Treasurer Candidates

When a vacancy occurs in the ASSJ board prior to elections, a special election is held to fill the remainder of the term. The candidate elected to the position will serve until the annual Association for Jewish Studies conference in December 2016.

Leonard Saxe is the Klutznick Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies, Director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Steinhardt Social Research Institute, and Professor in the Heller School of Social Policy and Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, all at Brandeis University. He received the Marshall Sklare Award in 2012. His current research involves socio-demographic studies of American Jewry and a program of research on Jewish education and its relationship to Jewish engagement. He is the principal investigator of a longitudinal study of Birthright Israel and is leading a program that is investigating the size and characteristics of the American Jewish population.
At-Large Candidates

We are fortunate to have seven extraordinary candidates for three at-large positions on the board this year. A brief biography appears for each candidate below. Candidates are placed here in alphabetical order by last name; however, on each ballot, the voting software will randomly choose the order in which the candidates appear.

ASSJ members will be allowed to vote for up to three candidates. Those who are elected will serve two-year terms that begin at the annual Association for Jewish Studies conference in December.

Samuel Heilman served as Editor in Chief of Contemporary Jewry, the ASSJ’s journal, for 12 years. He is Professor of Sociology and holder of the Proshansky Chair in Jewish Studies at the Graduate Center of CUNY. He is author of a number of books and articles and the 2003 recipient of the Marshall Sklare Award.

Helen Kiyong Kim is Associate Professor of Sociology at Whitman College. Her current research focuses on intermarriage and family dynamics among Jewish Americans and Asian Americans. Helen’s work has been profiled in the New York Times, NPR, the Chronicle of Higher Education, The Jewish Daily Forward, Haaretz and Huffington Post. Her forthcoming book, JewAsian: Race, Religion and Identity for America’s Newest Jews will be published in 2016 by the University of Nebraska Press.

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Ph.D., is Senior Director of Research and Analysis and Director of the Berman Jewish DataBank, both at The Jewish Federations of North America, where he has held a variety of research positions in 15 years at the organization. He earned a B.A. in political science and Judaic studies, M.A. in modern Jewish society and politics, and Ph.D. in political science, all from Brown University, and an M.A. in Jewish communal service from Brandeis University. Before joining JFNA, he was a lecturer in political science at Haifa University and held a Lady Davis Trust Post-doctoral fellowship in political science at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He recently served as an advisor to the Pew Research Center on its 2013 Survey of U.S. Jews and is on the academic advisory committee of the American Jewish Year Book. He has published articles in political science, sociology, Jewish studies and professional journals; his most recent publication, published by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive, is "After Pew: Thinking about American Jewish Cohesion, Assimilation and Division."
Arielle Levites is a doctoral candidate at NYU in Education and Jewish Studies. Beginning in January 2016 she will be an Assistant Professor of Jewish Education in the Shoolman Graduate School of Hebrew College. Arielle is the recipient of the Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Student Research Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Emerging Scholar Award from the Network for Research in Jewish Education. She holds a BA from Brown University in Religious Studies and an MS Ed from the University of Pennsylvania in Religious Education. She is an alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. Her areas of research interest include: spirituality, religious emotion, contemporary American religion, Jewish families, and religious publishing. She is currently a research team member on several studies of undergraduate and post-graduate Jewish young adults.

Laura Limonic is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the College of Old Westbury—State University of New York. She earned a MA in International Affairs from Columbia University and an MS and PhD in Sociology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Laura’s research centers on the immigrant trajectories and ethnic identities of contemporary Jewish immigrants in the United States, with a focus on Jewish immigrants from Latin America. Laura received the Berman Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for her work in this area and the Berman Foundation Early Career Fellowship to further expand the scope of the research.

Jennifer Thompson is the Maurice Amado Assistant Professor of Applied Jewish Ethics and Civic Engagement at California State University, Northridge. She is the author of the ethnographic study *Jewish On Their Own Terms: How Intermarried Couples Are Changing American Judaism*, as well as articles in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and the *Journal of Jewish Identities*. Her training in anthropology and sociology comes from Emory University (Ethics and Society Program of the Graduate Division of Religion, PhD 2010) and Harvard University (Harvard Divinity School, MTS 2000).

Morton (Mort) Weinfeld is Professor of Sociology and holds the chair in Canadian Ethnic Studies at McGill University, where he has been teaching since 1977. Since that year he has been teaching a course on the sociology of Jews in North America, to well over 3,200 students. He has served as departmental chair for nine years, though mercifully not consecutively. He has published ten books and many dozens of articles and chapters, on subjects which deal with Canadian Jewish life or ethnicity/diversity more generally. Mort has been active as a consultant to many Jewish organizations in Canada, and to various Canadian government departments. His interests have included all aspects of Canadian Jewish life, the impact of the Holocaust on survivors, the Jewish polity in action, and more recently, inadequacies in counting Jews via the Canadian census, and the meaning of the non-Jewish half of hyphenated diaspora-Jewish identities. He received the Marshall Sklare Award in 2013.