



Ariana Elisheva Katz

Ariana Katz couldn't separate joy from Judaism if she tried. Jewishly educated and raised within an 11-mile radius, Ariana was born and grew up in Philadelphia. She earned her bachelor of arts degree with distinction in sociology with a minor in women's, gender and sexuality studies from Boston University.

She has served Kol Tzedek Synagogue, Jewish Voice for Peace, T'ruah, Tikkun Olam Chavurah, the Hillels of Dickinson College and the University of Vermont, *Evolve* and Avodah. Ariana created and hosted *Kaddish*, a podcast about death and identity, for which she received the Auerbach Entrepreneurial Innovation Launch Grant. She completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Hebrew SeniorLife.

Ariana is the founding rabbi of Hinenu: The Baltimore Justice Shtiebl, a congregation building rooted and holy community in Baltimore.

Ariana thanks her parents, Alex and Linda; her brother and sister-in-law, Mendel and Shannon; godfamily the Schattners; dear ones Sarah and Shahrzad; and the communities of beloveds from Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. She thanks her *bashert*, Ever, for their bold risk-taking, joyful *hevrusa* and creative co-conspiring. Ariana is grateful for the lifelong comrades she has found at RRC, her students, beloved classmates, and cherished teachers and mentors.

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"At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks. Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite."

From *Perhaps the World Ends Here* by Joy Harjo

In a practical guidebook to the writing of a Torah scroll, *Keset Hasofer* 3:6 explains: "One should take care to have a nice-looking pen, even if it doesn't make the writing itself look any different."

Our holy Torah is so precious that we must honor even the details we cannot see—the invisible hand of the *soferet*, the readers who fought with the text and found home between the lines, the pen that scratched the word of Divinity onto hide.