

CANTOR BENJAMIN ROSNER

2236 Ehrborn Way, Sacramento, CA 95825 · (305)785-8834

cantorben@gmail.com · www.cantorben.com

Experience

Mosaic Law Congregation, Cantor

Sacramento, CA · 2013 - present

- Prayer Leading
 - Created joyful, soulful, and collaborative instrumental services for Kabbalat Shabbat; play multiple instruments during services, including guitar, ukulele, recorder, harmonica and keyboard
 - Balance innovation and tradition while leading Shabbat and weekday minyan services that incorporate both congregational signing and hazzanut
 - Conduct ensembles of more than 21 amateur and professional community musicians
 - Collaborated with Education Director, past Sacramento PJ Library directors, lay leaders and Cantorial Intern to create Friday night and Shabbat morning childrens' services
 - Developed existing weekday minyan program with Ritual Team to become fully lay-lead while still regularly providing support and attendance training and engaging Torah readers, daveners and Gabbais
 - Leads or facilitates creative services with different Jewish traditions (Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi, Yemenite, Persian, etc), sometimes engaging guest cantors from out-of-town
- Engagement and Outreach
 - Founded MLC2030 group that creates social, social action and religious programming in and out of the synagogue and in homes for young adults in their 20s and 30s
 - Collaborates with Membership Team; 100 new member-units from 2013 to present
- Pastoral Care
 - Participates in range of life-cycle events
 - Actively pursues pastoral care opportunities
 - Trained congregational volunteers to use their professional skills to provide continued care to other members
- Adult Education
 - Collaborates with lay leaders and KOH Library and Cultural Center to produce a range of innovative educational and community musical experiences
 - Teaches Trope, Hebrew grammar, and Sofrut (Hebrew Calligraphy and its halachah) to Adults privately and in classes
 - Mentors adult students training to become professional cantors
- Technology
 - Demonstrated flexibility transitioning synagogue to fully-remote synagogue services and programming during COVID-19 pandemic; organized and trained volunteers in new technologies
 - Supervised the upgrade of sound systems, which can now create separate mixes in multiple rooms, outside and on livestream simultaneously
 - Brings extensive audio-engineering experience to the team
- Coordinates B'nai Mitzvah Programs
 - Acts as primary tutor to most families teaching nusach, trope and prayers
 - Supervises additional/supplementary tutors; created Junior Tutor program
 - Significantly updated program with revamped handbook, date-picking process, and policies to reflect changing needs
 - Students continue leading services and chanting Torah after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Cantillation
 - Reads Torah, Haftarah, holiday, and megillot as needed
 - Assigns all Biblical Readings to list of 50 members who chant Torah, Haftarah and additional trope systems

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- Created new Shalosh Regalim Megillot books with graphic designer and my own photography
- Functioned as sole clergy while Rabbi was on Sabbatical 3 months of year; supports interim Rabbi in transition
- Represents synagogue at community functions locally and nationally (See CV for details)

Congregation Beth Shalom, Cantor

Pittsburgh, PA · 2010 - 2013

- Led variety of dynamic weekday, Shabbat and holiday services in range of styles and settings, including traditional Shabbat or weekday minyan services and innovative instrumental Kabbalat Shabbat services (including professional and volunteer musicians)
- Taught davening and leining skills to B'nai Mitzvah and adult students
- Collaborated with lay leaders to produce a range of community and synagogue musical/educational experiences, including pre- and post-shabbat concerts and open mic series, J-Jam
- Engaged unaffiliated and/or unengaged young professionals through collaboration with local Young Professionals' group and personal outreach, including hosting events in my own home
- Participated in range of life-cycle events and actively pursued pastoral care opportunities

Temple Beth Rishon, Cantorial Intern

Wyckoff, NJ · 2007-2010

- Received extensive mentorship in creating cross-denominational services incorporating elements of Renewal, Reconstructionist, Reform and Conservative prayer
- Developed Sunday School music curriculum for future synagogue use
- Created advanced teen choir and coached individual students for participation in services

Door To Door Tutoring, Tutor

New York, NY · 2006-2010

- Engaged and educated unaffiliated families with children ages 6 to 13 in all elements of religious education, including B'nai Mitzvah preparation

Ohel Ayalah, Cantorial Student

New York, NY · 2006-2007

- Led in-demand High Holiday services designed for unaffiliated Jews
- Conducted large, community-wide Passover Seders
- Helped envision and launch independent Friday night minyan geared toward young adults

Hartford Hillel Foundation, Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow

West Hartford, CT · 2002-2003

- Created educational, social, and religious programming tailored to Jewish students' interests to engage and empower students to participate in Jewish life

Education

Jewish Theological Seminary, H.L. Miller Cantorial School/College of Jewish Music

New York, NY

Masters in Sacred Music; Diploma of Hazzan, May 2010

Honors: Arlene Levy Cantorial Scholarship; Sara and Samuel Katz Memorial Prize in Liturgy and Nusach

Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center Conservative Yeshiva

Jerusalem, Israel

Activities: Member of Great Synagogue Choir; Javier in Les Miserables, Hebrew University Hillel Theater

University of Miami

Coral Gables, FL

Bachelor of Music in Classical Guitar; minor in Jewish Studies, May 2002

Honors: Phi Mu Alpha (professional music fraternity)