

LIANNA MENDELSON

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References available upon request

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- CANTORIAL ORDINATION** May 2021
MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC May 2020
Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem, Israel (07/2016 - 06/2017) & New York, NY (08/2017 - 05/2021)
- Elissa Froman Social Change Fellowship The New Israel Fund; New York, NY 09/2020 - 05/2021
 - iFellows Masters Concentration in Israel Education iCenter; Chicago, IL 07/2019 - 07/2020
 - Weitzman-JDC Fellowship in Global Jewish Leadership JDC; Jerusalem, Israel & New York, NY 08/2016 - 09/2018
 - Kallah Committee - planned virtual fall retreat; led cookalong & game night 2020
- BACHELOR OF ARTS: MUSIC; Minor in Hebrew** May 2016
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY Graduated cum laude
- University of Rochester Hillel, 2012-2016
 - Chair of Religious Life Activities, 2015
 - High Holy Day Cantorial Soloist, 2013 & 2014
 - Attended Hillel International Engagement Conference, 2014
 - Spoke at development events in Boston & Rochester
 - Frequently led Reform Kabbalat Shabbat Minyan
 - Teaching Assistant for Hebrew 101, 2015
 - Vice President of Programming, Susan B. Anthony Residence Hall Council, 2012-13
- JERUSALEMSOUNDS – Hebrew, Jewish Studies & Music** 08/2015 - 01/2016
Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
- JDC-ENTWINE Hebrew University Volunteer Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Cantor-Educator** 07/2021 to present
Temple Beth Shalom; Santa Fe, NM
- Leads Shabbat and holiday services and coordinates and rehearses with musicians, and tailors ritual to meet community needs
 - Officiates life-cycle events, including b'nei mitzvah & funerals
 - Provides pastoral support to congregants
 - Supervises educational staff, including the preschool director, religious school teachers, & Hebrew tutors
 - Directs and administrates religious school
 - Teaches learners of all ages
 - Oversees B'nei Mitzvah program, tutoring students in Torah chanting, planning services and liaising with parents

- Infuses Jewish content into the preschool, teaching weekly lessons and leading Shabbat for the students
- Plans music for High Holy Day services, and rehearses with choir & soloists
- Created robust madrichim (student aide) program and mentors teens
- Served as sole clergy person during rabbi's four-month sabbatical
- Helped shape preschool vision and guided shift to play-based, child-centered learning
- Staff lead for Adult Education and Religious School committees
- Plans and executes additional programming and fundraising, such as the Chanukah Bazaar & Latke Lunch, Purim Carnival, Congregational Seder, and an installation and recital
- Represents the synagogue and provides ritual and musical support at community events
- Did a "scholar-in-residence" on the development of Reform Judaism in Charleston, focusing on Hortensia Mordecai, a young woman who kept a travel diary. Also led a Classical Reform Shabbat service, organizing, rehearsing, and conducting the choir.
- Started a religious school youth choir and rehearses with them weekly after Sunday school

Student Cantor (biweekly pulpit)

08/2018 - 5/2021

Temple Shalom; Chevy Chase, MD

- Led Erev Shabbat services, either in collaboration with a rabbinic partner or alone, which included programming and leading the music, and occasionally offering Divrei Torah or teachings
- Led Shabbat morning minyan & Torah study
- Officiated life cycle events, including baby namings, b'nei mitzvah, and funerals
- Collaborated with the clergy team in planning and leading High Holy Day services
- Made pastoral visits and phone calls
- Participated in pivot to virtual programming, leading services, including congregational Seder, & teaching over Zoom
- Assisted with curriculum planning & implementation for 3rd grade Sunday School
- Created and taught "Tefillah Lab" to 3rd-5th graders to experience different modalities of prayer
- Taught two 5-week courses - "Knit & Torah" (3rd & 4th grade) & "Women Warriors" (5th & 6th grade) online using Zoom and Nearpod online learning platform
- Spent seven weeks of summer 2019 in full-time residency at Temple Shalom. In addition to above:
 - Provided pastoral coverage while senior rabbi was on leave
 - Taught Lunch & Learn series on Global Judaism
 - Led music for "Shabbat Down Under" Kangaroo Shabbat

Melamedet (B'nai Mitzvah Tutor)

08/2017 - 05/2021

Congregation Beth Elohim; Brooklyn, NY

- Tutored more than 50 students individually in chanting Torah, Haftarah, and blessings, using differentiated methods

Cantorial Intern (monthly pulpit)

08/2017 - 06/2018

Temple Israel; Westport, CT

- Led Shabbat morning minyan & Torah study
- Taught liturgy & chanting in religious school
- Led Tot Shabbat, Erev Shabbat, and religious school worship with senior clergy
- Led High Holy Day worship with senior rabbi

Assistant Teacher – Hebrew/Jewish Studies; Gr. 2-6

09/2013 - 06/2016

Temple B'rith Kodesh; Rochester, NY

- Worked in supplementary religious school Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Sundays, supporting lead teacher in teaching, classroom management, and lesson planning
- Taught Hebrew using Mitkadem curriculum
- Co-authored curriculum statements, narrative assessments, & “blurbs” communicating with parents
- Opted into professional development seminars to build skills in areas such as Disability Inclusion

Judaica Program Area Leader

06/2015 - 08/2015

Camp Seneca Lake; Penn Yan, NY

- Responsible for planning & implementing all Jewish educational programming for campers aged 7-15
- Coordinated camper leadership in Shabbat worship
- Edited speeches written by campers and staff and coached campers on public speaking
- Wrote weekly Parasha blog posts to increase engagement with the camp’s online presence

Cantorial Soloist

10/2014 - 06/2015

Temple Emanu-El; Rochester, NY

- Led Shabbat services with a rabbi twice a month
- Planned and led Rochester’s first “Ukelele Shabbat” with the Rochester Ukulele Orchestra

Engagement Intern for Hillel International

08/2014 - 05/2015

University of Rochester Hillel; Rochester, NY

- Engaged students with Jewish life on campus by forming interpersonal connections over coffee

Day Camp Counselor – Gr. 3/4

06/2014 - 08/2014

Camp Sisol – Louis S. Wolk JCC of Greater Rochester; Rochester, NY

- Supervised a group of campers entering 3rd & 4th grades during day camp & occasional overnight programs

Museum Intern

07/2013 - 08/2013

JCC of Metro Detroit; West Bloomfield, MI

- Worked in Shalom Street Jewish children’s museum creating Jewish educational programming for campers at the JCC Day Camp of Metro Detroit

SKILLS & AREAS OF STUDY

- Hartman Rabbinic Torah Seminar - attended July 2023. Topic: The Choosing People
- American Jewish History - Elective study in “Images of Reform Judaism in American Hebraica” & “Topical Documents in Reform Jewish History in Cincinnati & Charleston” through the American Jewish Archives with Dr. Gary Zola
- Israeli music - presented practicum entitled “Israel: A Tapestry of Cultures and Traditions in Celebration of 70 Years;” researched & wrote senior project “‘It’s an Entity. It’s Not a Book:’ 21st Century Israeli Women Encounter the Song of Songs” with Dr. Naomi Cohn Zentner. Presented recital “Let Me Hear Your Voice: The Song of Songs in Israeli Music” at Temple Beth Shalom
- Global Judaism & Jewish travel
- Knitting, sewing, weaving & fiber arts
- Acoustic guitar
- Computer skills: web design with Wix, video editing with Movavi, graphic design with Canva