Danielle Parmenter

Danielle’s Jewish journey began in college, when she awoke to the blessing of God’s presence and beheld the miraculous hiding beneath the mundane. Inspired by the words of Abraham Heschel, Mordecai M. Kaplan and Arthur Green, she earned a master’s degree in Judaic studies from Boston University. Increasingly awed by Jewish ritual and Torah, she pursued the rabbinate. While at RRC, she was privileged to serve a multitude of beautiful and diverse communities.

Danielle would like to thank her instructors and classmates for their love of learning. She wishes to thank her spiritual hevrutot throughout the years, who have offered her deepened breath and presence of mind.

Danielle extends gratitude to her mentors—Rabbis Helen, Fredi, Jodie, Lee, Josh and especially Yael—whose words of Torah never cease to nourish and light the way forward.

She is grateful for her soul-sisters Carrie, Jaime and Beth, who were always there to listen and make her laugh. Danielle would like to thank Wendy, John, Ryan, Elsie and George for always treating her like family—even from the beginning.

She continues to be inspired and awed by her grandparents Joan and Dick; she appreciates and strives to emulate their thirst for life and love of good food.

Danielle could not have reached this moment without the unwavering love and support of her parents, Simone and Bill. They taught her to believe in herself, shoot for the moon, celebrate the blessings, delight in the milestones and take leisurely walks while holding hands.

Danielle would like to thank her son, Henry, for bringing joy and wonder into her life each and every day. She feels overwhelmed with gratitude for the blessing of her husband, Scott, whose mere presence brings balance into her life. He has been her anchor, her cheerleader, her north star, and everything in between. She owes the fullness of her heart and her life to him.

How delicious is the light, what a blessing for the eyes to behold the sun!
—Ecclesiastes 11:7

Kohelet, the self-proclaimed author of the Book of Ecclesiastes, spoke these words of blessing and awe. Kohelet is perhaps the most depressed and distraught personality in all of Torah; nevertheless, hints of delight bubble to the surface. In the midst of despondency, Kohelet instructs us to enjoy the sweet taste of life alongside the tumult and disappointment. What is life if it does not contain sorrow and blessing, sadness and joy, loneliness and connection? Life thrives in the spaciousness of being present to it all. May we each find moments to taste the light and behold the sun, to dwell with the trees, kiss the ones we love, and luxuriate in the beauty of being alive. Amen, Selah.