

Rabbi Mathew Marko

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EDUCATION

American Jewish University, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies 2016 M.A. in Rabbinic Studies & Rabbinic Ordination

The University of Florida, Gainesville 1991 Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance, Minor in Hebrew

PULPIT EXPERIENCE

Senior Rabbi Tifereth Israel Synagogue – San Diego, CA 2022 – 2024 Helped reunite and reinvigorate the community following the “Covid years”. Developed creative models of service and programming, increasing engagement and spiritual connection. Raised directed donations to create much needed staff positions while adhering to the Board’s requirements of all new hires being revenue neutral. Helped rebuild a struggling preschool, increasing enrollment by 80% to maximum capacity of 120, and increasing enrollees from Jewish families from 21 to 65, gaining new Synagogue members in the process. Introduced and initiated a Jewish After School program, including raising needed capital and identifying matching grants and partner programs. Utilized change and crisis management skills to guide the community through a major flood and loss of facility use for several months. Navigated the loss of building space through creative outside alternatives and increasing virtual work models.

Senior Rabbi Congregation Beth Israel – Greenville, SC 2016 – 2022 Combined love of Judaism, passion for creativity, and extensive business experience to build up community, increasing membership by 25%. Developed creative programming and interactive learning to nearly double Friday and Saturday services attendance. Campaigned to establish a full-time preschool on site, raising capital donations to begin construction and actualization of this goal. Increased outreach and relationships to both the “hidden Yidden”, as well as the wider interfaith Upstate community. Installed and led Miller Introduction to Judaism for conversion candidates and adult education. Actively engaged families, increasing younger membership, doubling religious school enrollment. Migrated office email and website services to the cloud, including new branding, marketing, and ecommerce. Established interfaith programs, engaging local government, religious, educational, and business leadership greatly increasing awareness and support throughout the wider Upstate community.

Spiritual and Ritual Leader Beit Or Havurah – Palmdale, CA 2012 – 2016 Concurrent with my seminary years, served as sole rabbinic leadership. Utilized proficiency in traditional and modern liturgical music to create meaningful religious experience through communal participation, learning, and lively worship. Led High Holidays as “Kol-Bo” and officiated all life-cycle events. Collaborated with members to create teachers and leaders, advancing community’s knowledge, skills and tools for self reliance in absence of full-time rabbinic leadership.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

Board of Directors Prisma Health Systems – Greenville, SC 2019 – 2022 Served a 3-year term on the Board of the largest health care organization in the State of South Carolina with 30,000 employees, 18 acute and specialty hospitals, 305 practice sites.

Professional Advisory Group *Prisma Health Systems – Greenville, SC* 2016 – 2022 Teacher, mentor, and advisor for interns and residents in Clinical Pastoral Education. Oversaw appreciative inquiries, student verbatims, broad-faith chaplaincy, and was the “go-to-Jew” for any unaffiliated in need.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wood Shop Instructor *Camp Ramah Darom – Clayton, GA* 2011 – 2021 Integrated Torah and hands-on activity. Combined craftsmanship, content, creativity and learning, teaching campers to fashion personal ritual objects while exploring significance, resulting in sense of satisfaction and accomplishment, encouraging Jewish attachment and life-long practice.

Teacher/Rabbinic Intern *Congregation Tikvat Jacob – Manhattan Beach, CA* 2014 – 2016 Created fun and meaningful learning opportunities for religious school drawing on extensive theatre background. Combined solid Jewish content and core values with voice, movement, improvisation and performance, enabling students to develop unique and exciting educational programs, sharing with community, and cementing love of Judaism.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder and Owner *Serious Wood, Inc. – Los Angeles, CA* 2003 – 2016 Designed and fabricated fine custom furniture and cabinetry. Managed clients, employees, vendors, sales, design, and internal enterprise functions. Collaborated with clients, architects, and general contractors, introducing and modifying plans, proposals, and budgets, with focus on beauty, function and total customer satisfaction. In charge of all compliance, funding, financing, payables and receivables, as well as managing a team ranging from 20-30 employees.

Associate Director of Development *Hippodrome State Theatre – Gainesville, FL* 1990 – 1994 Used public presence as artist-in-residence and fulltime staff development officer to increase donor relationships. Opened new avenues for unearned income streams, developed innovative participation packages for businesses and individuals, and established ongoing in-kind trade arrangements, significantly increasing community connection and support.

ASSOCIATIONS

SDRA (San Diego Rabbinic Association). Board of Directors of Prisma Upstate. PAG Prisma CPE Chaplaincy program. Board of the Urban League, Greenville SC Chapter. Atlantic Institute of South Carolina Table of Abraham. Upstate Area Interfaith Round Table. Active member of AIPAC and former AIPAC Leffel Fellow.

OTHER INTERESTS

Motorcycling, world travel, learning new languages, certified scuba divemaster, spending time with family, wood-working and furniture making (with emphasis on Jewish ritual objects and synagogue furniture), all things Israel, bicycling, playing guitar, theater, Jewish summer camp, and creating international kosher cuisine (what I dub “kosher treiff”).