

Rabbi Erin Hirsh

528 Lindley Road • Glenside, PA, 19038
215-376-0555 (h) • 215-837-2635 (c) • rabbierinhirsh@gmail.com

QUALIFICATIONS

- Teach Jewish values and traditions in creative and compelling ways to learners of all ages
- Design engaging and educational Jewish programs in both established and innovative environments
- Effectively manage all aspects of program implementation so that the structure reinforces the content
- Comfortably transition between in-person, online and hybrid learning formats
- Build vibrant, inclusive, and inspiring Jewish communities

RABBINIC & EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Founding Partner, JEWEL: Jewish Educational Wisdom, Experience & Leadership, 2012 – present

Please visit www.JEWELConsulting.net to view examples of and testimonials about my work.

- Offer consultative support to congregations and non-profits
- Coach and mentor rabbis and educators
- Design and edit curricula for children, teens and adults, in-person and online
- Create and lead formal and experiential programs for children, teens, adults, families

Interim President, Gratz College, Melrose Park, PA, February 2017 – December 2018

- **Leadership:** Guided the College for nine months while a search was conducted for a permanent president; Worked with the Board of Governors to establish institutional priorities and implement strategic plan
- **Finance:** Designed zero-based budget; Managed \$4,000,000+ budget, Secured \$600,000+ in financing
- **Institutional Advancement:** Secured contributions from alumni and major donors; Identified and activated dormant endowments; Designed outreach strategy to rapidly-diversifying stakeholders; Commissioned comprehensive marketing and branding program
- **Administration:** Supervised all administrative and operational aspects of the College; Supported College's ongoing assessment work, including Middle State accreditation

Founding Director of Gratz Advance, Assistant Professor of Jewish Education, Gratz College, 2015 – 2018

- Strategically combined **NEXT** and all other Gratz programs involving to part-time education
- Directed the **Jewish Community High School (JCHS)** as it consolidated seven branches into one
- Revamped **JCHS, JOLT: Jewish Online Learning for Teens and Gratz Academy**, a college-credit program for Jewish teens by reimagining structure, curriculum, marketing and budget
- Transformed **JSASIP: Jewish School Assessment School Improvement Process**, into an online tool
- Designed and three cutting-edge, replicable programs for children in supplementary school programs:
 - **Youth Summit** on congregational education for 100 children from 25 synagogues
 - **Havayah:** an experiential Jewish communal program for 5th graders from eight area synagogues
 - **KleinLIFE Sunday School** for children of Russian Jewish immigrants
- Managed budget of \$400,000+; Cultivated individual donors and funders; Secured and managed all grants;
- Built and maintained partnerships with educational organizations in Philadelphia, North America and Israel
- Increased institutional reach, visibility and impact in entire field of Jewish education

Founding Director, Office of Rabbinic Career Development, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, 2016 – 2017

Founding Director, NEXT: Professional Learning for Supplementary School Teachers, Gratz College, 2012 – 2015

- Provided multi-session courses and workshops for teachers at synagogues in Greater Philadelphia
- Designed a mentorship program for teachers at all area synagogues
- Launched an innovative professional development program featuring online multi-session courses, professional assessment tools and a school assessment tool

- Strategically utilized technology and online learning to support Philadelphia educators as well as others throughout North America and Israel
- Served 1500+ supplementary school educators in 32 states and two Canadian provinces
- Presented at conferences, lead professional development workshops, teach courses online and in-person
- Hired, trained and supervised all staff and faculty
- Conducted ongoing program assessment and evaluation

Director of Congregational Education, Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, Jenkintown, PA, 2006 – 2012

- Represented Reconstructionist Movement locally and nationally
- Designed programs and materials about all aspects of congregational education.
- Wrote and edited curricula for children, teens, adults
- Supervised formal curricula for Camp JRF (now Camp *Havaya*) and served as visiting faculty
- Launched an experiential, project-based national program for Jewish teens (with a *tikkun olam* theme)
- Hired, trained and supervised program faculty and staff
- Provided consultative support for education programs in 100+ congregations
- Facilitated professional development conference calls, webinars, workshops and conferences
- Coached and mentored board members and education directors of 60+ congregational schools

Director of Convention, 2010 Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Biennial, 2008 – 2010

A five day convention with 500 participants from throughout North America, Israel and Europe

- Designed forty workshops and classes in ten primary areas of interest
- Developed and supervised a comprehensive communications plan
- Supervised all administrative systems and operational logistics

Education Director, Congregation *Mishkan Shalom*, Philadelphia, PA 1999 – 2008

Co-Director, Teen Institute of Northwest Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 2005 – 2007

Founding Principal, *Kehilat HaNahar*: The Little Shul by the River, New Hope, PA 1997 – 1999

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

Pennsylvania Emergency **Teaching Certification**, October 2020

Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certification, 120 Hour Program, MyTEFL.com, July 2020

Gratz College, Melrose Park, PA. Master of Arts in Jewish Education, 2016

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA. Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic ordination, 2000

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. B.A. in Sociology, 1994

SELECT VOLUNTEER WORK

Brazo Foundation Board of Governors, Mariana Bracetti Academy, a public charter school, Philadelphia, PA

JQuest Evaluation Committee, *JQuest B'Yachad*, Elkins Park, PA

Achievement Gap Committee, Cheltenham School District, Cheltenham, PA

MAJOR PRIZES & HONORS

Finalist, **Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education**, Covenant Foundation, 2016, 2017 and 2018

First Recipient, **The Rabbi Erin Hirsh Award for Excellence in Jewish Education**. Reconstructionist Educators of North America (*RENA*) 2012

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

First Person Accounts of the Squirrel Hill Synagogue Massacre, October 2018

Next Year, Free! The Jewish Response to Modern Slavery with Rabbi Debra Orenstein, Free the Slaves, 2015

TEL: Teens: Experience & Learning. Tikkun Olam Curriculum with Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, 2009 – 2012