

Rabbi Adam J. Raskin

Rabbi Adam J. Raskin is the spiritual leader of Congregation Har Shalom. Originally from Cleveland, OH, he developed a love of synagogue life as a child, and was encouraged by his own rabbi to grow and learn Jewishly, to go to Israel, and to imagine a career in the rabbinate. He earned his BA in Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University, and received the prestigious Wexner Graduate Fellowship for his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and Jerusalem. Upon ordination, the Rabbinical School awarded him the Lamport Prize in Homiletics. He has served as a compassionate rabbi, enthusiastic teacher, and devoted advocate for Jewish life in congregations in Huntsville, AL, Dallas and Richardson, TX, and now in Potomac.

Rabbi Raskin is the past president of the Rabbinic Association of Greater Dallas, and he served as an adjunct faculty member in the Jewish Studies program at the University of North Texas. He completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Children's Medical Center of Dallas, where he honed pastoral skills and a special rapport with children. Rabbi Raskin is a charismatic teacher and storyteller, and is actively involved in early childhood education, religious school and day school teaching, and is an enthusiastic supporter of USY, Jewish teen programs and camps.

Rabbi Raskin has been a leader in the Conservative movement's outreach efforts to interfaith families, and has developed creative programs and initiatives to support and encourage spouses and parents to make meaningful Jewish life choices. He is also a member of the Nominations Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly. Rabbi Raskin has been involved in several educational initiatives, from co-founding an innovative Jewish 11th-12th grade program to teaching in the Melton Adult Mini-School for many years. He also has a passion for Israel and has led numerous trips for teens and adults helping them to forge connections with the land, people, and destiny of Israel.

Rabbi Raskin was selected to participate in the executive leadership program *Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal: Professional Education for Excellence in the Rabbinate*. He was also a fellow at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School, Management Education Program for Jewish Leaders. His writing has appeared in several periodicals, as well as the Jewish Publication Society's series *Celebrating the Jewish Year*.

Rabbi Raskin is joined in his sacred work by his wife, Sari Levinson Raskin, who shares his love of traditional Jewish life and his commitment to outreach. Sari is a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin, and the University of Maryland School of Social Work/Baltimore Hebrew University where she obtained her Masters of Social Work and MA in Jewish Studies. She has worked extensively in both Jewish and community-wide settings, most recently in the field of social venture philanthropy. The Raskins have three wonderful children, Mia, Nessa, and Ezra.

