



CONGREGATION BETENU

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June 28, 2017

Dear Congregation Betenu Members,

We are delighted to inform you that Samuel Blumberg has accepted our offer to serve as Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Betenu. Sam will be at Betenu one weekend each month from September through May. He will lead services on Friday evening, will work with the students at Betenu's Religious School on Sunday morning, and will lead Adult Education classes Sunday afternoon. You are invited to meet Sam on Friday evening August 18, when he will lead our Shabbat evening service. Prior to the service, Sam will join us for a pot-luck supper at 6:30 PM.



Sam studied for three years at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and has a Master of Jewish Education degree from Hebrew College. His undergraduate degree is from the University of California at Davis, where he was the President of the Jewish Student Union. He is currently joining the Rabbinic studies program at Hebrew College, as he transitions to a Rabbinic career path.

For the past five years, Sam has been a Middle School Jewish Studies Teacher at Portland Jewish Academy, a private Jewish day school in Portland Oregon. The Principal of the school told us that Sam is "a natural leader in a very gentle and appropriate way". In addition to his teaching duties, Sam has led services at the school. He has also independently tutored B'Nei Mitzvot students, worked with each student and family to create a unique siddur, and officiated at these B'Nei Mitzvot services. The Principal told us that she had the opportunity to attend several of these B'Nei Mitzvot services and that "It was just beautiful!"

In addition to teaching at Portland Jewish Academy, Sam taught for three years at Congregation Beth Israel, which is the leading voice of Reform Judaism in Oregon. The Education Director of Congregation Beth Israel told us that Sam is excited about Jewish studies, and because of that Sam gets the kids excited.

Betenu Board members who spoke with Sam were impressed with his warmth and with his depth of thought about Judaism. He is respectful and accepting of a wide range of Jewish practice. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to meet Sam on August 18. He is looking forward to meeting you.

Le-Shalom,
The Betenu Executive Board