

DAVID JEREMY SEGAL

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DAVID.SEGAL@GMAIL.COM

EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (2005-2010, New York, NY)

- Rabbinic Ordination (expected 2010), Master of Hebrew Letters (2009)
- Rabbinic Thesis: *A Jewish Theology of Non-Jews*, advised by Dr. Eugene Borowitz

Princeton University (1999-2003, Princeton, NJ)

- B.A. in Classics, Certificate in Jewish Studies
- Senior Thesis: *A Platonic Relationship: Philo's Reading of Plato's Phaedrus and Republic*

American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Summer Session (2002)

- Studied ancient Greek archaeology, art, history, and culture.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wexner Graduate Fellowship, Class XVIII (2005-2009)

- Planning Committee, Summer Institute (2007)

Community Organizing

- Jewish Funds for Justice course, "Rabbinic Leadership for Public Life" (Fall 2007, NY, NY)
- Industrial Areas Foundation, 8-Day National Training (July 2008, Chicago, IL)

Swedish Medical Center, Department of Spiritual Care (Summer 2007, Seattle, WA)

- Clinical Pastoral Education, Full Unit

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Student Rabbi, Beth Haverim Shir Shalom (September 2008-May 2010, Mahwah, NJ)

- Partnered with rabbi in overseeing 400-family Reform congregation's community organizing efforts with lay leaders, local interfaith partners, and Industrial Areas Foundation regional organizer.
- Collaborated with clergy team in planning and leading worship services.
- Taught 7-12th grade religious school and 3-6th grade parents in family school.

Student Rabbi for High Holidays, Princeton University Hillel (Fall 2009, Princeton, NJ)

- Co-led Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services for 50 Reform Jewish undergraduates and 500 community members.
- Taught text study and facilitated discussions about Jewish life on campus.

Communications Intern, Ameinu (Summer 2009, New York, NY)

- Developed online social media strategy for 5000-member progressive Zionist organization.
- Wrote book review (*Transforming America's Israel Lobby*) and edited content for newsletter.

Rabbinic Intern, Dept. of Just Congregations, URJ (Summer 2008, Boston, MA)

- Observed Boston-based community organizing of Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) member congregations, especially synagogues.
- Assisted departmental director Rabbi Jonah Pesner in strategic planning and relational meetings with Jewish and interfaith leaders in Boston.
- Provided support to Reform rabbis in Florida, Ohio, and Michigan in their local organizing work.

Student Rabbi, Temple Israel (September 2007-May 2008, Uniontown, PA)

- Led monthly worship services and religious school classes for small Reform congregation.
- Provided pastoral presence to congregants during hospital and home visits.

Student Rabbi for High Holidays, Bates College Hillel (Fall 2006, Lewiston, ME)

- Led High Holiday services and study sessions for Jewish community of small liberal arts college.
- Created pluralistic *machzor*, still in use at the Hillel.

Intern, Israel Religious Action Center, Overseas Relations Dept. (2005-2006, Jerusalem, Israel)

- Researched legal and political issues in Israel, such as civil rights and religious pluralism.
- Reported on these issues in newsletter for international English-speaking Jewish audience.

Program Associate, Commission on Interreligious Affairs of Reform Judaism (2004-05, Wash., DC)

- Developed, promoted, and supported the Reform Jewish Movement's interfaith relations and dialogue initiatives; worked with ecumenical staff of Christian denominations on joint projects.
- Assisted congregations in implementing grassroots interfaith dialogue programs by administering grants and providing support to rabbis and congregants.

Legislative Assistant, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (2003-2004, Washington, DC)

- Tracked and researched issues of social, political, and religious concern.
- Led advocacy workshops for 1500 Jewish high school students at six political action seminars.
- Planned and staffed Reform Jewish Movement conferences, including URJ Biennial, Commission on Social Action meetings, and Commission on Interreligious Affairs gatherings.
- Wrote and edited press statements, op-eds, speeches, and letters to Congress.

Social Action Teacher, Temple Sinai, Confirmation Class (2004-2005, Washington, DC)

- Taught weekly session on Jewish values and social justice; staffed class retreats.
- Led students in selection and implementation of social action projects and allocation of *tzedakah*.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND SKILLS

HUC-JIR Student Association (2006-2009), **Rabbinic School President** (2009)

HUC-JIR Pesach Project (Spring 2006, Odessa, Ukraine)

- Co-led seders and developed relationships with Ukrainian Progressive Jewish communities.

Princeton University Student Volunteers Council, Isles Mentoring Program (1999-2001)

Princeton Peace Process, Co-Founder, dialogue forum on Israeli/Palestinian conflict (2002-2003)

Music: Piano and Harpsichord, Princeton University Chapel Choir, college *a cappella* singing,

HUC School of Sacred Music recital choirs, hand drum during worship services

Computer: Microsoft Office, Apple iWork, basic HTML

Languages: Academic study of Hebrew, Ancient Greek, Latin

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

- The Rabbi Malcolm Stern Memorial Prize for contributing to the campus (2009)
- The Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin Scholarship Prize for general excellence (2008)
- The Benjamin and Molly Borowitz Memorial Prize in Jewish Religious Thought (2008)

Princeton University

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Magna Cum Laude
- The Carolyn L. Drucker '80 Thesis Prize in Jewish Studies

REFERENCES

Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

Senior Rabbi, Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
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Rabbi Jonah Pesner

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David Jeremy Segal
Personal Statement
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Aseh l'cha rav, עשה לך רב, “Make for yourself a teacher...”
(Pirkei Avot 1:6)

It was a congregant who became my teacher, by showing me the true meaning of this piece of rabbinic wisdom. In my second year as the rabbinic intern at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, a Reform synagogue of 400 families in Mahwah, NJ, I support and guide the congregation's community organizing team. During one of our team meetings, we split off into pairs to have a relational moment -- two people asking each other what brought each of them to the table and what keeps them up at night. I was paired with Allan, an active Temple Brotherhood member in his 50s. He said, “My wife and I don't have any children. No one is going to remember us when we're gone. This community is where we matter. It's where we make a difference and have some impact on the world.”

Allan's words get right to the core of what being a rabbi means to me. In my rabbinate, I want to build sacred communities where people matter to each other and Judaism matters to them, because it helps them find their place in the world. Whether or not a Jewish community thrives depends on the depth and accessibility of the connections and relationships within it. As a rabbi, I am passionate about building these relationships, connecting Jews to each other and to tradition in terms they can relate to. I will use the tools I have learned in community organizing to reach out to congregants one-on-one, to learn their interests and hopes, to engage them in relevant Jewish learning and living, and to develop their leadership potential as they become creators of community themselves. This approach naturally engenders diversity and demands inclusivity, as it calls each individual to the fullest expression of his or her unique Jewish identity.

My pluralistic and inclusive approach to Judaism leads me to reach out to all Jews, including those on the margins, so that they feel heard and connected. I want to welcome interfaith families as integral to the success of Jewish life in the next generation. Informed by my work at the Religious Action Center, I am committed to encouraging political engagement and interfaith dialogue. These efforts link Jews to our own prophetic tradition of social justice and to our neighbors of different religious traditions. Treating young adults as developing leaders helps them own their Jewish identity and prepares them for life after religious school as Jewishly engaged adults. I envision worship as an opportunity to make connections: between body, mind, and soul; between worshipers and God; between individuals, families, and community.

In the community I hope to create -- where people matter more than programs -- vital, innovative programming will grow out of the soil of relationships. I am enthusiastic about teaching creative classes that make Judaism accessible to Jews of all ages. In particular, I am excited to use my passion for popular culture to connect more Jews to Judaism and to other Jews. Through courses and counseling, I hope to guide congregants on their spiritual journeys, as my mentors have guided me. I will also seek out opportunities for congregants to translate their own interests, expertise, and experience into social and educational programs.

To take seriously the Rabbis' advice, *aseh l'cha rav*, "make for yourself a teacher," is to liberate the potential within each of us to teach our unique truths to the world. This is the core of my rabbinic vision. To take this wisdom to heart as a community ensures that Jewish teaching, learning, and living will continue to thrive for generations to come.