

## SOUTH HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

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2600 NEW YORK AVE., MELVILLE, NY 11747 - (631) 421-3224

RABBI IAN S. JACKNIS

HAZZAN BRIAN BARUCH SHAMASH

Michael Garb is a wonderful, caring and knowledgeable individual who is highly skilled and adept in preparing students for their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, as well as tutoring them in all aspects of prayer, Hebrew reading and related subjects.

Michael began working as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor at South Huntington Jewish Center in August 1999. At that time, he worked along side our Hazzan, individually tutoring students. He was responsible for teaching them Haftarah trop, opening and closing Haftarah blessings, chanting a full Haftarah, a Torah reading, and parts of the Friday evening and Shabbat morning service. If the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service was a Havdallah or Rosh Hodesh service, he was also responsible for teaching this. He was required to learn our melodies as well as using the proper nusach for the respective service.

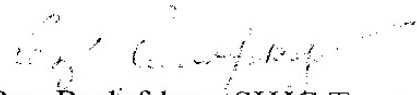
As coordinator of this program, it was my responsibility to oversee Michael's performance. It was also at this time that our program was being entirely redesigned, transforming our study materials from "tape" to CD. Michael is computer savvy and was instrumental in guiding us, as well as, assisting us in purchasing the equipment needed to update and improve the quality of our teaching materials, as well as, transferring our data to professional quality CDs. He undertook this task with enthusiasm and precision, and created quality products for our use.

Our program also required timely completion of student reports, attendance at committee meetings, and creation and coordination of study materials. Michael was always available and willing to do everything and anything he was asked. These tasks were always completed professionally and in a pleasant manner. He had an excellent rapport with both students and their parents, who were required to be present at the individual lessons.

Michael is extremely sensitive to student needs. He has worked with both learning disabled students and with extremely bright and talented students, making each of them feel that they achieved and accomplished the most they could, providing them with a feeling of self-respect and sense of pride in what they did. For some, this was limited; for others it meant leading the entire service Friday night and Shabbat morning and coming back to lead services at future dates. This is truly an accomplishment for any tutor.

Michael has always been available to help the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah family, including siblings, whether teaching them to read Torah, assisting them in learning a specific prayer, or teaching them how to put on tefillin. Although he left formal teaching at SHJC in 2006, Michael continues to provide help to anyone who asks, and is well respected in our community. For example, I will often ask him to provide me with CDs that I can use to study for my Torah reading, and he is always happy to oblige.

In short, Michael is a highly skilled and well-respected tutor and teacher, and a joy to work with. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

  
Roz Rudofsky – SHJC Trustee &/or Vice President 1992-present  
Bar/Bat/Mitzvah Coordinator 1995-2005