

RABBI RAPHAEL J. KANTER

360 Hawthorn Street

New Bedford, MA 02740 Home (508) 991-5988 email: Rav.rafi@Verizon.net Mobile (508) 415-0686

CAREER SUMMARY

Seeking a pulpit that will utilize the full gamut of skills I have developed over my career. In addition to teaching, I am an excellent Torah reader and master of the daily, Shabbat and holiday liturgy. A creative teacher who utilizes a wide variety of methods to expand the Shabbat spirit including interactive Torah discussion and storytelling. Skilled chaplain with extensive counseling training and expertise.

CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

TIFERETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION, New Bedford, MA 1997- 2024

www.tinewbedford.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed and implemented an intergenerational Shabbat morning program that paired Senior congregants with pre-Bar Mitzvah students for mentoring and study which included jointly exploring questions about the Torah portion, having the student join the mentor for aliyot and leading portions of the service.
 - Instituted progressive spiritual methods to involve congregants in the Shabbat experience, including meditation and instrumental music, leading to greater participation and ruach.
 - Secured seven figure bequest to secure the financial future of the congregation.
- Maintained a daily minyan for a 300+ family synagogue through varied strategies, including zoom.
- Developed a Bnai Mitzvah interactive workshop with students and parents to enrich and deepen the family's Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience.

- Participated in the community's Interfaith Action Committee, addressing issues such as gambling, prison visits and hospital chaplaincy.
- Implemented program of visitation and counseling for hospitalized congregants, nursing home residents, and shut-ins.
- Promoted outreach to severely disabled and institutionalized Jews, including bringing them to Shabbat services.
- Coordinated the conversion program and initiated a mentoring program for those choosing to become Jewish.
- Maintained a synagogue during COVID without losing membership during this time by keeping the building open shortly after pandemic began, using best practice strategies with the guidance of medical and scientific personnel.

TEACHING

- Weekly class for Sisterhood covering the books of *Job*, *Ruth*, *Psalms*, *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes*, as well as Heschel's *The Sabbath*.
- Shabbat afternoon class on the Parsha, *Pirkei Avot* as well as topical sessions on contemporary Jewish legal issues and medical ethics.

COUNSELING EXPERIENCE

MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING HOSPITAL, New York, NY Summer 1991
Chaplain, Senior Rabbinic Internship

- Created an individualized summer internship in chaplaincy, specializing in counseling of cancer and AIDS patients.

- Researched and studied issues surrounding illness, death and bereavement for the patient and his or her family.

STEPPINGSTONE RESIDENCE, Brooklyn, NY 1987-1988 Clinical Therapist

- Provided vocational, life skills, and crisis intervention counseling to adults with psychiatric illness.
- Performed clinical evaluations and treatment planning for facility residents.

ST. VINCENT'S SERVICES, Brooklyn, NY 1986-1987 Caseworker

- Monitored the physical and mental health of 24 children in foster care. • Provided short term counseling to natural parents, facilitating the child's return to the home.
- Coordinated and supervised visits between foster children and their natural parents.

EDUCATION

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Master of Hebrew Literature 1992 Rabbinic Ordination

UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM 1989 B.A. Jewish Literature

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TEACHERS COLLEGE 1986 M.A. And Ed.M
Psychological Counseling

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA 1981 B.A. Psychology

OF SPECIAL NOTE

I am married to Cindy Benson, a genetic counselor. We have three children; Rebecca, Eli, and Micah. I have run the New York marathon twice and completed the Whaling City Triathlon. I have been recognized for my work in the local jail from the Bristol County Sheriff's office.

I am looking for a pulpit that allows me to use the full gamut of skills that I have as a rabbi, Baal Tefillah and Torah reader.