Moral injury is a topic receiving, at last, its due place in the discussion of the health of health care workers. Chaplains have a unique contribution to make to this discussion. Join Rabbis Susan Stone and Lowell Kronick and Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn for an exploration of moral injury through the lenses of Jewish experience, text, and ritual. We will expand our exploration of the effects of moral injury to include the workplace, as well as the realms of both Jewish communal and organizational life.

We will introduce you to the work of Chaplains, the concepts that underlie moral injury, specifically Jewish interventions and remedies and how all this relates to the Network. We look forward to joining you!

**Panel Members:**

- **Rabbi Susan Stone** is Director of Spiritual Care at a 500 bed Cleveland Clinic hospital whose main emphasis in her work is with staff.
- **Rabbi Lowell Kronick** has long experience in this field in his work at the Veterans’ Administration.
- **Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn** is clergy at an Orthodox synagogue in Los Angeles and brings the lens of Jewish communal pastoral care in how we process, support, and grapple with faith and theology in the face of moral injury.
**NAJC WORKSHOPS**

**Tuesday, April 20**

**God is Hiding Within the Obstacle: Rav Nachman of Breslov on Encountering Challenge**

**Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel, BCC, presenter**

While Rav Nachman of Breslov didn’t have the formal training of Clinical Pastoral Education, his sermons are filled with rich ideas of how to spiritually engage with oneself, the other, and God. Together we’ll closely study a selection of texts that will provide participants with a new language to provide spiritual care for themselves and others during challenging moments.

*Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel* serves as the Director of Spiritual Care at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab.

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**Navigating Faith Based Values within Diverse Settings**

**Co-presenters:**

**Rabbi Jessica Shafrin, BCC**

**Rabbi Michelle Stern, BCC**

Each workplace is guided by values that guide the mission as well as everyday operations. Michelle and Jessica, while both rabbis, work in different faith-based institutions (Jewish and Catholic respectively). Together they will explore how the faith values of their institutions present opportunities and challenges while serving diverse populations of staff and patients/residents. By exploring the Value-Based Decision-Making model, we will discover how it is used to address needs of diversity, equity and inclusion.

*(top) Rabbi Jessica Shafrin is the Manager of Pastoral Care at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital.*

*(above) Rabbi Michelle Stern manages the Religious Life department and serves as Chaplain for CJE SeniorLife, a Jewish eldercare social service agency in Chicago and its suburbs.*
Living with Cancer: Fostering Community and Combatting Loneliness

Rabbi Allison Kestenbaum, presenter

Research has shown that people with advance cancer struggle with feelings of loneliness and isolation due to the nature of the illness and restrictions related to treatment. These feelings have intensified during the pandemic. Despite the prevalence of cancer within the Jewish community, clergy and agency leadership are at times reluctant to address the associated spiritual concerns in a direct and potentially therapeutic manner. We will present findings from a novel 500 participant IRB-approved study at a comprehensive care center. The presentation will explore the spiritual needs of patients with advance cancer, with in-depth descriptions of professional chaplain involvement. The workshop will provide evidence-based strategies that can be used chaplains, professionals and community members to effectively care for the spirit of people struggling through the emotional and physical challenges of cancer.

Rabbi Allison Kestenbaum developed and supervises the Clinical Pastoral Education program and serves as palliative care chaplain for the Howell Palliative Care Service at UC San Diego Health. She conducts research about spiritual and palliative care and education. She was the first chaplain to receive a Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholars Leadership Program Award (2018).

Panel Members:
(left) Eric Roeland, MD, is a dual fellowship-trained and board-certified palliative care and medical oncology physician.
(right) Joseph Ma, PharmD, maintains a clinical practice in pain and palliative care in an outpatient, multidisciplinary clinic at the Moores Cancer Center.

The Jewish Tradition’s Role in Making Better Health Care Decisions

Rabbi Dr. Ira Bedzow, presenter

In this talk, I will lay out two related arguments. First, I will show how religious ethicists use different rhetorical strategies, depending on their goals and audiences, and, that by understanding how to account for these different rhetorical strategies we can avoid or at least ameliorate ethical conflict and create better social policies and healthcare laws for a multicultural environment. Second, I will show how knowledge of Jewish Medical Ethics can serve to deepen and patient-clinician conversations in a way that leads to shared decision-making and informed consent, both directly with patients and in situations of surrogate decision-making.

Ira Bedzow is an associate professor of medicine and the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at New York Medical College.
Trauma Informed Care & Moral Injury: How is our Theology, Ethics and Values surviving the Pandemic

Hagar Ben Eliezer, presenter

From access to testing to winning the vaccine lottery to ethical decisions around Covid, chaplains are surrounded by emotions of guilt, shame, and anxiety. How are we managing our own theologies, ethics and values in an environment that is moving faster than we can process? The effects of moral injury and trauma will stay with us long after everyone is vaccinated, what new anxieties and fears will emerge for patients and how can we be prepared to support them. Join me as we look at Trauma, Moral Injury and Trauma Informed Care (TIC) in the wake of Covid. Learn clear definitions, hear patient stories and discuss as a group how we can take care of ourselves and each other. This workshop will include a Power Point presentation with opportunities for questions and sharing.

_Hagar Ben-Eliezer is a Chaplain currently in her second year CPE Fellowship._

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Wednesday, April 21

Moving Through Grief - New Approaches to Releasing the Grip of Grief

Rabbi Tsurah August, BCC, presenter

Moving Through Grief is based on the understanding that grief inhabits the body-mind-spirit. We feel grief viscerally, not only emotionally. We experience grief in our muscles, bones, organs. As grief counselors we hear over and over from our clients: “I can’t eat, sleep”, “I eat too much, sleep too much”, “I ache”, “I can’t find a place for myself”, “I can’t get off the couch/out of bed/”, etc. In this workshop, participants will gain new tools to help release the grip of grief and gain new practices and insights into how we can heal into wholeness after a profound loss. Moving Through Grief integrates visual art, poetry as well as simple movement and breathing techniques especially designed to address the effects of grief on our minds, bodies and spirits, with traditional contemporary counseling practices and rabbinic teachings. The workshop incorporates the extraordinary work of Paul Denniston, the creator of Grief Yoga, my years as a movement educator and interdisciplinary arts performer, and my extensive training and experience as a healthcare chaplain and rabbi.

_Rabbi Tsurah August is the staff rabbi and chaplain for Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Greater Philadelphia, serving the spiritual, emotional and religious needs of individuals and families through JFCS’s partnerships with hospices, acute care, and long-term care health facilities and senior residences._
Virtual Jewish End-of-Life Care: Our Traditions Reimagined
- sponsored by The Sephardic Foundation on Aging

Co-Presenters:
Rabbi Dayle Friedman, MSW, MA, BCC
Rabbi David Levin
Rabbi Mychal B. Springer, ACPE, BCC
Session Chair: Julie Chapnick, LMSW

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to reinvent how we accompany dying people and support their friends and families. Professionals have ingeniously responded to the challenges of spiritual care, medical decision-making, and rituals like funerals, shiva and kaddish. In this workshop, we'll share best practices to guide professionals, volunteers and communities for moments of crisis, and for the hope for return to "normal times."

(top) Rabbi Dayle Friedman, MSW, MA, BCC, has dedicated her career to bringing meaning and radiance to aging. She edited the trailblazing Jewish Pastoral Care: A Practical Handbook from Traditional and Contemporary Sources; and wrote Jewish Wisdom for Growing Older: Finding Our Grit and Grace Beyond Midlife. With Rabbi David Levin and Reb Simcha Paull Raphael, she co-edited Jewish End-of-Life Care in a Virtual Age: Our Traditions Reimagined (2021).

(second from top) Rabbi David Levin is founder and director of Jewish Relationships Initiative, which uses Jewish wisdom to help people make meaning on their life journey. His teaching focuses on a re-imagination of the Ethical Legacy Will, nurturing relationships, and end of life challenges.

(third from top) Rabbi Mychal B. Springer, ACPE, BCC, is the manager of Clinical Pastoral Education at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. She was the founding director of the Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), which she directed from 2009 to 2019. Prior to that she was Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School at JTS, where she was ordained in 1992.

(fourth from top) Session Chair Julie Chapnick, LMSW, is the Director, Social Welfare Allocations in the Institutional Allocations Department at the Claims Conference. She oversees all U.S. and International Social Welfare Allocations staff. Prior to the Claims Conference, she was the Outreach Coordinator at a New York nonprofit, Search And Care. She is also a NJHSA Board Member.
The Role of Chaplains in Providing Formal Support to Healthcare Professionals in Clinical Settings: A Heightened Need During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Co-presenters:
Rabbi Fredda Cohen, BCC
Rabbi Rena Arshinoff

During the pandemic, as staff face unprecedented challenges in caring for those under their charge, they experience a panoply of emotions, existential questions and compassion fatigue. This program will describe two distinct initiatives to address these issues developed by Rabbis Rena Arshinoff and Fredda Cohen, in their capacities as chaplains at a research and teaching hospital for the elderly and a local community hospital, respectively. Rena created First Fridays, a program to offer support for her palliative team specifically, and Fredda created Care Code, a program which supported the entire hospital staff. The presentation will describe the inception of each program, and how each came to be a cherished initiative within the hospital and has been adapted to meet the evolving needs of the staff during the pandemic. In addition, the panelists will discuss how their chaplaincy was enhanced by each initiative. Best practices, statistics and staff feedback will be shared, and there will be time for questions from participants.

(above) Rabbi Fredda Cohen, MA, JD, BCC, is the Director of Pastoral Care & Education at White Plains Hospital in White Plains, New York.
(below) Rabbi Dr. Rena Arshinof currently works at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care as Rabbi/Spiritual Care Practitioner with Palliative Care, Complex Continuing Care, independent living, and Movement Disorders as well as private grief therapy practice.

So You Want to Write a Book?

Rabbi David Levin, presenter

In rabbinical school, Dr. Eugene Borowitz z"l shared that "if you have something worth saying, write a book." This advice has not gone unheeded and I am the proud parent of my first (and hopefully not last) book Jewish End of Life Care in a Virtual Age, Our Traditions Reimagined. The intent of this workshop is to share the process, learning as I did what worked, what did not, and what to anticipate in the process. We will go from conception to gestation, birth, and nurturing. I will share my personal experience in creating a book to share the experience of the process, hopefully servicing to encourage those in attendance to commit to the book they are thinking about writing. The process will include sharing my story and then in turn asking others to share their vision for bringing their Torah forward for others to share.

Rabbi David Levin focuses on outreach to seekers of meaning, bringing Jewish Wisdom to their life journey. Rabbi Levin’s work is trans-denominational, embracing and drawing knowledge and insight from all aspects of Judaism. He is a volunteer with the Disaster Spiritual Care Team of the American Red Cross, and Levin teaches nationally subjects including The Ethical Will Re-imagined, Kavod v’Nichum understanding end of life rituals, and other topics.
Clarifying Goals of Care: Chaplain Roles with Patients, Families and the Interdisciplinary Healthcare Team

Dr. David Barile, presenter

This moderated panel discussion will provide information and insights for chaplains and religious leaders to understand how their role as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team can assist patients with medical decision-making and advance care planning. To equip and empower chaplains to fully participate as an essential member of the interdisciplinary team caring for patients with serious illness, this program will focus on the chaplain’s unique role as an inspirational leader, educator and patient advocate. We will review lessons learned from experiences with COVID-19 patients, and discuss resources and tools that chaplains can use to facilitate goals of care conversations and communicate palliative and end-of-life care options in ways that help people make informed decisions.

Dr. David Barile is the Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey (GOCCNJ), a non-profit partnership of leading healthcare providers, government agencies, and community organizations dedicated to helping patients get the care they need and no less and the care they want and no more

Panel Members:
(left) Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner, BCC, is President of Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains and Director of Religious and Spiritual Services and Chaplain of the Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Senior Living in Somerset, NJ
(right) Reverend Maureen Erwin maintains a clinical practice is in pain and palliative care in an outpatient, multidisciplinary clinic at the Moores Cancer Center.

Jewish Values in Medical Decision Making for Unrepresented Patients: A Ritualized Approach

Rabbi Dr. Jason Weiner, BCC, presenter

One of the most challenging issues in contemporary healthcare and medical decision making is how to care for patients who cannot speak for themselves. While there has been much discussion related to proper care for patients who left instructions or have someone to speak on their behalf, less has been written on caring for patients who have nobody available to speak for them. It is thus crucial to develop clear and rigorous guidelines to properly care for these patients. As we seek to develop approaches to guide care providers, the Jewish tradition offers an important perspective on caring for unrepresented patients. This article presents an understanding of some fundamental Jewish principles that can provide clear guidance in navigating this challenge. It applies those values to a specific set of suggested behaviors, one of which adds a novel component to what has been recommended by bioethicists in the past.

Rabbi Dr. Jason Weiner serves as the senior rabbi and director of the Spiritual Care Department at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, where he is responsible for the chaplaincy team and all aspects of spiritual care.
Exorcism in the Context of Jewish Chaplaincy

**Rabbi Dr. David Zucker, PhD, BCC, presenter**

This session is a combination of theory and practice. In Long Term and Acute Care facilities, and other settings as well, staff occasionally feel that certain rooms harbor malevolent spirits. In my experience, these spirits can be exorcised. Exorcism has a long history within Judaic thought and practice. We will explore both the tradition and the practice of exorcism within the context of Chaplaincy. We will explore different kinds of exorcism rituals. In addition I will touch on a Ritual for cleansing ourselves when having heard gossip.

*Rabbi David J. Zucker (Ret) divided his career between congregational experiences, academic life, and chaplaincy, including being the Director of Spiritual Care at Shalom Cares, Aurora, Colorado for nearly two decades.*

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**Likrat Shabbat Guided Reflection Experience**

**Co-presenters:**

**Rabbi Eliana Falk, BCC**

**Rabbi Susan L Moss, BCC**

“Likrat Shabbat” is an opportunity to conclude the conference together, reflect on the week that is ending and preparing to greet Shabbat. Contemplating the symbols of the Shabbat table, we will consider what we are taking with us from this virtual conference experience into our lives and to our holy work. We will guide you through writing meditations, thought, prayer, and expressions of gratitude and hope. All you will need is about 20 minutes, and paper and a pen (or a smart phone or your favorite word processing app).

*(top) Rabbi Eliana Falk, BCC, was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion. She has served as the rabbi of congregations in Connecticut, and currently serves as the Rabbi-Chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital. She is board certified by Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains.*

*(above) Rabbi Susan Landau Moss, BCC, was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She has previously served as the assistant rabbi of Temple Micah, in Washington, D.C., and is currently the palliative care chaplain at Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She is board certified by Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains.*