

Shalom Aleichem everyone! I'm very excited to visit your wonderful community.

I am originally from New Hyde Park on Long Island, NY, and have spent time living in Brooklyn, Washington D.C., Jerusalem, and Los Angeles. Currently, I live in Middletown, NY with my wife, Rachel, our 1 1/2 year old daughter Hadassah, and our two rescue dogs, Louie and Ruby.

I first decided that I wanted to be a rabbi when I was only in middle school, while sitting in seats similar to the ones at Agudas Achim. I remember being mesmerized by the inspiring words of Torah of the rabbi and stirred by the communal music of our prayers. On the way home from synagogue, I remember discussing and debating the rabbi's sermon with my mom and dad and seeing how my entire family was transformed by the experience of Torah, community, and Shabbat. I decided then that I wanted to spend my time studying and teaching the wisdom of our tradition so that I could help welcome others into this holy experience.

Throughout high school I continued to learn and connect to my synagogue, while also pursuing my passion for music. My grandfather was a professional trumpet player in the old Catskills hotels, and I followed in his footsteps becoming a Jazz trumpet player. I earned my B.A at George Washington University where I received a Presidential Arts scholarship in jazz. There I majored in religion and music and split my time between Hillel and playing music, performing at the Kennedy Center and throughout D.C.

After graduating GW, I began my rabbinic studies, studying for two years in Israel, one year in New York, and three years in Los Angeles. Immersed in the learning of Torah, I concentrated in Kabbalah and Chasidut (Jewish mysticism and spirituality) as well as the more traditional areas of Talmud, Jewish law and Tanakh. Learning, and teaching what I learn in an organic and thoughtful way, continues to be my sustenance and my passion. I hope to help open up the wisdom of our tradition to everyone, including those who have historically been on the margins or left out of our communities, bringing Torah to meet people where they are and helping to enrich their lives in the same way my life has been so enriched by Torah.

I currently serve as the rabbi of Temple Sinai in Middletown, NY, and will be completing six meaningful years here this summer. As the only Conservative synagogue within a 25 mile radius, this was an incredible first pulpit, teaching me how to do a little bit of everything--reading Torah, delivering sermons, officiating life-cycles, coordinating and teaching Hebrew school, teaching adult education, visiting with community members who were ill, and working to meet the needs of every member of my community at every stage of life. My wife and I love to welcome the community into our home, inviting families and individuals to our home for Shabbat dinner and holidays. A highlight of my time here has been working with my community to fight for a more just and loving community for all, which led to the opening of a Homeless warming station in our synagogue. I enjoyed and learned an immense amount serving as a rabbi in Middletown, and I am excited to transition to a new community where I can further inspire members with the wisdom of our tradition and build a beloved and compassionate community together.

In my free time, I enjoy watching sports (already a big fan of Columbus Crew SC and of course the Buckeyes!), performing and listening to music, running, biking, hiking, reading comic books, and enjoying a good dram of scotch or bourbon. But above all, I most enjoy being with my community. I can't wait to meet you and am looking forward to experiencing a weekend with the wonderful Agudas Achim community.