



Rabbi Moshe Smolkin is looking forward to visiting and learning more about Adath Israel Congregation. He is passionate about building relationships, sharing Judaism with a unique depth of knowledge, and caring for each member of his community. Rabbi Smolkin is honored to be in his 10th year of service at Ohavay Zion Synagogue in Lexington, Kentucky.

Rabbi Smolkin grew up in Houston, Texas and Albuquerque, New Mexico. He holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Brandeis University and an M.A.T. in Mathematics Education from Tufts University. He enjoyed teaching high school mathematics for five years in Boston, Massachusetts, before attending the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University in Los Angeles, California.

While in rabbinical school, he interned as an interfaith chaplain at UCLA Hospital and spent a year learning in Jerusalem with Israeli rabbinical students at Machon Schechter. During the last two years of rabbinical school, he interned at Mishkon Tephilo in Venice, California. Rabbi Smolkin was ordained in 2009, having twice received awards for his excellence in Talmud.

Following rabbinical school, Rabbi Smolkin moved to Lexington, Kentucky to serve as the rabbi of Ohavay Zion Synagogue. Rabbi Smolkin and his wife, Talia, have been blessed with two young children, who love music and are full of questions. They know their parents say that, above all, they should be *mensch*s.

At Ohavay Zion Synagogue, Rabbi Smolkin has worked diligently to create an atmosphere where people want to come to synagogue because they know they will be seen and valued. Congregants and visitors from all over the country have commented on the unique Torah discussions Rabbi Smolkin creates. And his classes on Tanakh (Bible) attract students from the Jewish community and beyond.

Rabbi Smolkin works to be a source of wisdom and diplomacy to help unify and uplift his Jewish community. He also has strong relationships with elected officials, advocating for those in need, working for the Jewish community, and striving to better our world.

In addition to his love of learning Torah, Talmud, and Jewish Mysticism, Rabbi Smolkin enjoys studying other religions and learning languages - Greek is his current interest. He also has a life-long love of music, as well as many years of study in martial arts. Rabbi Smolkin has been known to indulge in Marvel movies, sushi, and a good cupcake.

In addition to his constant pursuit of knowledge, Rabbi Smolkin believes in the tremendous value of *chesed* (kindness), and strives to bring compassion and caring into all his relationships. He looks forward to connecting with the people of Adath Israel.