



Rabbi/Cantor Israel M. Gordan (Izzy) has been living in Jerusalem, Israel with his family since the fall of 2021. Originally from Western Massachusetts, Izzy was a member of the Columbia College Class of 2001 at Columbia University where he majored in Urban Studies. He then worked for Camp Ramah in California, Marc Platt Productions on the Universal Studios lot, and the

Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in their New York Office of Academic Affairs. He then started at the HL Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary and graduated in 2011 with a Diploma of Hazzan, a Masters in Sacred Music, and a Masters in Jewish Education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education.

Izzy began as the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center (HJC) in August of 2011 where he served full time for eight years before becoming part time there so that he could return to the Jewish Theological Seminary for rabbinical school in the fall of 2019. Rabbinical school is what brought Izzy and his family to Israel for the year (they ended up staying), but he returned to HJC several more times, for a total of 14 High Holidays there, during which time he worked with four different rabbis(!). Izzy graduated from the rabbinical school at JTS in 2023.

Last year was the first time Izzy served as both rabbi and cantor for the high holidays in the chapel service of the BMH-BJ Congregation in Denver, CO. While it was a little scary being with a new community for the first time in 15 years, it was a wonderfully positive experience and Izzy is very excited to be at Congregation B'nai Israel of St. Petersburg for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this year. Izzy is looking forward to working with Rabbi Phil Weintraub (who was in rabbinical school at JTS when Izzy was in cantorial school there) and the entire community in order to make meaningful and moving services for everyone. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please reach out. Izzy would love to get to know as many members of the community as he can in order to make the high holiday experience as personal and positive as possible.