Lauren Simone Brody-Hyett

Lauren Simone Brody-Hyett was welcomed into the Jewish world by a Reconstructionist rabbi at her baby-naming ceremony, and there began her love of Judaism. She was blessed to have teachers who offered exciting and relevant perspectives and encouraged questioning. Her family made celebrating Jewish holidays and expressing Jewish values a priority. She was blessed with a university experience that gave her the opportunity to explore Judaic studies and Jewish leadership as well as Reconstructionism. She is incredibly grateful that she has been on a path of Jewish learning, celebration, struggle, exploration and dedication. While at RRC, Lauren has made it a priority to work in many different settings that serve Jews and those who love them. She believes that any position she takes will encompass many different aspects and forms of rabbinical work; she is thankful for the opportunity to gain these meaningful experiences.

The opportunity to reach this moment would not have been possible without family, friends, mentors and, of course, the Source of Life. She offers gratitude and love to her husband, Dave, for accompanying her on this journey and helping her in myriad ways; and to her parents, Marcy and Dan, her brother, Adam, and her extended family for their continual support. Lauren would like to thank her friends for encouraging and cheering her on and her teachers for guiding and expanding her mind. She would like to give biscuits to her very special dogs, Lily and Pear. During her rabbinical studies, Lauren and Dave were blessed with two children; Charlie and Amelia have given new perspectives on the joys of being Jewish, wonder, appreciation and love. To them she says thank you!

And the Source of Life blessed them, saying, “be fruitful and multiply ...”
—Genesis 1:28

The poem “Fully Alive” by Dawna Markova guides me into my work as a rabbi. It is infused with the Jewish stories, traditions and values that illustrate how I will endeavor to fulfill the above mitzvah in my rabbinate:

I will not die an unlived life.
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk my significance;
to live so that which came to me as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which came to me as blossom,
goes on as fruit.