
Life Stories and Wisdom Statements of the 2017 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.



Julianne Denise Benioff

Julie was born and raised in Berkeley, Calif., holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Master of Arts degree in Professional Communication from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Julie has been a fundraiser, curriculum developer, and synagogue religious school director. She participated in ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal's Davennan' Leadership Training Institute, Storahtelling's StorahLAB Summer Jewish Educator's Training Institute, and is in ALEPH's Hashpa'ah Spiritual

Director Training program.

Julie thanks her mentors, teachers, fellow students, Hillel students at Arcadia University, and congregants at Mishkan Shalom Synagogue. She is especially grateful to Mishkan Shalom's Rabbis Shawn Zevit, '98, and Yael Levy, '95, for providing a nurturing, inspiring space in which she could grow and serve. Julie thanks her beloved extended family and friends who have been an unending source of love and support. She thanks her parents, Carol, z"l, and Barry, for being there, always, in the darkness and in the light. She thanks Daniel and Annie for their open hearts, and Kali and Eric for being bonus love and joy. She thanks her children, Benjamin and Rachel, for their courage, resilience, radiance, trust and forever moon love. And, she thanks her partner, Randall, who dared her to dream, and has loved, supported, and uplifted her, entirely.

Unity is not a property of this world, but its task.

To form unity out of the world is our never ending work.

(Martin Buber)

Speak to the earth and it will teach you.

(Job 12:8)

שיח לארץ ותרך

The love within you: lift it up to its mighty root, to its beauty of Eden.

Send it spreading out to the entire flood of the soul of the Life of worlds.

(Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook)

Source of Life, Compassion, and Mystery, open our hearts to listen deeply to the holiness and wisdom of each other and the earth. May we, together, actualize and nurture a world of interconnectedness, healing, justice, and love.