

Our Program

The Rabbinic Leadership Program is based on three premises: that spiritual growth is a life-long process which requires commitment, practice and guidance; that rabbis best serve and inspire their communities when they cultivate and refine their own inner lives, because we can then more

“Colleagues who have participated in IJS . . . talk

about God and spiritual

experience more freely

and in different ways.

They conduct services

differently. They counsel

and teach differently.

. . . Having more rabbis

and cantors and Jewish

educators who address

issues of spiritual

practice and growth

in richer and deeper

ways is so important!”

—RABBI RUTH SOHN

deeply model such qualities as kindness, compassion, humility and love for God; and that Jewish leaders concerned with the life of the spirit need one another for companionship, study and growth. Once engaged with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, you will enrich your communities with ideas and practices that not only serve their spiritual lives, but also lead them to serve others.

Over the course of eighteen months, through four five-day retreats, interim text study and sustained spiritual practice, we support our participants in creating and maintaining the rich, meaningful connections to Jewish life that are so important for the overall health and continuity of our people. Investigation of the profound practices and exquisite texts of the Jewish mystical and Hasidic tradition opens new realms of theological thought and experience, grounded in new vocabulary, concepts and imagery. Contemplative practice—rooted in extended periods of mindfulness meditation, embodied practice and intentional silence—adds new dimensions to Jewish spiritual practice, supporting rabbis in their work, sustaining both spirit and body. The program teaches ways to access an inner well of calm and clarity,

confidence and strength, joy and gratitude which will nourish and sustain your work, relationships and activities in the broader community.

Developing as Spiritual Leaders

The program is designed to help participants grow in consciousness and character. We invite you to investigate ideas

“I have been able to find a

stronger center in myself

to which I can return so

that I am not shaken by

the daily ups and downs of

congregational life.”

—RABBI RONA SHAPIRO

about the nature of the self and God both analytically through study and discussion as well as experientially through meditation, prayer, yoga and spiritual companionship. In addition to the cultivation of your personal awareness, insight, knowledge and skills, the program aims to help you refine your abilities to teach others who seek similar growth and development. During the second year of the program, we explore

and cultivate qualities of awareness and character that are essential to good spiritual leadership in the contemporary Jewish world. The program is designed to help you develop a deep sense of authenticity that leads to a more integrated, flexible, responsive and skilled organizational leadership.

Growing in Community

One of the most important ingredients in sustaining spiritual growth is the support of community. The Institute for Jewish Spirituality creates a community of individuals who support each other’s growth and practice in an atmosphere of honesty and depth. Over the eighteen-month course of study, during the retreats and between them, you will enjoy the support of a *havruta* companion, periodic phone calls with faculty members, and closed e-mail conversation with the group as a whole. Participants will be comprised of thirty-eight rabbis from across the denominational spectrum. Your cohort will include rabbis with years of experience, as well as

“What struck me most was

not only the quality of the

work being done but the

depth of the impact IJS

is making in the world

of Reform, Conservative

and Reconstructionist

rabbis and cantors and,

by extension, their

congregations. . . . In their

own quiet way, they are

creating a sea change in

Jewish religious practice

. . . it is rigorous and

intellectually engaging, it

has religious integrity, and

above all, in my view, it is

honest. . . . They are helping

rabbis make religious

meaning and deep spiritual

experience accessible

to all Jews who seek it,

regardless of background.”

—RABBI SHIRLEY IDELSON

those who are recently out of school, balanced by gender and orientation, as well as movement affiliation.

Over three hundred of your colleagues—two hundred-fifteen rabbis, eighty cantors, and educators from across the country and across the denominational spectrum—have completed the Institute’s eighteen-month program. These Jewish leaders are staying connected to each other through the Institute’s “Hevraya Program,” which offers graduates the opportunity for weekly hasidic text study, national and regional retreats, on-site visits by Institute faculty, resource sharing, guided practice groups and monthly spiritual direction.

Join Us!

We see a vibrant, transformative Judaism that:

- is rooted in tradition and attuned to contemporary sensibilities.
- is invigorated by practices integrating mind, body, heart and soul.
- inspires Jews to connect meaningfully with each other, with their communities and with the Divine.
- creates a more just and compassionate world.

Join the over three hundred other Jewish leaders who are working to make this vision a reality today.

Faculty

The Institute for Jewish Spirituality is led by an outstanding faculty, each of whom is deeply committed to reinvigorating American Jewish religious life. Faculty members include Rabbis Jonathan Slater, Myriam Klotz, Nancy Flam and Dan Liben and other guest teachers.

Location, Dates, Cost

Winter retreats will take place at the American Jewish University’s Brandeis Bardin Conference Center outside of

Los Angeles. Summer retreats will take place at Trinity Conference Center in West Cornwall, CT. Food will be kosher. Retreats will begin on Sunday evening and conclude on Friday morning (with an option to leave on Thursday night).

January 8–13, 2012

July 2012 (date to be scheduled)

January 2013 (date to be scheduled)

July 2013 (date to be scheduled)

The cost of the program for each year is \$1000 for tuition and \$1,500 for room and board (10 days and 10 nights).

Participants may pay an additional \$245 per retreat for a single room.

Applications

For more information, please contact: Rabbi Jonathan Slater, Co-Director of Programs jonathan@jewishspirituality.org 914-478-7326 www.jewishspirituality.org

To apply, please visit www.regonline.com/rabbis7 All applications must be received by June 30, 2011.



Institute for Jewish Spirituality

330 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1902
New York, NY 10001

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 183
Turners Falls, MA

Cultivating mindful leaders. Revitalizing Jewish life.



Institute for Jewish Spirituality Rabbinic Leadership Program

Spirituality is a view of religion that sees its primary task as cultivating and nourishing the human soul or spirit. Each person, according to this view, has an inner life that he or she may choose to develop; this ‘inwardness’ goes deeper than the usual object of psychological investigation and cannot fairly be explained in Freudian or other psychological terms. Ultimately, it is ‘transpersonal,’ reaching beyond the individual and linking him/her to all other selves and to the single Spirit or Self of the universe we call God. God is experientially accessible through the cultivation of this inner life.” —Arthur Green, *Restoring the Aleph: Judaism for the Contemporary Seeker*

When you first applied to rabbinical school, were you inspired by a desire to serve God, to teach Torah, to engage Jews in our rich heritage and deep spiritual tradition? Was God alive to you—in text study, in prayer, in serving others and repairing the world? Were you seeking companionship on a spiritual path or fellows with whom to change Jewish living for the better? Would you like to feel that all over again, and sustain it into the future? Would you like to know that you are not alone, and that there are resources, practices and people to support you in your life and work? Would you like to build your community so that your vision and experience are shared more broadly? The Rabbinic Leadership Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality exists to support you in this vital work!

The challenge today is to reestablish a connection between Jewish practice and teaching and the lived lives

of Jews. We need teachers, grounded in authentic Jewish spiritual practice, who can help Jews connect their own deepest experiences to the language, imagery and compelling power of the Jewish tradition. If we are to inspire our people and sustain our vision, we must tend to our own inner life, drawing from the wells of the Jewish spiritual tradition.

The Institute for Jewish Spirituality offers an immersive, practice-based approach to deepen contemplative Jewish spiritual life for Jewish leaders. Practice-based spirituality will return the full vitality of body, heart and soul to the highly intellectualized, privatized and fragmented Judaism of today. Through this unique learning experience, participating rabbis will deepen the teaching and guidance they provide for Jews seeking spiritual growth and insight, and be able to introduce contemplative practices to their communities.