

## Anshai Torah's 2019 Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence Welcomes Rabbi Naomi Levy

January 25-27

by Deb Silverthorn

"For each of us, finding our voice in prayer and talking to God is different, and many feel unconnected to a particular 'script.' It's important to find your own voice and whatever part of our tradition allows you to feel and call prayer your own," said Rabbi Naomi Levy. Inspiring and encouraging guests through *A Shabbat of Soul*, Rabbi Levy is the author of *Einstein and the Rabbi – Searching for the Soul, To Begin Again, Talking to God* and *Hope Will Find You*, as well as founder and leader of Nashuva, a Los Angeles-based Jewish spiritual outreach movement.



Deborah Lipstadt and David Makovsky. "Arnie, of blessed memory, whose passion was learning, life through a Jewish lens, and keeping up with new perspectives, would enjoy the community learning that the Scholar-In-Residence program brings."

"Our family believes dearly in the value of the opportunity to meet and hear in person lessons from leaders in our Jewish world, and Rabbi Levy is paramount in that realm," said Janice. "We're sure that the dialogue we'll have will live on beyond our time together."

The Scholar in Residence, presented by Janice and Art Weinberg, Cindy and Mitch Moskowitz, and Cathy and Joel Brook, will feature a Lunch & Learn at noon on Friday and will explore *Talking to God - Finding Your Voice Through Personal Prayer*. During Friday's 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat service, Rabbi Levy will speak about *First Steps - The Push Needed to Part the Sea*, and then *Einstein and the Rabbi - Insights about the Soul* following dinner.

At the 9:30am Shabbat service Rabbi Levy will speak about *Repairing Our Lives, Repairing Our World*, with more conversation after lunch.

"I'm excited to welcome Rabbi Levy. Her book *Einstein and the Rabbi* is a beautiful expression of her ability to derive Jewish values from life's daily twists and turns," said Rabbi Stefan Weinberg. "Rabbi Levy is a master at finding and explicating value lessons from our daily encounters. Blessed with a strong Jewish background, she's carved a unique niche for herself, enabling those who follow her a glimpse into her spiritually compelling life, which is certain to inspire everyone who joins us."

The recently published *Einstein and the Rabbi, Searching for the Soul* shares an exploration behind a moving and mystical letter that Albert Einstein wrote to a grieving father about the unity that underlies all existence. Through the letter, capturing the human condition, Rabbi Levy shares a journey of wisdom, empathy and humor while helping readers understand why we are here.

"Rabbi Levy comes to us a meaningful guest—another visiting our community in the spirit of learning and growth the way that Arnie did," said Janice Sweet Weinberg, speaking on behalf of her family, who has gifted the community the prowess of Rabbis Bradley Artson, Sharon Brous, Ed Feinstein, Daniel Gordis, Yitz Greenberg, and Rabbi Donniel Hartman, as well as Yossi Halevi Klein, Dr.

While other four-year-olds wanted to become artists, firemen, and astronauts, Rabbi Levy, a New York native and now married to Robert Eshman and the mother of Adi and Noa, knew even then she wanted to be a rabbi. Without any female role models, but with the support of her parents – her father, of blessed memory who she calls her own rabbi, — advised her that she could become anything she wanted to be. And so she did; and so she is.

"We sometimes disconnect between our hopes and realizing the alignment of our dreams," said Rabbi Levy, who will speak on how she became, and remains, inspired herself and how one can turn intention into action.

Looking forward to returning to Dallas after many years, she says the opportunity to build a sense of learning and community, even in 'just a weekend,' is something she cherishes. "Our learning will become deeper and rise higher from one program to the next and thoughts will echo and reverberate among each of us. It's truly an honor for me to come to Anshai Torah and to do so in the merit of Arnie Sweet, a man so committed to learning and whose memory makes it possible for spirituality, learning, and prayer, to continue for so many."

Educated at the Bialik School, Yeshiva of Flatbush, and then Cornell University, the graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary's first class to include women, Rabbi Levy was the first to lead a West Coast congregation, Venice's Congregation Mishkon Tephilo. She was named in 2009 and 2013 by *Newsweek* to its 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America and in 2010 to *The Forward's* list of 50 Influential Jewish Americans.

"When Rabbi Levy's name came up, it was a unanimous 'yes' from our clergy and our committee, and we are very excited to guarantee a special weekend with a leader who

is a true pioneer of our greater Jewish community and a remarkable woman who makes Judaism attainable," said Warren Harmel, event chair working with Howard Abrahams and Jacob Ratner.



"Rabbi Levy's story is incredible and how she has lived strongly through her own challenges, reinforcing her own religious commitment and relationship to God," said Warren, "helping so many other individuals do the same however that may be."

For information or to RSVP (childcare provided Friday night and Saturday morning) visit [www.AnshaiTorah.org](http://www.AnshaiTorah.org) or call 972-473-7718. Friday night dinner tickets are \$30/CAT members, \$38/nonmembers, and \$8/children. All events held at Anshai Torah except for Saturday night's reception (details provided w/sponsorship). For sponsorships, email [warrenharmel@gmail.com](mailto:warrenharmel@gmail.com).