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Education

Jewish Theological Seminary of America. New York, New York. 1992-1998.
Rabbinical Program
M.A., May 1998

University of Judaism. Los Angeles, California. 1992-1994.
M.H.L., 1994
Thesis: ***Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Levi and the Messiah at the Gate of Rome: The Lachrymose Reading Reconsidered***

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Jerusalem, Israel. 1991-1992
Traditional study of Talmud, Bible, and Jewish law.

Princeton University. Princeton, New Jersey. 1987-1991.
B.A., Summa Cum Laude in Near Eastern Studies, 1991
Thesis: ***Jewish Historical Awareness and Collective Memory in Pre-Modern Europe***

Congregational Experience

Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center. Ridgewood, New Jersey. 2001 - present.
Rabbi. Serve as spiritual leader in this 320-family congregation.

Created Congregational **Statement of Purpose**: “***To Embrace the Other as OurSelf***”. Goal is to foster a new kind of synagogue community where people are transformed through service to one another. We live up to this purpose through the three traditional pillars of **Torah**, **Avodah** (sacred worship), and **Gemilut Chasadim** (acts of loving-kindness).

Torah

- Initiated a culture of lay-led adult education experiences: numerous classes taught by synagogue members, **Shabbat University**, **Passover University**, and **Journey of the Heart**, where members present “round-robin”-style learning events about Shabbat, Passover, and the High Holy Days respectively.
- Developed **Tefilah Guru** study-sessions on Shabbat during the Torah service and held in the synagogue library, where congregants learn from an adult educator about the **Tefilah** in a setting that presents both the intellectual and experiential side of **Tefilah**.
- Developed **Coffee Talk**, a lay-led study-group that meets prior to services to study the weekly **haftarah**.
- Designed and Teach **Adult Bnai Mitzvah program**, a two-year course emphasizing practical synagogue skills along with intellectual learning finding personal meaning.
- Teach regular adult education offerings, from Talmud class to specialty classes on Jewish prayer, Jewish literacy, theology, Jewish mysticism, Conservative Judaism, Jewish history, **Perek Yomi**, Hebrew, and Jewish parenting.
- Developed and taught the new pilot program of the **Melton Mini School PEP Program** for parents of younger children. Also developed and taught in the **Bergen County Jewish Learning Project** to the general Bergen County Jewish community on Judaism and Homosexuality and Judaism and the Rules of War.
- Lead **religious school** family workshops, teach the 7th grade students on a weekly basis, and advise the director of education on curriculum development.

Congregational Experience (Continued)**Avodah**

- Developed Shabbat services with a strong emphasis on **participatory davening and learning**. Congregants lead most services, Torah and *haftarah*-readings. Services also include *nigunim*, *divrei t'filah*, and a congregational discussion based on the *parashah*.
- Developed community-building **Nosh and Drosh** Shabbatot, where the order of the Shabbat morning service is shifted: immediately after *Shacharit* is *Kiddush* and a light breakfast, at which time a community member presents the *D'var Torah*. The Torah service and Musaf then follow this. Instead of a communal *Kiddush* following services, congregants go to one another's homes for Shabbat lunch.
- Created monthly **Shabbat Together** events, where there are two parallel early Friday-night services—a family service and a main Carlebach-style service. Both services come together at the end for a story, and then everyone sits down to a family-style Shabbat dinner.
- Created a **Spirituality and In-Reach Task Force** whose charge is to find on-going ways to deepen the personal Jewish experience and connection for community members. Several new initiatives have begun as a result:
 - Developed **Melave Malka** events on Saturday evenings, where community members gather at one another's homes for *Havdalah*, songs, candlelight, wine and cheese, and a lay-led and guided discussion on themes about finding personal meaning in Judaism.
 - Created and lead monthly **Daven and Delve** service, a chanting and meditation *minyán* held on Sunday mornings.
 - Lead **Avodat HaLev**, a monthly Jewish meditation group focusing on practice using traditional texts, liturgy, and Hasidic teachings.
 - Instituted **Kavanot**—short statements or prayers of intent to be recited by lay-leaders at the beginning of committee meetings to ensure Jewish context for business meetings.
- Created a regular monthly **Junior Congregation** and **Tot Shabbat** program on Shabbat morning, as well as advise weekly lay-led parent/toddler **playgroup**.
- Created yearly **Shul-In**, a full-day in-house *Shabbaton* where congregants and professional staff together lead a whole day of programs, classes, services, social events, and meals for all ages.
- Created lay-led **Bnai Mitzvah Workshops** that helps *bnai mitzvah* parents become comfortable with services, Jewish meanings, and congregational expectations.

Gemilut Chasadim and Community-Building

- Launched a synagogue-wide **Keruv** initiative in conjunction with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. In addition to out-reach programs, panel-discussions, and *chavura*-style events, Keruv is working with all aspects of the synagogue to foster a culture of true welcoming to our non-Jewish community members.
- Created a new **Chesed Committee** to galvanize the whole community into acts of giving and reaching out to one another. Its mission includes bikkur *cholim* trainings, meals for the bereaved, rides for the infirmed, visits to shut-ins, and support groups for various interest groups.

Congregational Experience (Continued)

Gemilut Chasadim and Community-Building (Continued)

- Launched new **Tikkun Olam Committee**, with its first major initiative with **GreenFaith**, an interfaith religious organization for environmental awareness and activism. Our congregation is among the first **Sustainable Sanctuaries**, adopting a program of education, environmental stewardship, and environmental activism.
- Implemented major synagogue-wide **Strategic Planning Initiative**, where representatives of all segments of the community joined together to author a **Temple Israel Mission Statement** to focus all future programming and goals.
- Created an **Israel Action Committee** to educate and to raise funds and awareness about Israel.
- Initiated fund-raising opportunities and meetings for Temple Israel's **Chai Capital Campaign**, including "*LeDor vaDor*," a major intergenerational fundraising event.
- Created and implemented regular **synagogue management** procedures:
 - Weekly staff-meetings,
 - A standardized synagogue calendar
 - Performance review focused on partnership-building between the rabbi and board of directors.
 - Re-designed synagogue bulletin
 - Developed policies and procedures for facilities management.
- **Ridgewood Interfaith Clergy Association.**
 - Coordinate, implement, and lead yearly **Ridgewood Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service**, a major yearly community-wide event. Developed new approach to interfaith services that emphasize each faith group remaining faithful to its own authentic voice in the company of other faiths.
 - Organize yearly interfaith clergy retreats and interfaith dialogues.
 - Meet with local school and other officials to address issues of religious sensitivity in the community.
- **UJA Federation of North Jersey Synagogue Leadership Initiative.**
 - **Chaplaincy Committee.** Studying ways to provide greater chaplaincy services to Jewish people in the many medical and geriatric facilities in Bergen County.
 - **Rabbinic Retreat.** Taught local rabbis ways to deepen the spiritual life of their communities.
- **Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County. Board of Directors** 2004 to 2007. Served as liaison between Schechter and the rabbinic community. Working to develop a clergy advisory committee on matters of *Halakhah* in the school.

Congregation Tifereth Israel. Columbus, Ohio. 1998 – 2001.

Assistant Rabbi. Served as spiritual leader in association with Rabbi Harold J. Berman in this 1,100-family congregation.

- Program Director of **Midreshet Israel**, Congregation Tifereth Israel's extensive adult education program of traditional text-study, academic courses taught by Ohio State University professors, and innovative outreach-oriented workshops and study circles.
- Led renewal-style services at **Minyan Chadash** (the alternative minyan) that included discussions, explanations, participatory prayer, and an emphasis on meaning and accessibility.

Congregational Experience (Continued)

Congregation Tifereth Israel. Columbus, Ohio. 1998 – 2001 (continued).

- Advisor to **Tzafona**, Congregation Tifereth Israel's burgeoning community in Northeast Columbus. Designed and implemented many outreach programs, classes and events, including the **Tzafona Minyan**, a monthly Friday-night service designed to build community among the many young families moving into the area.
- Advisor to the **Tifereth Israel Young Members Group**, an outreach group for young adults that combined social events with substantial learning, discussions, and Shabbat dinners.
- Implemented innovations to enrich Congregation Tifereth Israel's spiritual life, including healing services, a new kitchen *Hashgachah* program, and a *Birkat Hamazon* "bensching group" after every Shabbat Kiddush lunch.

Congregation Beth Jacob. Mendota Heights, Minnesota. Summer 1997.

Rabbinic Intern under the mentorship of Rabbi Morris J. Allen. Lived and worked full-time in the community in extensive rabbi-in-training program.

Park Avenue Synagogue. New York, New York. High Holy Days 1996-1997.

High Holy Day Pulpit Rabbi. Led *One More Minyan*, a participatory minyan geared toward young professionals in their twenties and thirties. Led all services, Torah readings, discussions, and sermons.

Professional Development, Pastoral and Spiritual Counseling Experience

Synagogue Transformation and Renewal (STAR) "From Good to Great" program 2007-2008. Second Rabbinic Cohort. Program to develop excellence in leadership for rabbis who have at least 10 years of experience.

The Institute for Jewish Spirituality, 2005-2007.

Rabbinic Cohort. Joined together with rabbinic colleagues from across the spectrum of movements to explore and foster Jewish spiritual practice in our personal and professional lives.

Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. New York, New York. 1997-1998.

Rabbinic Intern. Served the general New York Jewish community as support group facilitator, spiritual counselor, and teacher. Designed and implemented programs for diverse elements of the community, including single parents, singles, senior citizens, Russian immigrants, and families with disabled children.

National Center for Jewish Healing. New York, New York. Summer, 1996.

Rabbinic Intern. Conducted intake interviews for people needing counseling and referrals. Organized and participated in Rabbinic Student Round Table, a consortium of rabbinical students exploring issues of suffering and healing. Evaluated literature to be used as resources for healing.

Memorial Sloane Kettering and New York Hospital, New York, New York. Summer 1996.

Chaplain. Counseled patients in various wards as part of Jewish Theological Seminary's chaplaincy training program for rabbinical students.

Awards and Honors

Rabbi Albert Pappenheim Prize in Professional Skills. Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1998.

Crown Fellowship Recipient. Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1994-1996.

Carolyn L. Drucker Prize for Senior Independent Research, Princeton University, 1991.