

For Immediate Release:

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**Contributors and Editor of “Fragile Dialogue” Debate Liberal Zionism
at Congregation Kol Ami on April 18, 2018.**

West Hollywood, CA – February 8, 2018 – Congregation Kol Ami, West Hollywood's Reform Synagogue announces it will be hosting "Debating The Fragile Dialogue" on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. This panel event will discuss *The Fragile Dialogue: New Voices in Liberal Zionism*, a new collection of essays that explores the diverse perspectives of the progressive Jewish community on Israel and Zionism. The panel will be moderated by Kol Ami's founding rabbi, Rabbi Denise L. Eger and the participants will include the book's co-editor, Rabbi Stanley M. Davids as well as three of the book's contributors; Dr. Joshua David Holo, Dean of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and rabbinical students, Max Chaiken and Eric Rosenstein. The panel will be followed by a book signing with copies of *The Fragile Dialogue* available for purchase.

Rabbi Davids served as national chairman to ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He founded the Reform Zionist Think Tank. He is Honorary Chairman of the Israel Bonds National Rabbinic Cabinet as well as an elected member of both the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization. A congregational rabbi for more than 45 years, Rabbi Davids is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanu-El of Greater Atlanta.

Dr. Holo began his tenure as Dean of HUC-JIR, Jack H. Skirball Campus, Los Angeles, in 2010. Dr. Holo came to the College-Institute in the Fall of 2005 as Associate Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Louchheim School of Judaic Studies. Prior to coming to HUC-JIR, Dr. Holo served as Assistant Professor of Jewish History at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.

Max Chaiken is concluding his final year of rabbinical studies at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. Currently, Max serves as the student rabbi at Congregation Kol Ami. Previously, he served as the student rabbi at Congregation Etz Chaim in Merced, CA, in addition to teaching at Temple Isaiah. He received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Public Policy from Brown University in 2009.

Eric Rosenstein is a fourth-year rabbinic student and graduate of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. He currently serves as the rabbinic intern at Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, and previously served Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles as an education intern, and Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo, California as their student rabbi.

The collection includes 20 essays by thought leaders on critical topics in modern Zionism, such as the relationship between Zionism and liberal democracy, Israel on college campuses, and Zionism and social justice. The essays demonstrate the diversity of modern Liberal Zionist thought, varying widely and at times offering divergent views. *The Fragile Dialogue* includes perspectives from both American Reform rabbis and leaders of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism and prominent Zionist leaders. Co-edited by Rabbis Stanley M. Davids and Rabbi Lawrence A. Englander, DHL, *The Fragile Dialogue* also includes a foreword from Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, and a preface by Rabbi Janet Liss, Chair of the CCAR Israel Committee. "This book is a must-read for anyone who cares about the relationship between American Jews community—especially Progressive Jews—and the State of Israel," says Rabbi Steven A. Fox, Chief Executive of CCAR.

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About Congregation Kol Ami

Founded 1992, Kol Ami has become an important leader in the Jewish, LGBTQI and West Hollywood communities. Our commitment to progressive spirituality, diversity, inclusion and social justice has been celebrated nationwide. Rabbi Denise L. Eger is the founding rabbi of Kol Ami and is a nationally recognized activist, writer and speaker on social justice, civil rights and modern Judaism. In March of 2015, she became the 60th President of the CCAR becoming the first openly gay or lesbian rabbi to that position.