



**Fellows**  
Class of 2014

LEADERSHIP



**Andrew Babitz** is interested in exploring ways to engage young people in all aspects of Jewish life. Upon returning to St. Louis in 2010, Andy immediately got involved with YPD of Jewish Federation and even met his wife at one of the events. Andy is very involved in his Temple, United Hebrew Congregation and serves on the Board of Trustees. He teaches Sunday school for students in 8th-

10th grade and occasionally serves as cantor and musical director during Shabbat Services. He is a member of the Torah and Turf program at the St. Louis Kollel and currently serves as the Board Vice President, in charge of fundraising. Additionally, Andy is involved with the Bar Association of Metro St. Louis and KEEN Kids Enjoying Exercise Now. He is a graduate of Mizzou and received his Juris Doctorate at UMKC where he founded the Jewish Law Students Association. Andy is currently employed as an Associate Attorney at South and Associates and is newly married to Diana Babitz (Robbins).



**Danielle Block** is passionate about Israel and becoming more connected to her heritage here in St. Louis. Born and raised in St. Louis, Danielle is a sports fanatic. Interested in the outdoor life and sports of all varieties, Danielle graduated in 2007 from the University of Denver where she played Division 1 soccer for the Pioneers. An avid traveler, Danielle lived in Israel, Atlanta and

New York after college before settling down in her hometown of St. Louis. An Account Executive at Weintraub Advertising, Danielle leads her clients in a variety of marketing, advertising and social media efforts. Danielle and her husband Cory enjoy spending time with their dog Finn, as well as biking, hiking, traveling, and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals and Rams.

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**Rabbi Yosef David** is passionate about sharing the beauty and wisdom of Judaism with those who never had the privilege of a Jewish education as well as helping those who are less fortunate. Rabbi David grew up in Lakewood, New Jersey in a very orthodox family and received his Rabbinic ordination from Mir Yeshiva Rabbinical School in Israel. Having been involved in Jewish Adult

education for over 15 years, Rabbi David has served for the past four years as director of Aish HaTorah of St. Louis. Rabbi David has been married to Mimi David for 18 years and they have 7 children ranging in age from 17 – 4 months.



**Alan Fine** is interested in exploring opportunities to become more involved in Jewish community life. An active member of B'nai Amoona Congregation, Alan is a past participant of the Rubin Israel Experience. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Gateway Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society as a member of the Finance and Governance Committees. Alan received

his degree in Accounting from Indiana University and currently works for Brown, Smith, Wallace, LLC. He is married to Karyn and they have 2 teenage children.



**Geoff Gross** is passionate about education and finding new ways to engage others in the work of the community. A past member of YPD's Executive committee, Geoff currently serves on a Planning and Allocations committee of the Jewish Federation. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Geoff works as a Project Engineer for Gross

Mechanical Contractors. He and his wife Stephanie have two daughters and are members of Central Reform Congregation.

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**Yale Hollander** is interested in working with community organizations that advance American-Israeli interests. A recent participant of the Rubin Israel Experience, Yale values the presence of Jewish influences in everyday life. Having grown up in Jefferson City, Missouri, Yale was affiliated with Congregation B'nai Amoona where he became a Bar Mitzvah. Yale has taken active

roles in both Congregation Temple Israel where he served as Vice President, Assistant Secretary and a member of the Board of Trustees and is currently active at Congregation Shaare Emeth where he co-chairs a fundraising committee. Having received his Juris Doctor from Oklahoma City University, Yale is the Attorney Development Specialist for Cordell and Cordell. He is married to Shari Victor and they have 2 daughters.



**Matthew Litwack** is passionate about young professional development, Jewish community life and Jewish camping. Matt has been a very active member of the Young Professionals Division of Jewish Federation having served two terms on the Executive Board. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the JCC and served on the Camp Sabra and PJ Library committees.

Professionally, Matt is a top-ranked Realtor in St. Louis and an avid residential rehabber and developer. A member of B'nai Amoona Congregation, Matt grew up in an extremely involved family and considers himself a "Federation Brat", calling on Super Sundays, Walking with Israel and participating in a Federation sponsored family mission to Israel. Matt lives in University City with his wife Jessica and their children, Ruby (age 3) and Silas (6 months).

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**Michelle Mills** is passionate about creating opportunities for people to engage and become moved by the mission of the organization. Currently serving as Vice President of development for Central Reform Congregation, Michelle has served in a variety of leadership positions from orchestrating fundraising events for various organizations to involvement on several boards including

American Jewish Committee, The Wellness Community and as PTO President of her children's school. Having received her BA from Indiana University, Michelle was in medical sales until she became a full time Mom and Professional Volunteer. Michelle is married to Jim and they have three teenage girls.



**Russel Neiss** is most interested in education and the role of technology in the Jewish community. Equally fluent in Yiddish and Javascript, Russel is a Jewish educator, technologist and activist. Russel began his career as an itinerant Jewish educator traveling across the deep south and has worked in a variety of Jewish educational settings including day schools, supplemental schools,

museums and archives. He holds a BA in Religious Studies and Jewish Studies from CUNY's Macaulay Honors College, an MLS with a specialization in digitization and instructional technology from Queens College and an MEd in Education Leadership from Brooklyn College. He currently serves as the Director of Educational Technology at G-dcast where he develops mobile and other interactive applications to raise Jewish literacy and help educators integrate technology in a pedagogically sound way. Russel is married to Rori Picker Neiss and they have 2 children.

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**David Rosenstock** *is interested in learning about other St. Louis Jewish institutions and meeting other Jewish leaders in the community.* Born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in South Bend, Indiana, David graduated from Purdue University and joined The Dow Chemical Company. After receiving his MBA from UCLA and close to twenty years with Dow, David ultimately moved to St. Louis in

2007 and joined Vertex Chemical as COO. David currently serves on the board of United Hebrew Congregation and is chairing their new “Judaism 5.0” committee. David’s past contributions include serving in various board roles of a community theater organization and an organization that advocates for individuals with cognitive disabilities. He is also currently serving as president of the Parkway Central High School Music Parents organization. Interesting fact, David’s great-great grandfather was Rabbi Samuel Sale, the Rabbi at Congregation Shaare Emeth from 1897-1919 and his father, Rabbi Elliot D. Rosenstock, was one of the first student rabbis at Temple Emanuel in its earliest days. David is married to Lisa and they have three children.



**Amy Scharff** *has great interest in leadership through education, having been a teacher of leadership to both teachers and students, and a leadership facilitator in businesses and classrooms.* Amy has 15 years of professional marketing experience and owned her own writing business. She went back to school mid-career for a Masters degree in teaching, and has since taught at

high-school and college levels. Amy has volunteered for various educational causes, including Congregation Shaare Emeth (where she is a member), Webster Groves High School, Literacy Council of Greater St. Louis, and currently Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School. She has taught writing and leadership skills to people from middle-school age through middle age, and currently is an associate with President’s Council, an organization that facilitates

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leadership groups for presidents of mid-cap companies in the St. Louis region. She shares leadership of her family with husband Alan Mishell.



**Barbara Sherer** is interested in working to promote awareness of issues affecting Jewish Women and addressing those issues. Having received her J.D. from Washington University, Barbara has focused her litigation career on helping families with a focus on ending domestic violence and examining the dynamics that lead to abusive relationships.

After a judicial clerkship, time in private practice and lead attorney of the domestic violence and child support enforcement division of the prosecutor's office, Barbara has been the managing attorney of Sherer Law Offices, a litigation firm concentrating in domestic litigation for the past 21 years. She has been involved with several Jewish community organizations in the St. Louis area serving on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Southern Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky and chairing fundraisers for other St. Louis organizations. A former board member of BSKJ, she headed the Personnel Committee during the transition of clergy. She is a member of B'nai Amoona . She has one daughter, also an attorney. She resides in University City with her partner.



**Patricia Shpilberg** is interested in becoming more connected to the Jewish community. Growing up in a Zionist Jewish Latin family, Patricia was raised in Venezuela until the age of 13. She has travelled to over 40 countries and lived in 6 for extended periods of time. With a B.A. in Architecture from Lehigh, a Masters from University of Miami and an MBA from Emory, Patricia

began her career in Architecture in Atlanta where she also took a Jewish Federation trip to Israel and became actively involved in the Jewish community in Atlanta, specifically with AJC-Access. Patricia helped establish Shalom Amigos, the Latino-Jewish

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dialogue group. Patricia is married and has two step children.



**Brad Snitzer** is interested in helping people maintain their Jewish identity. A current member of the Jewish Federation Board of Directors, Brad has been involved in several areas within the Jewish Federation including the Board Nominating Committee, participant and chair of the Rubin Israel Experience and member of the Caring for Jews in Need subcommittee. Brad is also a past member of the Executive Committee of the Board of United Hebrew Congregation. A graduate of UMSL, Brad is an employee benefits consultant with Cornerstone Insurance Group. He is married to Amy and they have two daughters.



**Michelle Spirn** is interested in how Jewish leaders can support each other in the community at large, both in meeting philanthropic goals and in business efforts. Originally from Denver, Colorado, Michelle received her B.A. from George Washington University and her J.D. from Washington University. A partner with the law firm of Growe Eisen Karlen in Clayton, Michelle practices family law. She serves on the development board for Lift For Life Academy and is a past member of Friends of Heritage House and Mentor St. Louis. A member of Congregation Shaare Emeth, Michelle is married to Dan and they have two children.



**Nadine Spitz** is passionate about bringing the love and awareness of Israel to the St. Louis community. Growing up in Israel, Nadine received her B.S. in Chemistry from Ben-Gurion University and her MS in Environmental Sciences from Hebrew University and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Ben Gurion University.

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Nadine and her family moved to St. Louis in 2006 and works as a consultant. Since arriving in St. Louis, Nadine has been active at her kids' schools and served as President of the Parents Association at the Solomon Schechter Day School during the year that it merged with RJA. She served the past school year as co-chair of the Parent Teacher Organization of the new Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School and served on the school board. She is currently serving on the Planning and Allocations Committee of the Jewish Federation. Nadine is married to Avi Beigelman and they have 3 children.



**Amy Stone** is interested in financially sustaining the community and in particular women's philanthropy and causes. Originally from Alaska, Amy has a varied professional background from advertising to real estate to her current work at United Hebrew Congregation where she serves as Director of Development and Membership. Amy has served in several volunteer capacities

including fundraising chair for the PTO of her children's school, Training Chair for JPro (Jewish Professional Organization) and served on a committee of Women's Philanthropy. Amy is married to Jeff and they have three young children.



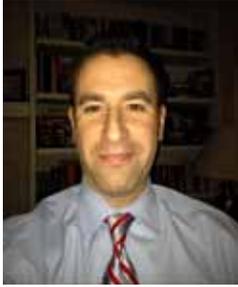
**Josh Wallach** is interested in opportunities that allow him to offer his time and do what he can to provide an exceptional environment focusing on Jewish learning and community wide awareness. Born in St. Louis, Josh is 3rd generation in the scrap metal recycling industry and spun off his own company in 2001. Having sold his ownership stake, Josh is focusing more time on family and volunteer

opportunities. Josh is currently serving his second term on the board of Congregation Shaare Emeth, previously serving on their strategic planning committee and currently as co-chair of the Ner Tamid society. Josh is married to Stacey, owner of Town &

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Country Veterinary Hospital, and they have three children.



**Stephen Wertman** is interested in serving institutions that sustain the Jewish community in St. Louis. A native of New York City, Steve moved to St. Louis in 2005 and is an active member of the Board of Epstein Hebrew Academy serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and Head of School Search Committee. He has also been a member of their Finance Committee for many years. Steve also serves as Treasurer and Executive Board member of Congregation Tpheris Israel Chevra Kadisha and recently joined the JCC Finance Committee. Steve has an Accounting degree and a CPA license. He began his career at Arthur Andersen, then spent more than ten years in the banking industry and is now the CFO of MGM Healthcare. He is married to Batya and they have three young children.



**Tony J. Westbrook, Jr.** is passionate about youth leadership development, organizational communication and development, and community outreach. As a recent convert to Conservative Judaism, he is committed to educating Jews and non-Jews about Judaism, and helping to build new relationships among the various sects of the Jewish community. Tony is the son of two Pentecostal ministers and one of seven children. He was raised in the historic Shaw neighborhood in St. Louis city and attended and graduated from Webster Groves High School as part of the Voluntary Transfer Program. He was in the first class of Cultural Leadership, a year-long leadership program for high school students (mostly Black and/or Jewish). He attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and received his B.A. in Communication Studies-Interpersonal and Intercultural Communications from Fontbonne University.

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**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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The Millstone Institute for Jewish Leadership is a community-wide endeavor to engage and inspire volunteer leaders and professionals. Initiatives are made possible by the generous support of the Lublin-Green Foundation, a supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, the Millstone Foundation, the Bill Solomon Family and Mont & Karen Levy.

