



Kami Knapp

Kami holds an undergraduate and graduate degrees in international studies and diplomacy from Seattle University and the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies. Originally from the state of Washington, Kami's interest in rabbinical studies led her to RRC, where she focused on using Jewish tradition as a foundation to experiment with alternative and creative rabbinic practices.

While at RRC, Kami acquired a particular love for the *Zohar* and *Kabbalah* and sought to interweave their teachings into her personal and professional lives.

In gratitude for her achievement in graduating rabbinical school, Kami thanks her tremendously supportive parents, Wayne, z"l, and Carly Knapp. ("I'm so proud of becoming my father's rabbi daughter!") She is also grateful to her siblings, Kim, Merritt and Kenny, who encouraged her along the way; her niece, Mackenzie and nephew, Montana, who inspire her to work toward a profession she loves; and her close friends who took her in and helped her out when she moved to Philadelphia, Pa.

Kami is also grateful for the invaluable mentorship, advice, and counseling of Dr. Adina Newberg and Rabbis Fredi Cooper, '00, Nathan Martin, '06, and Vivie Mayer, '96. She also wishes to thank Rabbis Amber Powers, '02, and Roni Handler, '11, for their support in navigating her internships and her invaluable experience at Ritualwell.

It was said of Reb Simcha Bunem that he carried two slips of paper, one in each pocket. On one he wrote: *Bishvili nivra ha'olam*. (בשבילי נברא העולם)—for my sake the world was created (B. Sanhedrin 37b). On the other he wrote: *V'anokhi afar va'efer*. (ואנכי עפר ואפר)—I am but dust and ashes (Genesis 18:27). He would take out each slip of paper as necessary, as a reminder to himself. (Hassidic Teaching)

From the well of kindness your love for humanity must burst forth—not as an arbitrary obligation, for then it would lose the most clear aspect of its brilliance, but as a powerful movement of the spirit within you. (Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook)

I am honored to receive the title: Rabbi. I hope to serve as an example to others that the entire world was created for us alone, while we humbly realize that we are but dust and ashes. I strive to help others, both Jews and non-Jews, discover and maintain balance in their lives, a balance which recognizes that the world serves us but we also serve the world. Let us all find the unique light that burns within us and use it to serve the world.