

Congregation Gates of Heaven

Rabbi Matthew S. Cutler, D.D.

“Rabbi Matt” joined Congregation Gates of Heaven as its spiritual leader on July 1, 1995. Over the years, Rabbi Matt has emerged as one of the Capital District's strongest and most visible clergy leaders. His ecumenical work is well known. According to Rabbi Cutler, a Rabbi is first and foremost a teacher of the Torah, though he believes Jewish education is not limited to the classroom.

In his professional experiences, Rabbi Cutler seeks to create many different avenues of informal Jewish education. He served on the Board and was the Dean of Faculty for the Union of Reform Judaism's Northeast Camps—Eisner and Crane Lake in the Berkshires. He believes that religious values are living values and has advocated such beliefs by being one of the founders of the interfaith group, “Schenectady Clergy Against Hate,” a group dedicated to crossing religious and political lines to foster healthy dialogue to building a strong community. He serves as one of the Schenectady County Chaplains, as well as former chair of the Schenectady County Ethics Committee and former chair of the Ethics Committee for the town of Niskayuna. He is currently on the board of the United Way of the Greater Capital Region; he is committed to that organization and, in the past, was a vice chair. He has been invited back to serve after this term expires. Rabbi Matt is a member of the Capital District Board of Rabbis and served as President of their Board.

Rabbi Cutler was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 1990, where he also obtained his Master of Arts and Hebrew Letters. He graduated with honors from the State University of New York at Binghamton, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in History and Judaic Study.

Prior to his arrival in Schenectady, Rabbi Cutler served as Associate Rabbi at Temple Shalom in Newton, Massachusetts. Rabbi Cutler currently resides in Niskayuna with his wife, Sharon. They have three children, who are grown adults who are living lives that make Rabbi Matt kvell: Benjamin (and his wife Beckie), Micah, and Julia. When he is not at the synagogue, Rabbi Matt may often be found in the gym at our Schenectady JCC, skiing or standing in a river fly fishing.