

4/14/16

## **Reflections on the Mickey Weiss Fellowship, 2015/5775**

**Rabbi Brian Schuldenfrei**

In the midst of a morning filled with intellectual inspiration, Rabbi Donniel Hartman, challenged a room of several hundred rabbis to live a Torah of engagement, one that leaves no room for indifference. For most present in the Beit Midrash that morning, Rabbi Hartman's words underscored deeply rooted beliefs and values. I was surrounded by passionate and caring Jews deeply committed to Jewish community and Torah. But, ironically, perhaps rabbis are most susceptible to the plague of indifference in our own lives. After all, too often our own personal self-care, spiritual growth, and intellectual exploration are forced aside by demands of service to our community.

RTI is the perfect place to challenge our own indifference and to reignite the spark of deep and passionate Torah that so many of us long for in our daily lives.

Through the generosity of the LA Federation and the Weiss Fellowship, I was afforded this opportunity and it is one that I will always treasure. In a supportive and collegial setting, my two weeks at Hartman helped me rediscover my personal passion for serious Talmud Torah. What a blessing! I am most grateful to have had this opportunity.

4/24/17

## **Reflections on the Mickey Weiss Fellowship, 2015/5775**

**Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe Bernhard**

An opportunity to reflect, to renew, to recharge. This is how I looked upon my time at the Hartman Institute as part of the Mickey Weiss Fellowship program.

The Hartman Institute is one of the premiere learning centers in the Jewish world. The scholars are amazing, the learning profound. Each year a theme is chosen that they have discussed and worked through for many months and during the two weeks that theme is explored from many different angles using diverse texts. And yet the scholarship is not for scholarship sake and the learning has profound implications for the work that we do as clergy. In addition, there are

smaller discussion groups and evening lectures on contemporary topics touching on all aspects of Jewish life both in Israel and the Diaspora. And all of this occurs with colleagues and in Jerusalem.

The time I spent at Hartman was deeply helpful. The learning and discussions with such insightful and thoughtful thinkers gave me the chance to reflect on the larger issues that we face as people and I face as a rabbi that so often get subsumed under the day to day crush of work. The passion and commitment of those who taught as well as those with whom I learned enabled me to renew my own sense of purpose in the work that I do. And being in Jerusalem and with colleagues rekindled my own connection to my fellow clergy as well as the Israel.