

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Over 15 years of experience as a Rabbi, Cantor, performer, Life Coach, and Jewish Educator/Administrator. My skills include:

- Fluent in Hebrew and English
 - Programming and administration
 - Curriculum development
 - Hiring & training staff
 - Pastoral counseling
 - Song/Service leading
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RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Time4Torah: New York/Las Vegas Rabbi/Life Coach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life cycle officiant• Hebrew/Judaic classes for adults and children• Spiritual Life Coach and pastoral counselor• Motivational Speaker/Curriculum consultant	2008 - Present
Mishkan Ha'am: Hastings, NY Rabbinic Internship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hebrew School Director• Hebrew/Judaic classes for adults and children	2007 - 2008
Havurah Hebrew School JCC Manhattan Head of School <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration and curriculum development• Class teaching• Teacher/Parent workshop development	2006 - 2008
Brotherhood Synagogue: New York, NY Assistant Principal of Hebrew School <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hebrew/Judaic curriculum development• Family program planning and implementation• Lead Family Friday night services and music sessions	2003 - 2006
The Actor's Temple: New York, NY Cantor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shabbat/Holiday services• Family programs	2002 - 2005
Congregation Beth El: Richmond, VA Assistant Principal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programming and administration• Taught Hebrew and prayer in an innovative manner	1998 - 2002
Congregation Or Atid: Richmond, VA Teen programming Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinator of 8th and 9th grade classes, social action programs and weekly hands on interactive family programs	1998 - 2002

- Or Ami:** Richmond, VA **1999 - 2001**
Hebrew School Director
 - Administration and curriculum development
 - Family programming/teaching/music sessions
 - Staff hiring
- Jewish Community Day School:** Austin, TX **1997 - 1998**
Judaic Studies/Music Coordinator
 - Curriculum development
 - Staff training
 - Family education/classroom teaching
- Congregation Chaverim:** Tucson, AZ **1992 - 1998**
Cantor
 - Shabbat/Holiday service leading
 - Family programming
 - Staff hiring
- Tucson Hebrew Academy Day School** **1993 - 1997**
Music Director/Judaic Teacher
 - Taught Hebrew and Judaic studies in classroom
 - Created music curriculum
 - Organized school performances and events
- Tucson Jewish Community Center** **1992 - 1996**
Music Director
 - Developed music curriculum, CD's and programs
 - Facilitated motivational workshops for staff and families
 - Provided training for summer camp staff
- Tucson Association for Childcare** **1993 - 1995**
Education Director
 - Supervisor of KIDLIN (a help line for children)
 - Developed and taught educational/musical workshops for staff

EDUCATION

Certified Professional Life Coach

Fowler Wainwright Institute of Professional Coaching
 2011

Rabbinic Ordination

Upper West Side Kolel Yeshiva (Rabbi Yosef Chayim Gelberman)
 2004 - 2008

BA Elementary Education

Prescott College
 Focus on Judaic studies and the expressive arts
 1992 – 1997

H.S. Diploma

King David High School
 Manchester, England
 Focus on Cantorial studies, Talmud and Midrash

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Co-chaired and produced annual fundraisers
- Volunteer and perform regularly at various homeless shelters, soup kitchens, schools, group homes and various Jewish organizations (such as Hadassah)

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Published book Changing Curses for Blessings –Loving Yourself and The World Around You (2011)
- Pastoral counseling and Theology Awareness Certification (2010)
- Published a self-help/spiritual blog: <http://RabbiShaiSpecht.com>
- Most followed Rabbi on Twitter award: <http://twitter.com/RabbiShaiSpecht> (2010)
- Wrote and produced a CD of Prayer music with Artimis Records (2004)
- Wrote and produced three children's albums (1995, 1997, 2000)

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Association of Coaching (present)
- International Federation of Rabbis (present)
- Pastoral Care Leadership Network (present)
- Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, CAJE, (1992-2005)
 - Liaison of programming on CAJE board (2003-2004)

RECOMMENDATIONS

“When my spirits are down, I turn to Rabbi Shai Specht's words to be uplifted again to the heights he teaches are ours, if only we know how to reach. Reb Shai also teaches us how to reach. His words are all the more powerful because he lives them as a holy and pure soul. He is generous with his time, his words, and his support. Reb Shai teaches Judaism in a way that opens our souls, and speaks to them. He is what Maimonides describes as a true rabbi: A Soul Doctor. He is a treasure of truth, wisdom and goodness.”

Rabbi Simcha L. Weinberg, The Foundation Stone™

“I've been really impressed with both the quality of the teaching, and the experience my daughter is having. She is learning her Hebrew, becoming acquainted with the Torah, learning about the practice of Jewish rituals and holidays, and being thoughtful about what she's learning. And a big bonus is that she looks forward to her Bet Midrash each week. It's been a wonderful experience for all of us these last three years!”

Diana Silver PhD MPH

Assistant Professor of Public Health

Director, Undergraduate B.S. Program in Public Health

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development

New York University

35 West 4th Street, room 1216

New York, NY 10003

“Last year when my best friend was dying and then died, Rabbi Shai was the most wonderfully supportive person. He responded immediately to my request for information to pass along to my friend's non-observant son for a funeral in the Jewish tradition. Additionally Rabbi Shai reviewed the manuscript of a parenting book I recently wrote and offered me good insights through several of the final drafts. Also he offers marvelous Kabbalah information online at various times. I am impressed with his breadth of knowledge on many topics Judaic and psychological. And most personally- if and when my son is getting married, Rabbi Shai will be the Rabbi I will have him contact for the ceremony. He's a great person to know and hire for all these reasons.”

Lynn Dorman, Ph.D., J.D., CEO, Gray Wolf Productions

“I've had the distinct honor and pleasure of being involved with 2 different rabbinic groups with whom Rabbi Specht had also been involved. He is both a Rabbi and Educator with unique people talents and skills. I would recommend Rabbi Shai Specht with complete confidence.”

Rabbi Neil Brill, Rabbi, Jewish Child and Family Services

“I first met Rabbi Shai because of his beautiful lyrics. After I approached him, and suggested collaboration with Stewart Raven Smith, he agreed, and exceeded any expectations I had. Over the following months, I witnessed several opportunities when people came to Rabbi Shai - and even once when I needed him - for guidance and comfort - and was continually surprised by the difference between his years and his wisdom. Rabbi Shai's sage direction melded with modern practicality is invaluable in today's complex world.”

Mara Gordon, Writer, Peregrine Pages