



The
Association of
Reform Jewish Educators

Since 1955

633 Third Avenue | New York, NY 10017-6778

ARJE PLACEMENT *AL REGEL ACHAT*

Rabbi Stan Schickler, RJE

January 14, 2020 17 Tevet 5780



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 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



THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE STARTING THE PROCESS (IF APPLICABLE):

1. What type of job do you want? Czar of education? Mostly administrative?
2. Is having a strong mentor important to you? Or do you want to be on your own?
3. Geographic parameters—are you open to living only in certain areas of North America?
4. Size of congregation? Size of community? Urban? Suburban? Rural?
5. Salary and benefits ?



The ARJE process asks that
you submit a résumé and a
personal statement

Résumé



- ▶ Should not be more than 2-3 pages.
- ▶ Language should be clear and grammatically correct.
- ▶ Layout should help make it legible and easy to read.
- ▶ 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.



- ▶ References should be from congregational/institutional professionals, HUC professors, lay leaders.
- ▶ You should include name, role, telephone number and e-mail. No need for snail-mail address.



Personal Statement

- ▶ This should be 1-3 pages.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ Do not repeat what is in your résumé. This is an opportunity to present a fuller picture of yourself—passions, priorities, values, etc.



- ▶ Your PS 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.”
- ▶ Be comfortable with what you share. You don’t need to share too much if you are not comfortable, and don’t misrepresent.

Possible Topics for Your Personal Statement:



- ▶ What personal experience motivated you to enter the field of Jewish education?
- ▶ Who is your Jewish “hero?”
- ▶ Describe a significant personal or 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 or Jewish life.
- ▶ Discuss some of your interests outside of your professional or school commitments.



Once you're satisfied that these are close to the final drafts, e-mail them to me as file attachments in any format.

- ▶ I will look for glaring typos, run-on sentences, anything inappropriate, and let you know about these.
- ▶ Make sure they are as close to the final draft as possible.



- ▶ 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 so that you know they went out.
- ▶ Placement listings are for members only, and can be found in the members-only section of the ARJE website. For login information, please be in touch with the ARJE office.
- ▶ When you see a position in the ARJE listings to which you'd like to have your materials sent, be in touch with Stan (or the ARJE office). We will e-mail your materials to the searching institution.



- ▶ Please do not mail your materials directly to a searching congregation/institution—the ARJE office will take care of this task.
- ▶ Please do not apply for a position through another venue (e.g., jewishjobs.com, etc.) until you have first been in touch with the ARJE Office.



COVER LETTER (E-MAIL) THAT IS SENT WITH A CANDIDATE'S MATERIALS:

Dear ,

Attached is a pdf of the materials of Clarence Propnose, 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@propnose.net), whose e-mail address is also above.

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

L'shalom,

Stan Schickler

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Rabbi Stanley T. Schickler, RJE



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



WHEN YOU'RE DOING YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT THE INSTITUTION AND DURING THE INTERVIEW:

רבי אומר אל תסתכל בקנקן. אלא במה שיש בו. יש קנקן חדש מלא
ישן. 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



Placement season begins in early January, and peaks from mid-February through the second week of March. It generally begins to wind down around *Pesach*.

I am available for consultation during all steps of the process.

Contact Information

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