

# BENJAMIN ALTSHULER

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**STATEMENT OF VISION:** My rabbinate is committed to cultivating thriving Judaism through personal relationships and creative endeavors resulting in meaningful observance and intentional community.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024-Present **Rabbi**  
Temple Beth Israel – Bay City, MI  
*Cultivate Jewish Experience through learning, prayer, pastoral care, and community. Facilitate adult education on Torah and contemporary topics. Lead Shabbat and Holiday liturgy through prayer, meditation, scriptural analysis, and poetic interpretation.*
- 2023-2024 **Rabbinic Fellow – Rabbi Sol Oster Fellowship**  
Temple Beth Israel - Shaarei Zedek – Lima, OH  
*Lead Congregation, cultivate community through Shabbat Worship and Adult Education.*
- Spring 2024 **Interim Rabbi**  
Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue – Detroit, MI  
*Congregational support and pastoral care, Torah education, and Pulpit Liturgy for Shabbat during colleague absence.*
- 2020-2023 **Solo Rabbi**  
Mt. Sinai Congregation – Wausau, WI
- Foster Jewish life and communal connection for a small rural-based and geographically diffuse congregation of 80 families. As the only staff member, oversee Shabbat and Chagim worship, music, and education for adult learners and religious school students through individual mentorship and classroom curricula.
  - Support congregants and oversaw ritual elements and pastoral care throughout life experiences: birth, coming of age, marriage, funeral, and memorial.
  - Represent the Jewish community to the local region and news media through televised interviews, civic engagement, interfaith affairs, and cultural festivals.
  - Connect to satellite community through Traveling Rabbi program, outreach through worship, and Torah study in congregant homes.
  - Empower congregant task force on social justice, dedicated to voter registration, detention reform, and food pantry.
  - Shepherd conversion candidates from introductory exploration and personal discernment through Beit Din and community recognition.
  - Coordinated synagogue virtual engagement through social media and brand development.
- Student Rabbi Positions**  
*Cultivated Jewish life for small-town congregations through Shabbat services, High Holy Day officiation, adult education, youth religious school, holiday observance, and pastoral visits every 2, 3, or 4 weeks. Invigorate and inspire isolated bastions of Jewish existence. Sole Clergy presence for Parkersburg, Muncie, and Bluefield, respectively.*
- 2019–2020 Temple Sholom - Cincinnati, OH  
2018–2019 Congregation Ahavath Sholom - Bluefield, WV  
2017–2018 Temple Beth El - Muncie, IN  
Summer 2017 KK Bene Israel, Rockdale Temple - Cincinnati, OH  
2016–2017 Temple B'nai Israel - Parkersburg, WV

2018–Present **Religious School & Hebrew Instructor**

KK Bene Jeshurun, Wise Temple - Cincinnati, OH  
*Virtual Classroom Instruction of Grades 4, 5, & 6 Hebrew Connect,  
Curriculum Development and Implementation Grade 5 Nature Project-Based Learning,  
Curator and Discussion Leader Grades 7 & 8 Current Topics and Taboos*

2015–2016 **Front Desk Administrator; Activity Associate**

Friedman Place: A Community for Adults with Vision Loss, Chicago, IL

*Coordinated communication within a supportive living facility for visually impaired residents and assisted with logistics of daily operations, technology, budget, and transportation. Oversaw the calendar of daily programs including special events, field trips, and guest performers.*

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

2021-Present **Faculty**, Summer Camp

Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, Oconomowoc, WI  
URJ Camp George, Seguin, ON

*Developed Jewish life and t'fillot programming for a month-long summer camp unit of 90 high school students and 20 counselors. Facilitated wilderness programming for multi-day excursions and collaborated on the supervision and navigation of these trips. Organized all-camp programming in consultation with camp directors and clergy faculty partners.*

2013-Present **Rabbinic Council; Alumni Recruiter; Corps Member; Network Weaver**

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, Chicago, IL

*Clergy consultant and former participant in multi-city faith-based service corps dedicated to cultivating intentional communal living cooperatives, service, and understanding the root causes of urban poverty. Facilitated relationship-building among program alumni through community and discussion-based education. Recruit and support future corps.*

2023-Present **Rackham Choir**, Auditioned Community Choir, Royal Oak / Detroit, MI

*Perform triennially with a semi-professional community-based choral program.*

2023-Present **JLearn – Metro Detroit JCC**

Instructor, PArshat HaShavuah Program

*Engage regional learners in scriptural education and discussion through virtual modality.*

2022- 2023 **Eilu v'Eilu Fellowship**

One America Movement

*Confront Toxic Polarization through social psychology and scriptural text in collaboration with other Jewish professionals through quarterly virtual retreats.*

2022 **Balfour Brickner Clergy Fellowship**

Religious Action Center

*Engaged clergy partners through multi-part interdenominational discourse: "Using Our Moral Voices to Address Oppression Inside & Outside of Our Jewish Communities".*

2020 **Shallat Rabbinic Transition program**

Union of Reform Judaism

*Partnered with lay leaders and clergy through a multi-part workshop on congregational best practices, strategies for synagogue engagement, and leadership integration.*

## EDUCATION

- 2020 **Rabbinic Ordination, Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters**  
Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Thesis: Harping on the Past, Drawing Truth from the Lyre: Seeking King David in Literary Oeuvre
- Israel Bettan Memorial Prize for creative and imaginative pulpit presentation
  - Gold Scholarship Recipient
  - Deans' Intern
  - Admissions Committee – Student Representative
  - Rabbinical Student Association – Elected Class Representative
  - Concerts on Clifton – Featured Performer and Soloist
- 2020 **Master's Concentration in Israel Education**, iCenter, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 **Clinical Pastoral Education – Unit 1**  
Didactic: HUC-JIR Cincinnati, OH – Rabbi Julie Schwartz, ACPE Certified Educator  
Placements: UC Health West Chester Hospital, Twin Lakes Senior Living Community, Alois Alzheimer Center, The Kenwood by Senior Star
- 2013 **Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude in Cognitive Science**,  
Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota  
Thesis: The Puzzle Puzzle, An Interdisciplinary Approach  
Raupp Scholarship Recipient; National Merit Scholar; Residential Assistant; Tour Guide
- 2011 **Budapest Semester in Cognitive Science**, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

## PUBLICATIONS

D'var Torah – Detroit Jewish News, February 18, 2024  
Contributor – *Prophetic Voices: Renewing And Reimagining Haftarah* (2023), CCAR Press  
Book Review – The Reform Jewish Quarterly, "Search by Michelle Hunever" Winter 2023  
D'var Torah – *LAASOK – Taste of Torah*, Parshat HaShavua Blog (March, 2, 2023)  
Contributor – *T'ruah*, M(Oral) Torah, Parshat HaShavua Blog (November 2022)  
D'var Torah – Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle (June 2, 2021)  
Contributor – 929.org English language Torah commentary, *Exodus 26*, (Oct. 28, 2018)  
Blogger – Avodah Blog, *Pushing Back Against Darkness* (November 2021)  
Blogger – Avodat HaKodesh Sacred Service Learning (Submissions 2016-2020)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR)  
Michigan Board of Rabbis (MBOR)  
Greater West Bloomfield Clergy Association & Community Forum  
Transformational Council of Michigan, Interfaith Alliance  
NAOMI - Interfaith Conclave, chapter of WISDOM  
18 Doors Affiliated Interfaith Wedding Officiant

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Computer: Adobe Creative Suite, Zoom Meetings, Microsoft Office, SPSS Software  
Care: CPE Level One, Sighted Guide, Red Cross First Aid & CPR, Wilderness First Aid (WFA)  
Communication: Hebrew and Spanish Language Proficiency  
Collaboration: Dispute Mediator, Experienced Sibling, Competitive Board Game Enthusiast