

Rabbi Lawrence P. Karol

Rabbinic Experience:

- **Retired in Overland Park, Kansas**, June 2021-Present
- **Temple Beth-El**, Las Cruces, New Mexico, July 2011-June 2020: Rabbi Emeritus, July 2020-Present
- **Temple Israel**, Dover, New Hampshire, August 2006-June 2011
- **Temple Beth Sholom**, Topeka, Kansas, Rabbi, July 1984-July 2006
- **Temple Israel**, Dayton, Ohio, Assistant Rabbi, July 1981-June 1984

Rabbinic Ordination:

- **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**, Cincinnati, 1981
- Rabbinic Thesis: *Rabbinic Leadership in the Reform Movement as Reflected in the Life and Writings of Rabbi Abraham Jehiel Feldman (1893-1977)*, receiving the 1981 Emma P. Cohen Award of Greater Hartford Jewish Historical Society for the thesis.

Education:

- **University of Illinois**, Urbana-Champaign, A.B., Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1976 Major in Sociology, Minor in Religious Studies, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**, Cincinnati, M.A., Hebrew Letters, 1980; Recipient of the Herman Snyder Alumni Award for Academic Excellence as a first-year student, HUC-JIR, Jerusalem, May 1977; Recipient of Doctor of Divinity Degree, May 2006.

Recognition and Awards:

- *Local Award of Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, Topeka, Kansas, 1994.*
- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Award, Topeka, Kansas, 1991.*
- *Community Service Award from the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee of Greater Kansas City, and the Gay/Lesbian Concerns Committee, 1997.*
- *Listed by Topeka Capital-Journal as one of top 100 Topekans of influence in 1990 and 2000.*
- *Wentworth-Douglass Hospital Spiritual Care Award, 2010, Dover, New Hampshire.*
- *"Rabbi Larry Karol Day" in Las Cruces, New Mexico, by proclamation of the Las Cruces City Council, on June 25, 2020.*

Academic Presentations:

- *Guest Speaker/Panelist:* University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, Wright State University, Emporia State University, Washburn University, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Baker University, Great Bay Community College, University of New Hampshire, New Mexico State University.
- *Adjunct Professor*, Inter-session class on Religion and Culture at Washburn University, 1998; Sociology of Religion course, Washburn University, spring semester, 2001-2006.

Jewish Communal Activities: Local Memberships

- Bi-state Advisory Board member: Jewish Community Relations Bureau, American Jewish Committee of Greater Kansas City (1984-2006).
- Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City (July 1984-June 2006 and June 2021-Present).
- Jewish Educators Council of Kansas City (1984-2006).
- Topeka-Manhattan Jewish Federation (1984-2006).

- Boards of Dayton Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton, Jewish Family Service, Bureau of Jewish Education, Dayton Jewish Center, Covenant House (senior citizen center), and Community Hebrew School Committee (1981-1984)
- New Hampshire Seacoast United Jewish Appeal (2006-2011).
- New Hampshire Board of Rabbis (2006-2011).

National Memberships:

- Central Conference of American Rabbis (1981-Present).
- Hebrew Union College -Jewish Institute of Religion Alumni Association (1981-Present)
- CAJE (Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education – 1981-2008)
- NewCAJE (2010-Present)
- Guild of Temple Musicians (1988-Present).
- *Revision Editor*: Manginot music curriculum, UAHC Department of Education, 1992.
- *Representative* for the Central Conference of American Rabbis on the UAHC Commission on Synagogue Music, 1989-1995.

Workshop Presenter at conventions:

- Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, 1990, 1992 (on Manginot).
- UAHC Biennial Conventions, 1991, 1993, 1995; UAHC Small Congregations Convention, 1993 (all on Manginot).
- NewCAJE 2010 (“God on my iPod”).
- URJ Biennial Convention 2011 (developed and led, with Cantor Karen Berman, a morning service: “A Spirit that has changed the world: Prayer for the Baby Boom Generation”).

General Community Involvement

Topeka, Kansas

- *Interfaith of Topeka*: President, 1989-90; Vice-President, 1986-88; Program Chair, 1993-94; Led “Common Ties” dialogue group, 1995-2003.
- *Topeka Area Clergy Association*: President/Convener, 1989-1990, 1996-2003.
- *Board of Concerned Citizens for Topeka, Inc.*: Member, 1995-2002.
- *Governor-appointed Kansas State Holocaust Commission*: Chair, 1995-2006; Member, 1987-2006; coordinated annual State of Kansas Holocaust Commemorations.
- *“Interface:”* clergy/psychiatric professionals group, Menninger Foundation, Topeka, 1986-1990.
- *Multicultural Education Task Force, Topeka Public Schools*: Member, 1988-2006: created district multicultural calendar; presented in schools on Jewish life and culture.
- *Topeka Public Schools Community Multicultural Committee*: Co-chair, 1998-2006.
- *Stout Elementary School, Topeka, Kansas*: Site Advisory Council Chair, 1994-1997.
- *Greater Topeka United Way*: Citizen review/allocations panelist, 1985-1994, 1998-2001.
- *Brown Foundation for Educational Excellence, Equity and Research of Topeka*: Board member, (family of 1954 “Brown v. Board” Supreme Court case), 1988-1996; Secretary, 1990-1996.
- *“Whose Dream Is It?” Coalition of Topeka*: Steering Committee Member for Topeka community Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday commemoration, 1994-2006.
- *Jewish Chaplain: Colmery-O’Neil Veterans Administration Medical Center (1984-2006), Menninger Clinic (1984-2002).*
- *State of Kansas Senate and House of Representatives and Topeka City Council*, served as *guest chaplain*, delivering invocations at sessions/meetings.

Dover, New Hampshire

- *Dover Area Religious Leaders Association*: Member, 2006-2011; Convener, 2007-2010.
- *University of New Hampshire Chaplains' Council*, 2006-2011.
- *Institutional Review Board of Wentworth Douglass Hospital*, Dover, 2008-2011.
- *Spiritual Advisory Board, Strafford County Department of Corrections*, member, 2006-2011.

Las Cruces, New Mexico

- *New Mexico State University Interfaith Council*, Member, 2011-Present; Vice-President, 2012-2013; President, 2013-2015; Executive Advisor, 2015-2018.
- CAFé (Communities in Action and Faith) in Las Cruces, Board President, 2013-2015.
- Las Cruces Peace Village, Board member, 2012-2016; Board Secretary, 2014-2016.
- Las Cruces Monthly Clergy Breakfast Convener, 2014-2020.
- Las Cruces Coalition for Compassion Founder and Convener, 2016-2017.
- Las Cruces Health Policy Review Committee, 2017-2019.
- Las Cruces Public Schools Ethnic Studies Task Force, February, 2018-December 2018.

Publications

- "Two are Better Than One," compact disc of original Jewish music, August 2003.
- "A New Beginning," compact disc of original Jewish music, March, 2005.
- "One Light Above: The Larry Karol Songbook," October 2007.
- "The Road Ahead," compact disc of original Jewish music, December 2014.
- Original song, "Atah Kadosh," published in *The Nigun Anthology, Volume I*, Transcontinental Music Publications, 2004.
- Chapter on Jewish weddings in *Honoring Tradition, Embracing Modernity*, CCAR, 2017
- Articles and letters printed in *Topeka Capital-Journal*, *Topeka Metro News*, *Topeka Sentinel*, *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, *Moment*, *Manhattan Mercury*, *Foster's Daily Democrat*, (*Dover, NH*), *Portsmouth Herald*, *New Hampshire Jewish Reporter*, *Las Cruces Bulletin*, *Las Cruces Sun-News*, *El Paso Jewish Voice*, *Ten Minutes of Torah (URJ)* and *Just For You* (Reform Small Congregations newsletter).
- Monthly Columnist for *Las Cruces Bulletin*, December 2016-June 2021.

Rabbinic Experience:

Holiday Celebrations and Creative Worship Experiences:

- Developed, compiled and created worship services for Shabbat, holidays and special events.
- Compiled and created "Renewal of Spirit" Shabbat service, incorporating liturgy from healing services and appropriate musical selections (including original compositions), 1997-2021.
- Led and participated in musical services for joint worship with other congregations.
- Instituted and led monthly "Tot Shabbat" service for young children and their families.
- Facilitated participation in worship services to teach Judaism to general community members at Temple Beth Sholom: "Teachers Night" (for public school teachers), "Neighbor Night" (for church groups, friends and neighbors); "Neighbor Night" at Temple Israel Dover; and "A Night With Judaism" at Temple Beth-El of Las Cruces.

Music for Worship and Education:

- Served as congregational music director/soloist/guitar accompanist; established musical ensemble in Topeka, Dover and Las Cruces to participate in worship on Shabbat, holidays and at special events.
- Composed songs for worship and exploration of Jewish texts.
- Created three songs based in Jewish texts with Third Grade students at Cohen Hillel Academy in Marblehead, Massachusetts in 2008-2009.

- In retirement in Overland Park, KS, for The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, leading Facebook Live daily minyan 4-5 times a month; participating as vocalist/guitarist in selected Friday night Shabbat services.

Adult Education Programs:

- Taught "Judaism: Roots and Rituals" introduction to Judaism class throughout rabbinate.
- Formed and led "Shabbat Shiur" study group to explore biblical texts one Saturday per month at Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka.
- Maintained and led "Torah/Tanakh Study" group at Temple Beth-El Las Cruces weekly on Wednesdays (Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Exodus, Isaiah, Ezra, Nehemiah, Minor Prophets, Psalms) as well as study groups that explored Proverbs, Pirkei Avot and Psalms, 2011-present.
- Created and led a Talmud Study Group, at Temple Beth Sholom-Topeka, which met one Saturday per month to study a section from the Steinsaltz Talmud in English, 1995-1999.
- Maintained semi-monthly Wednesday study group at Temple Beth Sholom-Topeka on various topics, including liturgy, Jewish views of Christianity and the New Testament, issues in Middle East politics, and Bible study.
- Developed "Osei Shalom" program in 1994 to recognize congregants for Jewish living in the areas of study, worship and loving deeds. Congregants received a booklet in which they could indicate the activities in which they participated, and were recognized at the end of each year (1994-2006).
- Created "Letting God In: What Do We Believe?" series and Rabbi's Table sessions at Temple Israel Dover; "Judaism 201 – Beyond an Introduction to Judaism"; "A Jewish Code of Conduct" based on Joseph Telushkin's *Code of Jewish Ethics*; "Shireinu-Our Songs" – three sessions to review selections from the *Shireinu* songbook; "More than Words: A Spiritual Lexicon," Friday night D'var Torah series.
- Led "God on my iPod" sessions at NewCAJE in 2010, and Limmud Boston in 2010 and shared the session material as a curriculum through the HANASHIR list;
- Composed weekly Torah message emailed to congregation at Temple Israel Dover (posted now on personal blogs at <http://rabbilarrydover.blogspot.com> and <http://rabbilarrykarol.blogspot.com>).
- Developed annual Interfaith Dialogue program on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at Temple Beth-El Las Cruces with the Social Action/Adult Education Committee, 2015-2019.
- Trained Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah students at Temple Beth-El Las Cruces in 2019-2020, which culminated in a Zoom service in May of 2020.

Religious School:

- Served as Religious School Principal, resource for all faculty members, and music teacher, integrating music into the curriculum.
- Tutored Bar/Bat Mitzvah students throughout my rabbinate, including guiding the chanting of Torah and Haftarah portions.
- Facilitated field-testing of URJ Small Religious School Curriculum and Music Curriculum.
- Developed grade level goals document presented to parents on the first day of Religious School at Temple Beth Sholom in Topeka and Temple Israel Dover.
- Developed learning benchmarks for all grades (Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces).
- Worked with Education Committee/Religious School Committee to support Religious School and develop special programs.
- Taught 7th Grade at Temple Israel Portsmouth (Conservative congregation) in 2009-2010, 2010-2011.
- Reestablished Confirmation program at Temple Israel Dover.

Temple Administration and Management:

- Established a member information file and worked with Board to develop “House Rules” (Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka).
- Developed 1989 Temple Beth Sholom questionnaire, and compiled results for board implementation.
- Edited semi-monthly Temple bulletin in Topeka; created and edited monthly *Kesher* newsletter at Temple Israel Dover and *Adelante* Newsletter at Temple Beth-El Las Cruces.
- Developed and enhanced Annual Report Booklet at Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Israel Dover and Temple Beth-El Las Cruces.
- Helped to develop and coordinate the “Nosharama” Jewish Food and Cultural Fair (fundraiser) at Temple Israel Dover in 2010 and 2011; advised the “Jewish Food and Folk Festival” planning committee at Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces in 2014-2019.

Youth Activities

- Supervised and assisted advisor for Temple Youth Group.
- Coordinated sub-regional fall conclaves in Topeka and in Dayton.
- Staffed various OVFTY and MoVFTY/NFTY-Missouri Valley and NFTY-Southwest regional conclaves/kallot; Dean, MoVFTY Institute, 1988.
- Staffed University of Kansas Hillel retreats in 1987 and 1990.
- Served on faculty (two-week rotation) at URJ Crane Lake Camp in 2007-2009 (Dean in 2008 & 2009).
- Led “God on my iPod” mini-course at URJ Crane Lake Camp in 2009 to explore references to God in secular music to highlight Jewish theological themes in lyric.
- Worked with members of Temple Israel Portsmouth to create Seacoast wide teen gatherings.
- Worked with Faculty Advisor and Hillel group at New Mexico State University.

Family

Married to Rhonda Marks Karol – wedding date, August 8, 1982.

Father of Adam Karol.

Father-in-law of Rabbi Juliana Karol (whom I blessed at her ordination at HUC-JIR NYC in 2018).

Grandfather of Joshua and Eva.