

## 2016 Summer Scripture Speaker Bios



### **Rabbi Michael Balinsky**

Executive Vice President of the Chicago Board of Rabbis  
Chicago

#### Education:

He is a graduate of Yeshiva University where he also received his ordination. In addition, he studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel.

#### Ministerial and Teaching Experience:

Rabbi Balinsky was a Hillel director for twenty-two years, over nineteen of those as the director of the Louis and Saerree Fiedler Hillel Center at Northwestern University, after two and a half years as the Associate Director of Hillel at the University of Michigan.

Rabbi Balinsky has taught courses at The University of Michigan, Loyola University, and in numerous adult education settings. He has also been Director of Faculty Development for the Florence Melton Adult Mini-Schools. In that capacity, he led the work of the organization in formulating its approach and best practices to adult Jewish learning and teaching, integrating the knowledge gained from adult education with insights from Jewish sources on the study of Torah.

He is married to Dr. Myra Rapoport and is the father of three daughters.

#### Memberships and Organizational Affiliations:

Rabbi Michael Balinsky is the Executive Vice President of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, an organization representing two hundred rabbis of all denominations. He is a member of the Jewish Catholic Scholars Dialogue in Chicago, the Board of the Parliament of the World Religions, serves as the president of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago and is on the advisory board of the Bernadin Center at Catholic Theological Union. He is also an active participant in a number of Jewish, Christian and Moslem interfaith initiatives.

Rabbi Balinsky is a past president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the American Jewish Committee.

2014 Lecture Topics: “But What of the Canaanites? Classical Jewish Commentaries on the Conquest of the Land of Israel”

Previous Presenter at Summer Scripture Seminar: 2014