

## New Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth El Her First Time on the East Coast Was Her Interview for This Position

By Amy Krakovitz

It's not just adjusting to Eastern times (daylight savings now; standard later). It's not just the distance from the Pacific Ocean. It's not just that the "mountains" are smaller. Dusty Klass's first time in the Eastern US is also her first rabbinical position.

Born in Seattle, the future Rabbi Klass spent almost every Shabbat of her youth at Temple B'nai Torah, where she was a featured singer of Kiddush (with her sister) long before her Bat Mitzvah. From there, she attended college in California, where she was active in Jewish activities and studies and wrote her undergraduate thesis on the connection be-



Rabbi Dusty Klass

NFTY, where she got direct experience working with teens.

Now she is here, after her years at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and an internship at Congregation Or Ami in Calabasas, CA.

"Rabbi Klass is bright, talented, and creative," said Temple Beth El Immediate Past President Jack Levinson in his announcement to the congregation. "She has a strong background in youth and family programming... but most of all, Rabbi Klass is a mensch."

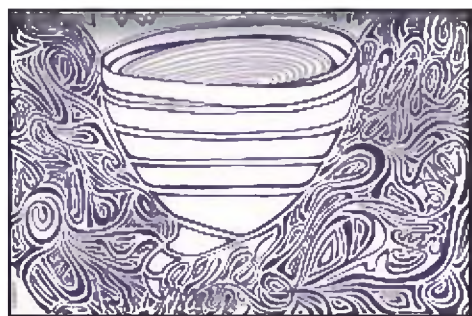
The bright new face that will be filling the associate rabbi position seems to be more than the sum of her parts. In addition to her

experience as a Jewish communal professional, she has taken her undergraduate studies in Jewish meditation to heart. She now teaches "zentangle," an abstract drawing method that uses repeated patterns, as a de-stressing technique. She calls herself "an expert amateur doodler."

Her duties as associate rabbi will entail her expertise as a mentor to teens, her capabilities at running an educational program, her intense desire to lead social justice initiatives, and countless additional responsibilities. But it seems that she has the chops to do it. "In the six years that I have known Dusty, I have been most struck by her energy," says Dvora Weisberg, Professor of Rabbinics and Director of the Rabbinical Program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. "She approaches her work with infectious enthusiasm. She also has the ability to laugh at herself."

Ultimately, this may be the most important quality that Rabbi Klass possesses.

Professor Weisberg concludes, "I think that Temple Beth El is blessed to have her on their staff." ☆



"Chant," a zentangle Klass has drawn. Close inspection reveals words from Hebrew prayers.

tween Jewish meditation and Buddhism. Her undergraduate years were followed by a stint as a local regional director for

## Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman Is Traveling to Israel

Several congregants of Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson, NC, under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Shields, have banded together to organize the first congregational Israel trip from the Lake Norman area. Preliminary plans call for departure to Tel Aviv on October 22, 2017. The trip is open to anyone who wishes to experience Israel first hand. Young or old, Jewish or not, first timer or a repeat traveler, everyone is welcome to join in this unique experience.

While the details of the trip are still being determined, the cost is anticipated to be less than \$4,000 per person, double occupancy. This includes the flights from Charlotte, NC, to Tel Aviv, nine days and eight nights in premium hotels and Kibbutz guesthouses,

group travel, and sightseeing throughout Israel with a certified tour guide, most meals, and other amenities.

The congregation is working with Judah Segal (SegalExpeditions.com) who is helping with the organizational and managerial aspects of the trip. A previous Executive Director of the Raleigh, NC, Jewish Federation, Segal has extensive experience in putting together group trips to Israel.

For more information go to [www.TKTIsraelTrip.org](http://www.TKTIsraelTrip.org) where you will find a detailed itinerary, pricing information, a slide show highlighting the sites to be visited, and a host of FAQs. To sign up or request additional information, call the Temple's office at 704-987-9980 or email [admin@templekoltikvah.org](mailto:admin@templekoltikvah.org). ☆



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