

Haim Shalom is the Rabbi and Director of Kehillat Mevakshei Derech, a progressive congregation in Jerusalem, inspired by the thought of Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan. He grew up in the United Kingdom but managed to escape at a young age to make his home in Israel, where he was ordained and now lives with his partner and three children. He has spent most of his career in the field of Jewish education but has also served as a congregational rabbi in Israel and the UK as well as serving on the boards of Rabbis for Human Rights and the Israel Religious Action Center.

Dr. Deborah Weissman, born in New York, moved to Jerusalem in 1972. She holds a BA from Barnard College and an MA from New York University, both in sociology, and a Ph.D. in Jewish education from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Her main field of academic research is the social history of Jewish women's education.

A prize-winning Jewish educator, Debbie has had extensive experience in both formal and informal Jewish education, both with Israelis and with Diaspora youth and adults. For nine years, she was the director of a teacher training institute for Israeli high school teachers, the Kerem Institute. Prior to that, Debbie worked for 12 years at the Hebrew University, primarily in the Melton Centre for Jewish Education and the School for Overseas Students. Other affiliations in the past have included: the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, Pardes Institute, the Hartman Institute, Machon Schechter, the Institute for Training Jewish Youth Leaders from Abroad, and the education branch of the Israel Defense Forces. In the 1970's, Debbie was one of the founders of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. In all of these frameworks, Debbie educated towards values of pluralism and openness. For many years, she has developed a specialization in teaching about Judaism to Christians.

Outside of the professional realm, Debbie was one of the founders and is still an active member of Kehillat Yedidya in Bak'a, a modern Orthodox synagogue that has excellent neighborly relations with its Reform and Conservative neighbors and hosts multi-faith groups from throughout the world. Yedidya in general and Debbie in particular have been pioneers of Orthodox feminism. Her other major interest is inter-religious dialogue, both locally and internationally. She has served as Co-Chair of the Inter-Religious Coordinating Council in Israel, as well as President of the International Council of Christians and Jews (the first Jewish woman to be elected to that post in the Council's more than sixty-year history.) In recognition of her service through two terms of the ICCJ Presidency, the organization awarded her the Interfaith Gold Medallion, "Peace through Dialogue," in 2014. She also received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. She now serves as Consultant to the ICCJ.