

Rabbi J. Hershy Worch

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Dean *Yeshiva Ateret Tzvi* - The Open Yeshiva

Dean and Rabbi, 1998 – Present - The Open Yeshiva – Chicago, IL - Los Angeles, CA

WWW.OPENYESHIVA.COM is the online annex of *Yeshiva Ateret Tzvi* whose mission is to assist those not affiliated with any specific Jewish denomination to acquire Torah learning and rabbinic skills, leading to ordination. It is open to people from all walks of life, whatever background and current skills they have, irrespective of age, sex or nationality. The syllabus is comprised mainly of traditional rabbinic texts. In addition there are special facilities for the study of Kabbalah, Hassidut, Hasidic and *Hazanut* - Cantorial music.

Minister and Rabbi, 1993 – 1998 - Abayudaya Community of Mbale, Eastern Uganda.

Duties: Organize international fundraising and publicity campaign on behalf of rural Ugandan Jews, the Abayudaya; to provide drinking water and electricity to the community at Nabugoye Hill and to pay for scholarships to educate orphans of the local population, Jewish, Christian and Muslim at school; and to create sustainable jobs for those Abayudaya who have no land to farm.

Hillel Director, 1995 – 1998

Hillel: Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, Melbourne, Australia – HaMakom, Jewish Study and Youth Cultural Center, Melbourne, Australia, 95-97 - Hillel Foundation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 97 – 98

Pulpit Rabbi, 1992 – 1995 - Young Israel of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Pastoral and educational leadership of growing suburban community adjacent to Providence, Rhode Island. Chaplaincy at local hospitals and prisons; compassionate life-cycle involvement with congregants' birth, circumcision and naming celebrations, bar-bat mitzvah tutoring, pre-nuptial counseling and agreements, funeral, bereavement and loss.

WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS

- *The Kabbalist Haggadah: A Handbook of the Seder* Published by S.O.D. Dec. 2003
- *Sacred Fire – Torah From the Years of Fury 1939-42* Published by Jason Aronson, Dec. 2000
- *Mikevs and Cholent in Uganda* Part V of: *JEWS IN PLACES YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF* Published by Ktav 1998. Edited by Karen Primack
- *My Soul Thirsts...* A Recording of Original Music and Song, Prod. & Pub. Quark Studios 1994
- *Campus Despatches* An irregular column for the Australian Jewish News
- *That Reminds Me of a Story...* A weekly column for the Rhode Island Jewish Herald

EDUCATION

Netzach Israel Rabbinical Seminary, Sunderland, England, 1970 – 1972
Beis Meir Institute for Rabbinical Studies, Bnei Brak, Israel, 1972 – 1974
Advanced Rabbinical Studies, Manchester, England, 1975 – 1980
Smicha - Ordination from Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, New York City, 1992

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Rabbinical Advisory Board, KULANU (Dedicated to finding and assisting lost Jewish communities) - Rabbinical Council, JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependant and Significant Others) - Aids Buddies: Chaplaincy to Project AIDS USA - Council of Christians and Jews - C.C.T.I. Council for Chaplaincy in Tertiary Institutions - Generation Magazine Editorial Committee - Religious Workers Association, University of Illinois