

RABBI ARTHUR WASKOW, PH.D., SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Ph. D., founded (in 1983) and directs The Shalom Center, a prophetic voice in Jewish, multireligious, and American life that brings Jewish and other spiritual thought and practice to bear on seeking peace, pursuing justice, healing the earth, and celebrating community. He edits and writes for its weekly on-line Shalom Report.

In 2014 he was honored by *T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights* with their first Lifetime Achievement Award as a "Human Rights Hero." In 2015 he was named one of the "most inspiring" American rabbis by *The Forward*, the leading Jewish weekly in America.

For almost 50 years, Waskow has been one of the leading creators of theory, practice, and institutions for the movement for Jewish renewal, a journey that began with the writing of the *The Freedom Seder* (1969), the first Haggadah for Passover to intertwine the archetypal liberation of the Jewish people from slavery to Pharaoh with the modern liberation struggles not only of the Jewish people, but also the Black community in America and other peoples. The *Freedom Seder* has become a model for many Jews during the past generation to shape Passover Seders to celebrate their own commitments to emerging aspects of liberation -- such as environmental concerns, feminism, and the freedom of Tibet. He is a prolific author and teacher in the Jewish renewal movement.

Rabbi Waskow also pioneered in the development of Eco-Judaism in theology, liturgy, daily practice, and activism –

- through his books *Seasons of Our Joy; Godwrestling – Round 2; Down-to-Earth Judaism; Trees, Earth, & Torah: A Tu B'Shvat Anthology*; and *Torah of the Earth: 4,000 Years of Ecology in Jewish Thought*;
- as author of a pioneering essay on "Jewish Environmental Ethics: Adam and Adamah," in *Oxford Handbook of Jewish Ethics and Morality* (Elliot N. Dorff and Jonathan K. Crane, eds.; Oxford University Press, 2013);
- through the Green Menorah organizing project of The Shalom Center;
- through the *Interfaith Freedom Seder for the Earth* and a number of climate-focused public actions drawing on and transforming traditional liturgies for Tu B'Shvat, Passover/ Palm Sunday, Tisha B'Av, Sukkot, and Hanukkah;

- as a candidate for the World Zionist Congress on the Green Zionist Alliance slate;
- as a participant and speaker in the World Interfaith Summit on the Climate Crisis called by the Archbishop of Sweden in Uppsala in 2008;
- as a founding member (2010-2013) of the stewardship committee of the Green Hevra (a network of Jewish environmental organizations);
- as a member of the coordinating committee of Interfaith Moral Action on Climate;and
- as a practitioner of nonviolent civil disobedience who, over the years, has been arrested 23 times – in recent times, especially in climate protests in the US Capitol and at the White House.

For a more comprehensive biography of Rabbi Waskow and information about his work through The Shalom Center, visit <https://theshalomcenter.org>.