

# JTS Gladstein Conference Speakers 2018

## “Innovation and Managing Change”



**Rabbi Elan Babchuck** - *Director of Innovation, Clal*

I'm a rabbi and an entrepreneur, and spend much of my time exploring the rich intersections between these two traditions, and the abundant possibilities therein. I'm committed to leaving behind a world that is more compassionate, connected, and just than the one I found, and - in pursuit of that commitment - I am the Founding Director of Glean Network, an incubator and network for entrepreneurs who are building new models of faith in action, and Director of Innovation at Clal, a think-tank focused on the future of faith in America. I'm blessed to live and learn with my wife, Lizzie Pollock and our two children, Micah and Nessa, in Providence, Rhode Island. [gleannetwork.org/our-team](http://gleannetwork.org/our-team)



**Joey Weisenberg** - *Creative director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute*

Joey Weisenberg is the Creative Director of Mechon Hadar's Rising Song Institute, which seeks to empower Jewish community-building through music. Joey works to educate and train communities around the world to unlock their musical and spiritual potential, and to make music a lasting and joy-filled force in shul and in Jewish life. Joey runs workshops and trainings across the country and has authored *Building Singing Communities*, and *The Torah of Music* published by Mechon Hadar and winner of a National Jewish Book Award. Joey is a multi-instrumental musician, singer, and composer. His nigunim, published in 6 CDs and a Songbook, have become popular worldwide. [joeyweisenberg.com](http://joeyweisenberg.com)



**Yael Shy** - *Senior Director of the NYU Global Spiritual Life Center*

Yael Shy is the Senior Director of the NYU Global Spiritual Life Center, Founder and Director of MindfulNYU, Director of the Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership, as well as the author of the award-winning book, *What Now? Meditation for Your Twenties and Beyond* (Parallax, November 2017) #whatnowbook. Yael co-founded the Jewish Meditation Center of Brooklyn, and in 2009, founded MindfulNYU. In 2010, Yael was named one of the “36 under 36” change-makers transforming the Jewish world by the Jewish Week newspaper. She completed the Jewish Meditation Teacher Training Program at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and has led meditation workshops, classes and retreats all over the country and world. [yaelshy.com/about/](http://yaelshy.com/about/)



**Laynie Soloman** - *Director of National Learning & Talmud Faculty*

Laynie is a passionate teacher of Jewish text, thought, and tradition, and they believe deeply in the power of Talmud study as a healing and liberatory spiritual practice. They have spent several years learning and teaching in various *batei midrash* (homes for Jewish learning) including at Hadar, an egalitarian yeshiva in NYC, where they currently serve as an adjunct faculty member. Laynie is completing a Dual M.A. in Talmud/Rabbinic Literature & Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and holds a B.A. in Religious Studies. They love facilitating experiences of Jewish learning that uplift the piously irreverent, queer, and subversive spirit of rabbinic text and theology. They have taught and lectured on these topics in various community spaces, campuses, and in academic settings. [svara.org/svara-staff/](http://svara.org/svara-staff/)