, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. In 2003 Grossman received his D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) degree for twenty-five years of Rabbinic Service.

Grossman has worked extensively in the field of Jewish Special Education. He co-wrote and participated in the video "Someone is Listening," the story of a young deaf Jew and his search for fulfillment as a Jewish adult. He performs "Simon Tov" with his wife, Elayne, an educational and entertainment program using sign language, mime, music, and storytelling to bring the audience closer to the world of the Jewish deaf. He is also active in addiction counseling and exit counseling for former cult members.

The link for Grossman to all of these areas is a commitment to make Jewish life accessible for those groups sometimes seen as existing on the fringe of the Jewish world.

Rabbi Evan Jaffe is the Rabbi at the Flemington Jewish Community Center in Hunterdon County, NJ. Born in Denver, Colorado, Jaffe graduated from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. In his congregation, he acts as both Rabbi and Cantor, reads Torah and teaches Hebrew School. Additionally, he personally tutors each bar/bat mitzvah student. Jaffe bridges gaps between the diverse groups within the congregation, and one of his greatest contributions has been involving the younger members of the congregations in Jewish life.

Jaffe is also very involved in community activities. He serves as chaplain for the Hunterdon Developmental Center, where he works with severely impaired adults and conducts services for them each Wednesday. His community involvement also includes serving as the Jewish chaplain at Hunterdon Medical Center and the Hunterdon County Jail and serving as President of the Hebrew Free Loan Society. Jaffe hopes that his commitment to service will provide a role model for his congregants to follow.

Rabbi Nathan Martin (RRC '06) currently works as the Director of Student Life at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. One strong focus of his work is how to create inclusive and participatory community at RRC. Martin has a strong interest in effective group process, diversity and justice, inner-life, and environmental sustainability. He is also the proud parent of two young children.