

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2013

CONTACT: Josh Kamensky
323.205.6634
jkamensky@hersheycare.com

Study of Jewish Planned Giving Suggests Charities Are “Leaving Millions on the Table”

Latest Data Release from Nationwide Study “Connected to Give” Finds Jews More Likely To Have Wills and Charitable Bequests, Significant Opportunities Exist for Cause-Based Fundraisers

(Los Angeles, CA—October 10, 2013) Jumpstart released *Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies* today, the first in a series of topical reports based upon the wealth of data from the National Study of American Jewish Giving, a survey of nearly 3,000 American Jewish households.

“Too many of us in philanthropy think of a charitable bequest as a conclusion to a lifetime of giving,” said co-author Dr. Shawn Landres, co-founder of Jumpstart, the philanthropic research and design lab that spearheaded the project. “This report teaches us that it’s time to start thinking of it as a beginning.”

“Planned giving” refers to charitable contributions pledged through provisions in wills or estate planning documents. *Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies* compared Jews on all sides of planned giving – those with and without wills, those whose wills do and do not contain provisions for charitable bequests, and those whose charitable bequests do and do not include Jewish causes.

“For any organization that doesn’t yet have a planned giving program, this report should spur them to create one,” said Lisa Farber Miller, Rose Community Foundation’s Jewish Life senior program officer. “For any organization that does have one, this should push them to broaden it beyond the likely prospects: older and wealthier donors. Not only is there room to grow by asking middle-income, younger donors, and long-time donors who give consistent, smaller gifts for charitable bequests, but when we do, we strengthen our relationships with them for a lifetime of giving.”

Kate Conn, CEO of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, noted the risks of inaction. “Organizations are leaving millions of dollars on the table by not placing planned giving front and center in their philanthropic efforts,” she said. “The data upends any concern that asking for a planned gift might make donors shy away from regular giving. In fact, donors with charitable bequests give more at every level.”

Marjory Kaplan, President and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego, agreed. “Planned giving is one of the most powerful tools donors have,” she said. “These gifts ensure the continuity of their Jewish values through the organizations they care most about.”

The findings bear out a theme established in the previous report, *Connected to Give: Key Findings*, that Jewish social engagement drives charitable giving to non-Jewish and Jewish causes alike. “Planned givers tend to have moderate to high social engagement with the Jewish community,” said Dr. Landres. “They show up at services, they’re building a family in their faith. Our findings tell us that organizations

concerned about long term financial sustainability ought to start with two questions: first, are they nurturing Jewish connection among their most important prospects? And second, are they talking with their most loyal current supporters about their legacies?”

BY THE NUMBERS

Among the many findings in *Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies* is that...

- 74% of the study's Jewish respondents have a will...
 - ...of whom 32% (23% of total) included a charitable bequest
- compared to 60% of non-Jewish respondents who have a will...
 - ...of whom 20% (12% of total) included a charitable bequest
- A large majority – 66% – of respondents whose wills include a charitable bequest have a bequest to a Jewish cause
- 45% of respondents who belong to Jewish organizations are planned givers, compared to 15% of non-members, reinforcing the main “Connected to Give” argument

Connected to Give draws on the National Study of American Jewish Giving, the National Study of American religious giving (nearly 2,000 households from other religious groups), a major comparative study of religious, ethnic, and other community-based giving circles, and a series of focus groups. The next in the series of *Connected to Give* reports, expected in late November, will focus on charitable giving by different faith communities in America.

Connected to Give is funded and led by a national collaborative consortium of more than a dozen independent, family and community foundations and organizations. New funders are continuing to join the effort; current partners include Andrea & Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation, Emanuel J. Friedman Philanthropies, Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego/Leichtag Family Foundation Partnership, Koret Foundation, Lippman Kanfer Family Foundation, Marcus Foundation, Joseph Meyerhoff and Rebecca Meyerhoff Awards Committee, Jack and Goldie Wolfe Miller Fund, The Morningstar Foundation, The Natan Fund, Rose Community Foundation (Denver), Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and Birthright Israel NEXT. Additional support was provided by Mandell Berman.

Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies and the previous report, *Connected to Give: Key Findings*, are available for download at <http://www.connectedtogive.org>.

Jumpstart is a 501(c)(3) philanthropic research & design lab based in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit <http://jumpstartlabs.org> or email connect@jumpstartlabs.org.

CONNECTED TO GIVE

NATIONAL STUDY OF AMERICAN JEWISH GIVING

CONNECTEDTOGIVE.ORG

Media Guidelines

Media Contact

All requests for public information, media interviews, filming projects and commercial photography for the *Connected to Give* report should be directed to Josh Kamensky at Hershey Cause Communications, jkamensky@hersheycause.com. We will make every effort to work within media deadlines. Some requests require detailed information and may take additional time to conduct the necessary research.

Interviews

The official spokespeople for *Connected to Give* are Joshua Avedon and Shawn Landres, cofounders of Jumpstart. Interviews with them and/or additional members of the research team and funders should be arranged through Hershey Cause Communications using the contact information listed above. We will work with you to schedule interviews as quickly as possible.

CONNECTED TO GIVE

NATIONAL STUDY OF AMERICAN JEWISH GIVING

CONNECTEDTOGIVE.ORG

FACT SHEET

Connected to Give is the first comprehensive nationwide study of American giving by religion.

Connected to Give is based on nationally representative surveys of 2,911 American Jewish households and 1,951 households from other religious groups, focus groups and ethnographic research.

More than $\frac{3}{4}$ (76%) of American Jews across all age and income levels make charitable gifts of \$25 or more annually.

American Jews give broadly to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations; 92% give to non-Jewish organizations. The top causes supported by Jews include basic needs (54%), health care (42%), religious congregation/ministry (39%) and combined purpose (48%).

Median annual giving by Jews is \$1,200.

Engagement with the Jewish community, as measured by *Connected to Give*'s index of Jewish social engagement, is a key predictor of Jewish charitable giving. The index tracks four key measures: attendance at religious services, being married within the Jewish community, proportion of Jewish friends, and volunteering with a religious or charitable organization. It is also a very strong predictor of whether or not Jews give to Jewish causes and organizations.

As income levels rise among American Jews, so does the incidence of charitable giving. 60% of Jewish households earning less than \$50,000 make a charitable contribution, 76% among those earning \$50,000-\$99,999, 86% among those earning \$100,000-\$199,999 and 91% among those earning \$200,000 or more annually.

Age is not a driving factor in whether Jews give, but it is a factor in where they give. Younger donors (18-39 years old) are more likely to give to non-Jewish causes and less likely to give to combined purpose organizations (e.g., Jewish federations or United Way).

Younger Jews are more open to innovative new giving practices: younger Jews (18-39) are more likely to have made charitable contributions via text message, crowdfunding websites or giving circles than their older counterparts.

With respect to giving motivations, American Jews cited the "feeling that those who have more should help those with less," "a belief that my charitable giving will help make the world a better place," and "the feeling that I am fortunate and want to give back to society" as extremely or very important reasons in why they give (57% respectively).

Jumpstart spearheaded *Connected to Give* in collaboration with a national consortium of funders and an expert team of field-leading researchers.

Connected to Give is a series of reports. The first report in the series is *Connected to Give: Key Findings*, released on September 3, 2013. The second report is *Connected to Give: Jewish Legacies*, released on October 10, 2013. The next report, on giving among diverse faith communities in America, is expected in late November 2013.

Research Team Bios

Jumpstart is a research and development laboratory for the Jewish future that the *Jerusalem Post* says has “changed the global conversation about Jewish innovation.” Jumpstart connects philanthropic and nonprofit leaders across the globe with innovative approaches to community building, inspiring and equipping them with the knowledge, relationships, and hands-on support they need to achieve measurable impact, build stronger communities, and transform the world. Jumpstart’s original research and publications include *The Innovation Ecosystem: Emergence of a New Jewish Landscape* (2009, with The Natan Fund and The Samuel Bronfman Foundation); *Haskalah 2.0* (2010, with JESNA’s Lippman Kanfer Institute and Jewish Federations of North America); *Key Findings from the 2010 Survey of New Jewish Initiatives in Europe* (2010, with Pears Foundation and the ROI Community); *The Jewish Innovation Economy: An Emerging Market for Knowledge and Social Capital* (2011, with The Natan Fund and The Samuel Bronfman Foundation), *LA 2013: the Jewish Future — only sooner* (2013), and *Connected to Give* (2013).

Shawn Landres (Key Findings and Jewish Legacies co-author), co-founder & CEO of Jumpstart, connects people, ideas, and resources for social good. He brings more than two decades of experience in academic and third sector leadership, network building, and organizational development, including projects funded by the U.S. State Department and the British government. Shawn has co-edited four books on topics as diverse as the practice of ethnography; the interreligious impact of the film *The Passion of the Christ*; the intersection of religion, violence, memory, and place; and a campaign biography of Bill Clinton. He serves on the Program Committee for the American Academy of Religion, the world’s largest learned society and professional association for teaching, research, and the public understanding of religion; and the *Sh’ma* Advisory Committee. He holds advanced certification from 21/64 as a consultant/trainer in multigenerational family philanthropy and is certified as a facilitator by the Center for Leadership Initiatives. Prior to launching Jumpstart, Shawn served as Director of Research for Synagogue 3000, where he managed the launch of the S3K Synagogue Studies Institute, launched the widely read S3K Reports series and Synablog, and conceived S3K’s Jewish Emergent Initiative. He has taught at UC Santa Barbara, the University of Judaism (now the American Jewish University), Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic, and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Shawn holds degrees in religion and social anthropology from Columbia University (B.A.), the University of Oxford (M.St. with distinction), and the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he earned a Ph.D. in religious studies. In 2009 the *Forward* named him to its list of the 50 most influential American Jewish leaders, calling him “an essential thinker in explaining the new Jewish spirituality and culture.” Shawn received a 2012 Ted Comet Exemplar Award, given once every four years by the Jewish Communal Service Association of North America and the World Council of Jewish Communal Service; and in 2013 received the Liberty Hill Foundation’s

NextGen Leadership Award. The White House featured Shawn as a “spotlight innovator” and speaker at its 2012 Faith-based Social Innovators Conference.

Joshua Avedon, co-founder and COO of Jumpstart, is a social entrepreneur and educator. Joshua has spent the last several years writing, teaching, and advocating around the globe for innovation within the Jewish community. He is a recognized leader in forward-thinking use of technology, viral communication, and community-building strategies within the world of emerging Jewish organizations. He serves as an advisor to a number of new Jewish initiatives and their leaders, developing the knowledge and connections necessary for social entrepreneurs and resource providers to make strategic choices about building the Jewish future. In addition to his work at Jumpstart, he is one of the founders of IKAR, one of the largest and most successful Jewish emergent communities in the country. He has written extensively on Jewish innovation, including many Jumpstart publications and a master’s thesis on IKAR which examines how best practices from the for-profit management world, tipping point strategies, and social networking were used to create a dynamic new model for Jewish community. He was recently selected as an inaugural American Jewish World Service (AJWS) Global Justice Fellow, is a member of the Selah Leadership Network, and is a CLI-certified facilitator. Joshua has a B.A. from UC Berkeley in Mass Communications as well as an M.B.A. in nonprofit management from the American Jewish University.

The Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University creates new knowledge that increases understanding of philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Its credibility and methodological rigor set the standard for the field. Cutting-edge information developed by the School’s in-house research staff and peer-reviewed faculty identifies emerging trends, challenges conventional wisdom, and provides invaluable insights into philanthropic organizations and practices. Leading national and regional organizations also contract with the School to analyze the dynamics of changes taking place in philanthropy, assess the philanthropic landscape, and evaluate their programs. The School shares knowledge widely, with nonprofit professionals around the world and with the general public, through a variety of means, including: training, academic and practitioner publications, electronic communications, and the mainstream news media. The School has a global mission to increase the understanding and improve the practice of philanthropy. The School’s work includes the Center on Philanthropy Panel Study, a major, long-running survey of households that is conducted in partnership with the University of Michigan’s Panel Study of Income Dynamics. The Center also offers instruction around the world and their research has been emulated in Europe and Asia. Publications that they have prepared range from the annual Giving USA to specialized studies conducted for American Express, Aspen Institute, Bank of America, Target, the National Football League, United Way Worldwide, among many others. Their expertise includes knowledge of charitable giving, volunteering, and donor motivations for giving and for stopping giving, as well as nonprofit

management with a focus on overhead expenses and how those are funded, and compensation in the nonprofit sector, including whether or not there is pay for performance in the nonprofit sector.

Una O. Osili (principal investigator) is Director of Research at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, a leading academic center dedicated to increasing the understanding of philanthropy and improving its practice worldwide. She leads the Center's extensive research program for its partners including Bank of America, United Way Worldwide, United Student Aid Funds, the Alban Institute, and National Collegiate Athletic Association. Dr. Osili provides guidance for the research for Giving USA, which is published by Giving USA Foundation. She also directs the Center's signature research project, the Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS). COPPS is the largest and most comprehensive study of the philanthropy of American families over time, and is conducted in partnership with the University of Michigan's Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). An internationally recognized expert on philanthropy, Dr. Osili frequently speaks across the country on issues related to national and international trends in philanthropy and has been quoted by national news media outlets such as *The New York Times*, the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* and *Nonprofit Times*. She has served as a member of several national and international advisory groups, including the Social Science Research Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Program. In 2006, she received the Stevenson Fellowship from the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council. In 2007, she was appointed as a fellow of the Networks Financial Institute. She has served as a past or current board member for several nonprofit organizations, including the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis, the Immigrant Welcome Center, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Richard's School. Dr. Osili is a prolific researcher with an extensive body of published research. She earned her B.A. in Economics at Harvard University, and her M.A., and Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University.

Debra Mesch is a Professor of Public and Nonprofit Management in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and is the Director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. She currently serves as Chair of the Philanthropic Studies faculty at Indiana University. She received both her M.B.A. and Ph.D. in organizational behavior/human resource management from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Prior to coming to Indiana University, she taught at Simmons College and Northeastern University College of Business Administration in Boston. Dr. Mesch's recent research agenda has focused on women's philanthropy, issues of civic engagement, volunteer motivation and management, executive compensation in nonprofits, human resource management in nonprofits, diversity, and race and gender issues in giving and volunteering. She recently published a paper examining differences in Jewish philanthropy, sex and type of giving.

Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm is Professor of Economics and Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University-

Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). He conducts empirical research on prosocial behavior. His recent work includes articles about the intergenerational transmission of generosity, experiences of family instability/low income during adolescence and subsequent giving/volunteering in young adulthood, empathic concern and moral principles as correlates of prosocial behavior, and the relationship between religious affiliation and giving to organizations that help people with basic needs. This work is published in a wide variety of journals such as the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Adolescence*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *Nashim*. His current research projects are about the transmission of generosity from parents to children, taxes and giving, the principle of care, and experiments to measure altruistic motivation. His earlier prosocial behavior research dealt with voter support for public assistance and help given within the family. He was the Founding Director of the ongoing *Center on Philanthropy Panel Study* (COPPS), the United States' authoritative family-level data on charitable giving. Professor Ottoni-Wilhelm earned his Ph.D. in Economics from NYU.

GBA Strategies is a leader in public opinion research, strategic planning, communications, and project management. It works on behalf of a wide range of clients, including political campaigns, nonprofit organizations, advocacy leaders, labor unions, Fortune 500 companies, and civic groups. The principals bring over 40 years of combined experience with expertise in survey research and strategic consulting in corporate communications, branding strategy, international relations, crisis management, and political campaigns at all levels of government.

Jim Gerstein (Key Findings and Jewish Legacies co-author) is a founding partner of GBA Strategies, offering clients a unique blend of experience in managing nonprofit organizations, strategic research and planning, and communications for large scale projects ranging from U.S. presidential campaigns, to international peace efforts, to crisis management for corporations. Gerstein has conducted hundreds of focus groups and surveys across the United States and four continents. He appears on television and radio to discuss public opinion on a range of issues, including U.S. politics, foreign policy, and the beliefs and values of the Millennial generation. For 10 years, Gerstein served as the Executive Director of Democracy Corps; under his leadership, the organization increased its annual budget seven-fold, initiated successful collaborations with public interest groups, and dramatically increased the organization's impact on our national debate. Gerstein received an M.A. in Middle East History at Tel Aviv University and a B.A. in philosophy at Colgate University.

Michael Bocian, founding partner at GBA Strategies, serves as pollster and strategist for gubernatorial, senate, congressional, state legislative, mayoral and ballot initiative campaigns. With 15 years of experience, he has worked for the DGA, DCCC, DSCC, issue advocacy groups, membership

associations and corporate clients. Prior to joining GBA Strategies, Bocian was a principal at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, a global opinion research and consulting firm where he worked for 10 years. There he led the firm's energy, environment and conservation practice, working with Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, Defenders of Wildlife, as well as coalitions of conservation groups on issues such as clean air and clean water, forests, and renewable energy. Bocian has also worked with utilities and energy companies on a range of issues including global warming, customer satisfaction and mergers and acquisitions. Bocian is a frequent presenter and has appeared on MSNBC, CSPAN, Fox News, NPR, and in numerous publications including the Washington Post. Prior to joining Greenberg Quinlan Rosner in 2001, Bocian helped develop the emerging field of online polling at Knowledge Networks. Along with CBS Polling Director Kathy Frankovic, Bocian won an award for Excellence in Performance and Leadership of Online Research (EXPLOR) for their work in measuring immediate public response to the 2000 presidential debates. Bocian also served as an election analyst for CNN during the 2000 elections. Bocian received a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University.

Steven M. Cohen (Key Findings co-author) is Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner. In the past, he served as Professor at The Melton Centre for Jewish Education; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Queens College, CUNY. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Brandeis University, Yale University, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He has written or edited a dozen books and hundreds of scholarly articles and reports on such issues as Jewish community, Jewish identity, and Jewish education. With Arnold Eisen, he wrote *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America*. Steven is also the co-author with Charles Liebman of *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experiences*, as well as *Cosmopolitans and Parochials: Modern Orthodox Jews in America* with Samuel Heilman. His earlier books include *American Modernity & Jewish Identity* and *American Assimilation or Jewish Revival?* He co-authored *A Journey of Heart and Mind: Transformative Jewish in Adulthood*, a monograph on Jewish identities of Great Britain, and, most recently, *Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary*. His current research interests extend to emerging forms of Jewish community and identity among younger Jews in the United States. He received a B.A. from Columbia College and a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Hershey Cause Communications is a mission-driven strategic marketing and communications agency that creates positive social change on behalf of companies, foundations, nonprofits and the public sector.

Based in Los Angeles, the agency also provides communication tools and training to over 20,000 nonprofit organizations in over 25 countries. For more information, visit www.hersheycause.com.

Sian Winship, Senior Advisor for Research, has been leveraging strategic planning and qualitative research for social change for over a decade. Sian has designed and implemented original communications research assessing audience perceptions, testing terminology and messaging as well as comprehensive issue coverage analysis for such diverse fields as economic development, corporate-community partnerships, education, workforce development, family strengthening, substance use disorders, and the rights of the public in the digital age. Sian is also deeply experienced with grantee assessments and evaluation. Sian's research for foundations and nonprofit organizations has been widely published, including "Hidden Agendas: Stereotypes and Cultural Barriers to Corporate-Community Partnerships," 2004 and "Perception vs. Reality: Employer Perceptions and the Re-Branding of Workforce Intermediaries," (Workforce Intermediaries for the 21st Century, Temple University Press in association with The American Assembly, Columbia University, 2004).

Sarah Bunin Benor (ethnographic research team leader) is Associate Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles campus) and Adjunct Associate Professor in the University of Southern California Linguistics Department. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in Linguistics in 2004. She has published several papers about Jewish languages, linguistics, Yiddish, American Jews, and Orthodox Jews. Her book, *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism*, recently was published by Rutgers University Press. Dr. Benor edits the Jewish Language Research Website and moderates the Jewish Languages Mailing List, both of which she founded.

Evelyn Dean-Olmsted received her Ph.D. in linguistic anthropology from Indiana University in 2012 and is currently an instructor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Her research addresses how members of diasporic and minority groups use language to craft distinctive identities and position themselves within complex social landscapes. Her dissertation ("Speaking Shami: Syrian Jewish Language Practices as Strategies of Integration and Legitimation") explores these processes among young Mexicans of Syrian Jewish descent. She has received grants and fellowships from agencies including Fulbright-Hays, the Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. She is co-creator and administrator of the collaborative website of the Sephardi-Mizrahi Studies Caucus of the Association for Jewish Studies and creator of a new Jewish-Latino Lexicon website in collaboration with Dr. Sarah Bunin Benor. She is also active in local initiatives to forge relationships between Jewish and Latino community leaders in the St. Louis area.

Ayala Fader is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Fordham University, where she teaches courses on religion, gender, language, cities and childhood. She has published articles on Hasidic childrearing, Yiddish-English bilingualism and literacy, and the politics of Jewish ethnography, as well as spirituality and neoliberalism in an Upper West Side synagogue. Her book, *Mitzvah Girls: Bringing Up the Next Generation of Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn* (2009 Princeton) won a National Jewish Book Award, a New York City Book Award and a “highly commended” citation by the Clifford Geertz Prize of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion at the American Anthropological Association. She has received numerous fellowships in support of her work, most recently from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Kari Dunn Saratovsky has spent her career working in both the government and nonprofit sectors building strategic alliances, directing programs and facilitating national efforts that advance social change. Her favorite role however, is that of connector—connecting passionate people, good ideas and new approaches to create meaningful impact. Prior to establishing KDS Strategies, Kari served as Vice President of Social Innovation at the Case Foundation. As a member of the Foundation’s senior leadership, Kari helped set the programmatic direction of the Foundation and managed cross-sector partnerships that helped strengthen civic engagement and leverage technology to accelerate new approaches to giving and philanthropy. Kari also served as publisher of the highly regarded Social Citizens blog, and writes and speaks extensively on the rising generation of Millennials and how they are changing the nature of nonprofits and institutions. Kari also was Executive Director of the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, a presidential commission to support and expand volunteer service throughout the country and around the world. Kari is an avid volunteer and currently serves as Chair of the Board of Mobilize.org, is on the board of Repair the World and an advisor to the new start-up, Fuse Corps.

Shaul Kelner, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, specializes in the sociology of contemporary Jewish experience. His research analyzes how culture and politics intersect to shape Jewish life. His award-winning book, *Tours That Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage and Israeli Birthright Tourism* (NYU Press, 2010), examines how modern mass travel is being drafted into the service of Jewish nationalism and transnationalism. Other work focuses on social movements as agents of change, and includes studies of the American mobilization to free Soviet Jews (1964-1991) and of the present-day environmental movement in Israel. With a grant from the AVI CHAI Foundation, he is also studying how shifting power dynamics in American Jewish philanthropy are reshaping the landscape of Jewish cultural production. Professor Kelner received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the City University of New York, which he attended as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. Professor Kelner has been a Fellow of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Institute for Advanced Studies, and a visiting scholar in Tel Aviv University’s Department of



Sociology and Anthropology. For his book, *Tours That Bind*, he is the recipient of the Association for Jewish Studies' 2010 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the category of Social Science, Anthropology and Folklore.