

Bio - Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch

Neil P.G. Hirsch serves as Rabbi at [Hevreh of Southern Berkshire](#) in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, a role he has held since July 2015.

Before coming to Great Barrington, Rabbi Hirsch was the Associate Rabbi at [Temple Shalom](#) in Newton, Massachusetts. He earned his B.A. in Art History and Classics from [Tufts University](#), and was ordained by the [Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion](#) in New York City in 2010. He is currently a candidate for a Doctorate of Hebrew Literature at HUC-JIR, studying *Halakhah*, specifically looking at the intersection of accountability and *t'shuvah* (repentance). Rabbi Hirsch grew up in Houston, Texas.

Rabbi Hirsch's writing has appeared in [Tablet Magazine](#), [The Berkshire Eagle](#), [Kveller.com](#), and *The CCAR Journal: a Reform Jewish Quarterly*.

Within the congregation, Rabbi Hirsch works with his staff team to foster a positive culture of service-leadership. He prides himself on the culture of commitment and joy that the Hevreh staff bring to their work.

He has also taken on several large-scale, strategic initiatives that have expanded the many ways people engage in the life of the congregation. Because the Berkshires is a vacation destination, Rabbi Hirsch coordinates summer programming in partnership with lay leaders each summer that brings congregants and visitors into the synagogue. This has taken on several forms over the years, including a book festival, but always features collaborative and creative partnerships with other Jewish organizations. In 2019, in response to the Berkshire's designation as a childcare desert, after several years of planning and capital improvements, Rabbi Hirsch oversaw the opening of the Early Childhood Center at Hevreh. This nursery school program

provides childcare to its younger congregant families and others in the broader community.

Rabbi Hirsch also prompted the creation of and leads a Sunday religious school *t'filah* program each week that teaches basic prayers and worship practice to our young people while fostering a sense of spirituality for parents.

Alongside his responsibilities within the congregation, Rabbi Hirsch holds leadership positions within the community—both in the Berkshires and in the Reform Movement. He has served on local boards and committees, including the board of [Construct, Inc.](#) In 2017, he founded [BASIC](#), a faith-based and human services network that ensures access to resources for the local immigrant community. He is currently a member of the Berkshire Medical Center ethics committee. He was a member of the [Israel Policy Forum's](#) Charles Bronfman Conveners Cohort in 2021. He founded and is the co-chairperson of the [Religious Action Center of Massachusetts](#).

Rabbi Hirsch has varied interests but especially has a passion for photography and anything that will get him outdoors. He loves running and biking and is a lifelong tennis player and golfer. Living in New England, he also picked up the skiing bug. He likes experimenting in the kitchen, recently perfecting his chocolate chip pancake recipe. He is married to Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch, Executive Director of the [Women of Reform Judaism](#). They have two children, Lior (6.5 years old) and Mikah (2.5 years old).