

# **Annual Report**

FISCAL YEAR 2022

October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022 Truah.org

# **Our Mission**

<u>T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights</u> brings the Torah's ideals of human dignity, equality, and justice to life by **empowering rabbis and cantors to be moral voices** and to lead Jewish communities in advancing democracy and human rights for all people in the United States, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.





# Our Theory of Change

Rabbis and cantors reach millions of people through their public moral voices and through their leadership of Jewish communities, including synagogues, schools, camps, JCCs, and other institutions. We train and mobilize clergy in order to create a Jewish community committed to human rights and rooted in Torah and tradition. With our rabbis at the helm, Jewish communities are equipped to take collective action to make change and to build strong relationships across lines of difference.

# By investing in rabbinic leadership, we invest in transforming our communities and our world.

Since 2002, T'ruah has organized and trained more than 2,300 rabbis and cantors in the United States and Canada to be moral leaders, guiding Jewish communities in protecting and advancing human rights both here and in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

This annual report looks at our year from October 2021 to September 2022. This was a year that included a dramatic spike in antisemitism around the world; an ongoing political crisis in Israel; an influx of refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine; tens of thousands of people trapped at the US-Mexico border because of the shutdown of the asylum system; an assault on bodily autonomy; attacks on free speech; unprecedented threats to our democracy; multiple climate catastrophes, and more — all against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

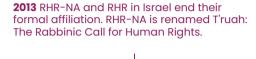
Throughout this challenging year, T'ruah's two decades of training and organizing rabbis and cantors enabled us to rise to the difficulties of the moment and protect and advance human rights.

# T'ruah at 20

In just 20 years, T'ruah has grown from the seed of an idea into an international organization representing over 2,300 rabbi and cantor members.

> 2002 A small group of rabbis forms the North American Rabbinic Cabinet in support of Rabbis for Human Rights/Shomrei Mishpat (RHR). The new organization is called Rabbis for Human Rights - North America (RHR-NA). Rabbi Brian Walt is the first Executive Director, working from his living room part-time.

2007 At a summer event in Washington, DC, RHR-NA campaigns to end state-sponsored torture.











2006 RHR-NA holds the First North American Rabbinic Conference on Judaism and Human Rights in NYC. The opening ritual, Building a Hanukiah for Human Rights, is held in front of the United Nations.

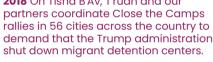
2018 On Tisha B'Av, T'ruah and our



2014 Rabbi Susan Talve encounters at an interfaith day of protest attended by more than 20 T'ruah



2019 Then-rabbinical-student Margo Hughes Robinson joins dozens of other Jews in occupying a Manhattan Amazon store to protest the tech giant's contract with ICE, which uses Amazon technology.



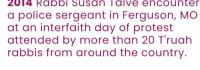


2011 Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster leads the first

of many groups of rabbis and cantors to learn

from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a

group of Florida farmworkers promoting a



2014 The first class of T'ruah Israel Fellows tours Hebron with Breaking the Silence; these future leaders aet a close look at the realities of occupation.





rabbis and cantors to the southern

border to bear witness to the horrific



2018 Hundreds of Jews gather

outside the ICE offices in New

administration's inhumane

treatment of immigrants.

York City to protest the Trump



racist and illegal Muslim Ban.

act of civil disobedience protesting the



2017 Weeks after Trump's inauguration, T'ruah convenes an emergency conference for more than 200 rabbis and cantors to organize for the next four years of moral leadership.

2020 T'ruah rabbis and cantors are a visible Jewish presence at the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, including this one in Washington DC organized by the Poor People's Campaign.



2021 Within hours of the attack on the Capitol, T'ruah gathers our community to stand up for democracy. Over 600 people join us that night for prayer, words of wisdom from our rabbis, and to take action.



Hills to replace trees uprooted by settlers.

2022 Our Israel Fellows plant olive trees in

a Palestinian village in the South Hebron



conditions there.

2020 Rabbis Rachel Kahn-Troster and Barat Ellman join coalition partners in Albany to advocate for the HALT Act, which passed in spring 2021, severely restricting the use of solitary confinement.



Square Park in support of

the Fund Excluded Workers

2022 T'ruah releases A Very Brief Guide to Antisemitism.

...and we will continue to shape what it means to be a rabbi or cantor in the vears to come.

#### Fiscal Year 2022

# By The Numbers

In 2022, we celebrated 20 years of T'ruah empowering rabbis and cantors to be moral voices and lead Jewish communities in advancing democracy and human rights in the U.S., Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.

2,373+

#### **RABBIS AND CANTORS**

led the charge for human rights.



# 2,311 T'RUAH MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

took concrete actions with us to stand up for human rights.

#### 100+

#### **RABBIS AND CANTORS**

from around the country joined our new communities of practice – cohorts organized around shared needs and interests, like antisemitism and racial justice.



#### **WE PUBLISHED**

**52** 

inspiring editions of (M)oral Torah, a human rights d'var Torah series written by top rabbis and cantors from around the country, and read weekly by 3,000 subscribers.





#### 19

#### **PROMINENT NYC RABBIS**

wrote to the Jewish
Communal Fund of New
York urging them to stop
allowing donor-advised
gifts to an organization
that funds violent
extremists in Israel.

# **512**TREES FOR PLANTING

purchased by T'ruah supporters for a threatened Palestinian village in the West Bank and a rooftop garden in West Jerusalem.





# 6,000+

COPIES OF A VERY BRIEF GUIDE TO ANTISEMITISM

helped Jews and non-Jews alike identify and respond to antisemitism.

## 150+

NEW MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

joined the Shofar Society.



called their representatives to urge them to reject Title 42 and restore asylum.

### **Over 80%**

of rabbinical and cantorial students spending their required year in Israel participated in our human rights program.



# INCREDIBLE NEW STAFF MEMBERS HIRED,

increasing our ability to organize Jewish clergy and amplify the rabbinic moral voice.



**450** 

**CHAVERIM** 

attended trainings on human rights issues.



# NEW INSTITUTE LAUNCHED!

Emor, the Institute for Bold Jewish Thought.



#### **MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GOT**

**1,357**MESSAGES

from members of our community encouraging them to introduce and pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.



...and so much more!

# T'ruah made an impact in 2022.

#### **WE FOCUSED ON**

# **Building Local Power**

We zeroed in on local human rights campaigns with our regional clusters of rabbinic rabble-rousers. Our Massachusetts cluster of chaverim turned up the volume on injustice through the #NoNewWomensPrison campaign. As members of a coalition led by formerly incarcerated women and their families, we organized to stop construction of a fifty-million-dollar new women's prison in Massachusetts and to invest in communities most affected by policing and incarceration.





In New York, we stood with Brooklyn construction workers who faced retaliation for organizing to improve their working conditions, supported community-based alternatives to incarceration in New York State, and advocated for an end to solitary confinement in city jails.

We also began recruitment for Tirdof: New York Jewish Clergy for Justice, a new partnership between T'ruah and Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ) Community, which launched in September 2022. Tirdof seeks to build power among local Jewish clergy and to foster a more vibrant culture of connection and organizing among our moral leaders.

99

With Truah's support,
Jewish clergy throughout
Massachusetts are building
power, deepening our
connections to each other,
and joining local communities
to fight for an end to the
incarceration of women and
girls in the commonwealth.

— RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN, MASSACHUSETTS CLUSTER CO-CHAIR

#### **WE LED**

# The Fight Against Antisemitism

T'ruah is a respected voice in the fight against antisemitism. We are known for our historically grounded analysis and for an approach that prioritizes deeper and broader relationships with other groups targeted by white supremacy, striving together towards collective liberation.

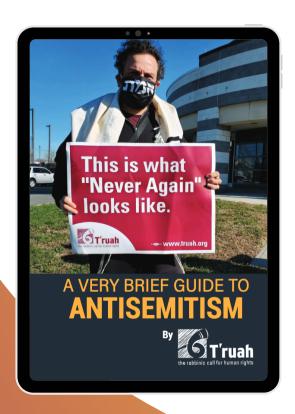
In FY22, we offered T'ruah staff-led antisemitism trainings for Jewish and non-Jewish nonprofits. We collaborated with Right to Be to create a training in Bystander Intervention to Stop Antisemitic Harassment, which hundreds of people around the country have taken.

# And we LAUNCHED A Very Brief Guide to Antisemitism — distributing over 6,000 copies.

The Guide provides context, language, and tools to help navigate the difficult terrain around antisemitism. Rabbis, educators, and politicians have already reached thousands of people in their communities with this important resource.

99

In a world where criticism of Israel is so often equated with antisemitism, this guide is an invaluable resource! As a community rabbi, I need concrete tools just like this to more confidently lead and navigate tough conversations with my congregants."



— RABBI CLAUDIA KREIMAN, SENIOR RABBI AT TEMPLE BETH ZION, BROOKLINE, MA **WE TRAINED** 

# The Next Generation of Jewish Leaders





I was drawn to the T'ruah Summer Human Rights Fellowship by the promise of combining rich, juicy, invigorating Jewish learning with an internship placement at a non-Jewish human rights organization. I had only worked in the Jewish social justice world before, and I felt that it was important to learn and gain experience outside of the Jewish bubble. I knew I would bring my Jewish identity wherever I went, but the non-Jewish placement was crucial to me.

I was placed at an organization called LA Voice, which is the Los Angeles affiliate of Faith in Action. It's been an incredible experience. My first day in person, the other organizers were preparing to launch their Summer/Fall Power Campaign – the culmination of a several-months-long listening campaign.

They had over 2,000 conversations with people from 30 different congregations across LA County. During the launch, I was struck by the stories that were being told. The leaders that were speaking shared their own lived experiences of being unhoused, unable to afford rent, and making the impossible decision between affording groceries and medical bills. It was a good reminder of the importance of not just being in coalition with organizations that work with impacted people, but of actually creating community and building power with people who have lived experience.

That was just the first of many moments I've had this summer when I've thought: I'm so glad to be here.

#### - ALLY KARPEL

2022 T'RUAH SUMMER FELLOW, HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION, CLASS OF 2026

#### WE EMPOWERED

# Students to Fight the Occupation

From rabbinical and cantorial students to seasoned clergy across the country, T'ruah brings groups of Jewish clergy to the West Bank and East Jerusalem to meet with Palestinian and Israeli human rights leaders, and to bear witness to the occupation. Rabbis and cantors return to their home communities empowered to be stronger moral leaders on this issue.

Over 80% of rabbinical and cantorial students spending their required year in Israel participated in our year-long program, learning about human rights issues facing Israelis and Palestinians, while developing their rabbinic moral voices.

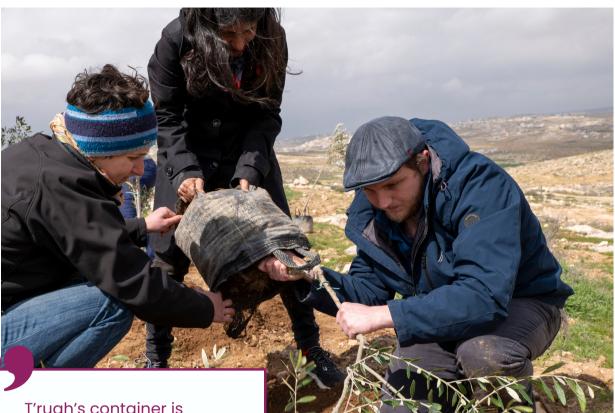
Simultaneously, the T'ruah Israel Fellowship offers a select group of six students the opportunity for intensive study, experiential learning, and cohort building.











T'ruah's container is loving, supportive, and agitational in a positive way — it challenges us to do the real work, to ask the real questions, to face the true realities.

— ALIZA SCHWARTZ 2022-2023 T'RUAH ISRAEL FELLOW, RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2024

Before traveling to the South Hebron Hills with T'ruah, I knew intellectually that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank was unjust, poses daily indignities to Palestinians, and is as much a detriment to Israel's security as it is to its soul. However, seeing with my own eyes the attempt to drive Palestinians out of Masafer Yatta, the rural area surrounding the West Bank Palestinian city of Yatta, brought the harsh reality home to my kishkes (my insides).

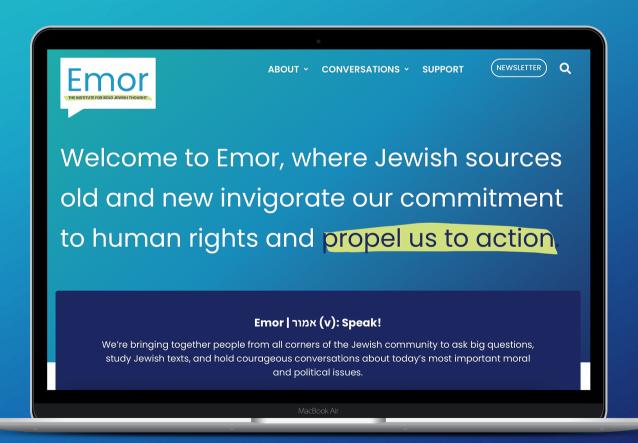
- RABBI BARRY BLOCK
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL, LITTLE ROCK, AK



#### Words create worlds.

Words expand our sense of what is possible and drive us to act. To tackle the most challenging issues of our day, we need courageous thought leadership grounded in Jewish text and tradition.

That's why in September, we launched Emor, the Institute for Bold Jewish Thought.



Welcome to emorinstitute.org

We convene scholars, activists, and artists to bring Jewish wisdom to the most pressing questions of our time, and then share what we uncover via essays, online courses, visual art, and more.

Emor is our response to the dangerous and well-funded right-wing Jewish think tanks pushing anti-democratic ideas into Jewish educational institutions, media, and communal discourse.



We are fighting back by lifting up an authentic Jewish voice rooted in a commitment to equity, justice, and the dignity of every single human being.

Rabbi Elazar said:
How do we know that words are
like actions? It says in Psalms
(33:6): "By the word of God were
the heavens created."

(Talmud Shabbat 119b)

## **FINANCIALS**

\$2,728,839
TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

**WE RAISED...** 

\$1,155,064
IN TOTAL INDIVIDUAL GIFTS.

WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY

2,442 DONORS WHO MADE 6,344 DONATIONS.

150+ PEOPLE
BECAME MONTHLY DONORS.

\$325,564
WAS RAISED FROM OUR ANNUAL GALA.

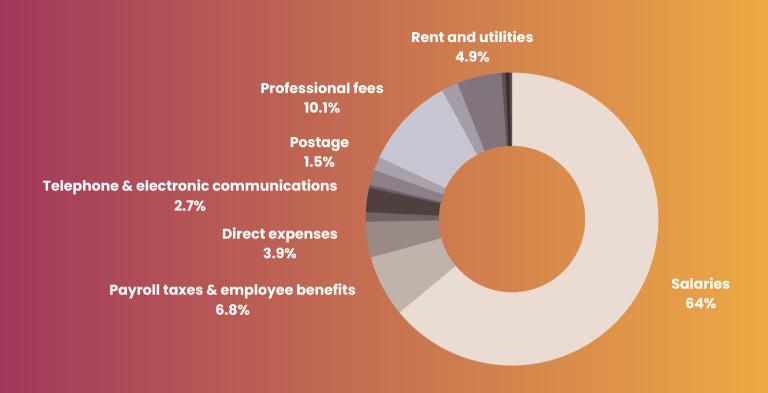
\$963,400
CAME FROM INSTITUTIONAL DONORS.

\$53,924
WAS EARNED INCOME.

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** FY21 \$1,115,676 FY22 \$990,476

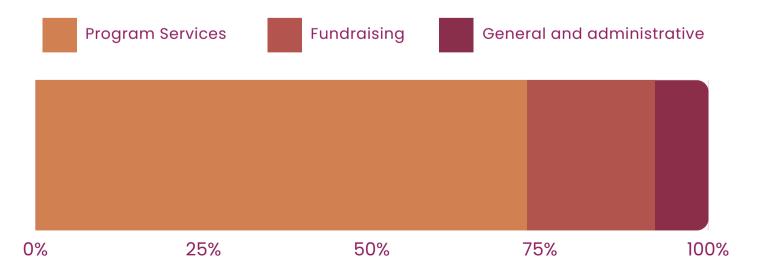
The institutional funding total may differ slightly from our independent audit due to how multi-year gifts are recognized under generally accepted accounting principles.

# PROGRAM EXPENSES



## **EXPENSES**

# IN PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CATEGORIES



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# THANK YOU TO OUR FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUPPORTERS

\$100,000+

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Righteous Persons Foundation
UJA-Federation of New York

\$50,000-\$99,999

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Schecter Family Fund Rabbi Lester Bronstein and Cantor Benjie Schiler Rabbi Ismar Schorsch

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Rabbi Steven, Rabbi Rebecca, and Talia Sirbu

Sixth & I

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Rabbi Nancy Kasten and Rabbi David Stern Sandor and Faye Straus

Cantor Lisa Segal and Arthur Strimling Lisa Strongin and Maxine Epperson Mona Kanin and Henry Strozier Rabbi Ariel Stone and Joseph Thaler

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Rabbi Deborah Waxman

Rabbi Suzanne Griffel and Saul Weiner

Rabbi Max Weiss

Rabbi Mira Wasserman and Steven Weitzman

Suzanne Stutman and Jon Wilkenfeld

Diane Wilson

Dr. Michael Fenlon and Dana Wu

Rabbi Debra Rappaport and Robert Zelle Rabbi Shawn and Rabbi Simcha Zevit

#### **Shofar Society**

The Shofar Society includes everyone who supports T'ruah as a monthly sustainer.

Sarah Abbamonte Dr. Martin Abramowitz Rabbi David Ackerman Rabbi Howard Addison Rabbi David Adelson Aaron Ahuvia Jamie Allen Black Rabbi Steven Altarescu Richard Amend Brenna Artinger Sarah Bartmann Jeff Basen-Engquist Dr. Patricia Bates Audrey Beerman Larry Behrendt Rabbi Marci Bellows Rabbi Allan Berkowitz Rabbi Cecelia Beyer Rabbi Todd Brecher Rabbi Charles Briskin Cantor Vera Broekhuysen Rabbi Michaela Brown Shana Burstyn Rabbi Meredith Cahn David Chavkin Dr. Barbara Chubak Rabbi Geoffrey Claussen Rabbi Aryeh Cohen Rabbi Paul Cohen Rabbi Sandra Cohen Deanna Cohen Colin Coltrera

Winfried Dallmayr Rabbi Julie Danan Rabbi Janet Darley Rabbi Jo David Nadav David Ari Davidow Rabbi Steven Denker Andrew Dittmar Rabbi Robert Dobrusin Rabbi Megan Doherty Rachel Doyle Rabbi Matt Dreffin Lori Dreffin Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus Rabbi Aderet Drucker Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan Rabbi Max Edwards Abbie Egherman Rabbi Amy Eilberg Rabbi Marc Ekstrand Isabel Ellison Rabbi Barat Ellman Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell Dr. Richard Epstein Naomi Estrada Dr. Robert Factor Rachel Faulkner Rabbi Samuel Feinsmith Rabbi Nora Feinstein Walter Fenska Rabbi Michael Fessler Rabbi Brian Field David Fillingham Anna Finklestein Rabbi Libby Fisher Diane Fisher Amanda Flaks Caryn Fliegler Rabbi Richard Flom Reverend Alan Fortrnoff Claire Foster Rabbi Susan Frank Rabbi Laurie Franklin Debbie Friedman Rabbi Shoshana Friedman Rabbi Stacy Friedman Scott Friedman Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein Chelsea Garbell Deborah Garber David Gassman Tim Gaylord

Rabbi Jonah Geffen

Chani Getter Ross Gianfortune Rabbi Philip Gibbs Dr. Martina Gillen Stephanie Glass Lee Goldberg Rabbi Ben Goldberg Rabbi Susan Goldberg Rabbi Daniel Goldblatt Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell Judith Goldschmidt Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein Claire Goldstein **Dorothy Goldstone** Rabbi David Goodman Rabbi Maralee Gordon Rabbi Yosi Gordon Dr. Jeanne Gottfried Helen Hadar Grabel Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann Rabbi Lisa Grant Melissa Gregory Rabbi Suzanne Griffel Rabbi Nadya Gross Mercedes Gail Gutierrez Helene Haapala Jane Handler **Hadar Harris** Rabbi Maurice Harris Rabbi Lindsey Healey-Pollack Rabbi Lauren Henderson Rabbi Elias Herb Rabbi Floyd Herman Dr. Kari Hexem Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann Rabbi Moshe Heyn Joseph Hillyard Rabbi Jo Hirschmann Dr. Judith Hollander Dina Hornreich Rabbi Jocee Hudson Dr. Scott Hunter Michael Hurta Flaurie Imberman Michael Jacobson Rabbi Devorah Jacobson Rabbi Jennifer Jaech Rabbi David Jaffe Joshua Jeffreys Rabbi Randy Kafka Robert Kahn Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster Rabbi Cassi Kail

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Aliza Kaliski Dr. James Kaplan Dr. Sue Lanser Meredith Larson Rabbi David Lazar Rabbi Esther Lederman Rachel Lerner Susan Lesser Iain Levine Frank Levy Ava Liberman Rabbi John Linder Cantor Patti Linsky Rabbi Ellen Lippmann Marion Lipshutz Rabbi Andrea London Ariela Lovett **Eve Lunt** Cantor Abbe Lyons Rabbi Marc Margolius Patricia Margulies Susan Marks Deni Marshall Rabbi Sara Meirowitz Carole Merl Jules Mermelstein Miles Meth Rabbi Jessica Kate Meyer Rachamana Meyers Rabbi Abby Michaleski Dr. Elana Michelson Rabbi Joshua Mikutis Rabbi Rachel Mikva Claire Miller Myra Miller Dr. Sharon Minsuk Rabbi Jim Morgan Zev Morgan Rabbi Joel Mosbacher David Moskowitz Judith Nadell Rabbi Preston Neimeiser Julie Nelson Cantor Julie Newman Francine Newman David Nichol Rabbi Aviva Orenstein Amelia Overbay-Day Linda Owen Rabbi Laura Owens Nancy Passow Rabbi Salem Pearce Rabbi Barbara Penzner Rebecca Peretz-Lange

Francine Perlman Netanya Perluss Alan Polinsky Carrie Pollack Dr. Daniel Pomerantz Dr. Ronna Popkin Paula Popper Dr. David Pressman Nina Price Rabbi Sally Priesand Rabbi Jennifer Queen Karen Radtke Shari Raider Debra Rand Rabbi Jonah Rank Bryna Rapp Michal Raucher abbi Frederick Reeves Rabbi Victor Reinstein Alison Rice Rabbi Yair Robinson Robert Romero Michael Rose Cantor Chanin Rosen Bruce Rosen Rabbi Shoshana Rosenbaum Ivan Rosenberg **Emily Rosenberg** Rhonda Rosenheck Rabbi Ken Rosenstein Jon Ross James Roth Rabbi Michael Rothbaum Rabbi Robert Rottenberg Rabbi Jason Rubenstein Rabbi Ralph Ruebner Rabbi Laura Rumpf Rabbi Gila Ruskin Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg <u>Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands</u> Rabbi Rabbi Simone Schicker Rabbi SaraLeya Schley Rabbi Howie Schneider Rabbi Rebecca Schorr Cantor Eric Schulmiller Dr. Lisa Schwartz Rabbi Amanda Schwartz Stephen Segal Cantor Lisa Segal Rabbi Gerald Serotta Rabbi Isaac Serotta Amy Shakun Rabbi Susan Shamash

Laura Shapiro Kramer

Rabbi Jessica Shimberg

Elyse Shuster Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner Naomi Siegel Rabbi Jacob Siegel Rabbi Jeanette Šieradski **Arthur Silver** Rabbi Rabbi Melissa Simon Rabbi Suzanne Singer Dr. Darius Sivin Alanna Sklover Rabbi Jonathan Slater Sara Sloan Jeanne Snodgrass David Snyder Rabbi Matthew Soffer Talya Sokoll Lilly Spitz Rabbi Brent Spodek Phillip Steinberg Rabbi David Steinberg Ahouva Steinhaus Rabbi Oren Steinitz Lisa Strongin L. Suarez Cynthia Sultan Ilana Sumka Leah Swiler Glenn Tetterton-Opheim Jessica Thompson Laurie Toner Rabbi Aryeh Tuchman Ellen Tucker **Judith Tuller Judith Tumin** Rabbi David Vaisberg Cantor Eliot Vogel Rabbi Brian Walt Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev Stuart Warren Rabbi Deborah Waxman Steven Weinberg Jill Weinstein Rabbi Samuel Weintraub

Rabbi Jill Perlman

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Jaime Weisberg Rabbi Ora Weiss Rabbi Micah Weiss Alice Wertheim Dr. Alan Wexelblat Rabbi Josh Whinston Eric Whinston Allison White Kelly Whitehead
Judi Williams
Rabbi David Wirtschafter
Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan
Dr. Jeremy Wolfe
Rabbi Michal Woll
Rabbi Eric Woodward
Esther Wright

Rabbi Bridget Wynne Rabbi Tzemah Yoreh Leonard Zablow Marcia Zaccaria Rabbi Jonathan Zasloff Rabbi Lina Zerbarini Rabbi Shawn Zevit



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Only T'ruah bridges between clergy and the larger Jewish community, between Israeli and diaspora Jews, and between the worlds of politics and Jewish values. They draw upon the rich tradition of Jewish ethics and social justice to guide their advocacy efforts, making their work not just impactful, but deeply meaningful and spiritual. We have been proud supporters of T'ruah for many years and are even more convinced in today's tumultuous world that a clear, prophetic, rabbinic voice is deeply needed. *T'ruah is that voice*.

- TERRY AND CAROL WINOGRAD, STANFORD CALIFORNIA



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"I have been a proud T'ruah rabbi for many years, and joining the Shofar Society felt critical to me as a way to help sustain T'ruah's essential work fighting for human rights on so many fronts: for immigrant justice, to end mass incarceration, against worker exploitation, against the occupation, and so much more. They are effective changemakers and the moral rabbinic voice the Jewish community so desperately needs."

#### RABBI DANYA RUTTENBERG

SHOFAR SOCIETY MEMBER



#### CONCLUSION

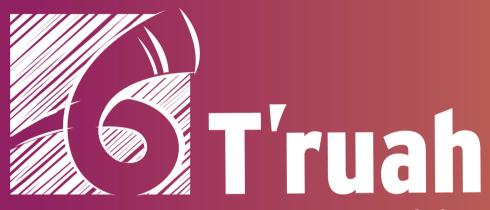
# Fiscal Year 2022 was a year of incredible growth and momentum.

As the world continued to turn its back on our most vulnerable neighbors and community members, we showed up in full force with courage, know-how, and rabbinic moral backbone.

We trained and organized more than 2,300 rabbis and cantors to speak up for human rights and human dignity. We called on the U.S. government to protect and expand the legal rights of immigrants. We raised the rabbinic moral voice in support of incarcerated individuals and alternatives to policing.

We sounded the alarm on far-right extremism and existential threats to democracy in the U.S. and in Israel. We trained the next generation of Jewish moral leaders to lead their communities in working for human rights, here and across the globe — all in the midst of enormous upheaval in our public, personal, and spiritual lives.

This year taught us once again that our safety, freedom, and well-being is deeply intertwined — and that together, we can build a world our ancestors never thought possible.



the rabbinic call for human rights







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