In Honor of
Rabbi Susan Stone

Recipient of the 2021 NER TAMID award

April 19, 2021

Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains Annual Conference
Rabbi Susan Berman Stone serves as Director of Spiritual Care at Hillcrest Hospital—Cleveland Clinic, in Mayfield, OH. A trailblazer, Susan is one of the first Jewish chaplaincy directors in the nation to serve in a secular hospital, assuming the role in 2013.

A graduate of HUC-JIR (Cincinnati, 1983), Vassar College (1978) and Stuyvesant High School in NY (1974), Susan has worked in the rabbinate in a variety of positions and settings, with extensive expertise in managing non-profits and governmental consulting. She chaired her local County Alcohol and Drug Board and has an extensive volunteer resume. Nationally, she has experience drafting and passing legislation focused on issues of addiction and of gender and sexual orientation equality. Susan holds certificates in Mental Health Fundamentals in Spiritual Care (California State University) and in Reiki (Levels I and II). She has additional CEUs in the areas of ambiguous loss, veterans’ concerns and addiction care.

When Susan first came to Cleveland in 1983, she was Cleveland’s first female rabbi. In addition to serving as rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom of Hudson, OH for 15 years, Susan served at Suburban Temple—Kol Ami in Beachwood, OH, at Beth Israel—The West (Continued on next slide)
Temple in Cleveland, OH, and at The Temple—Tifereth Israel in Cleveland, OH. Susan also works with various organizations in the Greater Cleveland community, focusing on facilitating interfaith dialogue, addiction awareness and counseling, and in support of the LGBTQ community. Susan has also been an active member of the planning committee for this conference.

Upon her arrival to Cleveland, Susan’s mentor, Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, told her that she would be a six-month media sensation and then the rest was up to her. Now 37 years later, Silver proved to be both right but also mistaken. Not everything was up to Susan; some things were out of her control. But he was completely right about the most important thing he told her that day: a life in the rabbinate is one worth living, with innumerable chances for service to God and people.

Susan and her husband Wayne Easthon share six children and four grandchildren, two from her marriage with her late husband John Stone, z”l.
Message from our President
Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner, B.C.C.

Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome to the 2021 Virtual Joint Conference of the NJHSA and NAJC, Responsive, Resilient, Reimagining Together! While I wish I could greet each of you in person, I am grateful for the ability to gather in this virtual space to learn, reflect and reconnect. I look forward to the opportunity to address everyone at our annual meeting, which will be Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm. I am also excited about the collaborative work with the NJHSA and the opportunity to share and learn with each other.

Thank you to Rabbi Lev Herrnson, BCC, NAJC conference chair and your entire conference committee for your dedication and efforts, in conjunction with the network, for bringing together this exciting conference. Thank you to our presenters for your willingness to offer of your wisdom and knowledge. Thank you to our professional team, Rabbi Dr. Maurice Kaprow, BCC, Allison Atterberry and Meital Dahabash for the behind the scenes support of the committee and the NAJC as a whole. Thank you to our sponsors for your financial support of this conference.

Finally, I am very excited that we are honoring Rabbi Susan Stone, BCC on Monday Night, April 19, 2021. Your dedication and contributions to Jewish chaplaincy
are appreciated by all. We look forward to celebrating this honor with you.

May we all continue to be blessed with the strength of mind, body and soul to serve all whom we care for and we see each other in person at future conferences.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner, BCC
President
Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains.
Chevreh Shalom.

Three plus years ago Rabbi Dr. H. Raphael Goldstein z”l, NAJC’s Executive Director, and then-Conference Chair Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn, asked to speak to me, at which time they invited me to serve as NAJC’s next Conference Chair. Raphael suggested that, as a rising leader in the organization, the opportunity would be a good next step in my professional development. Alissa spoke candidly about her experiences as Chair, namely how wonderful it was to convene a group of spirited volunteers who would shepherd an event from concept to fulfilment. They also both cautioned me, noting that the first efforts of my term would be devoted to the planning of the 2020 conference—an international gathering of chaplains from NAJC, APC, ACPE, NACC and CASC that occurs about once every ten years. The 2020 Strategic Partners Conference would be altogether new and unfamiliar compared to the previous NAJC conferences I had attended. My reward for blazing new conference trails would be a return in 2021 to the more familiar, in-person model.

Jewish wisdom warns us, ‘humans plan and G!d laughs!’ None of us could have foreseen the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on our efforts. After nearly two years
of work, the 2020 Strategic Partners Conference was cancelled with just weeks to spare. Around the same time, NAJC then brokered a relationship with the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies such that we would convene future conferences with them—and prudently share in economies of scale and other benefits. As fate would have it, because of COVID, NAJC and the Network would convene their first joint conference virtually. And so, NAJC, together with the Network, once again roamed in unfamiliar territory!

Which brings us to the present, a virtual conference with nearly 1000 registrants, including a record number of NAJC members (+200), for three days of learning and collegiality, via Zoom. My hope is that you, from your computer at work or in the comfort of your own home, will reap the benefits of the diverse chaplaincy-related offerings, in addition to those sessions and plenaries programmed by the Network. I pray that will you find the sessions you attend edifying, uplifting and perhaps even inspiring! I would be dishonest if I told you that planning a conference (in-person or virtual) is easy, but looking at the robust programmatic offerings listed in the conference schedule, I feel especially honored to have been a part of the effort to bring it to fruition.
This year’s conference would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the 2021 Conference Committee, who explored what it would mean to host, for the first time, a joint and virtual conference. They are Eliana Falk (Marketing & *Likrat Shabbat*), Ruth Gais (“Burnout” Plenary & Chaplains Lounge), Rob Jury (Workshops), Susan Moss (*Likrat Shabbat*) and Susan Stone (“Moral Injury” Plenary). Additionally, there are the very many NAJC chaplains and their colleagues who volunteered to deliver workshops at this conference. I am indebted to them, along with Executive Assistant Allison Atterberry and Executive Director Moe Kaprow, for their creativity, work ethic, generosity of spirit and especially their patience. I’ll say it: Planning the 2021 conference is not easy, but the final product looks stunning!

I also to wish offer thanks to those who worked on the ill-fated 2020 Strategic Partners Conference. They invested months of volunteer hours in support of an event that never saw the light of day. They are Eliana Falk, Neal Loevinger, Susan Stone, Rob Jury and Daniel Braune-Friedman. While 2020 didn’t happen, their efforts are none less appreciated and valued.

Last, I should mention Susan Stone, our friend and colleague, and this year’s honoree. Susan is most deserving of the “*Ner Tamid* Award” after her many years of service in the
congregational and community rabbinate, and especially for her work as Director of Spiritual Care at the Cleveland Clinic. I am most grateful that she humbly and generously agreed to be honored by our little group.

For those who are engaged in *Day Yomi* studies, we recently read in JT *Shekalim* 6:4:5 that one who is obligated to “…donate frankincense, must donate no less than a handful… the amount brought with a meal-offering.” Never did any of the aforementioned NAJC-folk ask, “How much is a handful?” (What is a sufficient amount?) They simply donated of their time and expertise time and again, abundantly, without question. We are all the richer for it and for this I offer my thanks.

May we all go from strength to strength in peace and health.

Most sincerely,

Rabbi Lev Herrnson, B.C.C.
NAJC Conference Chair and Board Member
2021 NAJC Leadership

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- Rabbi Rebecca Kamil, BCC
- Chaplain Barry Pitegoff, BCC

Term 2021-2023
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- Rabbi Suzanne Offit, BCC
- Rabbi Charles Rabinowitz, BCC
- Rabbi Rochelle Robins, BCC
- Rabbi Jessica Shafrin, BCC
- Rabbi Phil Weintraub, BCC
2021 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Rabbi Lev Herrnson, B.C.C., Chair

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Rabbi Dr. Ruth Gais, B.C.C.

Rabbi Cantor Rob Jury, B.C.C.

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Rabbi Susan Stone, B.C.C.
We Thank Our Rashei Pinah

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Jewish Federation of Greater Portland
Recognizing Excellence

Rabbi Susan Stone, BCC, awarded the 2021 Annual Ner Tamid Award for outstanding Service by the NAJC: Neshama Association of Jewish Chaplains.

On behalf of the entire Cleveland Clinic Center for Spiritual Care and Healing Services, we celebrate this important recognition of our own Rabbi Stone of Hillcrest Hospital for her outstanding contributions to the health and spiritual healing of all those in her care. After more than 25 years as a pulpit Rabbi, Susan joined the Spiritual Care team, first as Clinical Pastoral Education resident and then as Director of a large hospital within our system. We could not be more proud to call her friend, colleague and teacher.
It is I who needs to honor you—

Mazal tov to NAJC on a great conference –

Thank you for all you do to bring k'vod to our work –

Susan Stone and Wayne Easthon
RABBI SUSAN STONE
A DEDICATED RABBI
A CARING CHAPLAIN
A GREAT FRIEND

A TRULY DESERVING PERSON FOR THIS RECOGNITION AND HONOR

The Bookatz-Kumin Bookatz Families
Mazel Tov!

Congratulations!

-- Chuck Whitehill
Congratulations to

Rabbi Susan Stone

In recognition by
Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains
of your accomplishments, leadership, and
service to our communities

Hon. Georgine Welo, Mayor
Congratulations to Rabbi Susan Stone

Michael Blumenthal and McGlinchey Stafford join the Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC) in honoring Rabbi Susan Stone for her many years of unwavering service to and support of the Cleveland community. As the first female rabbi in the Cleveland area, she has paved the way for others to follow and we commend her invaluable work in building a community consensus around Jewish chaplaincy. Her dedication and achievements set a higher bar for us all.

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In Honor of

Rabbi Susan Stone, BCC

For your exemplary career in chaplaincy and for your service to the NAJC.

May you continue to go from Strength to Strength!

Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner, BCC – President
Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains
The Officers, Board, and Staff of NAJC offer a hearty Mazel Tov to

Rabbi Susan Stone, BCC

In recognition of her being the recipient of the

NER TAMID AWARD

Presented by

Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains
In Honor of

Awardee

Susan Stone

Conference Committee Members
Eliana Falk, Ruth Gais, Rob Jury, Susan Moss & Susan Stone

Our Professional Staff
Allison Atterberry & Moe Kaprow

חזק ואמץ

Lev and Lisa Herrnson
From the start of our HUC journey to the WRN to our reconnecting at the NAJC, your strength, compassion and wisdom have been clear; as you continue in your life and chaplaincy, may these words be your prayer:

“Teach us, God, to number our days, so that we will bring a heart of wisdom... Fill us up in the morning with Your loving-kindness, and we will sing out and be joyful for all the rest of our days.” (Psalm 90:12,14)

With love and admiration,

Shira
Congratulations, a most deserving honor to our neighbor.

Thank you for your friendship, thoughtfulness, and concerning ways.

Cindy & Joel

In honor of the NAJC Executive Board, Board and Professional Team

I am grateful for your continued dedication and commitment to our organization and to Jewish chaplaincy during these past 16 months.

May each of us be blessed to continue to serve NAJC and our communities with care and compassion.

Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner, BCC President
Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains
Kol HaKavod to Rabbi Susan Stone!
With appreciation for your many years of dedication and service.

Chaplain Bruce Feldstein MD, BCC
Past President, NAJC
Founder and Director, Jewish Chaplaincy Services serving Stanford Medicine, a program of Jewish Family & Children’s Services
www.jfcs.org/jewishchaplaincy

In Honor of

RABBI SUSAN STONE, B.C.C.

From

Anonymous
Kol Kodesh Beneh Abraham is thrilled to congratulate Rabbi Susan Stone on being recognized by Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains at their 2021 Conference. As a congregation we have seen firsthand what a special rabbi she is, and we readily can see why she was selected for this honor. We are truly blessed to have forged a deep and spiritual connection between our membership and her and her wonderful husband Wayne these last two years. Her compassion, wisdom, and humor have greatly enriched our lives. Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!

The Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis wishes Kol tuv u'Mazal Tov! to Rabbi Susan Stone in celebration of her receiving this honor and with gratitude for the wisdom and insight she shares with our community. May you continue to go from strength to strength.
MAZEL TOV TO SUSAN
Rabbi Ruth Alpers, B.C.C.

MAZEL TOV TO SUSAN
Rabbi Justin Kerber, B.C.C.

MAZEL TOV TO SUSAN
Rabbi Neal Loevinger, B.C.C.

MAZEL TOV TO SUSAN
Rabbi Ruth Smith, B.C.C.