

# Rabbi Cecelia Beyer

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## PROFILE

Dynamic, well-rounded, and versatile spiritual leader able to perform pastoral, liturgical, educational, programmatic, creative, and administrative roles. Extensive background in social activism, Jewish camping, Jewish education, and youth and teen programming. Classically trained soprano, enthusiastic guitar-wielding songleader, and accomplished Irish and Israeli dancer. Purveyor of Joyful Judaism.

## RABBINIC EXPERIENCE

### **Temple Sholom**, Bridgewater, NJ

#### **Rabbi**, 2019 - Present

- Work on a two rabbi clergy team at a 350-family egalitarian Conservative synagogue, leading services, chanting Torah, and performing ritual and life cycle services.
- Prepare bar and bat mitzvah students each year in Torah, Haftarah, and service leading.
- Teach music in the religious school as well as a variety of courses for teens and adults.

### **Beth El Synagogue**, East Windsor, NJ

#### **Interim Cantor**, 2018 - 2019

- Served as interim cantor at an egalitarian Conservative synagogue, leading services, developing youth and family programming, chanting Torah, and other liturgical functions.

### **Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael**, Springfield, NJ

#### **Associate Rabbi and Education Director**, 2012 – 2018

Served as second rabbi in a 300-family egalitarian Conservative synagogue, led services, directed the religious school and teen program, directed the Friday night band and high holiday choir, and performed ritual and life cycle services.

#### **Education:**

- Created and implemented curricula for five-hour per week supplemental religious school program for grades K-7 and supervised a staff of 12 teachers and 15 teen aides.
- Designed and implemented a one-night-a-week two-hour teen learning program for grades 8-12. Crafted a unique new experiential and text-based program each year based on students' interests.
- Fulfilled administrative responsibilities such as payroll, expenses, budget creation and management, and performed fundraising activities for the school and teen program.
- Taught music to K-7 students, using music, dance, and song as tools to teach Jewish values.
- Collaborated with Early Childhood Program director to design preschool holiday and Shabbat programming.
- Served as educational liaison to Kadima youth group advisors.
- Prepared 10-12 bar and bat mitzvah students each year in Torah, Haftarah, and service leading.
- Created and led monthly Tot Shabbat Friday night services and weekly Shabbat program with the Early Childhood Program.

#### **Programming and Lifelong Learning:**

- Instructed a wide variety of adult education sessions, including a women's Torah study, Kabbalah, Prayer Leading, Mishnah, Midrash, and Adult Bat Mitzvah classes.
- Wrote, directed, and produced musical Purim shows involving adults, teens, and children of all ages.

**Spiritual Life:**

- Served as prayer leader for high holidays, festivals, and Shabbat. Chanted Torah, Haftarah, and festival liturgical readings.
- Created innovative, interactive, and intergenerational prayer services for Shabbat mornings and high holidays, allowing for families and members of all ages to learn, pray, and explore prayer and text together, with leadership by religious school students and teens.
- Delivered sermons and taught Torah regularly during Shabbat and holiday services.
- Performed all life cycle events, provided pastoral care and rabbinic counseling.
- Directed Friday night Shabbat band and high holiday choir

**Temple Beth Sholom, Roslyn Heights, NY****Assistant Rabbi, 2010 - 2012**

Performed all ritual and life cycle services for a 750-family egalitarian synagogue with a uniquely diverse Ashkenazic and Sephardic congregation. Primary focus was on education and programming for all age groups from early childhood through adult.

**Lifelong Learning:**

- Collaborated with Early Childhood Center faculty to design and implement family-oriented programs centered on ritual life and holiday themes. Led each class weekly in song and prayer.
- Developed curriculum and lesson plans for Religious School Shabbat Family Study Program that draws 250 students and their families.
- Met with 30 Bar and Bat Mitzvah students each year to discuss Torah portions and edit speeches.
- Developed and taught multiple courses in the Hebrew High School, including Israel through Music, Make Your Own Midrash, Judaism in Motion, and Building a Jewish Vocabulary.
- Created and instructed a wide variety of adult education courses, including Psalms, Judaism 101, Adult Bat Mitzvah, Torah Reading, Prayer Leading, and Practical Jewish Law.

**Programming:**

- Coordinated participatory holiday events including Tikkun Leil Shavuot Evening of Learning and musical Purim schpiels.
- Organized annual Sukkah Hop, visiting numerous congregants' homes for a progressive meal.
- In cooperation with neighboring Reform synagogue, coordinated a community-wide Mitzvah Day of volunteer work and service projects.

**Spiritual Life:**

- Led a new intimate, spiritual, and participatory Shabbat morning alternative minyan focusing on song and learning.
- Planned and conducted warm and engaging auxiliary high holiday services for 700 people.
- Led bi-monthly family minyan and bi-monthly tot Shabbat services.

**Community:**

- Served as liaison to congregational committees, including Social Action and Religious Affairs.
- Engaged in outreach to the larger community, participating in interfaith events, guest teaching and leading musical tefillah at local Solomon Schechter Day School, and presenting at the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Day of Learning.

**Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, New York, NY****Social Justice Rabbinical Intern, 2009 - 2010****Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinical Intern, 2008 - 2009**

- Planned conference on issues of LGBTQ inclusion, pastoral care, and theology.
- Prepared resources connecting holidays and life cycle events with social justice and LGBTQ issues.
- Maintained full pastoral care caseload including counseling, hospital visits, and shiva minyans.
- Led youth, family, and tot services, and organized related programming.
- Conducted adult education sessions in both formal and informal settings.
- Prepared and sponsored a candidate for conversion and served on the beit din.

## **Congregation Shomrei Emunah, Montclair, NJ**

### **Cantor, 2009 - 2010**

- Served as prayer leader for high holidays, festivals, and Shabbat, and led musical programs for community members of all ages.

### **Young Children's Service and Junior Congregation Leader, 2006 - 2008**

- Led bi-monthly Shabbat morning service for 1-7 year olds and their families and created activity-based prayer experience for 8-12 year olds.

## **JTS High Holiday Kehillah Community Service, New York, NY**

### **Co-leader, 2007**

- Planned and conducted unique, participatory, and welcoming Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services open to the New York City community.
- Served as cantor, delivered sermons, and led learning sessions during the services.

## **Women's League Seminary Synagogue, New York, NY**

### **Head Gabbai, Staff member, 2005 - 2008**

- Facilitated weekday, Shabbat, and holiday services for the JTS community, and supervised 8-person staff.

## **CAMP EXPERIENCE**

## **Camp Zeke Lakewood, PA**

### **Founding Camp Rabbi, 2014 - present**

- Worked from conception of camp with directors on creating Jewish values curriculum for unique fitness and culinary arts camp program based on Jewish values of wellness, kindness, and joy.
- Crafted pluralistic observance and values program for 400 campers and staff.
- Designed Friday night siddur with readings and insights that captures the spirit of the camp.
- Developed pluralistic Shabbat policies, programs, and prayer, including "Shabboptions" – a multi-valent approach to Shabbat morning prayer involving traditional prayer, musical prayer, sports, yoga, nature, music, water, & more.
- Create and implement full-day all-camp Tisha B'Av program and activities.
- Consult on content in teen leadership program and lead sessions with teens.
- Serve as staff consultant year-long and as rabbinic presence during the summer, assisting with both camper care and programming staffs.
- Lead rousing, spirited song sessions.

## **Camp Ramah Tefillah Project, New York, NY**

### **Contributor, 2005 - 2007**

- Created resources, background materials, and activities to aid staff members implementing prayer programming at Ramah camps.

## **Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, Wingdale, NY**

### **Rosh Eidah, Rosh Tefillah, Judaics Staff, 2006 - 2009; 2013**

- Supervised and evaluated the performance and progress of 21 staff members.
- Coordinated educational activities and ran staff meetings and training.
- Created and implemented educational and recreational programming.
- Served as administrative liaison between camp director and staff members.
- Advised and counseled staff members on camper care and proper solutions to camper issues.
- Created and implemented prayer curricula and supervised ritual life of camp.

## **Camp Ramah Darom, Clayton, GA**

### **Rosh Eidah, 2005**

- Created & implemented educational and recreational programming for sixth grade campers.
- Supervised and evaluated the performance and progress of 18 staff members.

### **Camp Laurelwood, Madison, CT**

#### **Drama Specialist, 2004**

- Directed and produced a full-length musical and talent show with campers aged 8-15.
- Organized camp-wide Judaic programming, including Tisha B'Av and Israel Day.

### **Camp JCA Shalom, Malibu, CA**

#### **Unit Head, 2001**

- Coordinated programming for 200 5th and 6th grade campers
- Supervised and evaluated performance and progress of 30 staff members.
- Corresponded with parents regarding camper issues and concerns.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Ezra Academy Jewish Day School, Woodbridge, CT**

#### **Long-Term Judaics Substitute Teacher, 2004**

- Instructed second grade in Hebrew, Bible, Jewish Holidays, and Israel.

### **Congregation Or Shalom, Orange, CT**

#### **Religious School Teacher and Youth High Holiday Service Leader, 2002 - 2006**

- Created and implemented original integrated fifth grade curriculum of Israel, Bible, Siddur and modern Hebrew, using music, drama, multimedia, games, activities, and textbook tools.
- Led high holiday services and activities for third through sixth grade students.
- Led high holiday services for post bar-mitzvah aged teens.

### **Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden, CT**

#### **Religious School Teacher, 2001 - 2003**

- Taught 7th grade students preparing for Bar and Bat Mitzvah.
- Instructed 5th and 6th grade classes in Bible, History, and Hebrew Language.

### **Washington Hebrew Congregation, Washington, DC**

#### **Religious School Teacher, 1997 - 2001**

- Instructed and tutored seventh graders in Hebrew Language, Bible, and Jewish History.
- Instructed third graders in Judaic studies, Bible, Jewish holidays, music, and culture.
- Tutored individual Religious School students in Hebrew and Bar Mitzvah preparation.

## **EDUCATION**

### **The Jewish Theological Seminary**

Rabbinic Ordination, concentration in Sacred Music, 2010

Philip Goldstein Award of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, 2009

Rabbi Isaac Bonder Memorial Prize, 2006

Co-coordinator, Isha El Ahota Women's Center

Member of JTS Israel Committee & Keshet JTS Board

### **The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC**

J.D., 2000

### **University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

B.A. History, *cum laude*, with departmental honors, 1997

### **Young Judaea Year Course in Israel**

1992-1993