

MICHAEL “MIKEY” HESS WEBBER

Michael "Mikey" Hess Webber has served as the student rabbi at CJC since September 2020. This year, at CJC, she has led Shabbat services, taught an adult *Learning to Leyn* multi-session class, led the Tu B'Shevat seder and taught classes for CJCS. Having grown up just down the road, in Laurel, MD, she is excited to have found such a vibrant, warmly inclusive and engaged Jewish community so close to home. Mikey is completing her fifth and final year of study at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She will be ordained in May 2021. Mikey is a 2007 graduate of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.

Mikey completed a Master's Concentration in Israel Education and is a 2018-2019 T'ruah Israel Fellow. Mikey also serves on the national clergy task force for [Jewish Women International](#) - a Jewish organization advocating for gender equity and the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. In her home, Baltimore City, she was a [Jews United for Justice Jeremiah](#) Fellow and is also presently a Justice Leaders Fellow at the [Institute for Islamic Jewish and Christian Studies](#).

Before rabbinical school, Mikey's career centered around the mentorship of Jewish teens and young adults. She spent five years working with BBYO and another three as the Youth Director at Oseh Shalom Congregation in Laurel, MD – where she developed the congregation's teen leadership program called *TeenConnect*. Mikey also worked for two years at [Whole Community Inclusion](#) - an organization that engages children with cognitive and physical disabilities, supporting them in accessing full and rich Jewish educational and communal experiences. There she co-led the Teen Assistance Program - training teen madrichim (classroom aids) to assist children with disabilities in the classroom. Currently, Mikey is an educator

for Hillel International. Her work for Hillel is focused on leadership development and empowering Jewish leaders on campuses across North America.

A formative moment in Mikey's life was her choice to move to Israel in 2011 where she lived in Jerusalem for a year and lived, for a year and a half, on *Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael*, where she worked in the kibbutz fish ponds and then as a traveling pizza maker. Mikey has developed a complex and ever-deepening relationship with the land and the Israeli and Palestinian people and, as the political climate has grown more polarized, she has become passionate about giving voice to the humanity and diverse narratives that often get lost in conversations about Israel/Palestine.

In her free time, Mikey spends a lot of time in the dirt as an avid gardener. She loves going on walks in the forest and painting. She also spends a lot of time with her wonderful husband, Scott and their cats, Reuben and Ziggy.