

Rabbi Margie Jacobs

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Education

Full-time Education

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College · Wyncote, PA 1996-2000

- Received Masters of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic Ordination
- Awarded the Stein Prize in Jewish Women's Studies for research in Feminism and Hasidism
- Received the Pinkenson Prize in Rabbinic Literature
- Lectured nationally on Feminism, Midrash, and Jewish Mysticism

University of Judaism · Los Angeles, CA 1995-1996

- Received B.A. in Hebrew Letters

Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies · Jerusalem 1992-1993

- Full-time study of Jewish texts

University of Pennsylvania · Philadelphia, PA 1988-1992

- Received B.A. in Psychology, Magna Cum Laude
- Co-founded campus peer helpline and worked with victims of assault
- Received Sol Finestone Award for significant contribution to campus life

Part-time Education

Zohar

- Online Zohar classes with Dr. Melila Hellner- Eshed
- Online and in-person Zohar classes with Dr. Daniel Matt (organized in-person classes, moderated some online classes) 2017-2022
- Courses in Jewish Mysticism at GTU with Dr. Daniel Matt and Dr. Deena Aranoff 2017-2018
- Annual IJS week-long Zohar study with Dr. Melila Hellner-Eshed 2004-present

Hasidut

- Two-year rabbinic cohort, weekly study with Dr. Arthur Geen 2022-2024
- Two-year rabbinic cohort, Institute for Jewish Spirituality with Dr. Arthur Green and Rabbi Jonathan Omer-Man 2001-2003
- Organized weekly class with Rabbi Jonathan Omer-Man, Berkeley 2000-2003
- Weekly class with Rabbi Jonathan Omer-Man, Los Angeles 1995-1996

Creativity and Spiritual Practice

- Completed the Continuum mindful movement teacher training
- Completed the Jewish Studio Process 2-year facilitator training; active in JSP facilitator community
- Engaged in meditation, yoga and study at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality 2- year clergy retreat program
- Participated in four two-week silent retreats at Spirit Rock Meditation Center

Other

- Wholebeing Institute Positive Psychology Coaching Certification present
- Acquired skills in non-profit management and organizational development in the Synagogue Transformation and Renewal PEER (Professional Education for Excellence in Rabbis) program
- Participated in Jewish Anti-racism Joyous Justice Whiteness Havruta cohort; served as Board Secretary for Jewish Youth for Community Action

Related Professional Experience

Faculty · Academy for Jewish Religion- CA · Remote present

- Teach Megillot with later commentaries including Hasidut and Zohar
- Create opportunities for students to write new midrash based on text study and creative engagement
- Serve on the Student Assessment committee

Facilitator · The Jewish Studio Process · Berkeley, CA 2020-present

- Facilitate JSP Communities of Practice utilizing Zoharic and Hasidic texts locally and throughout the country
- Lead in-person and virtual JSP groups for clergy and semester-long classes for AJR- CA and RRC
- Serve as Practicum Advisor for current facilitator cohort
- Served on Jewish Studio Project strategic planning group

Independent Rabbi · Berkeley, CA and Virtual 2010-present

- Lead mindfulness meditation and study of Jewish mysticism for adults locally and across the country
- Served as East Bay Vice President for the Northern California Board of Rabbis
- Mentor rabbis, rabbinical students, and individuals considering the rabbinate
- Work with clergy and other Jewish professionals as a Spiritual Coach

Regional Director/ Faculty · Institute for Jewish Spirituality · El Cerrito, CA 2006-2010

- Created first regional office for national program; engaged in fundraising and grant writing
- Organized and led retreats for rabbis, educators, lay leaders, and activists
- Recruited for, organized, and taught two-year intensive Community of Practice
- Developed and taught courses on Joy, Holidays, Middot, and Spirituality of Eating based in Hasidut
- Worked with congregations and other organizations to assess needs and deliver programs

Rabbi · Temple Beth Hillel · Richmond, CA

2001-2006

- Spiritual leader for a 100-household Reform congregation

Rabbi-Educator · Congregation Netivot Shalom · Berkeley, CA

2000-2001

- Directed, oversaw, and taught for the religious school and Bar/Bat Mitzvah program

Publications and Papers

- “When Things Fall Apart: Divine Absence and Presence” *Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations*, August 5, 2024.
- Co-author, “Why Retell the Story of the Exodus From Egyptian Slavery?” *Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations*, April 4, 2024.
- Contributor to symposium on “V’samachta B’chagecha,” *RRA Newsletter*, Summer 2023.
- Contributor to “Reflections on Marcia Falk’s A Night of Beginnings” Talmud page, *Kaplan Center Web*, Spring 2023
- [“The Ayin of Ayin”](#) Paper for GTU course with Dr. Daniel Matt, May 2018
- “Inclining the Mind Toward Joy” *Sh’ma Now*, May 2016
- “Where God is Hiding.” Book Review. *Tikkun*, Winter 2011:84
- “Love the Life--and Activism- You’re In.” Book Review. *Tikkun*, September/October 2010:81
- [“V’achalta V’savata: Eat and Be Satisfied.”](#) Curriculum. *Mazon*, 2009
- Jacobs, Margie and Nina Mandel. *Exploring Judaism* Adult Education Study Guide. JRF, 2004
- Source Sheets available on Sefaria at <https://bit.ly/sefariacollection>

Selected Presentations

- [“Ancient Jewish Wisdom on How to Face Calamity”](#) Evolve Web Conversation, September 18, 2024.
- [“The Healing Gaze of the Ancient Holy One \(Idra Rabbah\).”](#) Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley,
- [“Before and After Creation: The Law of Emissaries in Likkutei Halachot”](#), Congregation Chochmat HaLev, Berkeley
- “Presence and Absence of the Divine in Kabbalah”, 5-session Ritualwell series, text study, Jewish Studio Process, and midrash writing, May - June 2023
- “Introduction to Zohar” 6-session online adult education series for AgeWell Atlanta

