

Naima Hirsch Gelman

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Rabbinic Experience

AUGUST 2022-AUGUST 2023

National Council of Jewish Women - Rabbinic Fellow

- Created and led an advisory board of emerging clergy to guide the organization's efforts on reproductive rights.
- Organized pilot initiative where rabbinical students used NCJW materials to lead an event in their home communities as part of a nationwide program about Judaism and reproductive rights.
- Developed educational resources for rabbis, including sermons, text study guides, and community programs.

SEPTEMBER 2021-JULY 2022

Hebrew Institute of Riverdale (The Bayit), Bronx, NY - Rabbinic Intern

- Delivered sermons during weekly Shabbat services with guidance from senior rabbi.
- Taught weekly classes addressing contemporary issues through traditional Torah texts.
- Shadowed clergy as they officiated weekly prayer services and lifecycle events.

JUNE 2018 - JULY 2022

The Beis Community, New York, NY - Core Team Member; Programming Director

- Ensured all programming and external communication aligned with the mission, vision, and values of an inclusive, intentional Jewish community in Washington Heights.
- Innovated monthly women's programming that created a safe outlet for women to connect to Judaism on their own terms.
- Facilitated leadership training and focus groups with the goal of empowering community members to take ownership over their social and prayer experiences.

Relevant Work Experience

SUMMERS 2017, 2021

Brandeis Precollege Programs (Genesis), Waltham, MA - Teaching Assistant; Community Educator

- Developed curricula for and taught experiential courses to teens about creative writing and Jewish ritual and prayer.
- Ensured student participation and well being by offering multiple opportunities to connect with staff and peers outside of the classroom.
- Sustained nurturing sense of community amongst an international and diverse student population through an array of cohort building exercises.

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021

Hunter College Hillel, New York, NY - Rabbinic Educator

- Updated text-based curriculum for virtual course on sexuality and Judaism.
- Taught a pluralistic cohort of college students with a team of educators and social workers.

DECEMBER 2018 – SEPTEMBER 2020

Monologues from the Makom – Editor; Social Media Manager

- Planned an anthology with a team of editors about Judaism and female sexuality.

- Worked closely with individual authors on editing their poetry and prose.
- Created and implemented promotional social media campaigns in advance of publication.

SEPTEMBER 2017 – JUNE 2020

JCP Downtown, Hebrew Tabernacle, Sutton Place Synagogue, New York, NY – *Hebrew School Teacher*

- Updated pre-existing curricula to engage elementary age students through meaningful activities and projects.
- Served as Lead Educator for three teacher team.
- Shifted practice to fit the needs of multiple denominations and diverse populations.

Fellowships and Awards

Va'Tichtov: She Writes – *Maharat* (2023-24)

Rabbinic and Cantorial Leadership for Public Life Fellowship – *JOIN for Justice* (2023)

Leading Through Innovation – *Clal* (2023)

Ushpizot – *Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance* (2021)

Education

Yeshivat Maharat

Rabbinic Ordination, expected 2024

City University of New York, Hunter College

Bachelor of Arts, Major: English (Creative Writing), 2020

Nishmat

Talmud Gap Year Program, 2015-2016

Drisha Institute for Jewish Education

Summer Immersive, 2016, 2017; Winter Immersive, 2016