

Rabbi Seth Goldstein

(HE/HIM/HIS)

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RABBINIC EXPERIENCE

TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH, Olympia, WA July, 2003-Present

Rabbi: Serve as spiritual and educational leader to over 300 households; develop and implement religious, educational and cultural programming; officiate at life-cycle events; provide pastoral counseling; serve as Jewish resource to greater community; work with lay leadership in realizing vision and mission of congregation; supervise staff and oversee administration; participate in fundraising and financial sustainability of congregation; develop relationships with community and interfaith partners; represent Jewish community in public settings; conduct outreach and service to unaffiliated Jews; act as a rabbinic resource to Jewish students at The Evergreen State College, Temple Beth Israel, Aberdeen, WA and the Jewish community of Sitka, AK.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE Present

Adjunct Professor: Taught required course “Reconstructionism,” developed course syllabus and readings, evaluated student performance.

SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Olympia, WA Winter, 2014

Adjunct Professor: Taught in Humanities Department, developed course “Sacred Texts in World Religions,” evaluated student performance.

URJ CAMP KALSMAN, Arlington, WA Summer, 2014-2019

Summer Faculty: Serve as camp faculty for one-week period during summer; act as rabbinic resource and support to campers and staff; lead services and programs.

URSINUS COLLEGE, Collegeville, PA August, 2000-June, 2001; August, 2002-June, 2003

Hillel Advisor: Directed Jewish student organization at 1200-student liberal arts college; collaborated with students, faculty and staff to enhance Jewish life on campus; planned educational and social programming; nurtured student leaders; provided rabbinic/pastoral presence as needed; served as a Jewish resource on campus; developed organizational structure; facilitated long-range planning, coordinated with Chaplain’s Office on issues of religious life.

Visiting Lecturer: Taught PHIL 214—“Introduction to Judaism”—in Department of Philosophy and Religion; prepared syllabus; evaluated student performance; invited guest speakers in Jewish Studies to campus.

TEMPLE B’NAI ABRAHAM, Bordentown, NJ September, 1999-June, 2000

Rabbinic Assistant: Created and executed lesson plans and special projects for religious school; conducted student prayer services; assisted in Junior Congregation Shabbat services; served as substitute Religious School Director; tutored bar/bat mitzvah students; led congregation Shabbat evening services.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE, Wyncote, PA September, 2002-June, 2003
Bet Midrash Intern: Served as teaching assistant to students who are studying Jewish texts.

July, 2000-June, 2001
Research Assistant: Assisted professor of Bible on publication of book; conducted bibliographic research and copyediting.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST PRESS, Elkins Park, PA July, 2000-June, 2001
Editorial Assistant: Developed publication of new prayer book, *Kol Haneshamah: Prayers for a House of Mourning*; created layout; selected supplementary readings and commentary; requested permission for copyrighted works; copyedited text; coordinated among Editor-in-Chief, publisher and production staff.

JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST FEDERATION, Elkins Park, PA January-May, 2000
Communications and Marketing Intern: Assisted the director of communications and marketing in disseminating information regarding the new Reconstructionist Press haggadah, *A Night of Questions*; wrote press releases; produced media kits; developed list of media contacts; contacted members of both print and radio media; copyedited materials; built foundation for future media relations activities.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION, Seattle, WA
Certificate in Nonprofit Management, 2015

RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE, Wyncote, PA
Rabbinic ordination and M.A. in Hebrew Letters, 2003
Ira and Judith Eisenstein Scholarship; Becker Israel Scholarship
Reconstructionist Student Association, vice president
Seminarians Interacting, National Conference of Christians and Jews
Center for Jewish Community Studies, Judaism in the American Public Square, Seminar for Rabbinical and Graduate Students
Israel Year included coursework at Hebrew University, Schechter Institute, Pardes Institute

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, New York, NY
M.A. in Interdisciplinary Jewish Studies, 1999
Robinson Memorial Prize for "Joshua 3:1-5:1: The Crossing of the Jordan as a Nation-building Exercise"
Graduate Student Organization, president

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, Middletown, CT
B.A. with Honors, Government major with concentration in Political Theory, 1994
Honors Thesis: "‘In His Own Image’: Perfection, Charisma and Leadership in Maimonidean Political Thought"
Skirm Prize for "The Doctrine of Revolutionary Political Leadership in the Writings of Max Weber and Karl Marx"

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Clinical Pastoral Education (2 units), Providence St. Peter Hospital, Olympia
- Fellow: Clergy Leadership Incubator

- Clergy Immersion Program, Beit T'Shuvah: The Elaine Breslow Institute (addiction and recovery)
- 40-Hour Professional Mediation Training, Advanced Multi-Party Mediation Training, Facilitating Effective Meetings: Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County
- Brickner Rabbinic Social Justice Fellow: Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- Clergy Leadership Program: Institute for Jewish Spirituality
- Fellow: Rabbis Without Borders (CLAL—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership)
- Fellow: STAR PEER (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal, Professional Education for Excellence in Rabbis)
- Gottman Institute Seven Principles Leader Certification
- Movement Chaplaincy training, Faith Matters Network
- “Don’t Kvetch, Organize” training, JOIN for Justice

PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

- TikTok: [@rabbi_360](#) (30k followers)
- Blog: [Rabbi 360](#)
- Blog: [Two Rabbis Cross America](#)
- Podcast: [Torah tl;dr](#) (“60 Seconds to Wisdom. Short Teachings on the Weekly Torah Portion. Suitable for All Who Seek.”)
- Podcast: [The Golden PodCalf](#) (“One Story. Two Friends. Infinite Understandings.”)
- Web series: [Carpooling with Rabbi](#) (“Sharing Insights, Inspiration and a Ride to Work.”)
- Omer with Tarot ([Instagram](#) account)
- “Creating a Progressive, Inclusive, Egalitarian Jewish People,” “A Time for Anger,” “Human Composting: A Reconstructionist Rabbi’s View” on [Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations](#)
- “I’m a Rabbi Who had a Vasectomy—Even Though Judaism Prohibits It,” [Kveller.com](#)
- “Building the Parapet of Gun Legislation,” in *Not By Might: Channeling the Power of Faith to End Gun Violence*, ed. Menachem Creditor.
- Regular contributor to [Rabbis Without Borders blog](#) on MyJewishLearning.com
- “Shavuot,” in *A Guide to Jewish Practice, Volume 2: Shabbat and Holidays*, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Press
- “A Prayer for Healing after a Hate Crime” published on [Ritualwell](#)
- Commentary in *The Other Side of the Sea: A Haggadah for Fighting Modern-Day Slavery*
- “This Sunday, I am Fasting for Black Churches,” on Showing Up for Racial Justice website
- “Yom Haberut: Celebrating our American Redemption,” *Reconstructionism Today* 11:2 (Winter 2003/4)
- “Membership, Identity and Status,” a book review of *The Jewish Political Tradition*, vol. 2 “Membership,” ed. by Michael Walzer, Menachem Lorberbaum and Noam J. Zohar, in *The Reconstructionist* 68:2 (Spring, 2004)
- “Reading *Toevah*: Biblical Criticism and Difficult Texts,” in *The Reconstructionist* 67:2 (Spring, 2003)
- “Identity, Status and Rabbinic Leadership in Contemporary Judaism,” in *The Reconstructionist* 66:1 (Fall, 2001)
- Commentary in *Kol Haneshamah: Prayers for a House of Mourning*, Reconstructionist Press, 2001
- Untitled essay on domestic violence and compassionate Jewish leadership in *The Jewish Heart: A Book of Reflections*, The HealthCare Chaplaincy: Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care, 2000
- “The Politics of Judaism,” a book review of *The Jewish Political Tradition*, vol. 1 “Authority,” ed. by Michael Walzer, Menachem Lorberbaum and Noam J. Zohar, in *The Reconstructionist* 65:1 (Fall, 2000)
- Contributor to “Perspectives” column in *The Olympian*, Olympia, WA and “Rabbi’s Turn” in *JTNews*, Seattle, WA
- Numerous articles and essays distributed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND TEACHING (SELECTED)

- Frequent speaker to area schools, faith communities, and civic organizations
- Guest lecturer at The Evergreen State College, St. Martin's University, South Puget Sound Community College, and Gray's Harbor College
- Quoted in *Washington Post*, *Times of Israel*, *Grist*, *The Olympian*
- Workshops on Jewish education and Jewish approaches to natural organic reduction, Reconstructing Judaism convention, 2022
- "From Scroll to Scrolling: Torah and Social Media," Reconstructing Judaism #GivingTuesday, 2021
- Panel Moderator, "God and Social Justice," Reconstructing Judaism Day of Learning, January 2021
- "Should Humans Have Been Created? A Challenging Text for a Challenging Time" Reconstructing Judaism Day of Learning, 2020; Limmud Seattle 2021
- "Jewish Views of Natural Organic Reduction," Kavod v'Nichum Chevre Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery conference, 2020-21
- "Be the Egg," NewCAJE, 2019; Limmud Seattle, 2020
- "Synagogues and the New Sanctuary Movement," Reconstructing Judaism convention, November 2018
- "Religious Freedom in a Pluralistic America: How to Do No Harm," panelist, The Evergreen State College, 2017
- "Minor Prophet, Major Message: Reflecting on the Book of Habakkuk in the Month of Elul," Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Community Learning Call, 2016
- "Tikkun Olam," Spiritual Life Institute, St. Martin's University, 2016
- Invocations at Washington State Legislature and Washington State Supreme Court, including during Opening Ceremonies and biennial Memorial Service
- Testimony at the Washington State Legislature on a variety of issues
- "Understanding the Righteous Mind," Evergreen Civic Engagement Institute, The Evergreen State College, 2014
- Opening blessing, Faith Action Network Interfaith Advocacy Day, 2014
- "Introduction to Judaism," University of Washington Hillel, 2012
- "*Yom Haberut*: Examining and Celebrating our Dual Civilizations" and "Difficult Dialogues: A Congregational Committee faces the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Biennial, November, 2004
- "Ancient Texts, Contemporary Issues," Pacific Northwest mini-CAJE, February 2004
- "Difficult Dialogues," The Evergreen State College, 2004

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (At-large Board member, Secretary, President)
- *Ishut* Taskforce, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (Co-chair)
- Intermarriage Taskforce, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
- Board of Governors, Reconstructing Judaism
- Government Affairs Committee and Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
- Rabbinic *Chaver*, *T'ruah*: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
- Immigration Working Group, *T'ruah*: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
- Concerned Clergy of Olympia
- Washington Coalition of Rabbis (Secretary)
- Interfaith Advisory Board, Faith Action Network, WA
- Interfaith Works of Thurston County, WA
- Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice, NW
- Rotary Club of Olympia

- Board Member, Thurston County Food Bank
- Faith Cabinet, Washington United for Marriage
- Interfaith Partners for Peace, Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- Professional Advisory Group, Providence St. Peter Hospital CPE program
- Alumni representative, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Vice President of Academic Affairs search committee

RECOGNITIONS

- *Tzedek* Justice Award, Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice-NW, 2021
- Evan Ferber Peacemaker Leadership Award, Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County, 2020
- Named as one of “America’s Most Inspiring Rabbis,” *Forward*, 2016
- Silver Wings Award, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, 2014
- *Yadei Emunah* Award for Devoted Service to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, 2013
- “10 Under 40”—One of 10 Jews under the age of 40 making a difference in their community—*JTNews*, 2010