



## Flanders shul leader now an 'official rav'

by Johanna Ginsberg  
NJJN Staff Writer

July 7, 2010

Moshe Rudin, who has been the student rabbi at Temple Hatikvah in Flanders for four years, was ordained as a rabbi at the 2010 graduation ceremonies of the Academy for Jewish Religion on May 13.

He was one of eight rabbis ordained and two cantors invested that day. The cantors included Joan Finn, who has been serving as cantorial soloist at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange.

For Rudin, the ceremony, in which three of his teachers placed their hands on his head and offered a blessing, left him filled with awe.

“It was a profound moment. It was so moving and powerful. I was shaking. I felt so many people were speaking through the teachers of mine all the way back to Sinai,” he said.

A former principal of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union’s Cranford lower school, Rudin is hardly a newcomer to the Jewish professional field.

And yet, as the “official *rav*,” or rabbi, of the Flanders synagogue, “it’s surprisingly different,” he said. “There’s a certain gravitas to what a rabbi does that a student rabbi just does not have. For everything, I am a symbolic exemplar. I represent Jewish tradition. Before adopting any approach, perspective, or policy, or make any statement from the *bima*, I have to say to myself that everything I have to say now joins the annals of what rabbis have said and I take that very seriously.”

Rudin has no plans to move from his current position. “The shul has unbelievable potential,” he said. “It’s a warm and lovely place, and I’m grateful to everyone there. It has a great destiny to fulfill.”

Attending AJR — a pluralistic seminary located in the Riverdale section of the Bronx that is not



[+ enlarge image](#)

Rabbi Moshe Rudin, student rabbi at Temple Hatikvah in Flanders for the last four years, was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion on May 13. He is pictured here with his daughter, Sophie. Photo courtesy Rabbi Moshe Rudin

associated with any of the major denominations — put the pieces of Rudin’s past together, he said. His early roots in Boston are in the Reform movement and the secular Labor Zionist youth movement, although his mother was raised Orthodox. He studied at the pluralistic Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem; while living in Israel, he also studied Jewish thought and education at the Oranim Academic College in Tivon.

Rudin has been a Conservative movement educator since returning to the United States in the 1980s, teaching first in the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, then becoming principal at the Rabbi Harry Halpern Day School in Brooklyn. At the Cranford school, which closed at the end of the school year in 2008, he pioneered a special curriculum preparing students for leadership in the Jewish community.

Rudin weaves his love for music into his rabbinate, as he did into education.

He served as music director at both Camp Young Judaea and at Camp Yavneh and continues to infuse prayers with traditional, contemporary, and original Jewish songs. While he was a student rabbi, Temple Hatikvah created its own *simha* band, Shirei Simcha.

Rudin lives in West Orange with his wife, Joyce, and their daughter, Sophie. He also has two older sons, Yonatan and Shimrit.

Asked about his goals as a rabbi, he said, “I just want to bring honor to the Torah and to my teachers.”

Recommend

3 people recommend this.

#### You might also like:

- **Pearl Cohen Kasoff, kosher frozen food pioneer** *From NJJN*
- **Keeping promises** *From NJJN*
- **Scout leads day of good deeds at shul** *From NJJN*
- **Howell day school closes, citing low enrollment** *From NJJN*

Selected for you by a sponsor:

- **How to Get Eyelashes So Long You May Have To Trim Them** *From How Life Works*
- **What Do Religions Say About Birth Control and Family Planning?** *From About.com: Contraceptives*

[Back to top](#)

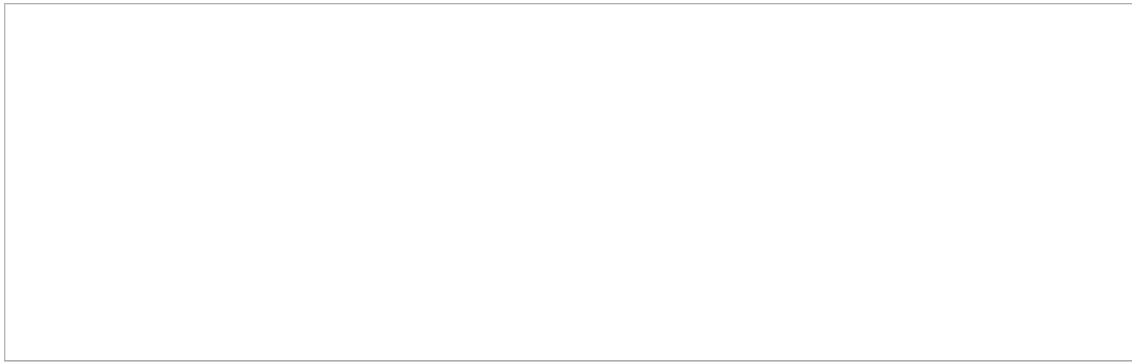
## Reader Discussion

### Comment on this article

Your Name

Your Email (never published)

Comment



What is 8 + 8?

Post Comment

New Jersey Jewish News welcomes your comments on this article. New Jersey Jewish News reserves the right to edit or remove any comment that is deemed inappropriate, off-topic or otherwise violating the Terms of Service of the New Jersey Jewish News website.

[--TOP--](#)

© Copyright 2010 | The New Jersey Jewish News | All Rights Reserved.  
901 Route 10 | Whippany, NJ 07981-1157 | 973-887-3900 p | 973-887-4152 f  
[Webmaster](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)