

CANTOR DANIELLE RODNIZKI

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CONGREGATIONAL PULPIT EXPERIENCE

Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale, NY (1,050 member-unit congregation)

Associate Cantor; July 2020–Present

- Perform all cantorial/clergy duties, including music, prayer, pastoral care, life cycle officiation, teaching, etc.
- Serve as sole clergy leader and organizer of “[Sharing Shabbat](#),” a family-oriented religious school pathway
 - Craft and lead a creative and intentional Shabbat service for K-6th grade students and their parents that gives families the opportunity to connect and find meaning together throughout the school year
 - Create an open, trusting environment where families can be vulnerable and care for one another
 - Coach and provide resources to parents delivering a D’var Torah or chanting Torah during services
 - Coordinate clergy rotation for adult study, with the goal of providing deep learning as well as an opportunity for parents to share where they are on their spiritual and parenting journeys, and provide follow up pastoral care when needed
 - Plan ~5 special events per year (e.g., social action programs, family havdalah, summer send-off, etc.)
- Co-create annual [music series](#) of many events/concerts, and coordinate visits by various artists-in-residence
- Develop an innovative, intergenerational “Shabbat in the Round” morning service, oneg, and study
- Guide pre-teens and their parents through the b’nei mitzvah process:
 - Provide spiritual grounding, pastoral care, and a concrete timeline before tutoring begins
 - Tutor ~4 students at a time, teaching them their Torah portion and all other liturgy for their service
 - Officiate b’nei mitzvah services throughout the school year
- Coordinate Torah trope learning for all 6th graders & teach small groups as they prepare for b’nei mitzvah
- Oversee the formation of music curricula for our Jewish Learning Lab (JLL), WRT’s religious school
 - Ensure cohesion and synergy in the music selected and shared by the various staff who lead music
- Lead monthly musical Early Childhood Center (ECC) Shabbat for over 100 preschoolers and their parents
- Co-lead a monthly Rosh Chodesh ritual and book conversation for a group of ~20 women
- Craft and lead engaging adult education opportunities, like a “Music as Midrash” class
- Provided pastoral and musical grounding to ~60 8th grade students & parents on two Civil Rights trips to the American South, visiting sites such as the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum and Memorial

Central Synagogue, New York, NY (2,700 member-unit congregation)

Cantorial Intern; September 2018–May 2020, including Summer 2019

- Designed and led dozens of creative Shabbat and Festival worship services in partnership with clergy
- Created musical arrangements for worship with the cantors, music director, band, and professional choir
- Crafted and led weekly Shabbat morning “Mishkan” services, an alternative prayer and study experience
- Wrote and delivered two sermons and many iyyunim (prayer intentions) in worship
- Led full set of 2019/5780 High Holy Day worship at David Geffen Hall and in Central’s main sanctuary
- Prepared dozens of congregants to chant Torah and teen choir of ~20 teens to sing on the High Holy Days
- Provided three months of cantorial coverage while one of the cantors was on maternity leave:
 - Helped organize and lead High Holy Day services in her place; led all of her previously assigned b’nei mitzvah services, rehearsals, and preparatory meetings as the sole cantorial presence
- Sang and helped conduct the teen choir in Central’s 180th Anniversary celebration at Carnegie Hall
- Led music and ritual for various 20s/30s Shabbat experiences

Temple Israel of Boston, Boston, MA (1,400 member-unit congregation)*Tisch/Star Summer Cantorial Intern*; Summer 2018

- Co-created a spiritual resilience program on empathy using folk story songs
- Joined the cantor on pastoral visits, speaking/singing with sick congregants and their families
- Sat in on funeral intake meetings, crafted a practice eulogy, and observed wedding/b'nei mitzvah rituals
- Planned and led Kabbalat Shabbat worship in partnership with the Temple Israel clergy for six weeks
- Wrote and delivered two Divrei Torah
- Developed and taught two sessions of Torah Study, including the creation of comprehensive source sheets
- Crafted and led two Riverway Project 20s/30s "Soul Food Friday" services

Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, New York, NY (800 member-unit congregation)*Cantorial Intern*; September 2016–May 2018

- Led weekly Shabbat worship in partnership with the cantor for two years
- Organized and co-led monthly Tot Shabbat/Family Shabbat experiences
- Designed, led, and chanted Torah for monthly creative "Alternative Minyan" Shabbat morning services
- Served as clergy liaison to "Shabbat After Dark," a 20s/30s service and schmoozing experience
- Led "Chofshi b'Manhattan" Israeli-style High Holy Day services with an Israeli Reform rabbi
- Coached and prepared b'nei mitzvah in weekly lessons for the twelve months leading up to their services

Kehilat Birkat Shalom, Kibbutz Gezer, Israel*HUC-JIR T'rumah Fellow*; July 2015–May 2016

- Crafted and co-led monthly Kabbalat Shabbat services
- Created a monthly Kabbalat Shabbat experience at Beit Eden, a group home for youth with special needs
- Led a community-wide, multilingual (Hebrew, English, and Spanish) Simchat Torah ritual and celebration

Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater, FL (400 member-unit congregation)*Cantorial Soloist (Full-Time)*; July 2013–May 2015

- Designed and led Shabbat, High Holy Day, and Festival worship with the rabbi (z"l)
- Taught and created curricula for religious school music (grades pre-K through 7)
- Mentored two teen songleaders and guided them to lead our congregation using new songleading skills
- Rehearsed and led quarterly "Friday Night Live" services with full band (both volunteers and professionals)
- Co-officiated life cycle events and conducted pastoral visits with the rabbi (z"l)
- Scheduled and coordinated visits by two visiting musical artists-in-residence

JEWISH CAMP LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**URJ Kutz Camp**, Warwick, NY*Head Songleader/Songleading Major Teacher*; Summers 2016 & 2017

- Co-designed and implemented an immersive songleading curriculum for ~40 teens each summer
- Planned and led daily, camp-wide services and song sessions with visiting faculty and artists-in-residence
- Organized Trip Day learning for songleading teens each year

Gindling Hilltop Camp, Malibu, CA – *Head Songleader* (Summer 2011); *Counselor/Songleader* (Summer 2010)**URJ Greene Family Camp**, Bruceville, TX – *Counselor/Songleader* (Summer 2009)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HONORS

Coordinated, designed, and/or led special events and t'filot:

- Mentoring a pair of HUC students leading t'filah on the New York campus – HUC-JIR (Fall 2023)
- Invited to participate in an HUC all-campus “T'filah Think Tank” – HUC-JIR, New York, NY (Jun. 2023)
- Led the opening ma'ariv service of the conference – ACC/GTM Convention, Chicago, IL (Jun. 2022)
- Designed WRT Installation service and concert with visiting guest artists & WRT clergy (Oct. 2021)
- Served as one of the leaders of the Biennial Shabbat Song Session – URJ Biennial, Chicago, IL (Dec. 2019)
- Planned and led a Biennial weekday morning prayer service – URJ Biennial (Dec. 2019)
- Shabbat services, study, and havdalah for HUC benefactors – Asilomar Retreat, Monterey, CA (Jul. 2018)
- Prepared and led the 2018 HUC-JIR Founders' Day service in New York – HUC-JIR (Mar. 2018)
- Led havdalah for the URJ Board Oversight Committee during their retreat – Princeton, NJ (Jan. 2018)
- Organized the kumsitz for Debbie Friedman's (z"l) 6th yahrzeit – HUC-JIR, New York, NY (Feb. 2017)
- Mentored group of teen songleaders at NFTY Nashir workshop – Woodlands Community Temple (2016)
- Ran a NFTY-EIE songleading/worship-leading seminar – Jerusalem, Israel (Fall 2015/Spring 2016)
- Served as NFTY Convention songleader and prayer leader – Dallas, TX (Feb. 2011)
 - Planned and led communal music moments for 800+ conference participants

Assisted in the selection of music for compilations published by Transcontinental Music Publications:

- Shireinu, Vol. 2 – Serving on the Executive Committee of this long-awaited project (currently in process)
- Ruach 5777 – Participated in the music selection process for this CD and songbook (2016)
- Chanukah Today – Served on the committee that helped create this CD and songbook (2011)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Regularly attend professional development opportunities:

- Hava Nashira, American Conference of Cantors/Guild of Temple Musicians Convention, Tisch/Star Fellowship Alumni Retreat, URJ Biennial, Songleader Boot Camp, and more

EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, NY (2015–2020)

Ordained as Cantor (May 2020); received Master of Sacred Music degree (May 2019)

- Fellow, Tisch/Star Fellowship Program (Sept. 2017–May 2020)
- Recipient of seven awards, including The Rabbi Richard J. Jacobs Prize for Creativity and Imagination in the Leadership of Worship as well as The Joyce Rosenzweig Prize for Creativity in Worship Music

Independent Study with Cantor Ellen Dreskin (Jan. 2014–May 2015; Aug. 2022–Present)

Weekly chevruta on Shabbat liturgy, Torah, Midrash, music, and more

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO (2009–2013)

Graduated summa cum laude (3.88 GPA) and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Spanish & Psychology