

Rabbi Steven Henson Moskowitz

Rabbi Moskowitz began his tenure as JCB's rabbi in the Fall of 1999. After his ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institution of Religion (the Reform movement's seminary) in 1991, he served as the Assistant Director of the 92nd Street Y's Bronfman Center for Jewish Life, where he directed the Center's renowned outreach programs. Under his leadership the introduction to Judaism class, "Derekh Torah," gained national recognition. In addition the Jewish children's and family programs grew four fold, impacting hundreds of families on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

He is a devoted Jewish teacher, sharing with us his love of the Bible and Jewish philosophy. He has taught in the internationally acclaimed Florence Melton Adult Mini School, UJA Connections and Herbert Tarr North Shore Institute. He is active in the education of the children in our congregation, offering a monthly Rabbi's class for each grade, studying the Torah portion with each bar/bat mitzvah and helping to oversee the religious school program. In addition to the multitude of adult education programs now being offered for synagogue members, Rabbi Moskowitz is deeply committed to Israel and travels there every year to study at the Shalom Hartman Institute. He is one of only two Long Island rabbis selected to participate in the Institute's prestigious Rabbinic Leadership Initiative. A number of his sermons and articles have been published, most recently in Hadassah magazine and of course his writings can be found on his blog: www.rabbimoskowitz.com. He is also an avid bicyclist. He is married to Rabbi Susie Moskowitz and is the father of Shira (11th grader) and Ari (9th grader).

Our New Cantorial Soloist

Talya Smilowitz was born and raised in West Hartford, Connecticut where her parents instilled in her a love and passion of Jewish life. She started singing at a very young age and continued through high school, at which point she entered conservatory, earning her bachelors and masters degrees in vocal performance from Juilliard and Manhattan School of music, respectively. Talya Smilowitz has performed in various concert venues around New York, such as Alice Tully Hall and Weill Hall and the Off-Broadway Stage.

For the past two years, she has been a cantorial soloist at Temple Shaaray Telifa in Bedford, New York. In May 2007, she co-founded a Jewish music ensemble, Sheba, which has toured nationally and internationally. Talya Smilowitz has also worked as an educator and consultant for Shooby Doob Shloimy, the original Jewish musical production geared towards children to teach them about Jewish values and holidays. Working with children has always been a passion of hers. From being a camp counselor, to teaching kids how to swim, to giving voice lessons and Hebrew lessons, she enjoys interacting with children and watching them grow and achieve their goals.

It is this love and passion for Yiddishkeit, building community, and embracing her Jewish heritage that has drawn her to a career as a cantor. When accepting the position at JCB she said, "I am very excited about becoming your next cantorial soloist and I thank you for welcoming me into your warm and loving community."



Jewish Congregation of Brookville



Rabbi Steven Moskowitz
Talya Smilowitz, Cantorial Soloist
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JCB



Jewish
Congregation
of Brookville

The Jewish Congregation of Brookville is a new and vibrant synagogue on Long Island's North Shore. JCB was formed in 1997 by a small group of families determined to establish a spiritual center where families can gather together to pray and learn, celebrate Shabbat and holidays and mark the rhythms of their lives in a warm, intimate community committed to rekindling the joy of Jewish living and to rediscovering the teachings of Torah.

The Jewish Congregation of Brookville is a Reform congregation, which strives to instill the beauty and wonder of the Jewish tradition in the hearts of modern Jews. One of the hallmarks of our synagogue is our commitment to creative expressions of the Jewish tradition, combining ancient teachings with modern values. At the Jewish Congregation of Brookville, we strive towards prayer that is inspiring and participatory.

Prayer Services

Our services are meditative, offering a respite from the troubles of the world and joyful, offering an uplift to the week. We pride ourselves in singing together, both traditional prayers and melodies, as well as modern Jewish tunes. Our prayer book includes transliterations of all Hebrew prayers so that congregation can join together in song.. We are fully committed to the modern value of egalitarianism-both men and women participate equally in the religious life of our community. The rabbi gives sermons, reads poems, tells stories, and leads discussions during the prayer service in order to bring the Jewish tradition to life and offers wisdom on contemporary issues. Shabbat evening services are held at least three times a month at 6:30 pm. All Jewish holidays are also observed. **All are welcome to attend.**

Life Cycle Events

Our synagogue's philosophy is also reflected in the celebration of life cycle events. The rabbi is available to officiate at baby namings, weddings, and funerals and to support congregants during times of need as well as times of happiness. Because of the "hamish" feel of the synagogue, congregants support each other during simchas and tragedies.

Education

In addition to regular Shabbat and holiday prayer services, JCB offers a range of programs for children and adults of all ages. There are a variety of adult education programs throughout the year. The rabbi offers many adult education programs, in particular our new 92Y Live program, featuring real time lectures from the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan.

Hebrew School

Children in the third through seventh grades attend religious school classes once a week. Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grades attend school once a month for a fun introduction to Jewish holidays and values. 8th through 10th graders also attend once a month meetings with the rabbi to discuss and debate contemporary issues. This program culminates in a 10th grade Confirmation ceremony. The Hebrew curriculum focuses on a mastery of the prayers. The Judaic component concentrates on Jewish holidays and Shabbat, Bible, life cycle events, Holocaust, the State of Israel, and Jewish values, such as tzedakah. Built into each grade curriculum is a social action component as well as special celebrations. We are devoted to teaching our children a love of Judaism. Central to the mission of our creative religious school is our belief that only learning that is enjoyed is learned well. The most important goal of our school is the creation of a positive Jewish feeling in our children's hearts. We are thankful to our teachers and Education Director, Kim Bertash, for their devotion to our students.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Training for bar/bat mitzvah begins in the sixth grade when the rabbi and cantor starts meeting with children to teach them the meaning of prayers and the skills of chanting their melodies. Our synagogue's goal is for our children to understand and appreciate the beauty and meaning of Torah in addition to mastering the skills of Jewish living. Children do not memorize their portions, but instead learn the theories and workings of the traditional chanting system. This allows them to be called on to participate in other prayer services, including High Holidays. Both the rabbi and cantor spend many hours discussing the meaning of the Torah and Haftarah portions with each child, meeting with them privately. Becoming a bar/bat mitzvah is an important milestone in a child's life. It is therefore our commitment to ensure that each child does not share his/her bar/bat mitzvah with another child. Because of this we are able to tailor the training and demands placed on the child to his/her abilities and needs. This allows us to work readily with children with special needs. Not only are families given the opportunity to celebrate a simcha surrounded by loved ones and friends, but the celebration reflects their personal feelings and beliefs.

Our Future

We plan on building a beautiful synagogue building where we will come to study, pray and celebrate the milestones of our lives together. We will build classrooms where our children will learn of the beauty and wonder of the Jewish tradition. We dream of our children standing on the bima receiving the Torah from the hands of their parents and grandparents on their bar/bat mitzvah. One day soon we will have a synagogue building that will be a fitting testimony to the legacy we want to leave our children, a place that future generations will come and visit and reflect on what we are beginning here.

We invite you to participate in the life of our synagogue, to add your voice to our prayers, to nurture your children's souls surrounded by the loving and caring community of the Jewish Congregation of Brookville.