MAY 15-18, 2003
Scottsdale, Arizona

Mining the Jewish Tradition for its Healing Wisdom

Presented by

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion,
Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health

Temple Chai of Phoenix
Deutsch Family Shalom Center
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to “Mining the Jewish Tradition for its Healing Wisdom!” We have been looking forward to this long weekend for more than a year, and your presence here demonstrates that the Jewish healing community can continue to grow from serious study. We also believe that it is time to look inward to understand what motivates us in this work.

We have felt obligated to introduce some new texts into the study portion of our equation. There are so many mitzvot about illness and the welfare of people; if Talmud Torah (study of Torah) is equal to the other mitzvot, then certainly we need to expand the study materials that are available to us. We believe you will see evidence of this throughout the conference.

This weekend, you will meet new people who are committed to this work, and you will have the opportunity to visit with them during the free time that has been provided. If you stay awake late enough, perhaps everyone will meet personally every other person at this event. The Chaparral Suites Resort gives us space and refreshment to make this all possible.

We have several people to thank. First and foremost, the leaders of Temple Chai in Phoenix who have created the Deutsch Family Shalom Center, truly a unique institution within American Jewish congregations; and the families of Irving and Lee Kalsman and Mark and Peachy Levy, who created the HUC-JIR Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health. Beyond the generosity and energy of these two remarkable entities, we would like to thank members of the organizing committee and staff of Temple Chai and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles: The wise and indefatigable Lisa Kodmur, assistant director of the Kalsman Institute, staff members Mari Chernow and Elyse Sara (Mari is now Assistant Rabbi designate at Temple Chai) and Jay Abarbanel, our wise counsel and advisor. Jean Abarbanel has worked side by side with us to see that the priorities of the UAHC Department of Jewish Family Concerns are basic to our programming. Our gratitude to Sharona Silverman, Director of the Deutsch Family Shalom Center, and the wonderful staff she has gathered, notably Toni Smeltzer, chair of the conference committee.

And finally, thank you for coming to be with us on a weekend in May. In a season when so many other people are graduating from their studies, ours are just beginning.

Rabbi William C. Berk
Rabbi William Cutter

(two guys named Bill)
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

keynote Speakers

Rabbi Elliot Dorff  
Dr. Arnold Eisen  
Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi  
Dr. Arthur Green

Thursday, May 15

5:00-9:00 p.m. West Foyer  Registration
7:30-9:30 p.m. South Foyer  Opening Program /Life Support: Creative Artistic Response to Infirmity

Presentation by artists Judith Margolis and Albert Winn. Displays by local artisans. Dessert reception.

Friday, May 16

7:00 a.m.-noon West Foyer  Registration
7:00-7:45 a.m. South Foyer  Fitness for Mind, Body and Spirit: Early-morning Yoga
8:00-8:45 a.m. Kiva  T’filah with Robin and Shira Nafshi
9:00-9:45 a.m. Kiva  Welcome and opening remarks

Dr. Lewis Barth, Rabbi William C. Berk, Rabbi Don Goor, Dr. William Cutter

10:00-11:30 a.m. LEARNING SESSION I
A Mohave III The Prophets and Job as Sources for Healing and Holiness (Eskenazi)  (H)
B Kiva Re-reading the Hasidic Masters: Texts on Healing and Transformation (Green)
C Encanto I The Outstretched Arm: A Fundamental Concept in Jewish Healing (Blanchard)
D Mohave I Myths that Hurt, Stories that Heal (Feinstein)
E VIP 170 “To Knit the Heart to God”: Where Psalmist and Modern Poet Meet (Marder)
F Fiesta Healing Body/Healing Soul in Maimonides’ Rationalist Ethics (Tirosh-Samuelson)
G Mohave II Prayers, Blessings, and the Mystery of Healing (Berk/Silverman)
H Granada Encountering Illness Through Art: A Hands-on Workshop (Margolis)

11:45-1:15 p.m. Hacienda  Lunch
1:30-2:30 p.m. Kiva  KEYNOTE / CHOOSE LIFE: AMERICAN JEWS AND THE QUEST FOR HEALING  DR. ARNOLD EISEN

2:45-4:15 p.m. LEARNING SESSION II
A Fiesta The Forlorn: Critical Texts on Infertility (Dorff)
B Mohave I Blame, Risk, or Conundrum: Calculating the Divine Role in Illness and Death (Tractate Shabbat 31b) (Adler)
C VIP 170 Wholeness and Healing: Views from the Rabbinic Period (Barth)  (H)
D Kiva The Broken Heart as the Way to Healing: Rebbe Nachman on the Healing Path (Eilberg)
E Granada Suffering, Empathy, Consolation, and Healing in Midrash Eicha Rabbah (Gereboff)
F Encanto I Rabbinic Stories of Suffering and Healing: Do They Provide Ethical Guidance? (Knobel)
G Mohave II Terms for Terminal: Hebrew Poems About Death and Dying (Cutter)
H Mohave II Proclamations of Liberty and Rest in Parshat BeHar: Musical Translations for Reframing the Biblical Text (Friedman)

4:15-6:00 p.m. Kiva  Free time, prepare for Shabbat
6:00-7:00 p.m. Kiva  Kabbalat Shabbat services
7:15-8:15 p.m. Hacienda Shabbat dinner

8:30-9:30 p.m. Kiva  KEYNOTE / MESHANE BRIOT: CHANGING JEWISH CONCEPTS ABOUT DISABILITY  RABBI ELLIOT DORFF

9:30 p.m. South Foyer  Shmooze and Zmirot
### Saturday, May 17

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<tr>
<td>7:00-7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
<td>The Jew in the Lotus: Early-morning Yoga</td>
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<td>8:00-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Kiva</td>
<td>Shabbat singing with Cantor Sharona Feller</td>
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<td>8:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Kiva</td>
<td>T’filah with Rabbi Don Goor, Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, Rabbi Mordechai Gafni, Debbie Friedman</td>
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| 10:30-11:30 a.m.| Kiva | **KEYNOTE** / “IS THERE NO BALM ...? IS THERE NO HEALER?”<br>(Jeremiah 8:22): BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS ON HOLINESS, HEALTH AND HOPE  
**DR. TAMARA COHN ESKENAZI** |
| 11:45-1:00 p.m.| Hacienda | Lunch                                                                  |
| 1:00-2:30 p.m. |          | Free time                                                              |
| 2:30-3:45 p.m. |          | **LEARNING SESSION III**                                              |
| A Mohave I   |            | Through My Flesh I Vision God: Unique Pathology and the Teachings of Blood (Gafni) |
| B Kiva      |            | Sickness, Health, and the Sacred Order of Torah (Eisen)               |
| C VIP 170   |            | The Forlorn: Critical Texts on Infertility (Dorff) (H)               |
| D Mohave III|            | Blame, Risk, or Conundrum: Calculating the Divine Role in Illness and Death (Tractate Shabbat 31b) (Adler) |
| E Encanto I |            | Wholeness and Healing: Views from the Rabbinic Period (Barth)         |
| F Granada I |            | Terms for Terminal: Hebrew Poems About Death and Dying (Cutter) (H)   |
| G Fiesta II |            | Suffering, Empathy, Consolation, and Healing in Midrash Eicha Rabbah (Gereboff) |
| H Mohave II |            | Proclamations of Liberty and Rest in Parshat BeHar: Musical Translations for Reframing the Biblical Text (Friedman) |
| I Desert    |            | Re-reading the Hasidic Masters: Texts on Healing and Transformation (Green) (H) |
| 4:00-5:15 p.m. |          | **LEARNING SESSION IV**                                               |
| A Fiesta I  |            | My Life Until Now: Art as Text, Order from Chaos, Living with AIDS (Winn) |
| B Mohave I  |            | Myths that Hurt, Stories that Heal (Feinstein)                       |
| C Encanto I |            | Developing Caring Communities: Creating a Synagogue Infrastructure (Abarbanel/Rosen/Zecherle/Wiener) |
| D Fiesta II |            | “To Knit the Heart to God”: Where Psalmist and Modern Poet Meet (Marder) (H) |
| E Kiva      |            | Rethinking God When Healing Won’t Come Any Other Way (Berk)           |
| F VIP 170   |            | Healing Body/Healing Soul in Maimonides’ Rationalist Ethics (Tiros-Samuelson) (H) |
| G Desert    |            | Crossing the Jabok (Gen. 32:23): Insights and Perspectives on Healing from the Early 17th Century Italian Treatise Ma’avar Yabbok (Weintraub) (H) |
| H Granada I |            | The Broken Heart as the Way to Healing: Rebbe Nachman on the Healing Path (Eilberg) |
| 5:15-6:30 p.m. |          | Free time                                                              |
| 6:30-7:50 p.m. | Kiva     | Dinner, storytelling with Rabbi Ed Feinstein                           |
| 8:00-8:20   | Ramada Circle | Havadallah with Debbie Friedman                                        |
| 8:30-9:30 p.m.| Granada | **KEYNOTE** / HEALING THE SELF, HEALING THE COSMOS:  
REFLECTIONS IN THE NEO-HASIDIC SPIRIT  
**DR. ARTHUR GREEN** |
| 9:30 p.m.   | Desert     | Singing, dancing, general merriment                                   |
| 10:00 p.m.  | VIP 170    | HaDracha Ruchanit (Spiritual Guidance): 12-Step Meeting              |

### Sunday, May 18

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:15-8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
<td>Ruach-Breath: Early-morning Yoga</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15-8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Kiva</td>
<td>T’filah with Rabbi Ruth Alpers</td>
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<td>9:00-10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td><strong>LEARNING SESSION V</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A Kiva</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Radical Torah of Eros and Healing in Zohar, Luria and Ishbitz (Gafni)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Paloma III</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sickness, Health, and the Sacred Order of Torah (Eisen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C Mohave III</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Prophets and Job as Sources for Healing and Holiness (Eskenazi)</td>
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<tr>
<td>E Paloma II</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbinic Stories of Suffering and Healing: Do They Provide Ethical Guidance? (Knobel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Mohave III</td>
<td></td>
<td>“…A haven in times of trouble” (Psalm 10:9): Creating Healing Services and Spiritual Support Groups for Your Congregation (Feller/Stern/Alpers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G VIP 170</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crossing the Jabok (Gen. 32:23): Insights and Perspectives on Healing from the Early 17th Century Italian Treatise Ma’avor Yabbok (Weintraub)</td>
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</table>
| 10:45-12:00 p.m.| Kiva | UNDERSTANDING THE DEEP HEALING WISDOM OF OUR TRADITION  
Members of the conference faculty address the challenges and opportunities raised during our weekend of learning. **(Moderated by Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener)** |
CONFERENCE FACULTY

JEAN ABARBANEL  Member of the UAHC National Board since 1991; currently serves as a Vice-Chair of the UAHC. Chair of the UAHC Jewish Family Concerns Committee whose mission is to develop Caring Community and Family Concerns programs within congregations by providing educational resources and programmatic materials. Created Temple Isaiah’s (Los Angeles) “Festival of Jewish Artisans,” an annual two-day event at which 30 international artisans of contemporary Judaica exhibit and sell their work.

DR. RACHEL ADLER  Associate Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Judaism and Gender at HUC-JIR/LA. One of the first theologians to integrate feminist perspectives and concerns into the interpretation of Jewish texts and the renewal of Jewish law and ethics. Author of Engendering Judaism: An Inclusive Theology and Ethics, and of many articles that have broken new ground in contemporary Jewish thought.

RABBI RUTH ALPERS  Jay Stein Director of Human Relations, HUC-JIR/Cincinnati. Formerly associate rabbi at Temple Israel, Boston prior to assuming her duties at HUC-JIR. She is a Board Certified Chaplain, and she is a Supervisory Candidate with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. She serves as campus chaplain in addition to her teaching responsibilities at the College-Institute.

RABBI LEWIS BARTH, PH. D.  Dean of the HUC-JIR/LA campus and Professor of Midrash and Related Literature. He studied at UCLA, HUC-JIR, the University of Chicago, and was ordained at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, where he also earned his doctorate. Rabbi Barth specializes in rabbinic biblical interpretation and the study of manuscripts of Midrash texts. He is also interested in the application of computer technology to the study of Hebrew manuscripts.

RABBI WILLIAM C. BERK, M.A. H. L.  Senior Rabbi, Temple Chai of Phoenix, since 1983. Under his guidance, Temple Chai has done pioneering work in the areas of recovering prayer and Shabbat, deepening adult education, and transforming the synagogue into a healing, caring institution. Past President of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Phoenix and the Paradise Valley Ministerial Association. He has been selected as a Fellow at the Center for Rabbinic Enrichment at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

RABBI TVI BLANCHARD, PH.D.  Director of Organizational Development at CLAL; holds Ph.D. degrees in Philosophy and in Psychology, having practiced clinical and organizational psychology. Has taught at Washington, Northwestern and Loyola Universities as well as the Drisha Institute for Women and the Wexner Heritage Foundation. Recent publications include “How Stories Heal,” “Creating Jewish Learning Communities: A Note on Educating for Communal Responsibility” and a book entitled Embracing Life, Facing Death: a Jewish Guide to Palliative Care.

RABBI WILLIAM CUTTER, PH.D.  Director of the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health, Professor of Hebrew Literature and Steinberg Professor of Human Relations at HUC-JIR/LA, where he also directs chaplaincy programs. Founding director of the College-Institute’s Rhea Hirsch School of Education. Writes on the early 20th century development of modern Hebrew literature, and on issues related to healthcare, especially regarding narrative and illness. Has been an editor for Behrman House Publishers for 21 years and on the faculty of HUC-JIR for 38 years.

RABBI ELLIOT DORFF, PH.D.  Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. Author of more than 150 articles and nine books. Three of his books focus on ethics: Contemporary Jewish Ethics and Morality: A Reader (edited with Louis Newman; Oxford, 1995); Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics (JPS, 1998); and To Do the Right and the Good: A Jewish Approach to Modern Social Ethics (JPS, 2002).

RABBI AMY EILBERG  Co-founder of the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, where she directed the Center’s Jewish Hospice Care Program. Nationally known as a leader of the Jewish healing movement, she lectures and writes on issues of Jewish spirituality and healing. Currently serves as a pastoral counselor and spiritual director in private practice in Palo Alto, California, and Mendota Heights, Minnesota, and as Co-Director of the Morei Derekh Program for Jewish Spiritual Directors.

DR. ARNOLD EISEN  Kosher Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion, Stanford University. Author of numerous books and articles about contemporary Jewish life and thought in America and Israel; works closely with synagogue and federation leadership around the country in thinking through issues of Jewish identity, the revitalization of Jewish tradition and the redefinition of the American Jewish community. Recent publications include a personal essay, Taking Hold of Torah (1997); Rethinking Modern Judaism: Ritual, Commandment, Community (1998); and The Jew Within (2000), co-authored with sociologist Steven M. Cohen.
Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi  Professor of Bible, HUC-JIR/Los Angeles. Prior to joining HUC-JIR, Dr. Eskenazi taught at the University of Denver and was also Director of its Institute for Interfaith Studies. Dr. Eskenazi is a biblical scholar specializing in Second Temple Period and Feminist Studies, and has published widely in her field. She is presently completing a commentary on Ezra-Nehemiah for the Anchor Bible Series and is also Editor-in-Chief of the forthcoming WRJ Women’s Commentary on the Torah.

Rabbi Ed Feinstein  Rabbi at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California and a faculty member at the University of Judaism, the Wexner Heritage Foundation, and Synagogue 2000. His first book, Tough Questions Jews Ask, is available from Jewish Lights. Rabbi Feinstein lives in the epicenter of the San Fernando Valley with wife Nina and their three children. Every Friday afternoon, he bakes brownies from a recipe revealed to his ancestors at Mount Sinai.

Cantor Sharona Feller  Cantor at Temple Chai in Phoenix for the past 19 years; has implemented programs such as women’s minyanim and study groups, women’s seders, Rosh Chodesh services and programs, an annual women’s retreat and interfaith Thanksgiving services. Received her degree in Ethnomusicology from UCLA, and her cantorial training from HUC-JIR with Cantor William Sharlin. She was the cantor at Beth Chayim Chadashim in Los Angeles and for five years was the cantor at Temple Jeremiah in Northfield, Illinois.

Debbie Friedman  Musician, composer and interpreter of liturgy, a teacher and source of much power in the Jewish healing movement. Debbie has recorded 19 albums, and her 1996 Carnegie Hall concert celebrated the 25th anniversary of her distinguished musical career. She has performed in hundreds of cities in the United States, Canada, Europe and Israel, and has been honored by numerous organizations for her inspirational music. Debbie’s music gives voice to the soul - the soul of individuals and the soul of our People.

Rabbi Mordechai Gafni  Teacher of graduate seminars on mysticism at Oxford University in England; founder and head of Bayit Chadash. Overlooking Israel’s Sea of Galilee, Bayit Chadash is an international spiritual community retreat center committed to Jewish renaissance. Author of several books including Soul Prints, subject of a PBS Special and winner of the Napra Award for Best American Spirituality Book. Host/creator of a weekly TV show in Israel.

Dr. Joel Gereboff  Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Arizona State University and Visiting Associate Professor of Religious Studies at HUC-JIR/LA. Received his Ph.D. at Brown University, BA at NYU and additional course work at Seminary College JTSA. Has taught in many Jewish community settings, including adult studies, Jewish high school and summer camp. His research and publications are in the areas of Jewish ethics, rabbinics and American Jewish collective memory.

Rabbi Arthur Green, Ph.D.  Philip W. Lown Professor of Jewish Thought at Brandeis University. Both a historian of Jewish religion and a theologian; his work seeks to form a bridge between these two distinct fields of endeavor. Has taught Jewish mysticism, Hasidism, and theology to several generations of students at the University of Pennsylvania and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (where he served as both Dean and President). Author of several books, including Tormented Master: A Life of Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav and his most recent book EHYEH: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow.

Rabbi Peter S. Knobel, Ph.D.  Senior Rabbi at Beth Emet The Free Synagogue in Evanston, Illinois. Ordained at HUC-JIR in 1969 and received his Ph.D. from Yale University. Has served on the Board of many local and national institutions and currently chairs the CCAR’s New Siddur Editorial Committee and heads up a new project in pastoral bioethics in conjunction with HUC-JIR’s Kalsman Institute. Has published papers on Assisted Suicide, Zionism, Reform Judaism, Dietary Laws, Spirituality, Rites of Passages, Cloning, and Homosexuality.

Rabbi Sheldon Marder  Chaplain of the Jewish Home, San Francisco, a skilled nursing facility with 430 Jewish residents and a staff of 630. Ordained in 1978 at HUC-JIR/NY, he has served congregations, hospitals, Jewish social agencies and the Los Angeles campus of HUC-JIR as its associate dean and rabbinical school director. He studies and teaches Psalms and Hebrew poetry. His essay “A Jewish Way of Thinking about Nursing Homes” appears in That You May Live Long (UAHC, 2003).
Judith Margolis, MFA
Israel-based American artist whose work addresses such topics as sexual violence in media, the technological conflict between prolonging life and relieving suffering and, most recently, an artist’s response to the political tensions in the Middle East. Educated at Cooper Union in NYC and University of Southern California; art editor and contributing writer for Nashim, Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues. Her work can be viewed at www.judithmargolis.com.

Harriet H. Rosen
Member of the UAHC’s Jewish Family Concerns Committee and a UAHC Pacific Southwest Council regional representative. Author of Kehilat Chesed: Creating and Sustaining a Caring Congregation, edited the Alef-Bet of Marriage and wrote its accompanying facilitator’s manual. Her essay, “Death is Inevitable, but Being Prepared Isn’t,” is included in That You May Live Long (UAHC 2002). At Temple Har Zion in Toronto, she created and ran its first Caring Community Committee involving over 100 volunteers.

Howard Silverman, M.D.
A graduate of Purdue University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University School of Medicine. Currently serves as Banner Health’s Director of Medical Informatics and Clinical Innovation where he has organizational responsibility for creating synergy between care transformation activities, clinical innovation and information technology. He is a Clinical Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and author of HEALING CEREMONIES: Creating Personal Rituals for Spiritual, Emotional, Physical and Mental Health.

Rabbi Shira Stern
Director, Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care of The HealthCare Chaplaincy in NYC; has been at the forefront of Jewish religious, educational, and social justice concerns. Received her formal chaplaincy education at the JIPC. Board certified by the National Association of Jewish Chaplains, and serves on its board of directors. Among the early group of women ordained by HUC-JIR in 1983. Served on the pulpit of the Monroe Township Jewish Center (NJ) for 13 years and as Middlesex County’s Director of Jewish Chaplaincy for 3 1/2 years.

Dr. Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University in Tempe. Has taught at Indiana University, Emory University, Columbia University and HUC-JIR. Received her Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1978) in Jewish philosophy and mysticism. Author of Between Worlds: The Life and Thought of R. David ben Judah Messer Leon (1991); editor of Judaism and Ecology: Created World and Revealed World (2002) and the upcoming volume On Being Human: Women and Gender in Jewish Philosophy.

Rabbi Nancy H. Wiener, D.Min.
Clinical Director of the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling (HUC-JIR/NY) and rabbi of the Pound Ridge Jewish Community. Author of Beyond Breaking the Glass: A Spiritual Guide to Your Jewish Wedding, and Meeting at the Well: A Jewish Spiritual Guide to Being Engaged. Articles have appeared in New Menorah Journal, A Women’s Torah Commentary, Lesbian Rabbis, and CCAR Journal. Leads workshops on marriage, sexual orientation, end-of-life decision making.

Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, C.S.W.

Albert J. Winn, M.F.A.
Photographer, writer, and performance/installation artist. Received an NEA/Western States Arts Federation Fellowship, in 1993, for “My Life Until,” a collection of photographs and stories chronicling his life as a gay Jewish man living with AIDS. Received a fellowship for “Summer Joins the Past,” about deserted and abandoned Jewish summer camps. Creator of “Blood on the Doorpost...the AIDS Mezuzah” installed at the Judah L. Magnus Museum in Berkeley, in 1996, for World AIDS Day. His work is in numerous permanent collections and private collections.

Joan Zecherle
Co-chair of the Caring Committee for the Deutsch Family Shalom Center of Temple Chai of Phoenix. A Traditional Thai and Swedish massage practitioner since 1995 and a certified member of the Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals. Currently pursuing a BA in Human Health Studies (study of Complementary and Alternative Medicine) from Arizona State University East with a minor in Religious Studies and is a student member of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains.
Deepest thanks to our generous donors

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Department of Religious Living/Synagogue Music
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National Center for Jewish Healing
Bay Area Jewish Healing Center
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Mari Chernow, Rabbinic Intern, Kalsman Institute
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Rabbi Don Goor, Chair, Kalsman Institute Steering Committee
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