

CANTOR BENJAMIN AARON 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
 - Created joyful, soulful, and collaborative instrumental services for Kabbalat Shabbat; played multiple instruments, including guitar, mandolin, ukulele, recorder, harmonica and keyboard
 - Balanced innovation and tradition while leading Shabbat and weekday minyan services that incorporated both contemporary and traditional congregational singing
 - Conducted ensembles from more than 25 amateur and professional community musicians
 - Collaborated with Education Director, Sacramento PJ Library directors, lay leaders and Cantorial Intern to create Friday night (Shababababa) and Shabbat morning (Tot Shabbat) childrens' services as well as Sunday and Wednesday Hebrew School T'fillah.
 - Developed weekday minyan program with Ritual Team to become fully lay-led while still regularly providing support and attendance. Trained and engaged Torah readers, daveners and Gabbais
 - Facilitated creative services with different Jewish traditions (Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi, Yemenite, Persian, etc), including involvement of guest cantors from out-of-town
- Engagement and Outreach
 - Founded MLC Pride Group with assistance from national LGBTQ+ group Keshet
 - 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
 - Collaborated with Membership Team to attract 115 new member-units from 2015 to present
 - Worked with independent minyanim in Sacramento to foster Jewish community and support engagement
- Pastoral Care
 - Participated in range of life-cycle events, both solo and in partnership with Rabbis
 - Actively pursued pastoral care opportunities in home, through correspondence and in hospitals
 - Trained congregational volunteers to use their professional skills to provide continued care to other members in early 2020 and then worked with new Rabbi to further enhance the program
 - Created program entitled, " Everything You Want to Know About the End of Life but was Afraid to Ask" which involved various speakers and past and present Rabbis of MLC: Rabbis Taff, Moses and Herman on such topics as Funerals and Mourning, Hospice, Vidui, Wills and Estates
- Adult Education
 - Collaborated with lay leaders and KOH Library and Cultural Center to produce a range of innovative educational and community musical experiences
 - Taught trope, Hebrew grammar, Hebrew calligraphy and its halachah in a variety of settings
 - Mentored adult students training to become professional cantors
- Technology
 - Transitioned synagogue to fully-remote services and programming during COVID-19 pandemic and later to hybrid remote and in person; 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 using Dante over ethernet
 - Brought extensive audio-engineering experience for concerts, services and upgrading sound systems
- B/Mitzvah
 - Tutored over 100 students in nusach, trope and prayers
 - Supervised additional/supplementary tutors; created Junior Tutor program
 - Significantly updated program with revamped handbook, date-picking process, and policies to reflect

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changing needs

- o Encouraged students to continue leading services and chanting Torah after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah resulting in over 100 teen-led Tefilot between August 2021 and August 2022
- Cantillation
 - o Read Torah, Haftarah, holiday, and Megillot as needed
 - o Assigned all biblical readings to list of 50 members who chant Torah, Haftarah and additional trope systems
 - o Created new Shalosh Regalim Megillot books with graphic designer and my own photography
- Functioned as sole clergy while Rabbi was on Sabbatical three months of year; supported interim Rabbi in transition and acclimated new Rabbi.
- Represented synagogue at community functions locally and nationally (See CV for details)

Antelope Roseville Jewish Congregation, Cantor in Residence

Sacramento CA · 2020 - 2022

- Created online Zoom services with Rabbi Matt Friedman for members of the Armed Forces in the Sacramento Area and nationally.
- Led prayers from URJ prayerbooks
- Incorporated dynamic mixture of contemporary and traditional melodies.

Sacramento Guitar Society, Board Member

Sacramento, CA · 2016 - 2018

- Assisted in creating concert productions in multiple venues
- Produced a fundraising concert with over 300 in attendance in collaboration with Mosaic Law Congregation staff and board for guest artist, Muriel Anderson.
- Provided professional leadership and guidance in budgets, web design, social media, advertising and community service programming including a guitar donation program for underprivileged youth.
- Provided sound reinforcement for programming
- Connected with local musicians

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 (including professional and volunteer musicians)
- Taught davening and leining skills to B/Mitzvah and adult students
- Collaborated with lay leaders to produce range of community and synagogue musical and 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

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- 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/Mitzvah preparation
- Created flexible schedule of learning in the homes of families

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 and Certifications

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; Javert in *Les Misérables*, Hebrew University Hillel Theater

Dante Level One Certification - Audinate Online

AV systems over ethernet networks for sound systems and video transmission

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)

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society