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Profile

A spiritual leader and hands-on healer, Rabbi Sara Brandes offers Judaism and kabbalah as a roadmap for constructing a meaningful life. A organization builder, scholar, writer, and teacher, Rabbi Brandes is the founder of Awakened Body and the author of Magical World: Stories, Reflections, Poems

Experience

Founder and Healer, Awakened Body— 2020 - Present

Through 1:1 healing depth work, online courses and self-guided healing journeys, Rabbi Brandes initiates practitioners in the path of the Awakened Body.

Executive Director, Or HaLev— 2016-2020

As the senior executive, Sara transformed Or HaLev from fledgling start up to thriving global Jewish organization. During her tenure, she grew the annual operating budget and organizational reach by 400%. A member of Upstart Cohort 10, Sara incorporated the organization in Israel and the US and supported its global staff in offering transformational Jewish programming on three continents.

California Director, Moving Traditions — 2011 - 2014

As a member of a national leadership team, Sara represented Moving Traditions in California, formed strategic partnerships, wrote grants, supervised and trained educators and wrote curriculum for international replication. Sara maintains a network of professional contacts in the United States and is respected in the field of Jewish teen engagement.

Director of Education, Rabbi-in-Residence, Camp Alonim of the AJU — 2001-5, 2012-present

For more than a decade, Sara has shaped the educational vision and program of Camp Alonim of the American Jewish University, training, mentoring and supervising staff, and teaching High School students.

Middle School Rabbi, Milken Community High School 2008 - 2011

A member of the senior school administration, Sara served as community rabbi and Jewish Studies department chair. In this capacity, she supervised instruction, wrote curriculum in Bible and Mishna and taught 7th and 8th grade students.

Director of Recruitment and Alumni Relations, Pardes Institute 2004-5

As a member of the US Pardes professional team, Sara coordinated fundraising efforts among Pardes alumni and recruited students for the Pardes Institute in Israel.

Education

Jewish Theological Seminary of America- Rabbinic Ordination and MA, 2008

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva Study, 2000-2002

Emory University, BA in Religion, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa 2000

Skills

Disciplined self-starter, motivator and collaborator

Detail oriented and organized, with the ability to manage every stage of multifaceted projects.

Excellent written and oral communication skills, Hebrew and English.

Tech native: Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint. Salesforce, Razors Edge and similar. Wordpress and basic web design. Social media marketing, Google Analytics.

Fellowships and Awards

Upstart, Cohort 10 2017-2019

Presentense LA - Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2013

Neshama Award for Excellence, Milken Community High School, 2009

Recipient Bernard and Sydel Citron Scholastic Prize recognizing the outstanding candidate for Rabbinic Ordination, JTS 2008

References

Taylor Epstein, Managing Director, Upstart taylor@upstart.org

Susan Rotstein, Executive Coach, Upstart susanlroth@icloud.com

Deborah Meyer, CEO Moving Traditions dmeyer@movingtraditions.org

Rabbi Dr. James Jacobson Maisels, CEO Or HaLev james@orhalev.org
