



This list is comprised of some of the most talented and scholarly Jewish Educators and Leaders in the state of Michigan. Biographical and Program information, as well as contact information, is provided for each speaker. Although one or two sample courses are listed for each speaker, please keep in mind that each speaker is capable of discussing numerous topics and often willing to service your community in ways impossible to list in an abbreviated format like this.

You may choose to use your community's grant money towards bringing speakers from this list.

In addition to this list of Michigan Jewish Speakers, you may also use the list of links to other Jewish Speaker's Bureaus from all across North America.

You can contact the speakers directly or by emailing inquiries to Surowitz@jfmd.org.

**Rabbi David Nelson
Congregation Beth Shalom of Oak Park, MI
Synagogue Rabbi**

Honorarium: \$1000 for full Shabbat (includes Friday evening, Shabbos morning, classes and havdallah service); Individual classes negotiable

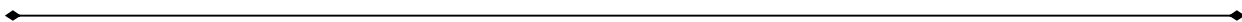
Biography:

Rabbi Nelson has served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park, MI for the past 35 years. He worked for two years in Brazil where he served as a rabbi in Rio and for three years in Baltimore, MD. In addition to the work he does for Beth Shalom, he also volunteers time visiting Jewish prisoners in various prisons throughout the state.

Topics/Programs:

- **A Rabbi in Rio** – based on personal experiences in the Rabbinate there
- **Prison Outreach** – Are there Jews in Prison?
- **Shabbat Visit** – Friday evening service, dinner and talk, luncheon with discussion, and Saturday night Havdalah program. The weekend can have theme.

Contact Info: ravdavid@comcast.net





Michael Pytlik
Florence Melton Adult Mini-School
Instructor

Honorarium: Negotiable, plus travel

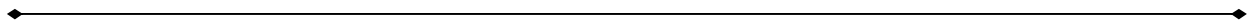
Biography:

Mike Pytlik holds a degree in ancient history and archaeology and is currently finishing his Masters in Jewish Studies from Spertus College in Chicago. He has been to Israel thirteen times and has been a staff member of the Land of Gerar Project (Biblical Gerar), and the Wadi-es-Siah Project (near Haifa). Mike has visited and photographed many ancient sites in Israel, Egypt and Jordan. He completed his Undergraduate Honor's Thesis on the Early Bronze Age and culture of Israel. He has given many lectures and presentations on Israel's ancient history and archeology as well as topics relating to mythology, religions and cultural change. Mike also is a substitute for the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School at the Jewish Federation of Detroit.

Topics/Programs:

- **Archaeology and History of Israel** - This series was presented at the Federation in Detroit over eight weeks and included topics relating to the ancient history of Israel (from Neolithic to Roman times). This class was centered on the basic concepts and history of archaeology in Israel, the basics of cultural and historical change, how archaeology helps us learn about the Bible, and also case studies that include: pottery analysis and why it's so important for chronology, some new ideas about the Exodus, Biblical references and archaeology, early synagogues that were in use before the destruction of the 2nd Temple, and more! This series features discussion, some text analysis, viewing of archeological site photographs and drawings. The series can be condensed to a single class if necessary.

Contact Info: mikepytlik@hotmail.com





RAVITZ FOUNDATION
STATEWIDE OUTREACH INITIATIVE
SPEAKERS BUREAU & JEWISH PROGRAM INDEX



Michael Daitch
Coat of Many Colors Handweavers Studio
Weaver and Owner

Honorarium: \$180 for a 3 hour session with two children, plus travel (Additional Limited Scholarships may be provided on an as needed basis.)

Biography:

Michael Daitch has been working for the Jewish Community Relations Council since 1996. Before joining the Council staff, he worked for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the Jewish Home and Aging Services. Daitch supervises the office operations and manages Council's day-to-day business affairs. His responsibilities also include maintaining the community calendar, and organizing Mitzvah Day.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Eastern Michigan University and is an accomplished weaver. He created the "Tallitot Project" in 2004 to teach hand weaving to pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students throughout the Jewish community.

Michael shares his talents as an accomplished weaver with Jewish students by guiding sixth graders in religious schools as they weave a *tallit*, a Jewish prayer shawl, in preparation for their bar or bat mitzvah. He has served as artists-in-residence at numerous synagogues throughout the Detroit area. His students have created over 125 beautifully woven prayer shawls, some of which have been donated to bar/bat mitzvah students in Russia. Reflecting on the project, Daitch notes, "It's a joy to see kids sit down at a loom for the first time and pick up skills in spite of their initial hesitation. Like a miracle, twenty minutes later, they are weaving with great proficiency."

Contact Info: daitch@jfmd.org or call (248) 203-1469.



Judy Loebel
Florence Melton Adult Mini-School
Director

Honorarium: None

Judy Loebel holds a B.A. in English and a Master of Science in Library Science from Wayne State University. She was a librarian at Congregation Bnai Moshe and has taught at several Hebrew and Sunday Schools throughout Metro Detroit. She was the Director of Congregation T'Chiyah Sunday School, developed and directed the Grosse Pointe Jewish Community Council Sunday School, served as the Director of Special Programs/Educational Consultant at the Agency for Jewish Education, was an instructor for the Community Jewish High School, served as Principal of the Community Jewish High School/Director of Teen Education at the Agency for Jewish Education, and was an instructor of Jewish and Israeli literature at the Midrasha College of Jewish Studies. Prior to her current position, Judy was the Director of SAJE (Seminars for Adult Jewish Enrichment) for the Jewish Community Center. Judy has served on numerous boards and chaired several community committees and is currently on the board of the Jewish Community Council. Judy currently serves as the Associate Director for the Alliance for Jewish Education at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and is the Director of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, the largest Melton site in the world. In 2008, she was honored by receiving the international Melton certification for levels one and two.

Topics/Programs:

- **Consulting on Adult Jewish Education** – Judy is happy to offer her experience and knowledge to help you design Adult Jewish Education for your community.

Contact Info:

loble@jfmf.org or 248-642-4618





Rabbi Leiby Burnham
Jean and Theodore Weiss Partners in Torah
Associate Director

Honorarium: Only travel expenses

Biography:

Rabbi Leiby Burnham, LMSW, is a Rabbi, psychotherapist, and writer. R' Burnham works for the Jean and Theodore Weiss Partners in Torah program of Yeshiva Beth Yehudah, where he does community outreach, and runs Jewish educational programming at local universities.

He taught learning-disabled high school students for eight years in NYC, while receiving Rabbinical training at Shor Yoshuv Institute, and obtaining his Masters in Social Work from Yeshiva University. To round out his Jewish communal experience he spent five years working with at-risk youth in NYC, and six years volunteering with Chai Lifeline to help Jewish children with a variety of severe illnesses.

Topics/Programs:

- **The Laws of Being a Mentsch takes a look at some of the most prominent Jewish values regarding interpersonal relationships and looks at texts pointing to the sources and applications of the Mitzvot dealing with them**
- **Hebrew Reading Crash Course teaches people how to read Hebrew in 6 short classes, and also provides fascinating insights into the meaning behind the Hebrew Alphabet**





Rabbi Daniel Wolpe
Congregation Beth Shalom of Oak Park, MI
Synagogue Rabbi

Honorarium: \$500 plus expenses.

Biography:

Rabbi Daniel Wolpe was ordained in 1996 by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the premiere institution of the Conservative movement. He served for seven years as rabbi of the Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation. Before that, he was the Associate Rabbi of B'nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton for three years. Rabbi Wolpe served as president of the Greater Orlando Board of Rabbis from 2000-2002. He was also an adjunct professor at Rollins College, teaching "Jewish Life and Thought." A produced playwright, Rabbi Wolpe's plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Boston and Jerusalem. He now lives in Huntington Woods, Michigan, where he serves as the religious leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Oak Park. He also serves on Governor Granholm's commission on Faith Based Initiatives.

Topics/Programs:

- Modern Jewish Theater?What makes a play or movie "Jewish"?
- Jews and Television: An overview of some of the best?and some of the worst?portrayals of Jews and Judaism in TV.
- Jewish Medical Ethics?How does Judaism confront some of the modern ethical questions of today.
- The Book Of Job?Why is this book of the Bible the most "modern"? How does it help us confront the ethical questions of today?





Rabbi Michael Skobac
Jews for Judaism
Education Director, Toronto Branch

Honorarium: \$350 plus travel

Dates: Rabbi Skobac will be touring various Michigan cities the week of April 14

Biography:

Rabbi Michael Skobac was educated at Northwestern University and Yeshiva University. He has specialized in counter-missionary work since 1983, establishing the New York branch of Jews for Judaism and serving as a consultant to the New York Jewish Community Relations Council Task Force on Missionaries and Cults.

Rabbi Skobac has lectured extensively on missionaries and cults as well as on issues of Jewish continuity and spirituality across the United States, Canada, Israel, the Former Soviet Union, England, India, Australia and South Africa. He has acted as a consultant to communities worldwide in developing responses to missionary and cult activity and has extensive experience working with affected families and counseling people who have embraced Christianity. He has developed and taught numerous courses on Jewish-Christian polemics and has produced a highly acclaimed counter-missionary tape series. Rabbi Skobac has written extensively for Jewish publications and has appeared internationally on radio and television programs to discuss his work.

Topics/Programs:

- **MISSIONARY IMPOSSIBLE**
Judaism's Response to Christianity
Why doesn't Judaism believe in Jesus? How do we respond to missionaries who claim that the Jewish Bible points to Jesus as the Messiah? Why don't we include the New Testament as part of our Bible? We will work with your group to put together a custom made program that deals with these and other substantive issues in the Jewish/Christian interface.
- **JEWES IN THE LOTUS:**
Today's Quest for Spirituality and the Lure of the East
In North America, about one-fourth of those practicing Buddhism come from a Jewish background. With his recent journey to conduct Passover Seders in India as a backdrop, Rabbi Michael Skobac explores why so many Jews are attracted by Eastern teachings and explains that what they are seeking lies so close to home.

Contact Info: j4iprograms@bellnet.ca





Rabbi Michael Zimmerman
Kehillat Israel
Rabbi

Honorarium: negotiable, plus travel

Biography:

Rabbi Michael Zimmerman joined the Kehillat Israel community as its spiritual leader in 2003, after serving as the student rabbi. He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, where his studies and his heart were set on congregational work from the outset. A Chicago native, he brings to his rabbinic career a diverse background in consulting, human development, and education, especially with adult learners and the elderly.

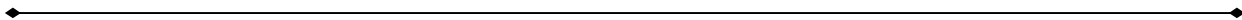
Rabbi Zimmerman also serves as a member of the Chaplaincy Advisory Council for the State of Michigan's Department of Corrections, a hospice chaplain, and a spokesman for the Michigan Interfaith Climate Energy Campaign. After living in various locations in the United States and abroad, he now lives in a farmhouse outside of Lansing with his wife Elischa, daughter Lili, two rabbits, and a cat.

Topics/Programs:

Rabbi Zimmerman is able to speak on a variety of topics and is available to consult communities in numerous ways.

- Text study
- Jewish adult education.
- Consulting communities to develop various forms of alternative Shabbat services and workshop series in Jewish spirituality based on the needs of the community, as well as aiding congregations in their community development process

Contact Info: kirabbi@acd.net





Rabbi S. Robert Morais
Temple Israel of West Bloomfield, MI
Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Honorarium: negotiable

Biography:

Rabbi S. Robert Morais received ordination from Hebrew Union College's Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati Ohio in 1997. In the spring of 2006 Rabbi Morais became the director of education and life long learning at Temple Israel of West Bloomfield, MI. At Temple Israel, Rabbi Morais oversees the educational aspects of the congregation, as well as teaching a variety of classes for children and adults. He is also currently a faculty member of the Florence Melon Adult Mini-School of Metro Detroit.

Prior to coming to the Detroit area, Rabbi Morais served Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, NY for seven years as the associate rabbi and director of youth programs; and two years as the Executive Director for Hillel of the Rochester Area Colleges.

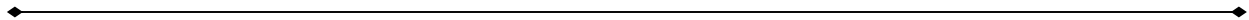
In 2001 he was selected by Brandeis University as an inaugural fellow of the Institute for Informal Jewish Education. Since its opening summer in 1999, Rabbi Morais has been a member of the URJ's Camp George faculty and currently is the rabbinic representative on the camp's steering committee.

Rabbi Morais is married to Rochelle and they have four children – Sara, Noah, Yael and Nathan.

Topics/Programs:

- Leading Shabbat Friday evening or Shabbat morning services
- Leading a variety of adult educational programs on some of the central ideas and texts which inform rituals daily, weekly, annual, and life cycle observances

Contact Info: RMorais@temple-israel.org





Rabbi Joseph Klein
Temple Emanu-El
Synagogue Rabbi

Honorarium: Only travel expenses

Biography:

Rabbi Klein has served as the rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, Oak Park for the past eleven years. Rabbi Klein has been adjunct professor at universities in Indiana and Tennessee, teaching Hebrew Scripture, New Testament, 1st C. History and introduction to Judaism.

Topics/Programs:

- A careful and innovative reading of Genesis chapters 1 – 4, the Jacob Narrative and the Joseph Narrative
- Reading the New Testament Gospels from a Jewish perspective, examining the historical reality of the 1st C and the reasons for the separation of the Early Church from Rabbinic Judaism
- Either topic could be a series or a single presentation.

Contact Info: rabbi@rabbiklein.com



Rabbi Paul Yedwab
Temple Israel of West Bloomfield
Synagogue Rabbi

Honorarium: Negotiable

Biography:

Rabbi Paul Yedwab has served Temple Israel of West Bloomfield, Michigan since his ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1986, where he did his thesis work in the field of "faith development." Prior to his rabbinic education, Rabbi Yedwab received an A.B. in Politics from Princeton University.

An accomplished author, he has published six books, and community leader, he is the past president of the Michigan Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Yedwab has founded or co-founded a number of organizations and projects in the Detroit Metropolitan area, including The Miracle Mission to Israel for Teens, The March of the Living Unity Mission, The Future Leaders of Klal Yisrael Mission, The Singles Shabbat Network, and Forgotten Harvest: a prepared food distribution agency. He is also on the National Advisory Board of MAZON, a Jewish Response to Hunger, and the Rabbinic Advisory Group of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. In addition, he was appointed by the Governor of Michigan to represent the Independents on the Board of Ethics.

He met his wife, Wendy, of Oklahoma City, at the U.A.H.C. Kutz Camp-Institute in Warwick, N.Y. His children Ariella, Jesse, and Zoe are all beautiful and brilliant.

Topics/Programs:

- **Judaism 202 – Do you want to deepen your Jewish knowledge? Are you hungry for answers to some of life’s “big questions”? Are you bored with “Boston Legal,” “Dancing with the Stars,” and “Top Chef”?**
Hour 1: G-d Awe-ful: What Do Jews Really Believe about G-d.
Hour 2: Breaking Into G-d’s Mansion: Kabbalah for Dummies
- **Joga: Yoga and Jewish Mysticism – Stretch your mind, body and Soul**
In searching for the point where body, soul and mind connect, we will borrow from the physical practices of Yoga, while grounding ourselves in the study of Kabbalah or Jewish Mysticism. We will stretch ourselves physically mentally and spiritually. No Yoga experience is necessary.

Contact Info: pyedwab@temple-israel.org





Rabbi Dorit Edut
Temple Israel – Bay City
Synagogue Rabbi

Honorarium: \$500 plus travel expenses

Biography:

Rabbi Dorit Edut is the current rabbi of Temple Israel of Bay City. Though she has long worked as a Jewish educator at many different sites in the Metro Detroit area, she was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion in May 2006 and has served congregations in Mt. Pleasant, MI and Brooklyn, NY. She is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a fluent speaker of Hebrew.

Topics/Programs:

- **Towards a Spiritual Observance of Israel's Independence Day – A Comparison of Israeli and American Observances**
This program focuses on the evolution of Israel's Independence Day – from its creation as a national holiday to present times. It brings forth the increasingly spiritual forms of ritual observance and what this shows about the way Israel and American Jews relate to the essence of what Israel means to them.

Contact Info: mutzim@aol.com

Rabbi Nathan Martin
University of Michigan Hillel
Assistant Director

Honorarium: Only travel expenses

Biography:

Rabbi Nathan has been working as an Assistant Director at the UM Hillel since 2006. Ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), Rabbi Nathan brings with him a passion for Jewish learning, social justice, and spiritual life. Before his studies at RRC, Rabbi Nathan worked as a researcher on energy efficiency policy issues in Berkeley, California. He is blessed with a terrific spouse - Abby Weinberg, and a beautiful daughter, Hadassah Tikva Weinmartin.

Topics/Programs:

- Jewish learning
- Social justice and Spiritual life

Contact Info: rabbim@umich.edu



Rabbi Alon Tolwin
Aish Detroit
Executive Director

Honorarium: negotiable

Biography:

Rabbi Alon Tolwin started the Detroit branch of Aish HaTorah over 18 years ago. Since then he can be given at least partial credit for the explosion of interest in Adult Jewish Education in the area. He is considered to be one of the most engaging Jewish educators in Michigan. One of the founding staff members of Aish HaTorah Jerusalem, Rabbi Tolwin is married to Leah and has 8 children.

Topics/Programs:

Aish has been servicing Jewish communities throughout the state for years, including Midland Saginaw, Bay City, Flint, Mackinaw, Ann Arbor and others. Aish has a list of quality and stimulating educational programs, headlined by:

- **Discovery** - Evidence that God spoke on Sinai.
- **Why the Jews** - the shocking explanation of the worlds longest hatred
- **One Day Sunday School** - basic Jewish wisdom and information on the Jewish life cycle.
- **Crash Course in Jewish History**
- **Bliss!** - How to have a perfect marriage
- **The Maximum Pleasure Seminar** - Torah teaches us that all pleasure are categorized into 5 segments, what they are and how to achieve them
- **Torah and Science** - do they conflict?
- **Five Books in 50 minutes** - and overview of the best selling book of all times.
- Additionally, Aish regularly brings internationally renowned speakers such as Aryeh Pamensky, Dr. Gerald Schroeder, Dr. Harold Gans and Ken Spiro.

Contact Info: ait613@yahoo.com





Rabbi David Shapero
Ohr Somayach – Detroit Branch
Executive Director

Honorarium: negotiable

Biography:

Rabbi Shapero runs Ohr Somayach Detroit, one of many successful Jewish outreach organizations in the Midwest. Ohr Somayach's renowned Lunch and Learn programs reach out to the lay business leadership in the Jewish community. Monthly study groups attract up to 200 people by day and night, offering lectures and learning programs which take place at the Detroit Federation's Max M. Fisher Building, as well as in homes, offices, and synagogues. With a BA cum laude in Philosophy from Brandeis University, and a broad interest in the arts and sciences, Rabbi Shapero is known for bringing traditional Jewish learning to bear on a variety of contemporary topics, especially the sciences. Formerly a pulpit rabbi in Brooklyn, New York, and both Venice Beach and Beverly Hills California, he is currently an Adjunct Professor of Talmudic Law at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Topics/Programs:

Rabbi Shapero offers a wide range of outreach programs, including

- educational videoconferencing
- Torah Astronomy workshops
- one-on-one study sessions for professionals, business people, and college students
- couples classes
- classic rabbinic textual studies

Contact Info: osdetroit@gmail.com



Rabbi Avraham Jacobovitz
Machon L'Torah/JAAM Jewish Awareness America
Director

Honorarium: only travel expenses

Biography:

Rabbi Avraham Jacobovitz, a native of Tel Aviv, Israel, studied at Slobodka Rabbinical College and received his ordination from the Mirrer Yeshiva Central Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Upon moving to Detroit in 1977, he continued his postgraduate rabbinical studies.

Rabbi Jacobovitz founded Machon L'Torah, the Jewish Learning Network of Michigan, in 1980 to expose Jews of all walks of life to the beauty and depth of the Jewish heritage, the Torah, and its teachings. The Jewish Learning Network, while reaching out to Jews of all backgrounds and all ages, focused its main efforts on young adults and the many thousands of students throughout college campuses in the state of Michigan and neighboring states. In the fall of 1996, the Jewish Learning Network established the Jewish Resource Center at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 2001, Rabbi Jacobovitz formed Jewish Awareness AMerica (JAAM). JAAM is a national awareness program for Jewish students across North America's universities. Rabbi Jacobovitz currently serves as the national director for JAAM and its flagship program, the Maimonides Leaders Fellowship.

JAAM currently operates on over 30 universities throughout the United States and Canada and is in the process of developing the Maimonides Jewish Leadership at five major colleges this coming school year.

Rabbi Jacobovitz lectures extensively throughout North America's colleges under JAAM's auspices, on behalf of the Hillel student centers, and for numerous student organizations. He also lectures nationally on the subjects of college outreach, intermarriage, and Jewish law, customs, and thought. Rabbi Jacobovitz is the author of the soon to be published book entitled, *Perfect Strangers: Redefining Intermarriage*.

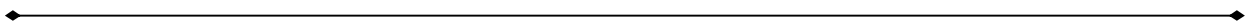
Rabbi Jacobovitz and his wife Bayla are the loving parents and grandparents of their nine children and many grandchildren. They currently reside in Oak Park, Michigan.

Topics/Programs:

Rabbi Jacobovitz is able to speak on numerous topics, including:

- Seven wonders of Judaism
- The Final Solution to Anti-Semitism

Contact Info: rabbiaj@gmail.com





Rabbi Tzvi Hochstadt
Noted Educator

Honorarium: \$150 + travel expenses

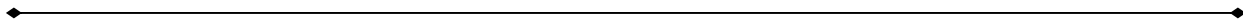
Biography:

Rabbi Tzvi Hochstadt was raised in a conservative Jewish home on Long Island. Rabbi Hochstadt completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Film and Television at New York University and did work in Film and Television both in New York and in Israel. After making Aliyah to Israel and serving in the Israeli Army, he committed to full-time study at Aish HaTorah's World Center where he received his Rabbinical Ordination. He returned to the United States in 1997 for Aish HaTorah to teach and coordinate programs in Detroit, including the Speed-Dating program, The highly successful 'High Holidays Beginners Services' and the 'Crash Course in Jewish Literacy' program. Now a mortgage broker, business manager and lecturer, Rabbi Hochstadt is involved with educating Jews regardless of background, or current level of observance throughout the metro-Detroit-Windsor area.

Topics/Programs:

- **Zenith Express** - 5 levels of Pleasure and Wisdom to get the most out life
- **Discovery Seminar**-The Rational Basis for Jewish Believe in the Divinity of the Torah
- **Love, Marriage and Soul Mates** - Wisdom for Relationships and the Mystical meaning of Gender
- **World Perfect** - Exploring the true Jewish contribution to civilization
- **Why The Jews?** - A seminar exploring the true meaning behind Anti-Semitism that will change how you view yourself and your people
- **Crash Course in Jewish History** - A Comprehensive Overview of the key elements that make up Jewish History

Contact Info: rhochstadt@sbcglobal.net





Rabbi Tzvi Muller
Center for Jewish Values
Director

Honorarium: only travel expenses

Biography:

As Founder and Director of the Center for Jewish Values, Rabbi Tzvi Muller pioneered a ground-breaking initiative to research and expound upon these mitzvos. Rabbi Muller has touched thousands of Jews by making this area of Judaism accessible, relevant and meaningful. Because knowledge of these mitzvos is so vital to a fulfilling life, Rabbi Muller is offering this unique educational, entertaining, and uplifting series. Rabbi Tzvi Muller studied in the Mirrer Yeshiva and Yeshiva Aish HaTorah in Jerusalem, where he received his ordination from Rabbi Yitzchok Berkowitz. Rabbi Muller founded a kollel dedicated to disseminating the study of mitzvos bein adam l'chaveiro (the mitzvahs affecting interpersonal relationships). He has established a reputation as an expert in this field, developing programs, teaching, and leading communities using these principles.

Topics/Programs:

Rabbi Muller's engaging classes are designed to help each of his students:

- Become a Better Person
- Enhance Their Relationships
- Make the World a Better Place

While Deepening Their Appreciation of Judaism

Courses include:

- **Of Rabbits & Rabbis: GIVING THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT**
- **Making a Word of a Difference: CONSIDERATE SPEECH**
- **Am I My *Botherer's* Keeper? WHEN WE ARE MISTREATED**

Contact Info: Muller@yby.org





RAVITZ FOUNDATION
STATEWIDE OUTREACH INITIATIVE
SPEAKERS BUREAU & JEWISH PROGRAM INDEX



Yoav Raban
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
Shaliach for Detroit

Honorarium: only travel expenses

Biography:

As the Shaliach for the Detroit community, Raban is a dynamic and talented Israeli emissary working with area educational organizations, youth organizations and campuses. Holding a B.A. in social work from the University of Haifa and having served in the IDF Intelligence Corps from 1998 to 2001, Raban brings a vast amount of experiences with him from Israel. He grew up in Kibbutz Ramat David in the Jezreel Valley and played on the regional basketball varsity team. As a 10th-grader with this team, he came to the U.S. for the first time in December 1994. Experiencing Jewish life and the celebration of Chanukah outside of Israel had a great impact on him.

He has turned that into a dedication to helping the Jewish community in Detroit by participating in a Birthright Israel student exchange from Hillel of Metropolitan Detroit in Israel, and working at Tamarack Camps in 2002 and 2003 and working as a counselor on Federation's Teen mission in 2004.

Topics/Programs:

Yoav can work with all ages. He can visit schools to put a face on Israel for students, work with youth groups, and make presentations to adult groups on a variety of topics regarding Israeli culture, politics and security.

Contact Info: yraban@jfmnd.org.