

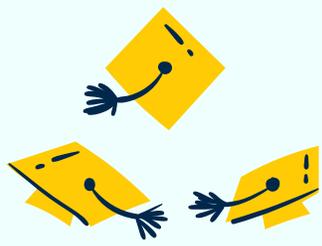
GRADUATION CEREMONY

Class of 2021

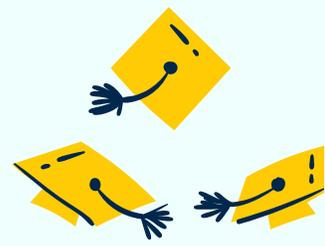
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021



**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Program Schedule



Welcome

School of Social Work Welcome

Dean Lynn Videka

Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Welcome

Dr. Jeffrey Veidlinger

Keynote Remarks

Su Crabb

Introduction to the Graduates

JCLP Class of 2022

Class of 2021 Graduates

Simi Adler

Rebecca Belkin

Meredith Berlin

Courtney Bushnell

Hilary Forrest

Kayla Kapen

Remarks from Karla Goldman, JCLP Director



Speakers



Dr. Karla Goldman

Karla Goldman has served as the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work, Professor of Judaic Studies, and director of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan since 2008. Her research focuses on the history of American Jewish communities and the evolving roles and contributions of American Jewish women. Dr. Goldman previously taught at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and was historian in residence at the Jewish Women's Archive. She is the author of *Beyond the Synagogue Gallery: Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism*. Karla is an incredible mentor to all the JCLP students, past and present.



Dean Lynn Videka

Lynn Videka has been dean and Carol T. Mowbray Collegiate Professor at the School of Social Work since August 2016. Prior to her appointment, she served as dean of New York University's Silver School of Social Work. Since coming to the University of Michigan, she has engaged the faculty, staff, alumni, students and community partners in a strategic planning process that has resulted in an ambitious strategic vision for the school to lead the entire social work field into the next generation of research, educational innovation and service. Dean Videka is a valued supporter of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program, one of the twelve scholarship programs within the School of Social Work.



Dr. Jeffrey Veidlinger

Jeffrey Veidlinger Jeffrey is the Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies and has been Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan since 2015. His areas of interest include Modern Jewish history, modern Russia and Eastern Europe, oral history, culture and ethnicity, and the Holocaust. We thank Jeff for being a strong supporter of JCLP students and programs throughout his tenure



Su Crabb

Su Crabb joined the Office of Field Education (OFE) as a field educator/lecturer/field liaison in 2008. Recently appointed to Assistant Director of OFE, Su has taught, supervised, and mentored hundreds of MSW students, including all of the JCLP cohorts since the first Fall 2010 incoming class. Su's invaluable and numerous contributions to JCLP over the years have helped both the program and students to flourish. She has also been an important member of the JCLP Faculty and Community Advisory Board. Prior to joining the Field Education Office, Su worked at a large nonprofit agency. As the president/CEO from 2004 to 2008, she was responsible for the budget and financial management, strategic planning, development, Board relations, and supervision to the leadership team. She also served as a field instructor for U-M and Eastern Michigan University BSW and MSW students for over ten years. Su is retiring in August and will be greatly missed.



Graduates



Simi Adler

Simi Adler, originally from Boulder, CO, graduated from the University of Colorado in 2009 with a BA in Psychology. Since graduating, Simi has held many positions working with youth and young adults including as a Mental Health Worker at a residential treatment center, a Youth Director at a Synagogue, the Assistant Director the Maurice B. Shwayder Camp, and most recently as the Director of Student Life at the University of Denver Hillel. He is concentrating in Interpersonal Practice with a minor in Management of Human Services. He spent his first academic year as a Management Intern at Jewish Family Services of Metro Detroit where he worked on program development, evaluation, and assessment projects as well as non-profit strategic operations while his most recent internship was as a school social worker for Washtenaw Technical Middle College where he focused his efforts on the social-emotional wellbeing of high school students. Additionally, he was able to work with youth in the greater Washtenaw County area as a Residential Youth Specialist at Ozone House and as a site social worker at Telling It, a local creative arts after-school program.

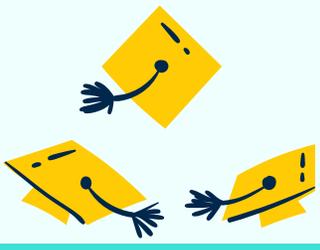
Rebecca Belkin

Rebecca Belkin is originally from Providence, RI. She received a Bachelor's of Social Work from New York University with a minor in Studio Art. Following graduation, Rebecca worked as a preschool teacher where she emphasized fostering an inclusive classroom community that instilled a sense of wonder in her young students, supporting their natural curiosity, and encouraging a love of learning. Before JCLP, she participated in the Avodah Justice Fellowship in NYC, where she began exploring the historical connections between Judaism, justice, and resistance. Rebecca completed a yearlong field placement with Detroit Jews for Justice, where she developed her skills in facilitation, project management, evaluation, and adaptability (thanks, covid-19). Through her experience with DJJ and in JCLP, Rebecca has been able to bring together her belief in human dignity and the transformative power of human relationships with a deeper understanding of the Jewish community and its role in social justice.

Meredith Berlin

Meredith Berlin is originally from Huntington Woods, Michigan. She graduated from Western Michigan University in April 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Health Services with minors in gerontology and human resource management. During her undergraduate years, she held many leadership positions on campus with being an administrative resident assistant for two years and serving on Hillel @ WMU's board all four years. Meredith's formative Jewish experiences stem from an extensive background as a camper, counselor, and supervisor at Tamarack Camps in Ortonville, MI. Meredith's field placements have been at Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit and Burton Elementary in Huntington Woods. She is studying Interpersonal Practice with a focus in Community and Social Systems, and a certificate in School Social Work. This summer Meredith is excited to be returning to Tamarack Camps as a social worker! She is thrilled to be able to combine her passions of camp and social work into one!





Graduates



Courtney Bushnell

Courtney Bushnell is originally from Sandy, Utah. She graduated from Brigham Young University with her bachelors in Sociology in June 2018. Her capstone research was on the development of religion into culture. During her undergraduate she had the opportunity to study abroad in Jerusalem which amongst other formative experiences, led her to JCLP. Since graduating Courtney worked with the anti-human trafficking organization, Operation Underground Railroad as the Team Lead for the volunteers in the Denver metro area. Additionally, she has served as a leader in a faith based organization that serves a group of girls to help prepare them to be strong women in society. She hopes to work within faith organizations and be a part of interfaith collaboration to help achieve mutual humanitarian efforts in society and the world. Throughout her time in JCLP, she has completed her field work at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and Emergence Collective. Courtney is studying Social Policy and Evaluation and Community and Social Systems.



Hilary Forrest

Originally from Albany, NY, Hilary Forrest comes to JCLP by way of New York City. Hilary is focusing her social work degree on management and leadership. She graduated in 2016 from UM's Ford School of Public Policy. Hilary worked at the Jewish Federations of North America and Manhattan Jewish Experience before teaching English in Israel through the Masa Teaching Fellows program. Most recently, Hilary is working as the New York Community Assistant at OneTable, where she loves helping Jewish millennials engage with Shabbat and end their week with intention. If you want to talk about Shabbat or Michigan Football, she's always interested.



Kayla Kapen

Kayla Kapen is originally from West Bloomfield, Michigan. She graduated from Ohio University in 2019 with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in music and psychology. She was a research assistant in the Center for Intervention and Research in Schools lab in the psychology department and a cellist in the Ohio University Symphony Orchestra. During her time in JCLP, she completed her field work at The Well and Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Outside of JCLP, she enjoys playing with her cats Prissy and Simba, playing the cello, taking long walks, and anything to do with musical theater.





About



The University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) offers a distinctive education for emerging leaders committed to helping Jewish communities meet 21st-century challenges while addressing broader social concerns. Housed at the nation's #1-ranked School of Social Work, it is conducted in collaboration with the University's renowned Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. JCLP students earn a Master's of Social Work along with a Certificate in Jewish Communal Leadership. Within the context of a supportive small cohort, JCLP students push themselves and each other to deepen their knowledge of and engagement with Jewish communal issues and concerns. Today's graduates join more than 145 Project STaR, Drachler Program (our predecessor programs in the School of Social Work), and JCLP alumni working in Michigan, across the United States, and around the world. We are grateful for your attendance today and your support of our students.



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