**Rabbi** **David B. Starr, Ph.D.**

**4 Alton Court, #2 ~ Brookline, MA 02446**

**(617) 510-4429 ~ thedavidstarr@gmail.com**

**PROFILE**

Rabbi, Scholar, and Educational leader with recognized accomplishment helping institutions envision, create, implement and manage innovative programs that encourage learning, spiritual growth, and community. Transformative mentor and teacher, empowering students to reach their potential intellectually and morally. Scholarship and instructional areas of expertise in history, philosophy, religion, and literature.

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

Tzion (www.tzionlearning.com), Brookline, MA

**Executive Director** (2012-Present)

* Designed and founded a unique program to educate American Jews about Zionism and Israel. Begun as a single class in Sharon, MA, the program has expanded to serve ten communities in three cities.
* Developed curriculum to encourage deep knowledge of primary and secondary sources, and to cultivate both critical thinking and creativity.
* Formulated plans to launch similar programs for high schoolers, collegians, non-Jews, and online learners.

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

**Visiting Research Associate, Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry** (2016-Present)

* Engaged in research and writing in the field of European Jewish thought and history.

**Charles Bronfman Chair / Associate Professor of Jewish Studies** (2010-2011)

* Conducted research for book on history, philosophy, and impact of adult literacy programs.
* Taught course on Jewish Civic Identity open to graduate and undergraduate students.

**Instructor, Zionism and Israel in Historical Perspective**(1997-2003)

Gann Academy/New Jewish High School, Waltham, MA

**Instructor** (2012-2016)

* Designed curriculum and taught classes in *History of Israel, The Holocaust, The Vietnam War, Modern European History, Hebrew Bible/Modern Jewish Thought, Judaism and Western Civilization.*
* Scholar in Residence for Israel Programming, working to enhance Israel education formally and informally within the school, and for the semester abroad in Israel experience.
* Advised Head of School on institutional reorganization and mission statement revision.

Tikvah Fund, New York, NY

**Senior Advisor** (2010-2011)

* Evaluated High School Scholars Program, including pluralistic schools (Heschel and Gann Academy), making site visits to participating schools and leading staff retreats.
* Conducted outreach to prospective schools to evaluate feasibility for program expansion.
* Selected Conservative rabbis to participate in seminars to enhance their learning in various philosophical areas, and worked with participants on grants for projects in their own communities.

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Hebrew College, Newton, MA

**Vice President** (2008-2010)

* Chief strategic adviser to the President for all aspects of operations, including vision, strategic planning, operations, programs, personnel, and academic affairs.
* Recruited five new Board of Trustees members and staffed Nominations Committee.
* Managed $2,000,000 departmental budget.
* Advanced strategic thinking among the professional leadership of the College, culminating heading the College mission statement process.
* Oversaw community outreach to professional and lay leadership locally and nationally.
* Worked with lead partner, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, to create, sustain, and repair programs and key relationships.
* Partnered with Development to create and steward donors and new constituencies.
* Created new vision and new synergies for community education.
* Rebuilt adult education staff, managed staff, and reinvigorated site recruitment.
* Consulted with and developed curriculum for partnership with B’nai Brith Youth Organization.

**Dean, *Me'ah*** (1994-2010)

* Founding Academic Director; created curriculum for two-year intensive course of adult learning, featuring critical university-level teaching.
* Branded, marketed, and recruited, increasing program enrollment from 50 students to 4000 alumni, and over 250 classes nationwide in 200 synagogues and other institutions.
* Built and sustained relationships with community stakeholders.
* Taught courses in medieval and modern Jewish history and thought.

**Assistant Professor of History** (2003-2010) / **Instructor of History** (1994-2003)

* Served on curriculum committees for graduate programs and newly launched rabbinical school.
* Taught courses in, *Zionism and Israel in Historical Perspective, Autobiography and Biography in History, History of Ancient Israel, History and Memory, Modern Jewish History,* and *The Fiction of Modern Jewish History.*
* Created new models for distance learning.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

Temple Israel of Great Neck**,** Great Neck, NY

**Associate Rabbi** (4 Years)

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School**,** New York, NY

**New York Area Coordinator** (1 Year)

Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA

**Visiting Rabbi, High Holy Days** (Ongoing since 1995)

**EDUCATION**

Columbia University, New York, NY

* Ph.D., History (American) and Jewish Studies

Dissertation: *Catholic Israel: Solomon Schechter, A Study of Unity and Fragmentation in Modern Jewish History*

* M.A., History

Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, NY

* Rabbinical Ordination
* M.A., Judaic Studies

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

* B.A., History

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**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Legacy Heritage Foundation,New York, NY**, Mentor, On Board Program,** 2014-2015

Segal College of Judaic Studies**,** Cleveland, OH, **Scholar in Residence,** 2012 & 2014

Wexner Heritage Foundation, Columbus, OH, **Faculty,** 2009-Present

Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston, MA, **Scholar in Residence**, 2009-2010

# Mandel Leadership Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, Jerusalem Fellow, 2007

# Haifa University, Haifa, Israel, Book Review Editor, 2004-2008

Brandeis Summer Institute in Israel**, Fellow**, 2005

Harvard Radcliffe Hillel, Cambridge, MA, **Rabbinic Advisor**, 1994-1999

**AFFILIATIONS**

Rabbinical Assembly

American Historical Association

Association of Jewish Studies

World History Association

**SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

Innovative Leadership in Jewish Pluralism, Hebrew College, 2012

Vilna Shul, Boston. Legacy of Learning Award, 2009

Keter Torah Award for Jewish Education, 2005

Benjamin Shevach Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Jewish Education, 2004

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Dissertation Fellowship, 2003-2004

Harry Starr Fellow, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, 2002-2003

Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University, 2002-2003 & 1993-1995,

Jacob Rader Marcus Fellow, Center of the American Jewish Archives, 2002-2003

Columbia University, History Department Graduate Stipend, 2002

Dorot Foundation, Graduate School Fellowship, 1993-1995 & 1987-1989