



Rabbi Ari Jun

organizer | educator | scholar

Rabbi Ari Jun is a respected spiritual leader, scholar, and community activist. Trained in advanced religious studies and equipped with a compassionate heart, Jun has dedicated his life to guiding and inspiring individuals on their spiritual and cultural journeys. As the director of Cincinnati's Jewish Community Relations Council, Rabbi Jun's devotion to social justice and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) are evident in his tireless efforts to fight antisemitism and hate, address pressing issues, and create positive change. He is a strategic thinker and a community convener.

Contact

Phone
513-203-8553

Email
aryehjun@gmail.com

Website
<https://arijun.com/>

Education

present
PhD Candidate
Hebrew Union College

2018
MPhil in Judaic, Hebraic, and Cognate Studies
Hebrew Union College

2015
Rabbinical Ordination
Hebrew Union College

2013
MA in Hebrew Letters
Hebrew Union College

2010
BA in Political Science
Bellarmine University

Expertise

- Antisemitism education and response
- Strategic crisis communication
- Political advocacy and lobbying
- Community organizing
- Lay leader management and collaboration
- Jewish thought, text, and literature
- Composition for lay and professional audiences
- Research and analysis

Experience

2022-present

Jewish Community Relations Council | Cincinnati, OH

Director

- Create and deploy strategy for responding to antisemitic incidents.
- Plan, supervise, and execute Cohen Family Leaders in Light Fellowship (and secured \$500,000 naming gift to fund program) to develop network of extremism-fighting change-makers.
- Meet with community partners and funders to secure support for JCRC work.
- Lobby for good legislation and funding on behalf of the Cincinnati Jewish community.
- Manage local, state, and federal public affairs of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.
- Collaborate with and supervise lay board of community stakeholders.

2019-2022

Hebrew Union College | Cincinnati, OH

Recruitment and Leadership Development Associate

- Performed outreach to Midwestern colleges and universities to attract prospective rabbinical, MA, and PhD students.
- Helped prospective students from across the globe discern whether a career as a Jewish professional was right for them.
- Maintained databases and tracked engagement of/communications with prospective students.

2018-2019

Jewish Community Relations Council | Dayton, OH

Director

- Liaised between Jewish community and other religious/ethnic/racial/minorities in region.
- Organized communal educational events on topics of interest.
- Lobbied state/federal politicians to increase funding for Jewish organizations.
- Formed and led a Rapid Response Team for the Dayton Jewish Federation, which composed press releases and organized communal responses in aftermath of significant events.
- Led communal responses to crises, including a vigil after the Squirrel Hill synagogue shooting, a community rally when the KKK demonstrated in town, and PR support after a nearby mosque was threatened by a gunman.

2015-2020

Temple Beth Or | Dayton, OH

Assistant Rabbi/Rabbi-Educator

- Supervised educational outreach for all ages.
- Taught children, Jewish adults, and members of the broader community exploring Judaism for the first time.
- Wrote copy for and edited monthly newsletter.
- Partnered to raise funds, sustain member engagement to ensure long-term viability of institution.

2014-2021

Various Institutions | Dayton, OH, Cincinnati, OH, and Los Angeles, CA

Professor and Teacher's Assistant

- Served as an adjunct instructor for the University of Cincinnati, teaching Jewish History.
- Served as a teacher's assistant (TA) at the Hebrew Union College and University of Southern California, teaching Post-Talmudic Halakhic Literature, Introduction to Rabbinic Literature, and Jewish History.
- Served as a visiting fellow at the University of Dayton, teaching Introduction to Judaism.

Notable positions, accomplishments, and distinctions

2023-present

Trifaiith Initiative Emerging Clergy Seminar Fellow

2022-present

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) Executive Board Member

2022-present

Cincinnati Regional Coalition Against Hate Executive Board Member

2021-present

Lead fundraiser and co-editor of the forthcoming *G'dulat Mordechai: Essays on Rabbinic Thought in Honor of Mark Washofsky*

2018-present

ABD PhD student, writing dissertation: "Af B'Sakhako: Humor in the Babylonian Talmud"

2021-2023

Chair of Study of Judaism section of the Midwest American Academy of Religion

2019-2020

Ruslander-Friedland Teaching Fellow at the University of Dayton

2014-2018

Jewish Intellectual History Fellow of the Hebrew Union College

2016

Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs-HUC Rabbinic Seminar Participant

2014-2015

Fellow of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati

2014

Hebrew Union College Graduate Archaeology Program participant

2010

Bellarmino University Honors Graduate, summa cum laude, with honors thesis: "Analyzing the Central Conference of American Rabbis: The Trend to Traditionalism in Reform Judaism"

Other significant skills

- Curricular design
- Training in Human Relations
- Extensive knowledge of Jewish culture, history, and literature
- Grant writing
- Facility with graphic design
- Multilingual (English, Hebrew, Aramaic, French, Spanish, Korean)

References available upon request
