

RABBI BARRY A. KENTER, DHL

rabbikenter@gmail.com

Goals: Part-time interim rabbi

Professional Experience:

Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania – August 2018-present

Part-time interim rabbi serving a 425 member congregation. Assured full rabbinic coverage. Close connections with the religious and pre-school and confirmation class students. Helped to create a more collaborative community by engaging and empowering both the professional staff and lay leadership, reassuring the congregational community of a smooth transition to a full-time rabbi. Provided stability and support while deeply involved in the search for a new rabbi and helping to shepherd the final stages of the AJ New Way Forward recommendations. Offered ongoing adult education programs as an outreach to members and member families inside and outside of the synagogue.

Congregation Habonim, New York, New York – September 2016-July 2017

Full-time interim rabbi serving a nearly 300-family member congregation. Provided full rabbinic coverage including adult education, weekly e-mail blasts with pre-Shabbat *divrei Torah*, pastoral care. Close connections with the religious and nursery schools. Offered stability and support during a successful rabbinic search process. Taught in ongoing adult education programs that actively involved members and member families.

Congregation Beth Israel, Greenville, South Carolina – September 2015 to June 30, 2016

Part-time interim rabbi serving a 100-family member congregation celebrating its centennial year.

Engaged actively with the religious school, teaching and connecting with children and their families; enabled stability and support; integral involvement in a successful rabbinic search process. Established ongoing adult education programs that actively involved members and member families.

Greenburgh Hebrew Center, Dobbs Ferry, New York – 1984 to July 1, 2015

Spiritual leader of a 325-family suburban congregation strongly committed to outreach, inreach, and the enfolding of a community in the observance and celebration of Shabbat, holy days and life cycle events.

Now Rabbi Emeritus

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated introduction of women's full ritual participation
- Participated in renovation and construction of existing synagogue building
- Successfully merged two synagogues into one congregational family
- GreenFaith Fellow and Jewish Greening Fellow; initiated greening efforts, sustainability and solar panels
- Introduced creative and innovative spirituality programming
- Taught adult education on a variety of subjects
- Initiated Social Action-Tikkun Olam Hesed Committee and its involvement with the Midnight Run and the Interfaith Caring Community

Adath Israel Congregation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada – 1982-1984

Assistant rabbi for 1500-family congregation

- Assisted senior rabbi in all rabbinic, pastoral and life-cycle functions
- Served as staff resource for young married, young families and youth programming
- Responsible for college programming
- Served on Bet Din for conversion and conducted Rabbinical Assembly's Conversion classes

Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY – 1980 – 1982

Associate Director of Public Information

- Coordinated Seminary publicity materials and press releases
- Assisted Chancellor with communications with the Rabbinical Assembly and arms of the Conservative Movement

Teaching

- Adjunct Professor, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, New York – Religion 111 (Understanding the Abrahamic Faiths) and Religion 109 (World Religions)
- Instructor, Women's League Institute at JTS – “Wiping Away the Tears: Rethinking the Jewish Middle Ages”

Education:

Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY – Rabbi, 1980, M.A., 1978, DHL (Medieval Studies), May, 2014. Dissertation Title: “Table for One or *Shulhan Ibu Iqra*: The Medieval Jewish Table.”

University of Judaism, Los Angeles, CA – BHL, 1976

Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium – licentiates (Political and Social Sciences; International Relations and Comparative Politics), 1972, 1973 with distinction

Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellow

California State University at Northridge – BA, 1968;

Standard Secondary Teaching Credential 1969

Civic Activities:

- Sat as a member of the Hospital Board, Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry
- Founding Board member and former chair, Center for Jewish-Christian-Moslem Understanding
- Taught on-going Judaica classes at local retirement communities and churches; created interfaith courses for Westchester Community Collegium Adult Education series
- Member of local clergy associations, led interfaith trip to Israel with local Episcopal priest
- Initiated community response to 9/11 and annual commemoration

Articles:

“History of the Matza Ball,” Women’s League “Outlook Magazine” (2004),

Huffington Post articles

Divrei Torah for the Rabbinic Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America

Languages: English, Hebrew, French

Professional Organizations:

The Rabbinical Assembly; past president of the Lower Hudson Valley Rabbinical Assembly;

Westchester Board of Rabbis, New York Board of Rabbis; rabbinic cabinet Jewish Federations of North America

Personal

Married, two married sons, three grandchildren. Married to Judith Dickstein Kenter, long active as a volunteer with Women's League for Conservative Judaism.