

Rabbi Erin Hirsh

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EXPERTISE

- Teaching Jewish values and traditions in creative and compelling ways to learners of all ages.
- Designing engaging and educational Jewish content in established & innovative environments
- Capitalizing on the tremendous increase in student accessibility to and familiarity with virtual learning.
- Managing all aspects of program implementation so that the structure reinforces the content.
- Creating synergistic partnerships between educational institutions that facilitate impactful and sustainable programs.
- Building vibrant, inclusive, fun and inspiring Jewish communities.

EDUCATIONAL & RABBINIC LEADERSHIP

Educational Consultant, JEWEL: Jewish Educational Wisdom, Experience & Leadership, 2012 – Present

- Jewish educational programming for children, teens, families, and adults
- Curriculum assessment and creation
- Online program design and implementation
- Professional development for rabbis, education directors, teachers and lay leaders
- Coaching for Rabbis and Educators
- Consultations and crisis management

Director of Education, Temple Judea of Bucks County Religious School (In-Person & Virtual), Furlong PA, 2021 – Present

Director of Professional Learning & Teacher, Temple Sinai (In-Person & Virtual), Dresher PA, 2018 – Present

Director of Technology & Education, Mordecai Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood (Virtual) 2019 – Present

Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Norristown Area School District (Virtual), Norristown PA, 2019 – 2020

Interim President & Assistant Professor of Jewish Education, Gratz College, Melrose Park PA 2017 –2018

Founding Director, Gratz Advance, Gratz College, 2015 – 2019

- **Co-Creator & Director**, *Havayah*: A Jewish Community Experience for eight Philadelphia area congregations
- **Co-Creator & Director**, Greater Philadelphia Youth Summit & Adult Summit on Congregational Jewish Education
- **Director**, Jewish Community High School of Gratz College; Gratz Academy; Synagogue Education Partnerships
- **Grant Writer & Manager** and **Partnership Manager** of \$500k in annual funding from foundations and federations

Director, Mandel Campus Branch, Jewish Community High School, Gratz College, 2014 – 2015

Director, JOLT: Jewish Online Learning for Teens, Gratz College, 2013 – 2015

Director, Ohev Shalom Branch, Jewish Community High School, Gratz College, 2013 – 2015

Founding Director, Office of Rabbinic Career Development, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Assoc., Wyncote PA, 2016 – 2017

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

- Conducted research with congregational school education directors and teachers in Greater Philadelphia
- Launched online multi-session professional development courses that served 1500+ congregational school education teachers in 32 states and two Canadian provinces in the first three years
- Negotiated Partnerships with ShalomLearning, Behrman House, the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and 12+ additional Jewish educational organizations
- Taught NEXT faculty members best practices in synchronous and asynchronous online instruction
- Launched a mentorship program for congregational school educators in Greater Philadelphia
- Transformed JSASIP: Jewish School Assessment School Improvement Process, an existing in-person congregational school assessment program, into a virtual program
- Secured and managed \$200k in annual funding from an array of foundations, federations and partners

Director of Reconstructionist Biennial Convention, Jewish Reconstructionist Movement, Jenkintown PA, 2010 – 2012

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

- Provided leadership and consultative support to education programs in 100+ congregations
- Coached and mentored rabbis, education directors and lay leaders of 65 congregational schools
- Created and directed *TEL: Teens, Experience & Learning*, a multi-year program for teens from 10 congregations
- Supervised curriculum development for Camp JRF (now Camp *Havaya*), 2007 – 2011
- Designed, wrote, and assessed congregational school curricula
- Developed and facilitated professional development workshops, conference calls, and webinars
- Wrote and edited curricula for children, teens, adults

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

- **Co-Founder and Director**, Mid-Atlantic Regional Jewish Education Conference, JRF, 2007 – 2012
- **Co-Founder and 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

Faculty, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, 1995 – 1997; Blue Bell, 2008 – 2012

Faculty, Mishkan Shalom, Chestnut Hill & Havertown, PA 1994 – 1999

MAJOR PRIZES & HONORS

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

- *The nominating essay for this award as well as my Statement of Motivation & Statement of Purpose may be of interest.*

First recipient, eponymous **Rabbi Erin Hirsh Award for Excellence in Jewish Education**, Reconstructionist Educators of North America, 2012

SELECT EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

First Person Accounts of the Squirrel Hill Synagogue Massacre, 2018

Jewish Responses to Modern Slavery with Rabbi Debra Orenstein, Free the Slaves, 2015

Westchester Reform Temple Early Childhood Gan Outdoor Classroom Curriculum with Rabbi Sarah Messinger, 2013

KleinLIFE Sunday School Curriculum for children of Russian Jewish refugees with Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer, 2014

The Burning Question, The Transformative Jewish Texts Project, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 2012

TEL: Teens: Experience & Learning with Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer. Four project-based curricula, JRF, 2009 – 2012

Etz Hayim We. Six Adult & Teen Text Study curricula on *Megillot* and Kings. Reconstructionist Press, 1997 – 2002; 2008

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

Pennsylvania Emergency **Teaching Certification**, October 2020

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

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

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

Bachelor of Arts in **Sociology**, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 1994

SELECT VOLUNTEER WORK

Majority Inspector (Elected), Cheltenham Township, Ward 1, Precinct 1

Member, Board of Governors, Brazo Foundation, Marianna Bracetti Academy, a Philadelphia charter school

Founding Member, *RENA*: Reconstructionist Educators of North America

President, Board of Governors, Bayt Yeladeem: a Jewish Preschool and Day School. Abington, PA & Elkins Park, PA