
Life Stories and Wisdom Statements of the 2018 RRC Graduating Class

Our students arrive with many gifts and life experiences. During their time at the College, they build on those gifts through study, reflection and practice. We gain strength and guidance from their life stories and the wisdom they offer.



Jacob Best Adler

Jake was raised in Montclair, N.J., and grew up at Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield, N.J. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in fine arts/ photography from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind.

During his time at RRC, Jake taught religious school at Congregation Rodeph Shalom and Germantown Jewish Centre; supervised teen programs at Mishkan Shalom; and served as Jewish Student Advisor at Haverford College. He had rabbinic internships at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life; the Tikkun Olam Commission of the Reconstructionist movement; Bristol Jewish Center; Congregation Beth El of Bennington, Vt.; and Congregation Am Haskalah.

Jake and his classmate, Emily Cohen, got a taste of viral fame (in the Jewish world) with their *Hamilton Haggadah*, a Passover Haggadah that incorporates parodies of songs from *Hamilton: An American Musical*. At RRC's 2017 graduation ceremony, Jake and Emily received the Alice Stein Prize.

Prior to entering rabbinical school, Jake worked as a case manager at a Jewish social-services agency in Chicago. He is passionate about experiential education, service learning, and incorporating Jewish values into everyday life and experiences.

Jake is grateful for the Torah he has learned from his teachers, classmates, supervisors, congregants and friends. He is especially grateful for the Torah he receives daily from his partner, Jill, and his son, Daniel.



בן זומא אומר, אינהו חכם, הלומד מכל אדם... אינהו גבור, הכובש את יצריו... אינהו עשיר, השמח
בחקלו... אינהו מקבד, המקבד את הבריות...

Ben Zoma says:

Who is wise? The one who learns from all people...

Who is mighty? The one who is in control of their impulses...

Who is rich? The one who is happy with what they have...

Who is honored? The one who honors all of creation...

Pirkei Avot 4:1