

JESSE A. EPSTEIN

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Professional Rabbinical Experience

20s and 30s Urban Space Rabbinic Intern **Fall 2024 - Present**
Community Synagogue, Port Washington, NY

- Proposed and developed an innovative 20s/30s community for NYC-based alumni of a suburban congregation, fostering connections through 1:1 and group engagement, including Shabbat dinners, a Hanukkah party, and hobby-based small groups.

Student Rabbi **High Holidays 2024**
University of Maryland Hillel, College Park, MD

- Solo organized, created, and led six Reform services for 25–90 attendees, incorporating student musicians and innovative interactive elements such as personalized Communal Vidui (Confession), a Teshuva (Self-Reflection) Self-Actualization Flow Chart, and Theology Venn Diagrams.

Rabbinic Intern, Tisch Rabbinic Fellowship **Summer 2024**
Third Space at Shaarei Tfiloh, Baltimore, MD

- Shadowed Rabbi Jessy Dressin, assisting with program calendar development, operational planning for transforming a historic synagogue, and teaching in diverse settings such as Tikkun Leil Shavuot and biweekly “Jews & Brews” small group learning sessions at local breweries.

Rabbinic Intern **2023-2024**
North Shore Synagogue, Syosset, NY

- Taught 5th and 6th grade religious school classes, fostering a love of learning, deep reflection, and personal exploration of spirituality & values; led youth group (grades 8-12) and junior youth group (grades K-6) programming (e.g. sukkot escape room, latke-making, bowling night).
- Co-led Shabbat evening services and independently led Saturday Torah study, revitalizing the group’s morning prayer services.
- Supported lifecycle events, holiday programming, and post-October 7th relief efforts, including a community-wide supply drive for Israel.

Student Rabbi **2022-2023**
Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs, NY

- Worked with outgoing rabbinic team during Fall; transitioned to serving in solo capacity in Spring.
- Led Shabbat, Torah study, Havdalah programming, and High Holy Day services, as well as educational programs for children, teens, college students, and adults.
- Provided pastoral care and officiated lifecycle events, including baby and young adult naming ceremonies and B’nai Mitzvah, encompassing all tutoring and preparation.
- Collaborated with Skidmore Hillel to create engaging programs that strengthened connections between the congregation and the local campus community.

Student Rabbi **2021-2022**
Northeastern University Hillel, Boston, MA

- Served as Hillel’s sole rabbinic presence, planned and implemented themed educational events, taught four Jewish Learning Fellowship cohorts (Life’s Big Questions; God, Sex, and Love; Pursuing Justice) and Judaism 101 programming.
- Solo developed & led multi-denominational High Holy Day services, established a thriving weekly Reform minyan with musicians (awarded a Men of Reform Judaism Microgrant to purchase a guitar, siddurim, and oneg support), and founded a lasting chapter of Challah for Hunger.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Intern **Summer 2021**
Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY

- Served the Cardiothoracic ICU and EMS Unit by offering prayer, spiritual resources, and emotional support to patients, family members, and hospital staff; as supervised by Rabbi Dr. Ruth Gais.

Other Rabbinical Engagements

Guest Program Facilitator: Crafting & Craft Beer: Spices & Weisses Edition	Planned for January 2025
Selma and Lawrence Ruben Base UWS (Coverage for Rabbi on parental leave)	
Guest Shabbat Shaliach Tzibur	July 2024
Bolton Street Synagogue, Baltimore, MD (Coverage for Rabbi on sabbatical)	
Guest Shabbat Sermon	June 2024
Congregation Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom, Baltimore, MD	
Program Facilitator: "Crafting and Craft Beer" 20s/30s Holiday Learning and Judaica-Making	May 2024
Central Synagogue, New York, NY	
Event Co-Facilitator: Post-Pesach 20/30s Program	March 2023
Central Synagogue, New York, NY	
Guest Shabbat Sermon	July 2021
Congregation B'nai Israel, Flesichmanns, NY	
Guest Shabbat Sermon	March 2021
Congregation Mickve Israel, Savannah, GA	
Participant on Rabbinical Batei Din for Conversion	2022-Present
Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, NY	
Participant for Tahara and Shmeirah	2023-Present
Reform Chevra Kaddisha, NYC (Plaza Jewish Memorial Chapel)	
Participant at Social Justice Events, including Speaker at Iftar Interfaith Dinner and Service Leading & Holiday Party attendee at Rikers Island	2023-Present
Central Synagogue, New York, NY	
HUC Volunteer	2024-Present
NYC Shabbat Collective, New York, NY	

Fellowships and Cohorts

- Tisch Fellow, **The HUC Tisch Initiative for Synagogue Excellence**
- 5785 Beloved Seed, **URJ Community Cultivators Cohort**
- 5784 Fellow, **Atra Center for Rabbinic Innovation Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs**
- 2023 Seminary Fellow, **Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE)**
- 5783 Cohort Fellow, **92NY Jewish Innovation Fellowship**
 - Recipient of JIF grant following end-of-year pitch
- 5782 & 5783 Cohorts, Fellow, **HUC Be Wise Fellowship in Jewish Entrepreneurship**
 - Developed a Bleeding Control (B-CON) Certification Workshop incorporating Jewish text, history, and ritual study regarding "blood" from different perspectives. Program site: torahandtourniquets.com
- Cohort 2 Fellow, **Founders' Fellowship at HUC-JIR** (undergraduate, 2017)

Podcasts	Press/Interviews	Articles
<p>Good Beer Hunting</p> <p><i><u>EP-358 Jesse Epstein of Shmaltz Brewing</u></i></p> <p>Jewish Drinking Show</p> <p><i><u>Shmaltz Brewing, Featuring Jeremy Cowan & Jesse Epstein [The Jewish Drinking Show Episode #117]</u></i></p> <p>Drinking and Drashing</p> <p><i><u>Episode 308 -- Mikeitz with Jesse Epstein</u></i></p>	<p>JTA</p> <p><i><u>He'Brew maker Shmaltz Brewing relaunches with new owner: a rabbinical student</u></i></p> <p>ReformJudaism.org</p> <p><i><u>He'Brews, He'Leads: HUC Student Jesse Epstein Adds Flavor to Hops – and Jewish Life</u></i></p> <p>YNet</p> <p><i><u>Jewish beer saved by young U.S. rabbi</u></i></p> <p>All About Beer</p> <p><i><u>A Celebration of Rededication: Shmaltz Brewing Returns this Hanukkah</u></i></p> <p>Craft Business Daily</p> <p><i><u>Shmaltz Brewing to Continue With New Owner and New Mission</u></i></p> <p>Craftbeer.com</p> <p><i><u>Keeping Kosher in Craft Beer</u></i></p>	

Education

Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (NY)

Rabbinic Ordination	Anticipated May 2025
Master of Hebrew Letters	May 2024
Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce Prize in Human Relations	May 2022
Louise Arnold Prize in Human Relations	May 2023

Leadership and activities

- Supervisory Team, HUC NY Soup Kitchen
 - Re-implemented indoor service, visiting religious school groups, and live music post-pandemic
- 2023 Grant Recipient, JDC-Entwine Microgrant for Jewish beer and brewing workshops in Jamaica
- Participant, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, Summer 2022 Intensive Seminar (Israel)
- Participant, Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, Dayenu Circle

Skidmore College

Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Psychology	May 2019
President's Award and SGA Student Leadership Award	May 2019

Leadership and activities

- London Freshman Study Abroad (Participant Fall '15, Orientation Leader '16+'17, Peer Mentor '18)
 - President (among other positions), Skidmore Hillel
 - Intern, Saratoga Bridges Day Habilitation for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (Fall 2018)
 - Chief Director, Skidmore College EMS
 - Lead Supervisor and Head of 70+ person NYS Dept of Health Agency for EMS response on campus
 - Gained skills in decision making, public speaking, care-taking of patients and agency members, etc
 - Admissions Ambassador
 - Research Assistant, Skidmore Psychology Department
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Other Professional Experience

Owner and CEO, Shmaltz Brewing Co. August 2022-Present

- Acquired and revitalized Shmaltz Brewing Company, transforming it into a platform for Jewish community engagement, education, and social justice.
- Developed innovative programs such as Torah on Tap and Shul Brewing, creating opportunities for Jewish learning and connection through hands-on beer experiences.
- Organized large-scale events, including a 20s/30s NYC Purim party in partnership with 10 co-sponsoring organizations, drawing over 300 attendees.
- Beta-tested new beers inspired by Jewish texts and traditions, fostering education and storytelling around Jewish culture.
- Represented Shmaltz at craft beer festivals and Jewish food festivals, introducing the brand's unique mission to diverse audiences.
- Collaborated with synagogues and other Jewish organizations to integrate Shmaltz into communal events, fostering dynamic, inclusive Jewish spaces.

Recruitment Coordinator, CrowdRX June 2019 - May 2021

- Hired as EMT, promoted to Operations Coordinator and again to Recruitment Coordinator to oversee national payroll, hiring, and other operational duties.

Skidmore Programme Assistant, IES Abroad Fall 2019

- Provided academic and emotional support to first-year college students studying abroad in London for their first semester of college, via 1:1 check-ins, weekly "study break" programs, field trip organizing, faculty liaisoning (in faculty/staff meetings), and additional programming.

EMT I, Northwell Health Center for EMS July 2017 - January 2019

- 911, interfacility transport, and first-aid training.

Non-Profit Volunteer Experience

Communications, COVID Grief Network

July 2020–August 2021

- Managed partnerships and social media pages, recruited volunteers and young adults through content creation, press, and event initiatives.

Administrative and Shadowing Intern, Center for Spirituality and Health at Mount Sinai Hospital

Summer 2019

- Prepared materials for Center for Spirituality and Health’s upcoming ACPE accreditation review and virtually cataloged Center’s library.
- Shadowed each chaplain’s clinical work.

Activist participant with organizations such as Never Again Action (regarding Immigrant Detention Centers) and Extinction Rebellion (specifically “XR Jews”)

Ongoing

Publications

Epstein, J.A. (2022). Chapter 11: The Spirituality of Transplant Surgery. In E.P. Molmenti, MD, PhD, MBA, Molmenti's Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation: Operative techniques and medical management, 2nd Edition. McGraw-Hill Education.

Epstein, J.A. (2021). Chapter 39: The Spirituality of Transplant Surgery. In E.P. Molmenti, MD, PhD, MBA, M. Santibañes, MD, PhD, FACS & E. Santibañes, MD, PhD (Eds.), Liver Transplantation: Operative techniques and medical management. McGraw-Hill Education.

Friedman, N.M.G., Dingler B.J., Gorstein L.N., & Epstein, J.A. (2019). Implementation of a Mental Health Task Force in a collegiate-based emergency medical services organization. *Journal of American College Health* <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2019.1583654>

Pelham, K., Mierzejewski, V., O'Connor, E., Ackermans, M.A., Madloch, A., & Epstein, J.A. (2018). Implementing Stop the Bleed at Skidmore College. *Journal of Collegiate Emergency Medical Services* <https://doi.org/10.30542/JCEMS.2018.01.S1.07>

Notable Speaking Engagements

Small Group Facilitator, “Cultural Humility: Grief and Loss Across Cultures” at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell (November 2021).

Panelist, “When the Helper Needs Help: Health Professionals Confront Cumulative Stress Disorder.” Co-Panelists: James Boomhower, BS, FP-C, NR-P, C-NPT; Daniel Hoffman, PhD, ABPP; George Wurzer, LCSW. The Osler Society of the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell (August 2019).

Presenter, “Developing a Mental Health Task Force”. Co-Presenters: Nicholas M.G. Friedman and Brittany J. Dingler. National Collegiate EMS Foundation Conference (February 2018).

Presenter, “Stop the Bleed at Skidmore College”. National Collegiate EMS Foundation Conference (February 2018).

Presenter, “Developing a Mental Health Task Force”. Co-Presenter: Nicholas M.G. Friedman. NYS Collegiate EMS Conference (November 2017).