



THE ARJE PLACEMENT PROCESS *AL REGEL ACHAT*
December 15, 2016 15 Kislev 5777



ט) אמר רבי יוסי בן קסמא. פעם אחת הייתי מהלך בדרך ופגע בי אדם אחד ונתן לי שלום והחזרתי לו שלום. אמר לי. רבי. מאיזה מקום אתה. אמרתי לו. מעיר גדולה של חכמים ושל סופרים אני. אמר לי. רבי. רצונך שתדור עמנו במקומנו ואני אתן לך אלף אלפים דינרי זהב ואבנים טובות ומרגליות. אמרתי לו. בני. אם אתה נותן לי כל כסף וזהב ואבנים טובות ומרגליות שבעולם. איני דר אלא במקום תורה

Rabbi Yose ben Kisma said: Once I was traveling and a man greeted me. When I returned his greeting, he said to me, "Rabbi, from what place do you come?" I replied, "From a great city of sages and scholars." He then said, "Rabbi, would you be willing to live with us in our place?" I will give you a million golden dinars and precious stones and pearls." (But) I (then) told him, "I would not live anywhere except in a place of Torah."

Pirkei Avot 6:9

1. Things to consider before starting the process (if applicable):
 - a. What type of job do you want? Czar of education? Mostly administrative?
 - b. Is having a (strong) mentor important to you? Or do you want to be on your own?
 - c. Geographic parameters—are you open to living only in certain areas of North America?
 - d. Size of congregation? Size of community? Urban? Suburban? Rural?
 - e. Salary and benefits?

2. The ARJE process requires that you submit a resume and a personal statement
 - a. Résumé
 - i. Not more than 2-3 pages
 - ii. Language should be clear and grammatically correct
 - iii. Layout should help make it legible and easy to read
 - iv. References can be included now, or on a separate sheet that is forwarded later to searching institutions. Between 3 and 6 references should be provided.

 - b. Personal Statement 2-3 pages
 - i. This is an opportunity for you to share something about yourself that might not quite fit into a résumé (I played 2 years of college baseball, I lived on a kibbutz for a year, I published a recipe in a cookbook, I worked in a factory for 7 summers, I write a blog about the Oakland Raiders)

 - ii. Do not repeat what is in your résumé. This is an opportunity to present a fuller picture of yourself—passions, priorities, values, etc.

- iii. Will hopefully prompt a search committee (member) to respond with—
“Wow, s/he sounds really interesting, I’d like to talk to her/meet him. It sounds like s/he would be great with our kids/families/congregants, etc.”
- iv. Be comfortable with what you share. Don’t need to share too much if you are not comfortable, and don’t misrepresent.
- v. Possible topics:
 - What personal experience motivated you to enter the field of Jewish education?
 - Who is your Jewish “hero?”
 - Describe a significant professional experience you have had.
 - Explain your philosophy of (Jewish) education.
 - What might you want to change about the Jewish experiences you have had in the past?
 - Select a text or verse from Jewish tradition that informs your professional role and explain its significance to you.
 - Discuss one of the challenges facing Reform Jewish education in the 21st century.
 - Explain your philosophy of Judaism.
 - Discuss some of your interests outside of your professional commitments.
- I. Once you’re satisfied that these are close to the final drafts, e-mail them to me as file attachments in any format.
 - A. I will look for glaring typos, run-on sentences, anything inappropriate and let you know about these.
 - B. Make sure they are as close to the final draft as possible. I don’t want to read lots of drafts.
- II. Final versions will be converted into pdf format, and this is what will be e-mailed to congregations attached to a cover note. You will be cc’d. **Please do not mail your materials directly to a searching congregation/institution—the ARJE office will take care of this task.**

And please do not apply for a position through jewishjobs.com until you have first been in touch with the ARJE Office.

Dear ,

Attached is a pdf of the materials of Clarence Prognose, RJE, who requested that they be sent to you. Let me know if you have any trouble opening the file. Thanks in advance for sending a brief acknowledgment e-mail to Clarence (clarence@prognose.net), whose e-mail address is also above.

Feel free to be in touch as you continue the process.

L'shalom,

Stan Schickler

|||||

Rabbi Stanley T. Schickler, RJE
Association of Reform Jewish Educators
(formerly NATE)
633 Third Ave
New York, NY 10017
Phone 212-452-6510
Fax 212-452-6512
sschickler@reformeducators.org
www.reformeducators.org

- III. Once this e-mail goes out, the process is an open one, and you can be in contact with the congregation.

רבי אומר אל תסתכל בקנקן. אלא במה שיש בו. יש קנקן חדש מלא יין. וישן שאפילו
חדש אין בו

Do not look at the flask but at what it contains: a new flask may be filled with old wine and an old flask may be empty even of new wine.

Pirkei Avot 4:27

- IV. Placement season begins in early January, and peaks from mid-February through the first week of March. Generally begins to wind down around *Pesach*.
- V. I am available for consultation during all steps of the process.

כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה

All Israel are responsible (bound up) with one another

Bavli Shavuot 39A

Contact Information

Rabbi Stan Schickler, RJE
212-452-6510
sschickler@reformeducators.org
www.reformeducators.org