

# ROSS Z. LEVY

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## RABBINIC EXPERIENCE

### SUMMER 2020

#### THE TEMPLE | NASHVILLE, TN (~700 FAMILIES), RABBINIC INTERN

##### Worship

- Collaborated with congregational cantor to design and lead musically focused, virtual Shabbat morning services

##### Education

- Created and taught adult education sessions on topics including history, liturgy, and development of Reform Judaism

##### Young Professional Engagement (with Jewish Federation)

- Developed programs to engage Nashville's young professional community
- Co-facilitated dialogue with the Community Relations Council on issues of racial injustice and anti-Semitism

### 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR (FALL 2017-SPRING 2019)

#### TEMPLE SHALOM | LAFAYETTE, LA (~55 FAMILIES), STUDENT RABBI

##### Worship

- Provided music, chanting, and sermons for regular Shabbat worship
- Organized High Holiday liturgy with cantorial soloist and accompanists
- Introduced informal Shabbat morning services to supplement community Torah study
- Implemented educational children's services on Sunday mornings

##### Education

- Reshaped the culture and structure of the religious school program
- Taught URJ Chai Curriculum (levels 2 & 5) to children grades 2-8
- Regularly planned and facilitated adult education sessions focusing on Jewish history, holidays, liturgy, and the special interests of congregants
- Planned and led confirmation class
- Guided *bar mitzvah* preparation including Hebrew tutoring, family education, and special Shabbat morning service
- Guided congregant through the conversion process

##### Pastoral Care

- Visited congregants in need at home and at local hospitals

##### Community Involvement

- Strengthened relationships with local Islamic center, neighboring AME Church, and the Episcopal School of Acadiana
- Created and led prayer vigil in response to the Fall 2018 Pittsburgh shooting with the participation of Lafayette faith community leaders (see news story [here](#))

### FALL 2019

#### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER HILLEL, STUDENT RABBI FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS

##### Worship

- Designed and led creative High Holiday services for students and community members incorporating blend of traditional and contemporary melodies

## Education

- Facilitated group discussions and text study as part of formal worship and during additional programming

### SUMMER 2017

#### **ROCKDALE TEMPLE | CINCINNATI, OH (~370 FAMILIES),** FOUNDATION FELLOW

##### Worship

- Organized and led musical Friday night and Shabbat morning worship
- Song-led for *B'nai Mitzvah* services
- Collaborated with clergy team to develop alternative mode of communal worship

##### Education

- Worked with Education Director to expand Hebrew curriculum

##### Pastoral Care

- Visited congregants in the local hospitals

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### FALL 2020-PRESENT

#### **JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF CINCINNATI,** FOUNDATION FELLOW

- Manage JCRC's online presence through community calendar and social media
- Facilitate conversations in Cincinnati Jewish community connecting Jewish tradition and values to contemporary social issues
- Write blog posts about current topics through the lens of Jewish history and tradition
- Connect with community leaders to work on initiatives related to criminal justice reform, combatting extremism and anti-Semitism, and promoting civil dialogue

### FALL 2017-SPRING 2018

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI JEWISH STUDIES DEPARTMENT,** FOUNDATION FELLOW

- Teaching Assistant for Beginning Hebrew course
- Taught lessons incorporating aspects of Israeli culture

### SUMMER 2017

#### **URJ HENRY S. JACOBS CAMP | UTICA, MS,** UNIT HEAD

- Managed staff of counselors for oldest unit of campers (entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Developed educational and recreational programming for six-week long program
- Led services and assisted in Jewish education for entire camp community

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### SPRING 2020-PRESENT

#### **AIPAC LEFELL ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP,** FELLOW

- Attended the 2020 Policy Conference including educational Shabbaton with learning from top scholars at the Shalom Hartman Institute

SPRING 2019-DECEMBER 2020

**I-CENTER MASTER’S CONCENTRATION IN ISRAEL EDUCATION, FELLOW**

- Learned from experts in the field about innovative modes of Israel education
- Developed strategies for teaching Israel using multiple narratives, creative media, and immersion in the Hebrew language

FALL 2018-SPRING 2020

**HUC-JIR VA’AD BEIT HAK’NESSET, CHAIR**

- Managed the Scheuer Chapel—the center of prayer life on the Cincinnati campus
- Coordinated holiday observances and special worship services for campus community
- Planned and led services using a variety of liturgies and styles
- Collaborated with students and administrators to restructure system for prayer leadership

FALL 2017-PRESENT

**HUC-JIR STUDENT PULPIT COMMITTEE, MEMBER**

- Represent my class in matters related to student pulpit work and pulpit placement process
- Collaborate with administrators and committee members to reshape student pulpit compensation system in Cincinnati

## EDUCATION

FALL 2020

**M.A. HEBREW LETTERS, HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION**

- Shalom Hartman Institute Yearlong Seminar for Rabbinical Students (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)
- HUC-JIR Los Angeles Campus Summer *Beit Midrash* (Summer 2019)
- Clinical Pastoral Education (Fall 2019-Spring 2020)
  - Served Christ Hospital, Jewish Hospital, and University of Cincinnati Medical Center
  - Led services and provided pastoral counseling at Evergreen Retirement Community

MAY 2016

**B.A. RELIGION, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

Thesis: “Ghazali’s Last Laugh: An Examination of the Decline of Greek Philosophy in the Islamic World”

- Theta Alpha Kappa Honors Society for Religious Studies and Theology
- Phi Sigma Tau Honors Society for Philosophers

## SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Proficient in Torah and Haftarah cantillation
- Love to sing, play guitar, piano, and hand percussion
- Always seeking to expand language skills (conversational in Hebrew and Spanish, began learning Arabic this past summer)
- Novice challah baker
- Recreational sports of all kinds— basketball, tennis, hiking, bowling, and everything in between!
- Experiencing live music and concerts
- Recent initiate into the world of table-top role-playing games (primarily Dungeons & Dragons)
- Avid fan of the Tennessee Titans and Nashville Predators