



Ariel Cheryl L. Tarash

Ariel is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., who returned to the area to pursue her dream of becoming a rabbi. Earlier in her academic life, she graduated *cum laude* from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science in Communications. She went on to obtain a master’s degree in Jewish studies and in social work from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University dual-degree program.

In Ariel’s long career in Jewish communal service, she was a Jewish Family Service and hospice social worker, worked in Jewish Federations in community development and national grant coordination, and held positions with the Union of Reform Judaism and the Hillel Council of New England.

At RRC she focused on her passion, which is working with elders and those nearing end-of-life. She found excellent opportunities for this work in her internships at senior adult residences and at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, where she is a hospice chaplain. She is an alumna of the Rabbis without Borders Student Fellowship and a participant in ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal’s Davennen’ Leadership Training Institute. She also completed a multi-year program in Jewish meditation and became a trained *mikveh* guide.

Ariel thanks her parents for their never-ending love and support; beloved extended family and friends for cheering her on; rabbinic mentors David Cooper and Naomi Hyman for nurturing her spirit; Rabbis Tsurah August, Meryl Crean, ‘96, Erica Steelman, ‘12, and Joshua Zlochower for modeling how to serve elders with deep compassion and respect; Rabbi Jennifer Feldman, ‘00, and dear friends from Kehillah Synagogue in North Carolina; and her teachers and fellow students at RRC.

Soul’s Inspiration ~ 3 Haiku

New path arising
Each step toward a soul renewed
Heart and mind are free
 The present moment
 Breath of equanimity
 Rising passing now
Divine light surrounds
Each of us in The Image
All life intertwined

Thankful am I – Here I am.

מודה אני – הנני

May hearts and minds open, may souls and bodies heal, may we bring shalom, wholeness and peace to all beings and to the world.