

DAVID BOCKMAN

Ha-Rav David ben Daniel ha-Levi ve-Chaya Rachel

PULPIT EXPERIENCE




Aug 2024 Present	INTERIM RABBI Beth El Congregation, Norfolk, VA Norfolk, Virginia Interim Rabbi at a congregation that was divided against itself in deciding whether to move and merge with other nearby congregations. They needed - and I proved to be - a competent and steady leader to guide them through the process and help them feel good about themselves once again
2021 Jul 2024	RABBI Temple Beth Sholom Fair Lawn, NJ Part-time rabbi of proudly non-egalitarian Conservative shul (one of the very few left!) that has now merged with a larger egalitarian congregation across town in order to strengthen the Conservative Jewish presence in Fair Lawn
2019 2021	RABBI Temple Beth Sholom of North Jersey Park Ridge, New Jersey Part-time preacher, torah reader and competent leader who inspired a small and friendly group of mostly liberal-leaning amateurs looking for joy in their Jewish lives
2010 2019	RABBI Congregation Beth Shalom Pompton Lakes, New Jersey Part-time spiritual leader of "frontier" synagogue with aging membership. Created "Lab Shul" experiences, class in Jewish armchair travel, Israeli Folk Dancing, Politics in the books of Samuel and Kings. In final year, as the congregation merged with two others, I divided my time between the merged congregations in Pine Brook and Wayne, New Jersey
2007 2010	RABBI Croton Jewish Center Croton-on-Hudson, New York Part-time rabbi and principal of intimate shul with unique spirit. Led Birkat ha-Chama (blessing of the sun that only occurs every 28 years), Bi'ur Chametz scavenger hunt, Tu Bishvat Smoothie seder, weekly havdala.
2004 2007	RABBI Congregation Beth Israel of Northern Valley Bergenfield, New Jersey Spiritual leader of small congregation at its crossroads. Pre-Slichot New Orleans style "jazz funeral" for hurricane Katrina, revitalized kiddushes and seudah shlishit
1999 2004	RABBI Beth Meyer Synagogue Raleigh, North Carolina Presiding rabbi in busy suburban synagogue center. Created "Elul Fest"; instituted daily minyan and Mishnah Yomit; helped form community Jewish day school; created "Havdala at the Wall" and "Davening Dangerously"; recorded and performed with Jewish/latin jazz group "Rabbi, Russian and Blonde"
1993 1999	RABBI Chevra Thilim Congregation New Orleans, Louisiana Innovated creativity of modest inner-city shul. Diversified traditional-leaning congregation without rancor; worked on Chevra Kaddisha, kashrut supervision, "Louisiana Lehrhaus" and Reclaiming Shabbat Initiative; Slichot on a Boat, International monthly Shabbat dinners, jazz / gospel brunch, Singles Shabbat evenings; Beignet Yisrael vocal group
1991 1993	RABBI Congregation Kol Ami Annapolis, Maryland Part-time rabbi and principal of burgeoning young congregation. Standardized torah reading, piloted Hebrew school through growth spurt, grew shul into "full service congregation"; built ties with local community and Jewish Day School; oversaw construction and dedication of synagogue building
1989 1991	RABBI Sha'are Tikvah Congregation Temple Hills, Maryland Kol-bo (jack of all trades) of small and stable ex-urban congregation outside Washington, DC. Garnered four USCJ "synagogue of Excellence" awards; established reading of megillot, established weekday services through Hebrew school and overhauled its curriculum in a year-long process; "Traffic Jam Torah" series
1986 1988	ASSISTANT RABBI Congregation Beth Shalom Kansas City, Missouri Assistant rabbi of major Midwestern synagogue-center. Designed and led Conversion Institute, functioned as staff ombudsman; wrote prayer books for Hanukkah, Tisha B'Av, shiva homes; created "JASS (Jewish Singles) phone line; served on Chevra Kaddisha

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 2023	UPPER SCHOOL TEACHER Golda Och Academy West Orange, New Jersey Taught Bible, Rabbinics and Tfilah, including electives in Judaism and Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Afterlife!, Elijah and Elisha, Joshua and Judges: the Road not Taken, taught in person, online and hybrid in various stages of Covid lockdown
1994 1998	ADJUNCT FACULTY University of New Orleans New Orleans, Louisiana Jewish Studies teacher/ lecturer in Jewish History
1988 1989	UPPER SCHOOL TEACHER Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Rockville, Maryland Taught full schedule of classes in Bible, Rabbinics and Tfilah
1976 1986	ROSH EDAH Camp Ramah in California Ojai, California worked as long-time camp counselor, specialty staff, and Rosh Edah (division head); created beloved "Rabbi Good Shabbes" character, served as "Camp Mother"

EDUCATION

1991 1993	PHD CANDIDATE Baltimore Hebrew University Baltimore, Maryland Jewish philosophy, focused on post-modern French thinker, Emmanuel Levinas
1984 1986	MA, RABBINICAL ORDINATION Jewish Theological Seminary New York, New York Solomon and Rose S. Lasdon prize for Jewish Creativity (for translating "Guys and Dolls" into Hebrew), UJA university essay contest (first prize)
1983 1984	HEBREW AND JUDAIC STUDIES Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel
1981 1983	B LIT University of Judaism Los Angeles, California

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OBJECTIVE

I love to explore, teach and inspire! With diverse experience in congregations of all sizes, small (35 families) to large (1600 families) and formal and informal educational settings including Jewish day schools, Hebrew schools, summer camp and university, I have enough experience and the warm personality to fit into almost any setting in the Jewish world. My presence in your community will guarantee a low-stress experience of Judaism that will be intensely Jewish, and yet different (more enjoyable?) than any you've had before.

SKILLS

- Chevra Kaddisha work
- Kashrut Supervision (Rav ha-Machshir)
- Jazz/funk/blues trumpet and shofar
- Witness for Gittin (Jewish divorce)

LANGUAGES

- English | Native
- Hebrew | Advanced
- Aramaic | Intermediate
- Yiddish | Intermediate
- French | Elementary
- Russian | Elementary
- German | Elementary

1977
1981

BA
University of California, San Diego | La Jolla, California
Major: Individual Project Major in Judaic Studies
Triple Minor: Neurolinguistics, Music, Physics/Earth Science