Kate Cook

Kate grew up in the mountains of southern West Virginia in a family where attention to needs of others, a love of learning, and questioning everything were nourished—values indispensable to her love of family and community, and her work as a physician. These values and her love for Jewish life—Shabbat, marking Jewish time, learning and yearning for more—have propelled her toward her present studies. Her road to the rabbinate, though not direct, is informed by years of life experience that have added to her continuing role as student. As a general surgeon, her care was primarily in the role of “doing.” She is now drawn to care in the more pastoral role of “being.”

She entered rabbinical school to continue her Jewish education. While at RRC, she served in pulpit settings and in interfaith work with emerging religious leaders, but her work outside the classroom was primarily in pastoral care, working as an intern at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life and with Jewish Family and Children’s Services. She is in the midst of her second unit of clinical pastoral education, both units in hospital settings. Kate looks forward to combining her rabbinic training at RRC, her medical knowledge and her familiarity with two faith traditions in a chaplaincy role.

Kate would like to remember her parents, z”l, who modeled lives of service—her father through the practice of medicine in an underserved area and her mother through the creation and maintenance of hospitality and community. She would like to thank her siblings Peggy and Sam, who have supported her through change and challenge. She extends appreciation to Gary, her partner of many years, and to Bette, whose love and devotion helped make her children the fine young men they are today.

She is especially indebted to her advisors and teachers—who have guided her on her rabbinic path and who have shared their knowledge with wisdom and compassion—as well as to her friends and predecessors, who have enabled her to reach this day. Included in this group is a special thanks to her beloved classmates at RRC. To quote a Cook family member: “When it’s all over you think you had fun!”

She is most grateful to sons Harry and Ben, whose love and support continue to sustain her in all her endeavors. She cherishes the gift of watching them with pride as they make meaning in their own lives.

הلم נמלט על מנה ל🍋שא מוספוקים יבדו ל🍋מוד ל🍋מוד ל🍋מוד ל🍋שא

If one learns in order to practice, it is granted to that one to learn and to teach, to observe and to practice . . .
—Pirkei Avot 4:6

May it be so.