

# BENJAMIN SHALVA

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POET | CHAPLAIN | RABBI

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Poet, teacher, speaker, hospice chaplain, and rabbi with three published books, numerous poems, stories, and essays in magazines and literary journals, and over two decades of experience leading workshops, officiating spiritual services, and guiding individuals and families through moments of healing and transformation.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

#### **House of Mourning**

*Kelsay Books, 2025*

#### **Ambition Addiction**

*Grand Harbor Press, 2016*

#### **Spiritual Cross-Training**

*Grand Harbor Press / Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (Spanish Edition), 2016*

### POETRY

#### **"Lines for Kenyon"**

*Orchards Poetry Journal, Summer 2025*

#### **"Burning Bush," "Morning Before"**

*Reform Jewish Quarterly, Spring 2025*

#### **"Hang in There!"**

*Tab Journal, Volume 12, Issue 4, Fall 2024*

#### **"House of Mourning," "Fells Point"**

*Pen in Hand, January 2024*

#### **"At the Breezy Time of Day"**

*Image, Issue 116, Spring 2023*

#### **"The Cup," "Hunger," "Portrait of Dr. Gachet," "Cemetery, Late Fall"**

*Awakenings Review, Spring 2023*

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## PROSE

### **"The Thistle"**

*Hazon, 2022*

Creative Arts Prize – First Place

### **"Brutus"**

*Peauxdunque Review, 2020*

### **"Sota"**

*Ponder Review, 2020*

### **"Head in the Clouds: Navigating Devotion & Dependence in the Digital Age"**

*daCunha, 2017*

New Millennium Awards Finalist; *Chattahoochee Review* Lamar York Prize Finalist

### **"The Hidden Power of Singing"**

*The Washington Post, 2016*

### **"Gratitude: An Act of Truth Telling"**

*Spirituality & Health Magazine, 2016*

## WORKSHOPS AND TEACHING

### **Third Space, Baltimore, MD — Workshop Facilitator**

2025

Led *The Language of Loss: A Jewish Poetic Encounter with Mourning and Memory*, a poetry and healing workshop exploring Jewish texts, personal grief, and creative expression.

### **Soul Center, Baltimore, MD — Wisdom Leader, Mindfulness Instructor, and Song Leader**

2017–2025

Developed and led experiential programs integrating meditation, music, Jewish sacred text, and prayer. Facilitated mindfulness classes, musical prayer services, and contemplative community gatherings.

### **Jewish Book Council Author Tour — National Tour Author & Speaker**

2016–2017

Selected by the Jewish Book Council to participate in its national network of author events. Delivered readings, lectures, and workshops on themes from *Ambition Addiction* and *Spiritual Cross-Training* at synagogues, bookstores, and Jewish community centers across the U.S.

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## **Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington, Washington, D.C. — Mindfulness & Meditation Instructor**

*2014–2018*

Designed and facilitated regular meditation sessions and Jewish contemplative learning programs for a diverse spiritual community, with a focus on embodied awareness and personal reflection.

## **Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, Washington, D.C. — Meditation & Mindfulness Instructor**

*2013–2023*

Led meditation groups and mindfulness-based Jewish learning experiences. Collaborated with clergy and musicians to offer integrated contemplative services and holiday events.

## **CHAPLAINCY AND RABBINIC SERVICES**

### **Gilchrist, Baltimore, MD — Rabbi, Hospice Chaplain, Manager of Jewish Care, Support & Rabbinic Services**

*2022–Present*

Provide spiritual support and pastoral care to patients and families at end of life. Supervise a team of rabbis delivering hospice services across the region. Lead Jewish programming and organize community-wide events to increase awareness and accessibility of hospice care in the Greater Baltimore area.

### **Tamarack Camps, Ortonville, MI — Camp Rabbi, Director of Jewish Life**

*2015–2023*

Oversaw Jewish education and worship for a large residential camp. Led services, taught classes, counseled campers and staff, and fostered a vibrant Jewish learning community.

### **Jewish Social Service Agency, Washington, D.C. — Rabbi, Hospital Chaplain**

*2013–2016*

Provided spiritual care to patients and families in medical settings.

### **Nashua Street Jail, Boston, MA — Prison Chaplain**

*2011–2013*

Led interfaith meditation groups and one-on-one pastoral care for incarcerated individuals. Offered spiritual counseling and facilitated Jewish observance within a correctional setting.

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## EDUCATION

**St. Luke's–Roosevelt Hospital, New York, NY — Clinical Pastoral Education (C.P.E.) in Hospital Chaplaincy**

2005

Completed supervised chaplaincy training with a focus on interfaith spiritual care in acute medical settings.

**Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY — Rabbinic Ordination & Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters**

2004–2008

Solomon and Rose S. Lasdon Prize in Art & Scholarship

Israel H. Levinthal Prize in Homiletics

**Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY — Bachelor of Arts in Religion**

1995–1999

Phi Beta Kappa, General Honors, Departmental Honors