

Advocacy

I recognize and respect *the many faces and differences* among JTS rabbinical school students.

We are female and male, straight and queer, entering our second careers or just out of college.

We come from rabbinic families, we are Jews-by-choice, we are new to observance. We are international and we are from the United States. We all deserve to walk these halls with the confidence that the RSSO represents us, advocates for us, and protects us.

The RSSO must be the foremost protector of and advocate for student dignity and rights. To this end I will establish a

Committee on Human Dignity

at the rabbinical school. This committee will be the primary sounding board for issues of student dignity and concern.

Community

I will continue to expand the successful RSSO programming which we have all enjoyed over this past year. ***I intend to designate the RSSO communications chair to be the RSSO Program Director.*** Dividing the executive board responsibilities of programming and advocacy will allow the RSSO to serve both ends better.

Community time is a wonderful but under-utilized resource.

When holidays near, Wednesdays will follow a Yom Iyyun model.

We will have a community time, a lunch-and-learn, and a brief dvar tefilah at Mincha – that will all pertain to themes that will help all of us spiritually and professionally. Other community times will involve more ***opportunities for students to share their own Torah and spiritual quests***, and more chances for us to utilize the vast rabbinic expertise of the New York area to further

our professional development.

Ours is a spiritual community. Our spiritual growth is as important to our development as rabbis as the growth of our textual and exegetical skills. The ground should shake when we pray together. I recognize this is an ideal, but my presidency of the RSSO will be characterized by a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of all students.

Urgency

Our country and our school are facing extraordinary economic challenges. We have already seen the closing of the Beit Midrash and dining hall on Fridays, and will doubtless see further closings and cutbacks.

It is more important than ever that the RSSO be supple enough to respond to immediate challenges.

To this end, I will utilize the pre-existing expertise of the student body and designate an official

RSSO Financial Advisor

to give advice and counsel to the RSSO regarding the school's and students' economic situation.

In order to hear a broad range of student concerns as often as possible, ***every day of the week a different executive committee member will sit in the dining hall to eat lunch with students during lunchtime "office hours."***

As official liaison between the students, the Chancellor and the Deans, I will take seriously my constitutional obligation to represent you. To achieve this I will publicize the dates and times of my meetings with Chancellor Eisen and Dean Nevins, will solicit student input for topics of discussion, and will provide a weekly update on the content of these conversations via RSSO.org.

About Me

I am proud to have served on the RSSO for the past year. What's more, I have an MS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University. I have spent the past two years at JTS loving the time I have spent with my classmates and teachers, and with eyes open to the incredible successes and fundamental shortcomings of the JTS experience.