

Meir Bargeron, MAHL, MSW

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An accomplished professional who enters the rabbinate following 20 years of substantial experience in counseling, non-profit administration, human resources, and communications. A professional who held positions in corporate, healthcare, non-profit, and Jewish communal sectors, including significant volunteer and board roles. A classically trained vocalist who provides musical service leadership.

Education & Credentials

Rabbinic Ordination (Anticipated 2020)

Master of Hebrew Letters, 2018

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA

Rabbinic Thesis: *I Will Be What I Will Be: Jewish Texts for Those Who Are Becoming Jews*

Master of Social Work, 2007

St. Catherine University & University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Clinical Thesis: *Aging Well: Narratives of GLBT Seniors*

Bachelor of Arts, English Education, 1990

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) #18595

Minnesota Board of Social Work

Rabbinic Experience

Congregation Or Ami, Calabasas, CA

2018 - Present

Rabbinic & Community Organizing Intern

Synagogue Leadership & Pastoral Care

- Provides rabbinic coverage in absence of clergy.
- Leads Shabbat services and delivers sermons.
- Designs and implements synagogue pastoral support during wildfires and multiple evacuations of over 80% of affiliated households.
- Provides pastoral care to congregants and unaffiliated community members.

Educator

- Develops a speaker series, bringing accomplished teachers and leaders with intriguing ideas into dialogue with the congregational community.
- Teaches adult education programs.
- Provides rabbinic support for overnight camp-based retreats for 4th to 6th graders and for teens.
- Teaches 5th-grade Judaica and Hebrew classes and leads religious school services.

Community Organizer

- Provides support and leadership to a congregant-driven community organizing initiative that focuses on reducing homelessness, resulting in renewed congregational activity, new interfaith ties, and direct community impact.
- Leads a teen social action program, engaging youth in volunteer activities serving special-needs children, at-risk youth, and the homeless.

Adult Programming

- Conducts an assessment of congregational engagement of adults in mid-life and beyond. Reported learnings and recommendations to clergy and board of trustees.
- Provides support and leadership to a congregant-driven initiative to develop a community-within-a-synagogue for older adults.

Olympic B'nai Shalom Havurah, Port Angeles, WA

2018 - 2019

Student Rabbi

Led High Holy Day services for a religiously diverse havurah comprised of 40 households in a semi-rural community. Facilitated introduction of the new *Mishkan HaNefesh* High Holy Day prayer book to the community. Provided spiritual care to congregants in a nursing home.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA

2017 - 2019

Recruitment & Admissions Ambassador

Provided information and assistance to potential applicants. Organized campus visits. Interviewed applicants to rabbinic program. Represented HUC-JIR to prospective students at URJ Biennial.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Summer 2018

Chaplaincy Intern

Provided pastoral care during approximately 200 patient visits on an assigned unit and throughout the medical center, while completing initial phase of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

Congregation B'nai David, Visalia, CA

2016 - 2018

Student Rabbi

Served as the primary rabbinic leader to a congregation of 60 households. Led services, taught adults and youth, officiated at b'nai mitzvah, and provided pastoral care.

Temple Emanuel, Beverly Hills, CA

Summer 2017

Rabbinic Resident

Assisted clergy and staff in rituals with congregants and community. Led Shabbat services, conducted adult education Torah study with 40 attendees, and wrote a curriculum on racial justice for grades 8-12. Provided pastoral care to congregants.

Kashovot, Jerusalem, Israel

2015 – 2016

Chaplaincy Intern

Provided pastoral care to residents of a nursing home. Made weekly visits to residents to provide emotional, social, and spiritual support.

Shir Tikvah Congregation, Minneapolis, MN

2008 – 2016

Summer Rabbinic Intern, 2016

Led prayer and music; co-facilitated an adult education course on Israel using the Shalom Hartman Institute iEngage Israel curriculum; revised multi-grade Israel curriculum for the religious school.

Lay Leader, Board of Trustees, 2008 – 2015

- Served on the Executive Committee providing governance to a 500-household synagogue.
- Co-chaired rabbinic search committee to hire an Assistant Rabbi/Director of Lifelong Learning and an Associate Rabbi.
- Co-chaired Caring Community committee.
- Wrote a grant application funded by the Union for Reform Judaism to provide programming to support adults in the process of converting to Judaism. Facilitated this program in collaboration with clergy.
- Led Shabbat services.

Campus Leadership Experience

Intern, Vaad Tefilah. Leader of campus Worship committee. Interfaced with faculty, administration, and rabbi of campus synagogue on matters regarding Worship program. Facilitated work of other student volunteers in the areas of Torah reading, pre-worship planning and post-worship reflection for student service leaders, and music leadership.

Music Leader. Provided musical support for campus services.

Member, HUC-JIR Los Angeles Curriculum Committee. Reviewed and provided feedback on proposals regarding modifications to the curricula of the Rabbinic, Jewish Education, and Jewish Nonprofit Management programs.

Other Professional Experience

Private Clinical & Consulting Practice, St. Paul, MN

2008 - 2015

Provided counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, couples and families; business and personal coaching to adults; and consulting services to business and nonprofit organizations.

Neighborhood Involvement Program, Minneapolis, MN

2012 - 2014

A health care and social services nonprofit that provides access to care for the under-served.

Associate Executive Director & Director of Mental Health Services

Portico Healthnet, St. Paul, MN

2008 - 2011

A community agency that facilitates access to preventive health care by the uninsured.

Associate Director

Jewish Family and Children's Service Minneapolis, MN 2006 - 2008
Clinical Social Worker

Worked as a clinical social work intern, and subsequently as an employee.

Pride Institute, Eden Prairie, MN 2006 - 2008
A chemical dependence and mental health treatment center serving the LGBTQ community.
Project Director: Human Resources, Risk Management, Payer Relations & Contracting

Silicon Graphics, Eagan, MN & Sunnyvale, CA 1998-2006
Director, Learning, Organization Development & Employee Communications
Senior Manager, Employee Communications

Educational Enrichment

- **HUC-JIR Summer Beit Midrash for Rabbinic Students**, Summer 2019.
- **Engagement: "Meeting the Needs of 'The Other' in Our Community: What is the Rabbi's Role?"** HUC-JIR, 2019.
- **Belong Symposium** (Faith-Based Community Organizing Training). PICO California. 2019.
- **Yom Iyun: "Why Convert? Why Not?"** Sandra Caplan Community Beit Din (Los Angeles), 2019
- **Fundraising for Rabbis** (Audited Course). HUC-JIR, 2018.
- **Gerecht Family Outreach Institute Retreat** (Focus: Conversion to Judaism), HUC-JIR, 2017.
- **Community Organizing Intensive**, HUC-JIR, 2017.
- **Rabbinic Students Seminar**, Shalom-Hartman Institute, Jerusalem. 2015-16.

Awards

Lorraine Helman Rubin Memorial Prize for Scholarly Writing, HUC-JIR (2019)

Anita Rosen Award for Scholarly Research in Gerontology, Council on Social Work Education (2007)

References Available Upon Request