

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## WEXNER HERITAGE PROGRAM ALUMNI



# Both/And Leadership: Transcending Polarization **BIO BOOK**



### **SANFORD ANTIGNAS | NEW YORK 3**

New York, New York

[santignas@sokho.com](mailto:santignas@sokho.com)

Sandy is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Trestle Management, a family office after serving as the COO of asset management firms and member of various boards of directors in the US and overseas. He serves as Vice President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Chair of its Community Relations Initiative and Chair of its Nominating Committee. Sandy previously served as co-chair of its Israel and International Affairs Committee. For UJA-Federation of New York (UJA) he currently serves on its International Planning and Allocations Committee. Previously Sandy served on UJA's board of directors and has led and served on several UJA Israel, overseas and national related planning and grant making committees. For the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) he serves on its board of trustees and Chair of its By-laws and Governance Committee, as well as Vice Chair of Board of United Israel Appeal, previously serving as Chair of its Israel Companies and Properties Committee. Sandy also serves on JFNA's Budget and Finance and Israel & Overseas committees. He is an alum of both the Wexner Heritage Program and the JFNA National Young Leadership Cabinet.

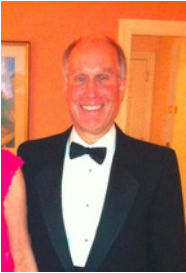


### **MARC BLATTNER | PORTLAND 21**

Beaverton, Oregon

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Marc Blattner was born in Atlanta, Georgia, but grew up in Orlando, Florida. His father owned the only Jewish deli in town, and thus was always connected to the Jewish community. In High School, Marc was very involved in BBYO and was ultimately elected the 63rd International President of AZA (his wife, Sarah, served as International Vice President of BBG that same year). After a transformational experience at the Soviet Jewry rally in Washington, DC in December 1987, Marc attended Emory University and received a BA in Jewish Studies and a BA in Near Eastern Studies. Marc then attended the Baltimore Institute for Jewish Communal Service and received his MA in Judaic Studies from the Baltimore Hebrew University and a MSW from the University of Maryland. Marc has always been drawn to the idea of community building and has worked at the Baltimore, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Portland Jewish Federations over his 30+ years in the field of Jewish communal service. Marc's wife, Sarah, is a high school educator. His daughter, Aliyah, lives in Brooklyn and his son, Shai, is a junior in college.



**ALAN BROWN | CHICAGO 1**

Winnetka, Illinois

alan@midcapltd.com

Leadership positions in the Chicago Jewish community since 1981 Born and raised in Baltimore MD 2 children age 35 and 33. President MIDCAP LTD, M&A (Mergers & Acquisition) Advisors, Northfield IL since 1993-present. President Chicago Federation Young Leadership Division, 1983-1985. UJA Young Leadership Cabinet 1982-1987 Midwest Region Chair, Executive Committee 1985-1987. BJE- Chicago Board since 1986 to present - President 1993-2000 Still Active Officer Leading Early Childhood and jteach.org. Chicago Jewish Federation Board of Directors 1983-1992 Wexner Heritage Chicago 1 since 1987. Lay Leader Participant - BJE CEELI - Chicago Early Engagement Leadership Initiative 2014-2020



**VICKI DANSKY | DENVER 08**

Denver, Colorado

vickidansky@comcast.net

Vicki Dansky, a life-long learner, has an interest in strategic philanthropy and Judaic studies. She is currently a board member of UpStart, which advances new ideas for the Jewish community and Lotus Network, an organization that promotes meaningful connection and personal growth for women. She has expertise in community foundations, donor stewardship, charitable gift planning and nonprofit capacity building. In 2020, she founded VPD Philanthropy Advisors. She is currently working with the National Library of Israel to raise awareness of its role as the vibrant institution of collective memory for the Jewish people worldwide and the land and State of Israel including its global leadership in the Bearing Witness Project to document and archive the stories of October 7th and its aftermath in Israel and around the world. A proud Coloradan, Vicki is a devoted family member and friend and loves nothing more than taking a good walk while having a great talk especially in the Rocky Mountains.



**DANIEL EISENSTADT | PHILADELPHIA 16**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

daniel@mdmep.com

Daniel Eisenstadt currently serves as Founder, Chairman and CEO of Terravet Real Estate Solutions, a fund group focused on investing in veterinary real estate located in the United States. Daniel also serves on the board of directors of Community Veterinary Partners (CVP), a company he co-founded in 2009 and formerly led as President and Chairman. CVP owns and operates more than fifty veterinary hospitals located on the East Coast. Prior to co-founding Terravet and CVP, Daniel was a managing director at CMS Companies, a private equity and real estate investment firm, where Daniel served on the firm's investment committee and executive committee. While at CMS from 2003 to 2009, Daniel managed the firm's private equity investments, including fund and direct investments. From 1998 to 2002 Daniel worked as the co-founder and founding executive director of the Auschwitz Jewish Center, a museum and visitor center located near the former concentration camp. Daniel began his career in 1996 working as a corporate lawyer at Fulbright and Jaworski, L.L.P., where he focused on mergers and acquisitions. Daniel has an MBA from Harvard Business School, a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Clark University. Daniel was also a Raoul Wallenberg Scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Daniel has been a trustee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, a member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet of Jewish Federations of North America, and a member of the Board of Beth Zion Beth Israel Synagogue, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation, the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Hillel of Greater Philadelphia. Daniel currently is a trustee of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he has served on the Next Generation Council, a member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Young Presidents Organization and serves on the boards of the The Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation. Daniel lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Sharon, and daughters, Elena, Ariella and Rachel.



**VALLIE FREEMAN | CINCINNATI 19**

CINCINNATI, OHIO

valliebf@gmail.com

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Vallie left Ohio to attend the University of Wisconsin for undergrad. She returned home only long enough to get her law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law and then moved to Denver, Colorado with her now husband, Chris, where they lived for more than six years, got married, and started their family. In 2013, for both personal and professional reasons, they moved their family back to Cincinnati where they currently work and live. Having spent the better half of the last decade working as a development professional and has started to look for her next adventure.



**JASON FRIEDLAND | NY/WESTCHESTER 07**

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

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Jason Friedland is an entrepreneur with numerous business ventures. Currently, Jason is Chief Executive Officer and co-owner of Sensible Auto Finance, a subprime auto finance company. Jason is also co-owner of Shleppers Moving & Storage, one of the largest moving companies in the NY Tri-State area and Westrock Development, LLC, a privately held real estate company which owns and manages approximately one million square feet of primarily commercial space.

Jason holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and graduated with honors from Tufts University with degrees in international relations and economics. He also studied finance at the London School of Economics. Jason lives in Mamaroneck, with his wife Jacqueline, and their four children. He has served on the board of trustees for The Leffell School, a local Jewish Day School with more than 800 students, for more than 10 years and he is currently the board president.



**MARK GOTTESMAN | HOUSTON**

HOUSTON, TEXAS

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Semi-retired Ob-Gyn now serving as a community Mohel for Southeast/Central Texas. On the Advisory Board for Camp Young Judaea Texas and serving as a volunteer physician at CYJ Texas Summer Camp.

Active in the Egalitarian/Traditional Minyan at Congregation Beth Yeshurun.

Most recent visits to Israel - May 2024 and September 2024 which included volunteering as a physician at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem.



**STEPHEN GRYNBERG | LOS ANGELES 09**

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

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Stephen Grynberg is a filmmaker and entrepreneur. He wrote and directed his first feature film, the critically acclaimed, "Love From Ground Zero" in 1998. Since then he has worked as a writer, producer, cinematographer and director in documentary and narrative films. Stephen's feature doc, "A Life Ascending", about an acclaimed mountaineer dealing with tragedy, won 11 international film awards. Stephen is currently editing, "Sacred Names", a personal exploration into his relationship to the Holocaust as the son of a survivor. He is also the founder of The Illuminate Foundation which has created web-based initiatives to honor victims of the Holocaust and October 7th, using a digital Yahrzeit candle lighting ritual. Stephen is a board member of the Holocaust Museum, Los Angeles and is a founding member of the Men's Leadership Council of the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA. Stephen has taught writing workshops and is currently a guest lecturer at Columbia Business School. He has a degree in directing from the American Film Institute, an MBA from Columbia University and a BS in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University. He is married to Susan Winfield, a psychotherapist. They have 21-year-old twins and live in Santa Monica.



**STEVEN HIMMELFARB | WASHINGTON DC 13**

WASHINGTON, DC

[steven@himmelco.com](mailto:steven@himmelco.com)

For over twenty-five years Steve Himmelfarb has been on the frontlines of real estate investment decisions. As a principal of Washington, DC based Himmelfarb Commercial, Inc. Steve works as broker and advisor for national brands, high net worth individuals, family trusts, and investment funds. Over the past decade in four different years Steve was among the top 10 highest volume single tenant triple-net real estate brokers for restaurant properties nationwide, as awarded by GE Franchise Finance. Prior to starting his own boutique firm, Steve led PepsiCo's multi-year real estate performance analysis for its own restaurant corporate and franchise portfolio. Steve was charged with developing the analytical and qualitative protocol for evaluating potential Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut and California Pizza Kitchen sites. After PepsiCo, as an outsourced head of real estate, Steve spearheaded the high velocity real estate brand expansion and investments for Bloomberg, LP in Manhattan including structuring and negotiating transactions for broadcast studios, office locations, and data facilities across the globe. Today Steve harnesses his tested analytical experience towards sourcing assets that uniquely fit his client's investment goals. In addition to his practice, Steve is lecturer and trainer on the subjects of site selection and investment analysis- working with many organizations including the National Grocers Association, New York Society of CPAs, and the Wharton School of Real Estate. Steve earned a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Economics from The University of Delaware and Masters in Regional Planning, Major in Land Development, from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



**MICHELLE HIRSCH | CLEVELAND 22**

ORANGE VILLAGE, OHIO

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Michelle grew up in Akron, Ohio as the oldest of four girls to a very loving family. She spent her childhood attending Jewish community events watching her parents and grandparents lead by example. Whether it was at school, playing sports, attending summer camp, or within BBYO, Michelle naturally found herself drawn to leadership roles. This theme continued through her college years within her sorority and serving as a Penn State Lion Ambassador. After college graduation, Michelle lived in Chicago for two years before moving to Cleveland and marrying fellow BBYO'er, Evan Hirsch. Making Cleveland her permanent home, Michelle jumped right into Jewish volunteer life while starting her career at her family's insurance business and attending business school at night to obtain her MBA. She has held numerous leadership roles within the Jewish community both locally and nationally. Professionally, she has spent the last 20+ years working her way through every department of Brunswick Companies, now managing all business development and client retention initiatives as the third-generation owner. She loves spending time with her amazing husband and two incredible little mensches who make her heart smile every single day.



**ILANA HOROWITZ RATNER | CLEVELAND 1**

CLEVELAND, OHIO | JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

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As a dual citizen of the USA and Israel (my grandmother's family has lived in Safed since the 1600s), I live in Israel part of each year. In November 2017, I traveled with Encounter to Ramallah, Bethlehem and East Jerusalem where I was privileged to meet Palestinians committed to peaceful co-existence. I am challenged to do whatever I can to encourage healing and connection among Jews, Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians I have come to know, love and care about.



### **ELYSE KALMANS | HOUSTON 06**

BELLAIRE, TEXAS

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Elyse Spector Kalmans is the first third generation Holocaust Survivor to chair the board of Holocaust Museum Houston, the fourth largest and only English-Spanish bilingual Holocaust museum in the US. Kalmans earned a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. She began her career at Chase in NYC, followed by marketing positions at Pillsbury, The Coca-Cola Company and Enron. Kalmans held the position as a director at Enron before founding Kalmans & Loebel, LP, a public relations and marketing firm. She later worked for Jewish Family Service as an employment service director. Kalmans is also a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League. She has held numerous leadership and board positions with Congregation Emanu El, Goldberg Montessori School and The Kinkaid School. A distinguished volunteer, Kalmans was named the 2020 Congregant of the Year by Congregation Emanu El. She was also the 2017 recipient of the Faith and Humanity Award from National Council for Jewish Women. Kalmans resides in Bellaire, TX with her husband Lewis Kalmans. They are the parents of three adult daughters.



### **LILY KANTER | SAN FRANCISCO 06**

MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

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Lily Kanter is a serial entrepreneur with extensive experience in the home design industry. She has founded and led four very successful companies as a co-founder and CEO in the past 20 years; including Mill Valley Baby & Kids, Serena & Lily, Boon Supply, and Averylily. Lily spent the early part of her career in accounting and technology leadership. While at Microsoft she was awarded the Chairman's award from Bill Gates for innovating their first Retail presence in San Francisco. She left Microsoft in late 2000 to start a family and focus her time and energy on philanthropic causes. She was featured on the cover of Time Magazine in July 2000 as part of the cover story "The New Philanthropists" for sponsoring and mentoring disadvantaged young adults into technology careers. After having her first baby she built and led Serena & Lily as the CEO for thirteen years. After leaving Serena & Lily she went on to start two more startups. Boon Supply a commerce focused fundraising platform gave back \$104 Million to Schools and other non-profits. Lily lives in Mill Valley CA with her husband Marc Sarosi and has 3 sons in college. Lily is a passionate leader in the local SF Bay Jewish Community. She chairs the Diller Tikkun Olam Awards.





**JOELLE KAUFMAN | SAN FRANCISCO 11**

BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA

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Joelle has held executive roles including CEO, CRO, and CMO in various B2B technology companies. Today she is the CEO of GTMFlow and serves as a revenue catalyst for leaders. Her work focuses on revenue growth, leadership development, and data-driven strategy execution.

In addition to her corporate experience, she is a member of the Togethering Coordination and Marketing Committees, joined Wexner on the Israel Mission of January 2024, and serves as a leader of Jewish Families at Menlo. Her first book, *Crushing the Cancer Curveball*, will be published on January 28, 2025 by River Grove.

She holds a BA with Highest Honors in Organizational Studies from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Harvard Business School where she was a George F. Baker Scholar. She is married to her HBS sweetheart and they are the parents of three active children.



**KAREN KAUFMAN PERLMAN | SAN FRANCISCO 00**

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Karen currently serves on the Endowment Committee and Executive Committee of the San Francisco/Bay Area Jewish Community Federation. She recently joined the UC Berkeley Hillel Board. She also currently sits on the Diller Teen Awards California Selection Committee. Karen was a prior Board Chair at Brandeis Hillel Day School. Karen also previously served on the Jewish Community Federation Board of Governors and Board of Directors, where she's chaired of the Educating & Engaging Commission, the Education subcommittee, and the Human Resources and Organizational Development Committee. Karen's community involvement also includes past service as chair of the Diller Educator Awards, as a member of the Jewish Vocational Services Board and on the San Francisco JCC Board, where she chaired governance and subsequently served as Treasurer. Karen received her B.A. in Legal Studies from UC Berkeley and her MBA from Georgetown University. Professionally, she manages commercial real estate investments. In an earlier career, Karen worked on the international business side of the television industry, having led international divisions for numerous cable networks. In her spare time, she can often be found playing pickleball.



**NATASHA KEHIMKAR | SAN FRANCISCO 18**

FOSTER CITY, CALIFORNIA

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Natasha Kehimkar is CEO and founder of Malida Advisors, where she and her team help companies achieve their goals faster by reducing unhealthy friction and building resilient, inclusive teams. With over 25 years of experience leading human resources, talent, and DEI across multiple industries and six continents, Natasha has a track record of expediting company and business unit turnarounds, earning her a reputation as the "rapid response expert" in navigating significant challenges, such as restructuring, culture change, executive team transitions, and acquisitions and divestitures.

Natasha has served in leadership roles in startup to enterprise-level companies, including OpenTable, Data.ai, Pfizer, and Guardant Health. Her expertise has been recognized by private companies and nonprofits, where she serves in both board and advisory roles. She holds a BA in Sociology, a Master's degree in HR and Labor Relations, and executive coaching and team coaching accreditations. A Canadian-born Indian Jew, Natasha lives in the SF Bay Area with her husband, a Chinese-Hawaiian Jew-by-choice, and their two South Korean children.



**CAROLINE KELLY | LOS ANGELES 09**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

carolinekelly3@gmail.com

Caroline Kelly serves on the board of Limmud North America and is a facilitator with Resetting The Table (RTT), an organization devoted to facilitating courageous conversations across political differences within and across L.A.'s Jewish communities. Professionally, most of Caroline's work has been in politics and public policy. Caroline served as a campaign manager and, since 2017, has been a consultant to the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health where she focuses on strategic reorganization of the department, new innovations, and housing issues impacting those with severe mental illness. Caroline has completed training and continues to do coaching, mostly for students and for young women in their early career phase. Other volunteer commitments include being a reader for the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards, supporting multiple public education initiatives, and programs impacting mental health and restorative justice.



## **JASEN KISBER | MONTREAL 17**

HAMPSTEAD, QUEBEC

[jkisber@c3.com](mailto:jkisber@c3.com)

Born and raised in Montreal, Jasen graduated McGill University and then moved to New York City to attend Fordham Law School and later to practice corporate securities law. Subsequently, he moved to England and received his MBA from Oxford University before returning to Montreal to join the family auction and liquidation business. At work, Jasen spends his time evaluating, purchasing and selling equipment and inventory across a wide range of industries. He is also the past President of the Industrial Auctioneer's Association and is on the Board of the Association of Machinery and Equipment Appraisers as well as Les Maisons Kehilla, Eldercare/Maimonides Foundation, and the Grace Dart Foundation. Jasen is the facilitator for the Jewish General Hospital Foundation Leadership Development Program.



## **MICHELLE KOHN | CINCINNATI 13**

CINCINNATI, OHIO

[michelle.kohn@cchmc.org](mailto:michelle.kohn@cchmc.org)

Michelle Kohn is Cincinnati Children's Global Director for Israel, responsible for managing the hospital's Israel Exchange Program through which Cincinnati Children's collaborates with leading clinical, academic and research institutions in Israel to improve child health around the world. Prior to this position, Michelle worked for the Jewish Agency for Israel both in Cincinnati and their headquarters in Jerusalem. There she served as the Director of Donor Affairs, working with North American Federations, Keren Hayesod communities, Israeli donors and corporations and led international young leadership programming. Michelle has also worked as an International Relations Associate for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in Jerusalem and was responsible for engaging American communities in JDC's welfare relief work in Israel, the former Soviet Union and Argentina. In her volunteer work, Michelle is the immediate past President of the Cincinnati's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and has served on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. Michelle is a past board member of The Rockwern Academy.



**DAVID LEIT | GREATER METROWEST 15**

MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

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Since 2023, David Leit has been an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New Jersey in the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Practice Group. He leads the Special Litigation Section, focused on federal and state constitutional litigation (with a particular focus on first and second amendment issues), reproductive rights, civil gun enforcement, civil rights, and immigration rights. From 1995 through 2023, David was in the private practice of law, focused on intellectual property and technology issues, representing start-ups, as well as established companies with technology law needs. David has been active in synagogue leadership as well as Federation, most notably as part of the first cohort of the Peoplehood Project and in various Israel-focused roles. David studied Religious Studies at Stanford University with Arnie Eisen, Chancellor Emeritus of JTS. David grew up in Livingston, NJ, and now lives in Maplewood with his wife Karyn and his post-college kids, Ben and Margery. David has also been involved in sports and athletics for a long time and was captain of Stanford's club Karate team, coached 15+ total seasons of baseball and softball for his kids, and since 2012, has been competing in triathlons.



**DANIEL ROSEN | PITTSBURGH 07**

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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Daniel Rosen, Ph.D., M.S.W., is a Professor of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and is currently a Senior Consultant at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation ([www.jhf.org](http://www.jhf.org)). Dr. Rosen is also the Founder of Wellbridge Health ([www.wellbridgehealth.com](http://www.wellbridgehealth.com)). He received his Ph.D. in Social Work and Sociology from the University of Michigan and completed a National Institute on Drug Abuse Post-doctoral Fellowship at the Substance Abuse Interdisciplinary Training Program at the University of Michigan. Dr. Rosen is also the recipient of a K 08 award from the National Institute of Health focusing on the intersection of aging and substance abuse. His current research focuses on the health and mental health service needs of vulnerable populations, the utilization of technology to reduce avoidable hospitalizations for chronically ill individuals, and enhancing the effectiveness of interprofessional teams in healthcare settings. Dr. Rosen recently completed his term as Board Chair of the Friendship Circle of Pittsburgh and has served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). Dr. Rosen is also the past Board Chair of AgeWell Pittsburgh.



## **EMILY SCHACHTEL | PALM BEACH 22**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA

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Emily Schachtel was recently elected to the Wexner Heritage Program Palm Beach. She has been a participant in the Mandel Leadership Institute and is also serving as a Board Member for Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. Emily has been a member of the Junior League of the Palm Beaches and just completed a term on the Board. In this capacity she spearheaded a Literacy and Education research team which was selected as the focus area for community activities of the Junior League over the next five years. Since this new focus area was implemented Emily and her team have set up Little Libraries at elementary schools in West Palm Beach. Emily grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut, attended New Canaan Country School and graduated from Greenwich Academy. She received her BA from Hamilton College in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. Since her career in clinical research began in Portland, Oregon, Emily has successfully managed many multi-center clinical studies leading to the development of several beneficial medications. Emily lives in Palm Beach Gardens and enjoys music, kayaking, playing golf, travel, and her two Boston Terriers.



## **MYTYL SIMANCAS | MIAMI 11**

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

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Mytyl Simancas was born in Mexico City. After living in New York City and for a brief time in Israel and Uruguay, she landed in Miami Beach 26 years ago. Always involved in the Jewish communities wherever she has lived, today she co-chairs Jafi's C2G Partnership with Or Haner, past Chair of Miami-Yerucham Partnership and member of the Executive Board of Miami Jewish Federation. Mytyl is active in Amutot, Israel & Overseas, Teen Engagement, Diller Teen Fellowship Sterling committee and Israel Engagement and co-chair of Arts & Culture Committee Miami Beach JCC. Other than her family, her passions are Israel, Jewish People, and helping others. She is a realtor with Compass and also a Zin Fellow with BGU, which helped her develop a deep love for the Negev. She is a graduate of OLAM (GMJF), Melton (CAJE) and studied at Shalom Hartman Leadership Program (Miami). In 2020 she founded Adopt a Family Miami, a non-for-profit that helps 130 families from the invisible workforce in Miami Beach. She is a translator (EN-ES) having translated already two books related to the Holocaust. She has been recognized by the GMJF (Leadership Award), Jewish Volunteer Services, MBJCC, JCS, Israel Bonds and the City of Miami Beach for the work she is doing.



**ALEXANDER YAROSLAVSKY | NEW YORK RSJ 16**

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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Alex Yaroslavsky, PCC, MILR, NCM is the founder of Yaro Group, LLC – a leadership consulting firm specializing in workplace effectiveness. Yaro Group services include executive coaching, training, facilitation and additionally - arbitration & mediation.

Since 2000 Alex has worked with Fortune 100 clients in the financial services, healthcare and also in the nonprofit sector. Client list includes Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Boston Scientific, Pfizer, NYU Langone Medical Center, The Brooklyn Hospital Center and American Jewish World Service. His experience includes coaching senior leaders in developing an internal brand, building effective coalitions, working with competitors, managing shifting roles as well as managing career transitions. Alex teaches Dispute Resolution at Baruch College in NYC. He serves on several arbitration and mediation panels including US Bankruptcy Court (Southern District), Financial Industry National Regulatory Authority (FINRA), New York State Supreme Court (Commercial Division), New Jersey Courts (Civil Division), New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and Office of Trials and Hearings (OATH), as well as New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA). Alex is a member of the International Mediation Institute (IMI), the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and was one of the first mediators to become certified by the New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSdra). He is an experienced Trainer and routinely coaches new mediators. In 1996 Alex worked at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, GA. His role in the Conflict Resolution Group involved tracking political conflicts in Ireland, North Korea and Kashmir. Alex also coordinated an electronic brainstorming session on the Rwanda crisis. After his internship Alex continued to work as an electronic brainstorming facilitator in New York and Texas. Alex completed the Georgetown Executive Coaching program in 2016 and the Coro Leadership New York program in public policy in 2007. He also holds a Master's degree in Industrial & Labor Relations from Cornell University (1995) and a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and International Business from New York University's Stern School of Business (1991). Alex is a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School (1987).

Alex's board affiliations include the Association for Conflict Resolution (Greater New York Chapter), Coro Alumni Association, and Safe Horizon.



**ANGIE ATKINS****New York, NY**

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Angie Atkins is the Director of Wexner Heritage Alumni. Previously, Angie founded, ran (and then sold) an international jewelry business that manufactured in Israel and wholesaled fine designer jewelry around the world for 22 years. Upon graduating from the Wexner Heritage Program (MetroWest 08), Angie was moved to devote more of her life to giving back to the Jewish world. She joined the Wexner Foundation staff in 2010 as Director, Wexner Heritage Alumni, to help galvanize the already tremendous work of their alumni. Angie has built up platforms, venues, and opportunities for our 2,100 Heritage alumni to network and cross pollinate (both online and in-person), to continue their high-level Jewish and leadership learning, and to invigorate their dedication to the far-reaching communal work in which they already engage. Angie's personal/lay involvement in the Jewish world centers on learning and kiruv. Along with her husband Norman (also a Wexner Heritage Alum), she regularly hosts Shabbat minyans, seudot, and learning in her home on Manhattan's Upper West Side – the gatherings are unique in that they are trans-denominational (#trichitza), bringing many people together from across the spectrum of Jewish life. Angie serves on many committees and on the board of Romemu, a shul dedicated to a Judaism that opens body, heart, mind and spirit to experience greater compassion, courage, and joy in our lives. She also serves in an advisory capacity to BASE Hillel and Hadar, and is an avid bicyclist and supporter of Hazon. Angie has a BA in English from Yale University and three adult children: Zohar, Ari, and Shira.

**RABBI Dr. Tali Zerkowicz****Columbus, OH**

tzerkowicz@wexner.net

Tali is Director of Curriculum and Research at The Wexner Foundation, where she supports educational initiatives across the suite of the Foundation's seven leadership programs. She has taught courses in Curriculum Design, Pedagogy, Professional Learning, the Sociology of Jewish Education, Jewish Texts, and Liturgy, to graduate students in rabbinical, educational, DeLeT, and non-profit management programs at HUC, and served as the Head of School at Columbus Jewish Day School. Her articles and chapters on the role of dissonance in Jewish identity formation appear in a variety of journals, magazines and anthologies and she has been invited to serve as a guest scholar at a wide range of organizations, synagogues, and schools. She earned her doctorate in Jewish sociology of education at New York University, and received an MA in Jewish Education and rabbinical ordination from Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion. Originally from Vancouver, BC, Tali has lived in Los Angeles, New York, and Jerusalem, and she currently lives in Columbus, OH with her film-animating and children's book authoring partner, Benny Zerkowicz, and their two children Gavi and Asher.

**DR. WENDY K SMITH**

Wendy Smith earned her Ph.D. in organizational behavior at Harvard Business School, and is currently a professor of management at the Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics and Co-director of the Women's Leadership Initiative at the University of Delaware.

Wendy's research focuses on strategic paradoxes – how leaders and senior teams effectively respond to contradictory agendas. She studies how organizations and their leaders simultaneously explore new possibilities while exploiting existing competencies, and how social enterprises simultaneously attend to social missions and financial goals. Her research has been published in journals such as *Academy of Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Organization Science* and *Management Science*. In 2018, she won the University of Delaware's first Mid-Career Excellence in Scholarship Award. In 2015, she won the Lerner College Outstanding Scholar Award.

Wendy teaches leadership, organizational behavior and business ethics. She has taught MBAs and undergraduates at University of Delaware, Harvard and University of Pennsylvania – Wharton. Wendy was awarded the University of Delaware MBA Teaching Award in 2016. Wendy has also taught executive and senior leadership teams how to manage interpersonal dynamics, emotional intelligence, high performing teams, organizational change and innovation, managing in times of crisis, and managing strategic paradoxes.

Wendy's book [Both/And Thinking](#) was published by Harvard Business School Press in August 2022.

View Wendy's [TEDx-UD talk, "The Power of Paradox."](#) Follow her on Twitter [@profwendysmith](#).



# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

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The Wexner Foundation develops and inspires leaders in the North American Jewish Community and the State of Israel. Through pluralistic, cohort-based educational programs, the Foundation invests in promising professionals and volunteers, giving them tools to exercise transformative leadership.

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