

# Jessica Silverberg

Cantor-Educator

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**Cantor Jessica Woolf Silverberg**, *mezzo soprano*

*Instruments: guitar, violin, oboe/cor anglais, drum*

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## Personal Statement

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Musical clergy with experience in diverse approaches to spiritual engagement. Collaborative bimah partner. Seasoned Jewish educator with a track record of successful, relational, and innovative teaching across age groups and educational settings. Effective administrator with a strong organizational skill set. Multi-instrumentalist and choral singer with passion for musical tradition and innovation.

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## Congregational Leadership

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### The Conservative Synagogue (TCS) / Interim Cantor

JULY 2023 - PRESENT Westport, Connecticut

**Lead all synagogue services in partnership with the Rabbi** including Shabbat, Festivals, and morning minyan on Sunday and Tuesday.

**Led High Holiday services in the Main Sanctuary** in addition to developing services for Preschool and Religious School families.

**Officiate and participate in congregant life cycle events** and support the Rabbi with pastoral duties and responsibilities.

**Organize and support Ritual Coordinators** with assigning Torah, Haftarah, and Megillah readers, and preparing unassigned portions.

**Personally tutor all B'nei Mitzvah students** in cantillation and tefillah.

**Lead weekly Shabbat celebrations** and teach music in the Preschool.

**Collaborate with the Education Director** to evaluate and revise curriculum, lead tefillah for the school, and teach 7th grade.

### Har Zion Temple / Interim Cantor

AUGUST 2022 - JUNE 2023 Penn Valley, Pennsylvania

**Partnered with Rabbi in all aspects of clergy work** including prayer leadership, leyning, pastoral care, and lifecycle events.

**Supported lay leadership** as a member of the Ritual Committee and served as staff liaison to Sisterhood and the Inclusivity Committee.

**Designed and led services for young children in partnership with the Director of Early Childhood Education** including Friday morning Kabbalat Shabbat, Tot Shabbat, and the High Holiday family services.

**Tutored b'mitzvah students** throughout the week and in Sunday b'mitzvah training program.

**Taught classes** in preschool, religious school, and for adult learners.

## Temple Emanu-El / Minyan Coordinator and Temple Educator

SEPTEMBER 2021 - JUNE 2022 Providence, Rhode Island

**Assisted the senior clergy team in leading online and hybrid weekday and Shabbat services**, including instrumental Friday night service.

**Led and coordinated youth and family services for Shabbat and Festivals** including Tot Shabbat, Junior Congregation, and monthly Shabbat B'Yachad service for religious school students and parents.

**Chanted Torah, Haftarah, and Megillot** as needed, and supported congregants in developing these synagogue skills.

**Led other large congregational programs** for Tu Bishvat and Pesach.

**Engaged Kindergarten-3rd Grade students in t'filah** during religious school and taught the 5th grade Judaics class.

**Taught classes for teens and adults** in rotation with the senior clergy.

## Temple Beth Sholom / Cantorial Intern

AUGUST 2019 - MAY 2021 Framingham, Massachusetts

**Led Shabbat and Festival services** in collaboration with the rabbi, in person and on Zoom.

**Pioneered the use of instruments on Shabbat** as part of an alternative morning service, extending to Friday night when services went online.

**Innovated new styles of worship in response to the COVID-19 pandemic** including an online-only meditative Musaf service and a socially-distanced outdoor service.

## High Holy Day Hazzan/Variou

Led High Holy Day services at Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist congregations including **Congregation Beth Shalom of the Woodlands** (The Woodlands, TX, 5780), **Synagogue Emanu-El** (Charleston, SC, 5778-79), **Congregation Beit Tikvah** (Baltimore, MD, 5777), and **Congregation Shalom Aleichem** (Columbia, MD 5773-75).

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## Educational Leadership

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## Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island/ Judaic Studies (K)

SEPTEMBER 2021 - JUNE 2022 Providence, Rhode Island

**Taught kindergarten** in a play-based and inquiry focused classroom.

**Planned and implemented age-appropriate lessons.** Curricular goals included learning about *Shabbat*, *chagim*, *t'fillah*, *chumash*, and Hebrew.

**Implemented differentiated instruction models and techniques** to accommodate all learning styles and evaluate student progress.

**Oversaw assistant teachers** and classroom volunteers.

**Implemented age-appropriate classroom management strategies** including Positive Discipline and Responsive Classroom.

**Created meaningful home-school partnerships** by collaborating with families to meet students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

## Supplemental Religious School Teaching Experience/ Grades K-7

SEPTEMBER 2017 - JUNE 2022 Greater Boston, Massachusetts

**Taught, tutored, and led Shabbat programs** at Congregation Kehillath Israel, Temple Beth Zion, and Temple B'nai Brith.

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## Administration

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### Ohr Kodesh Congregation/ Education Coordinator, Ner Tamid Fellow

DECEMBER 2014 - JUNE 2017 Chevy Chase, Maryland

**Provided administrative and logistical support** for Cantor Educator, Youth Director, and religious school faculty.

**Managed accounts payable** for youth and family department budgets.

**Collaborated with Cantor to lead** religious school tefillah and assemblies.

**Provided emergency relief coverage** for teachers and the Cantor.

**Staffed all USY & Kadima events**, including regional conventions.

**Supported weekly teen discussion program** for Grades 8-12.

**Led family services for High Holidays and monthly Shabbat morning programming** for students in Grades 3-7.

**Supervised and mentored** high schoolers and youth group advisors.

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## Education & Training

### Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (NewCAJE)

JULY 2019 - JULY 2023, Conference Participant and Volunteer

**Leadership for Emerging Education Professionals Fellow**, 2020-2023

**Certificate of Excellence** in Jewish Educational Technology, 2020

Daily Minyan Facilitator, 2019-2023

### Torah/Godly Play Practitioner

JANUARY 2022 - FEBRUARY 2022, Hebrew College

Completed Training as Facilitator of "Godly Play" learning method for youth and adults

### Hebrew College, Cantorial Ordination & Masters of Jewish Studies

JUNE 2017-JUNE 2021 Newton Centre, Massachusetts

**Masters Thesis: Zamru Achim Zamru! A Brief History of Jewish Community Choirs in Europe and the United States.** Advisor: Dr. Joshua R. Jacobson

### Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Bachelor of Music, Music History

SEPTEMBER 2009-MAY 2013 Oberlin, Ohio

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## Beyond the Bimah

### The Zamir Chorale New York, NY

CURRENT MEMBER

### Nashirah The Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia

2022 - 2023

### Zamir Chorale of Boston

2017 - 2020

**Featured soloist on live concert recording, "Zamir Goes Baroque"**

### Zemer Chai The Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital

2015 - 2017