

Amy Wallk Katz

Rabbi Amy Wallk Katz, Ph.D., became the rabbi of Temple Beth El in Springfield, MA in August 2008. Before moving to the east coast, Rabbi Katz lived in Kansas City where she coordinated community adult education programs since 1996.



Under Rabbi Katz's leadership, the Department of Adult Jewish Learning became quite significant in the Kansas City area. In addition to introducing outreach to interfaith couples, there was a community-wide conversion class, and a Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, Hebrew classes, and KC residents were even able to get a Masters degree through the Siegel College of Jewish Studies. For more than a decade 500 adults participated in the departments various courses.

Rabbi Katz also volunteered throughout the Kansas City community and was a leading force for interfaith work. She developed close ties with the Evangelical community and was instrumental in bringing Jews and Christians together to pray for the state of Israel. She also worked with the liberal Protestant community, teaching courses in basic Judaism and Zionism.

Rabbi Katz has been a featured columnist in the *Kansas City Star* writing a monthly "Voice of Faith" column. In addition Rabbi Katz helped to plan the yearly interfaith luncheon sponsored by the National Council for Jewish Women. Rabbi Katz served on board of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, and Planned Parenthood. Rabbi Katz was president of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City from 2000-2003.

Rabbi Katz received rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Her post-secondary education includes a bachelor's degree in Jewish Studies from Barnard College; a master's degree in Journalism from Northwestern University; a master's degree in Jewish Education from the University of Judaism, and a doctorate in Education from Michigan State University. She wrote her dissertation on the challenges of teaching t'fillah.

She is married and has three children, Tamar Yonina, Gabriel Ari, and Nina Ruth.