

Rabbi Geoffrey W. Dennis

E-mail: RaGWaD@aol.com

Employment:

- 1999 - present **Rabbi**, *Congregation Kol Ami*, Flower Mound, TX.
- 1996 - 1999 **Assistant Rabbi**, *Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation*, Indianapolis IN.
My responsibilities include the full range of rabbinical functions. During my tenure at IHC, I initiated such new programs as the Taste of IHC Leadership Development Program, Baby and Me play group, A Taste of Judaism, the 11-12th College Advanced Credit course and Hillel seminar. I also revitalized Outreach and the adult b'nai mitzvah program. I revised and expanded other programs, such as the Basic Judaism course, Rosh Hashanah Retreat and Adult Education offerings.
- 1993 - 1996 **RN Supervisor**, *Glen Manor Home for the Jewish Aged*, Cincinnati, OH.
- 1989 - 1996 **Registered Nurse**, *Presbyterian Medical Center*, Albuquerque NM, *We Care*, and *MJ Hospice*, Cincinnati OH.

Teaching Experience:

I. Religious School –

Congregation Kol Ami. Religious School director. Supervised an administrator and 15 teachers. I have implemented a comprehensive family education program, created an innovative new curriculum for the 5th-7th grades and Confirmation.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. While at IHC, I have served as Supervisor for the second session of religious school, planner and instructor for the 11 - 12th Grade Program, and coordinator of the Confirmation Retreat. These duties include hiring and supervising staff, planning and implementing curriculum, and teaching all age groups.

II. Adult Education –

University of North Texas, Denton, TX. Adjunct Professor in Jewish Studies (1999 – present).

Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis and *University of Indianapolis* (1997 - 98). I was Adjunct Instructor in Religion at both these universities.

Melton Adult Mini-School, Dallas, TX (2000- 01), Cincinnati, OH (1994 - 96). I am an instructor for this community-based Jewish adult education program.

CAJE 19, Bloomington IN (1994). I coordinated seminars for the Programming

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Committee.

Supervisory Experience:

Congregation Kol Ami. I supervise the office manager, Religious School Administrator, and coordinate with all volunteer groups.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. I regularly coordinated with other professional staff and supervise support staff in 1500 family congregation.

Glen manor Home for the Jewish Aged, Cincinnati, OH (1993 - 96) As RN Supervisor, I oversaw twenty staff, eighty patients and managed the facility.

Youth Experience:

Congregation Kol Ami. I oversee all youth groups, 3rd grade to HS. I am rabbinical liaison to the Hillel Organization of North Texas University. I am also on the board of the Regional Hillel of North Dallas and of Birthright Israel.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. I served the Youth Committee, advised all youth groups, and coordinated the 8th Grade Kallah.

Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX,(1999- present) and *Goldman Union Camp Institute, Zionsville, IN (1996 - 1999).* Rabbinical Faculty for summer camp sessions and kallah.

Outreach Experience:

Congregation Kol Ami. I have initiated numerous outreach programs aimed at the unaffiliated, such as "Let's Talk (2002)," "Judaism U (2001)," and "A Taste of Judaism (2000)." Twenty-eight souls have embraced Judaism through the Kol Beit Din.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. I work extensively with the Outreach Committee and conversion candidates. I am the clergy Co-facilitator for the Inter-faith Families Discussion Group and counsel inter-faith couples. I initiated "A Taste of Judaism," an introduction to Judaism for the general public.

Congregation Emanuel, Denver, CO (1995). I was an Intern at the Denver Outreach Program.

Pastoral Experience:

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Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. I provided pastoral care for congregants. I also trained *St. Vincent Hospice* in caring for Jewish clients.

MJ Hospice, Cincinnati, OH (1995 - 96). I was a chaplain for this agency.

Jewish Hospital, Cincinnati OH. (1994 - 95). I completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and served as a clergy Intern.

Wexner Heritage House, Columbus OH (1994). I served as Chaplain Intern.

Community/Interfaith Experience:

Congregation Kol Ami. I am past president of the *Ministerial Alliance of Lewisville.* I am a chaplain for the Police Department of Flower Mound. I initiated and co-teach a joint Baptist/Jewish adult education program to foster better relations between the two communities.

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. I was President of the *Odyssey Channel Local Religious Programming Board.* I also served as a Board Member and as a program planner for *Interfaith Alliance Indianapolis.* I was a Board Member of the *Bureau of Jewish Education* in Indianapolis and the *Indianapolis Board of Rabbis.* In 1998 I spearheaded the creation of a community-wide Adult Education Brochure in cooperation with the BJE.

Education and Training:

Rabbinical Ordination, 1996, *Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati OH.*
My rabbinical thesis was awarded the Harry Slominsky Prize in Midrash.
I was recipient, the Morris H. Youngerman Prize for best sermon (1996).

Master of Hebrew Letters, 1995, *Hebrew Union College.*

Bachelor of Arts in Education, 1981, *University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.* Graduated with honors.

Associate Degree in Nursing, 1989, *Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute.*

I am a certified *Prepare and Enrich* pre-marital counselor.

Online

Cyber-Maiven: "Ask a Rabbi" team, America Online: Online Jewish Community and on the UAHC "Ask-the Rabbi" program of the Adult Jewish Growth Dept.

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Cyber Publications: "Apocalypse Then and Now" and "Two Kinds of Love" have been featured articles on *Click-on Judaism Website*.

Publications:

"Holding on to Empty Bottles: Messianics and the Jewish Community's Identity Crisis," (pending 2002).

"Building the Sanctuary of the Heart," *Parabola: The Magazine of Myth and Tradition*, ("The Heart" Issue, Winter 2001).

"Torah L'chayyim: An Incentive Model for Adult Education," *CCAR Journal* (Spring 2001).

"Love is Stronger than Death: Meeting the Needs of Jewish Hospice Patients," *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care*, (July, 1999) [Reprinted by request in *Healing Ministry*, January 2000].

"Introducing the Holocaust," book review, *CCAR Journal* (Fall 1998).

"Meaning Beyond the Mystery: Abraham Joshua Heschel on Prayer," *Cincinnati Judaica Review* (1995).

"Safed Spirituality," book review, *Cincinnati Judaica Review* (1994).

Regular essays in the religion section of the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Religion Viewpoint* column of the Denton Record-Chronicle (1999-2002).

Selected Presentations and Workshops:

Visiting Scholar: *A New Israel: Reflections on the Conversion Experience*, Temple Israel, Tulsa, OK, 2002.

Speaker: *Shleimut: Integrated Jewish Health and Healing* Conference, 2002.

Speaker: *Faith and Medicine* Annual Science of Family Medicine Conference, University of Texas School of Medicine, 2000 - 02.

Workshop presenter: *The Synagogue as a Healing Center*, UAHC Biennial, 1999 and 2001.

Workshop presenter: *Bikkur Holim: Hospital Visits and Beyond*, and *Spiritual Care of the Dying*, "The Synagogue as a Healing Center" UAHC Religious Living Conference, 1999.

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Scholar-in-Residence: *Making the Bible an Eternal Text; Midrash: Alchemy of the Sacred Word; Controversial Texts*, Congregation Israel of West Lafayette, IN. 1998.