

Rabbi Sara Blumenthal

RABBINIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Rabbi, Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell, NJ

July 2022-Present

- Delivers text-rich sermons; leads weekday, Shabbat, and Holiday davening; provides pastoral care
- Builds relationships with congregants through all aspects of congregational life, especially life cycle events
- Covered for Senior Rabbi's 6-week sabbatical
- Co-teaches 6th grade Judaics weekly, meeting with individuals to discuss their b'nai mitzvah Torah portions
- Designs and teaches enriching adult education courses for a diverse array of learners
- Helps b'nai mitzvah students prepare their Divrei Torah
- Collaborates with the Environment Committee, Interfaith Committee, and Sisterhood on events
- Served as Keynote Speaker of Environmental Shabbat 2023 and Caldwell Hadassah's membership celebration
- Works with Caldwell University staff on local interfaith initiatives, including delivering antisemitism lecture
- Leads a niggun circle and teaches new melodies to participants
- Facilitates preteen experiences including Moving Traditions' "Rosh Hodesh" program and "Spark," an original curriculum for middle school students and their parents
- Serves on Masorti Environmental Sustainability Initiative Taskforce

Rabbinic-Cantorial Intern, Congregation B'nai Jacob, Woodbridge, CT

September 2021-June 2022

- Led participatory musical Shabbat services, including creative chanting experiences
- Tutored b'nai mitzvah students and co-officiated at b'nai mitzvah services
- Developed and taught 7th grade religious school curriculum on discovering spiritual needs and resources

Rabbinic Intern, Boston University Hillel, Boston, MA

August 2020-May 2021

- Supervised student-led Reform and Conservative minyan groups during height of Covid, helping students to transition to virtual programming
- Built pastoral relationships with students in one-on-one meetings and customized learning sessions
- Co-taught and wrote engaging curriculum for virtual Jewish Learning Fellowship cohorts of 20-25 students

Rabbinical Fellow, Center for Small Town Jewish Life, Waterville, ME

September 2020-May 2021

- Served in assistant clergy role at Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) in Bath, ME
- Spearheaded oral history project at CBI, including leading project committee and coordinating creation of congregational online oral history archive
- Facilitated Shabbat morning Torah study sessions

High Holiday Sole Clergy, Temple Beth El, Dunkirk, NY

September 2018

- Led all High Holiday services
- Chanted Torah, blew shofar, and gave introductions to prayers

Rabbinic Intern & Sole Clergy, The Boston Synagogue, Boston, MA

October 2017-June 2019

- Led musical Shabbat services and officiated at several life cycle events
- Designed and facilitated interactive Torah study discussion during each Shabbat service
- Organized young professionals to plan and facilitate monthly social programs for 20-25 attendees

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Jewish Text Tutor, Hebrew College, Newton Centre, MA

October 2020-May 2022

- Tutored rabbinical students in biblical, rabbinic, and liturgical text skills

Religious School Teacher, Temple Beth Shalom, Melrose, MA

September 2017-May 2019

- Taught weekly 5th and 6th grade classes on prayer and Jewish text using creative modalities
- Implemented “Hebrew in Harmony” tefillah curriculum and designed weekly Torah study sessions

EDUCATION

Hebrew College, Newton Centre, MA

May 2022

Rabbinic Ordination and Master’s in Jewish Education

(Awarded Betty K. and Philip Memorial Prize in Jewish Education)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

May 2014

Graduated with High Distinction with double major

BA in Psychology and Hebrew and Jewish Cultural Studies (Honors); Phi Beta Kappa

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

Chaplain Intern, Hebrew Senior Life, Boston, MA

Summer 2021

- Built pastoral relationships with seniors living with dementia on a memory care unit
- Coordinated, developed set-lists, and sang in concerts with fellow interns on multiple units

Chaplain Intern, Holy Family Hospital, Methuen, MA

Summer 2019

- Provided spiritual care to patients and families in medical surgery and emergency departments

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Mayyim Rabbim (Many Waters) Fellowship, Newton, MA

September 2021-May 2022

- Deepened learning about mikveh and creating immersion rituals for various life transitions

Interreligious Spiritual Direction, Newton, MA

September 2021-May 2022

- Participated in group spiritual direction with selective group of rabbinical and seminary students

T’ruah Israel Fellowship, Jerusalem, Israel

September 2019-March 2020

- Engaged with human rights issues on the ground and gained skills in utilizing rabbinic platform

Kevah Teaching Fellowship, Berkeley, CA

Summer 2018

- Learned pedagogical techniques; designed and taught text study session at Bay Area Limmud

Nathan D. Metzger Award, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

April 2013

- In recognition of an essay written in Hebrew about Hebrew language Holocaust poetry

RELEVANT SKILLS

Torah, Haftarah, and Megillah chanting; trained in modes of nusach; shofar blowing; certified in mediation; proficient in Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, and Aramaic; proficient in Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and social media

References available upon request