

Rabbi Daniel S. Nevins



Rabbi Daniel Nevins is the Pearl Resnick Dean of the JTS Rabbinical School and Division of Religious Leadership, where he trains cantors, rabbis, and other future leaders of the Jewish people. He is a member of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and has composed responsa on topics of contemporary importance related to bioethics, technology, gender, sexuality, and disability. These and other writings may be found at [his web page](#).

Danny grew up in northern New Jersey, attending the Frisch Yeshivah High School and then Yeshivat HaMivtar in Jerusalem. He was also a camper and counselor at Camp Ramah, and was mentored by Conservative Rabbi Andre Ungar z”l, a civil rights activist and scholar. At Harvard College Danny studied Middle Eastern history, founded an Arab-Jewish dialogue group, chaired the Zionist organization, volunteered in a student-led homeless shelter, and helped edit a journal called *Mosaic*. An internship at the Hastings Center for Bioethics kindled his interest in that field, and a grant at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem helped him prepare a prize-winning thesis on binationalism in the Mandatory period.

After graduating from Harvard, Danny entered the Rabbinical School at JTS, earning an MA in Jewish studies and spending another year studying in Jerusalem. During rabbinical school he married Lynn Scheele, a speech-language pathologist and ceramic

artist originally from Madison, WI. At JTS Danny was named secretary of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, helping edit a volume of its responsa. He also continued volunteer work with the homeless population in Manhattan, a commitment he continued as a rabbi in Michigan and then New York.

Following his rabbinic ordination in 1994, Danny and Lynn moved to Farmington Hills, MI, where he began work at Adat Shalom Synagogue as assistant rabbi. He taught at Hillel Day School, helped found the Frankel Jewish Academy, and served as president of three clergy groups. The three Nevins children were all born during Danny and Lynn’s first five years in Michigan. In 2000 he succeeded Rabbi Efrey Spectre z”l as senior rabbi of Adat Shalom. He was also named to the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and began writing responsa and other articles for the Conservative movement. Close ties with both Jewish and non-Jewish clergy in Michigan presented numerous opportunities for communal leadership, including an interfaith clergy mission he led to Rome and Israel in 2005.

Together with Rabbis Elliot Dorff and Avram Reisner in 2006, Rabbi Nevins wrote the responsum, “Homosexuality, Human Dignity and Halakhah,” which allowed for the normalization of status of gay and lesbian Jews, and their eligibility as Conservative rabbis and cantors. New JTS chancellor Dr. Arnie Eisen appointed Rabbi Nevins as dean of the Rabbinical School in 2007, and he quickly moved to diversify JTS, welcoming LGBTQ+ students as well as other populations that had been marginalized. Simultaneously Rabbi Nevins enhanced the halakhic training of JTS students, opened new opportunities for advanced academic and professional training, established a new year-program in Israel, and helped Rabbi Mychal Springer found the Center for Pastoral Education. He has published many more responsa, articles and book chapters, and has lectured across the Jewish world.

Rabbi Nevins is a passionate environmentalist, and with his family enjoys outdoor sports such as hiking and cycling as well as cooking and entertaining. He plays percussion and loves sitting in on jam sessions and drum circles. Examples of his *divrei Torah* are posted at www.rabbinevins.com.