

RABBI ADAM KLIGFELD

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Congregation Eitz Chaim, Monroe, NY | 2000–Present
Rabbi

Serve Eitz Chaim in all pastoral, educational, organizational, homiletical, and communal roles required of a solo rabbi in a small, dynamic, and expanding congregation. Worked closely with lay leadership to find, secure and develop a location for new building, strategically positioned for growth, creating a true geographic locus for the community. Oversaw implementation of vision for new sanctuary, designed with both warmth and grandeur to intensify members' connection with sacred space. Spearheaded the fundraising effort that raised 10 times more than any previous campaign at Eitz Chaim had raised before, and 50 percent more than was indicated by our Feasibility Study. Took creative and proactive measures to successfully increase membership by analyzing demographics and applying new marketing strategies. Congregation's membership has grown by 20 percent, and the synagogue has become a stable and vibrant community.

Worship:

- Brought energetic, musical, participatory Carlebach-style *davvening* to weekly *Kabbalat Shabbat* services
- Conceived of and implemented new Sunday morning *minyan* called *Shirei Kodesh*—Songs of Holiness, with a focus on song, reflection, and meaningful prayer; created user-friendly *siddur* to be used at *Shirei Kodesh*
- Created rotation system to ensure lively and well-attended Shabbat afternoon/*Havdalah* services

Youth and Education:

- Instituted significant change in *bnai mitzvah* preparation, teaching all students skills of reading Torah and leading Shabbat morning *Shaharit* services as part of Hebrew School curriculum; this change has produced a generation of Eitz Chaim students proficient in synagogue skills
- Energized Eitz Chaim's USY and Kadima chapters, helping expand their local programming as well as their active involvement in divisional, regional, and international events
- Nurtured a growing cadre of families choosing Ramah camps for their children's summer plans
- Have taught weekly Talmud class for five years and Hebrew-text Humash/Rashi class for eight years
- Organized and implemented the first Hebrew High School at Eitz Chaim, and redesigned the Bet Midrash program for students in eighth and ninth grades; teach extensively in both programs
- Created and currently teaching the first adult *bnai mitzvah* program at Eitz Chaim in a decade

Israel:

- Organized, oversaw, and led three successful synagogue trips to Israel within five years for a community that had only one previous synagogue trip in its history; did extensive follow-up with participants, resulting in heightened activity in synagogue programming and leadership upon return
- Initiated, planned, and led Jewish Federation of Orange County's first ever Israel Mission
- Founded annual Orange County Yom Ha' Atzmaut celebration, now an extensive annual event, bringing nearly 1,000 Jews out for educational programs, Israeli Vendor fairs, Israeli Film festivals, musical performances, and carnival-style celebrations of Israel's birthday
- Consistently organize the largest delegation of all local synagogues as part of Orange County's representation in the annual Salute to Israel Parade in New York City

Religious Programming:

- Created tradition of annual Eitz Chaim festive Purim *seudah*, whose attendance and energy continue to grow; introduced "schtick" and other playful elements into evening Purim services
- Instituted annual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot all-night Torah-study program, drawing more than 50 participants from the congregation and community
- Added singing, dancing, and story-telling to community's observance of Tashlikh, helping elevate the ritual to a celebration of the new year and a new chance at improved living
- Continually bring creative and soulful programs to Eitz Chaim for Selichot, including a spiritual-journaling exercise, a program on Meditation, Movement, and Music, and staging a play on the themes of the season
- Initiated program to provide full kiddush luncheons after Shabbat morning services each week (previously they were once per month), creating an extended Shabbat environment in the synagogue
- Envisioned and currently implementing "In The Hood," a bi-monthly informal Shabbat afternoon get-together held in the homes of members living near the synagogue and open to the entire congregation; this program encourages all members to add yet one more "Shabbat-friendly" activity to their weekly calendar

Communal Leadership:

- Founded Mei Yisrael, the local effort to construct a communal, non-denominational *mikvah* in Monroe, on the campus of our new synagogue
- Active member of Klei Kodesh of Orange County, Monroe-Woodbury Clergy Association (Interfaith) and the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County
- Spearheaded a project and worked with local rabbis and local/national Federation leadership to create a Community Brit titled "Toward Shalom Bayit and Derekh Eretz in our Community Relationships," helping to create a greater sense of unified purpose in the local Jewish community
- Served on Rabbinic Cabinet for Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, raising funds from congregation to support scholarships and encouraging study at the Yeshiva; brought lay leaders to the Yeshiva for "immersion" experience and firsthand, on-site Torah study

CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP

Committee on Jewish Law and Standards | 2006–Present

- Voting member of the CJLS
- Initiated process of internal review of CJLS resulting in greater efficiency and productivity at CJLS meetings; thoughtful plan for disseminating CJLS opinions and materials to Conservative rabbis and laity; giving Conservative rabbis encouragement and resources to teach practical *halakha* from the pulpit
- Co-Chair, CJLS Kashrut Retreat, June 2009; responsible for envisioning and implementing agenda, inviting guest speakers and lecturers, organizing all programming and learning for the retreat

Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Rabbinical School Admissions Committee | 2002–Present

JTSA Torah Institute, | 2007, 2009

- Gave lecture on CJLS proceedings, specifically related to the discussions and vote on same-sex relationships and unions, to participants in intensive Torah Institute adult education course in Atlanta
- Giving lecture titled "The Spirituality of Halakhic Living" to Torah Institute class in Bergen County, NJ

USY International President | 1990

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Education for Excellence in Rabbis | August 2005–Present

Synagogues: Transition and Renewal (STAR: www.starysynagogue.org)

Invited to participate in a series of executive leadership seminars for select group of 20 early-career rabbis from multiple streams of Judaism. Completed Fellowship and remain active in alumni affairs, conferences and ongoing learning.

Rabbinic Training Institute | 2001–2005, 2007, 2009

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Annual weeklong intensive study of traditional texts and engagement in professional development workshops.

Reclaiming Mikvah: Pouring New Waters into an Ancient Vessel | 2005

Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikvah and Education Center, Newton MA

Attended three-day seminar on *mikvah*, focusing on traditional and innovative uses and rituals, and on how to organize an effort to envision, raise funds for, and build a community *mikvah*.

Bibliodrama Training | 2002

Participated in weeklong training in Bibliodrama, led by founder and developer of technique, Peter Pitzele.

EDUCATION

Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, NY

Rabbinic Ordination and Masters of Arts in Talmud | 2000

Columbia College of Columbia University, New York, NY

B.A. in Jewish History and Psychology *Magna Cum Laude/Phi Beta Kappa* | 1995

Yeshivat Hamivtar, Efrat, Israel

Semester of study in Talmud and Jewish Law | 1994

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Rabbinic Intern | 1999–2000

Sinai Synagogue of South Bend, IN

Rabbinic Intern | Summer 1999

Solomon Schechter High School of New York

Teacher of Talmud and Halakha | 1998–1999

Sutton Place Synagogue, New York, NY

Rabbinic Assistant | 1997–1999

Midrasha, Adult Education Institute

New Haven, CT | Fall 1998

Teacher of Talmud and Halakha

USY Poland and Eastern European Pilgrimage

Summers | 1992–1996

Group Leader