

**CURRICULUM VITAE****RABBI****ADRIAN MICHAEL SCHELL**

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Place of Birth: Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Date of Birth: March 15, 1973

Nationality: German

Married to Dr. Chayim Schell-Apacik

**Professional Experience**

BET DAVID  
PROGRESSIVE  
JEWISH  
CONGREGATION  
SANDTON,  
SOUTH AFRICA  
Current Pulpit  
*Since September  
2014*

**Congregational Rabbi (Fulltime – Solo Rabbi position)**

- Leading and guiding the congregation in all religious tasks including, but not limited to planning, organising, coordinating, and running all Shabbat and festival services and activities throughout the Jewish year,
- Providing pastoral care,
- Officiating at Life Cycle Events for members and non-members alike, and being an on-call-rabbi for the Johannesburg Chevra Kadisha for non-orthodox funeral services,
- Teaching the Jews-by-choice programme, which includes Hebrew and an introduction to Judaism class, preparing between 20 and 30 candidates for the Beit Din per annum,
- Teaching at the Cheder, and preparing all B'nei Mitzwa students of the congregation,
- Leading Torah studies, and giving shiurim and lectures for members as well as non-members as part of the adult learning programme of the community,
- Representing the community in interfaith and intercultural conferences and meetings, and keeping strong relationships to local Jewish (e.g. Limmud, Zionist Federation) and non-Jewish organisations and their representatives,
- Serving in different capacities the South African Union for Progressive Judaism as a member of the Progressive Beit Din, rabbinic adviser to smaller congregations, and in recent years, rabbinic representative to the national board,
- Managing the social media and web-outlets of the congregation,
- Overseeing and executing several administrative tasks within the congregation, such as overseeing the office and teaching staff,
- Fully licensed and registered marriage officer by the South African Department of Home Affairs for civil marriages and civil unions.

Bet David with its nearly 300 member units is the third largest Progressive Jewish Congregation in South Africa, proud of its social outreach to the wider community in post-apartheid South Africa. On Rosh Hashana 2017, Bet David opened its new state of the art synagogue building, in whose building process I had been involved from early stage as the religious adviser.

Immigration and other demographic factors have severely impacted the South African Jewish Community in recent years, asking for creative approaches to counter this trend of a declining membership. Despite the national trend, membership has been stable at Bet David over the past 5 years. In fact, more families and individuals have joined the congregation under my leadership than left, by opening the community to become more diverse and vibrant, and by providing a Jewish home to worshipers from all kinds of socio-economic backgrounds, including the LGBTIQ\*-community and families with multi-religious heritages.

As a rabbinic adviser I have been assisting Netzer South Africa and the Progressive Jewish communities in Durban, Port Elisabeth, Johannesburg-Hillbrow and Pretoria, including visits, officiating at life cycle events and establishing a pilot programme for their Jews-by-choice programme in form of a webinar solution.

JEWISH  
CONGREGATION  
HAMELIN,  
GERMANY  
*April 2013 –  
August 2014*

#### **Congregational Rabbi (Part-time – Solo Rabbi position)**

- Leading Shabbat services and services on Jewish festivals,
- Officiating at Life Circle Events,
- Giving Bar/Bat Mitzwah lessons, introduction to Judaism classes, Torah studies, and lectures for members as well as non-members,
- Leading children’s activities on Shabbat afternoon,
- Visiting congregants in hospitals, and at home in case of illness,
- Leading memorial services, especially on “Reichskristallnacht” and Holocaust Memorial Day,
- Representing the community in interfaith and intercultural conferences and meetings,
- Keeping a strong relationship to local politicians and representatives of churches and other organisations.

The congregation has around 250 members, mainly from the former Soviet Union, who immigrated to Germany since the early 1990. Integration of all members, especially senior members, into the life of the community had been the focus of my rabbinic work in Hamelin.

The congregation has been a stronghold in the German Jewish Progressive movement, and is proud of its own new synagogue building, the first reform Synagogue to be built after the Shoah, built on the site of the old synagogue, which was destroyed on “Reichskristallnacht”.

LECTURER  
*2011-2015*

Giving lectures on Jewish topics for Jewish or non-Jewish organisations such as Limmud Germany, ZWST (educational institution and social welfare organisation of the Central Council of Jews in Germany), Gesellschaft für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit (Jewish-Christian council).

UNION FOR  
PROGRESSIVE  
JUDAISM IN  
GERMANY (UPJ)  
BIELEFELD,  
GERMANY  
*September 2011 -  
March 2014*

#### **National Youth Director / Rosh Netzer Germany (Full-time)**

- Responsible for all youth activities of the national Progressive movement, focusing on children between the ages of 8 and 17 and young adults between 18 and 25,
- Organising, teaching at and running the youth leaders programme (training of madrichim), and coordinating the work of the youth councillors of the movement (Netzer madrichim),
- Planning, organising and running the nationwide youth camps (summer and winter camps (machanot)),
- Coordinating and facilitating local youth activities such as mini- camps or youth Shabbatot,
- Taking part in the development and implementation of long- and short-term programmes in the Jewish education of children and young adults for the Progressive movement in Germany,
- Taking part in the strategic debate to get youth more involved both in congregations and in the movement,
- Representing the German Union for Progressive Judaism at conferences and/or on public occasions, such as a visit to Auschwitz with the prime minister of North Rhine Westphalia,
- Organising and leading an international exchange programme with the Israeli Progressive youth movement, Noar Telem, in Israel and Germany,
- Supervising the Netzer Shlichah from Israel during her year in Germany,
- Setting up and managing the Netzer Germany website and hadracha online database, as well as managing the Facebook account.

JEWISH  
CONGREGATION  
HAMELIN,  
GERMANY  
*2011 - 2013  
2007 - 2008*

#### **Community Student Rabbi**

Leading services on Shabbat and Festivals, Torah services and teaching B'nei Mitzvah classes in the beginning, and later entrusted with more rabbinic tasks in preparation for holding a pulpit.

JEWISH  
CONGREGATION  
BIELEFELD,  
GERMANY  
*2010 - 2011*

#### **Community Student Rabbi**

Leading services on Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning as well as on Pesach. Leading the Pesach Seder. My student pulpit included working and studying with the local youth group and establishing children's services for the congregation on a monthly basis.

JEWISH  
CONGREGATION  
WEIDEN,  
OBERPFALZ,  
GERMANY  
*2008 - 2009*

#### **Community Student Rabbi**

Leading traditional services on Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning as well as creative toddler Shabbat services, using a prayer book for children I had created for these services. The congregation is part of the Masorti Movement.

### Rabbinical Training

- ABRAHAM  
GEIGER KOLLEG  
POTSDAM,  
GERMANY  
April 2006 -  
December 2012
- Ordination as a rabbi in April 2013 by Rabbi Prof. Dr. Walter Jacob.
- My rabbinical thesis dealt with the adoption of children in the context of modern rabbinic halacha.
- The rabbinical training included the following segments in Israel:
- Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem, Israel (2009-2010),
  - Hebrew Union College, Israel Programme, Jerusalem, Israel (2009),
  - Machon Steinsaltz – The Adin Steinsaltz Institut, Jerusalem, Israel, (2009),
  - Beit Ha-Am Ulpan, Jerusalem, Israel (2005-2006).
- Related experiences during the rabbinical training:
- High Holidays 5769 (September-October 2008), internship at Congregation, Bet David, Johannesburg, South Africa,
  - Internship Netzer Germany summer camp, 2010,
  - Internship Netzer Germany summer camp, 2011,
  - Running a workshop series on leading creative services for “Jung und Jüdisch” (Tamar Germany), 2011,
  - Participation, giving workshops and leading services at the national conference of the German Union of Progressive Judaism, the EUPJ and WUPJ conferences and at the Limmud festival in Germany,
  - Taking part in interfaith conferences and meetings,
  - Delivering the sermon on Shabbat morning service at the annual conference of the German progressive Jewish movement in 2011,
  - Publishing articles in German Jewish newspaper outlets.

- UNIVERSITY OF  
POTSDAM,  
GERMANY  
2010 - 2012
- Master of Arts in Jewish Religion, History and Culture**
- Thesis: *Yimutz Yeladim: Adoption von Kindern im Kontext moderner rabbinischer Entscheidungen*  
(Adoption of children in the context of modern rabbinic decisions)  
Final Grade: 1.4 very good

- UNIVERSITY OF  
POTSDAM,  
GERMANY  
2006 - 2010
- Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies**
- Thesis: *An Kindes statt: Adoption im Kontext der hebräischen Bibel*  
(Adoption in the context of the Hebrew bible)

### Pre-Rabbinic Professional Experience

- DEUTSCHER  
TASCHENBUCH  
VERLAG (dtv),  
MUNICH,  
GERMANY  
1999 - 2006
- Key Account Manager / Bookseller**
- Working in the Sales and Marketing department of dtv, a leading German publishing house, I was responsible for international business customers as well as the mail order and internet bookstores like Amazon.com.
- Conceptualising and administering the b2b-website of the company.

APACIK & SCHELL  
BOOKSTORE  
MUNICH,  
GERMANY  
*1995 - 1999*

**Bookseller and Owner**  
of own bookstore in Munich

### Non-Institutional Training (Selection)

THE VOICE  
CLINIC,  
JOHANNESBURG,  
SOUTH AFRICA  
2018

**Individual Voice and Pronunciation Programme**

Intensive one-to-one voice and public speaking training.

ZARCHIN  
INSTITUTE,  
RAMAT GAN,  
ISRAEL  
*2013*

**Treatment of dyslexia and overcoming learning disabilities**

Intensive three-month one-to-one training with Michael Zarchin.

CONACT  
*2012 - 2013*

**Training series for youth and group leaders in Israel and Germany**

A joint project of ConAct, the Council of Youth Movements and the Israel Youth Exchange Authority.

A series of four seminars in 2012 and 2013.

KATHOLISCHE  
MEDIEN  
AKADEMIE,  
VIENNA,  
AUSTRIA

**Public relation and media work for Rabbis**

Seminar series organised by the Abraham Geiger Kolleg, Potsdam in 2009 and 2010.

### Vocational Education / Apprenticeship / Schooling

UNIVERSITY  
BOOKSTORE  
HEINRICH FRANK,  
MUNICH,  
GERMANY  
*1993 - 1995*

**Bookseller**

Diploma awarded by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Munich.

LICHTENBERG-  
OBERSTUFEN-  
GYMNASIUM,  
BRUCHKÖBEL,  
GERMANY  
*1989 - 1992*

**General Qualification for University Entrance (Abitur)**

### Memberships and Affiliations

#### CONGREGATIONS

- Bet David, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Internet: [www.betdavid.org.za](http://www.betdavid.org.za)
- Jüdische Gemeinde zu Berlin, Germany  
Synagogue: Sukkat Schalom (Progressive Congregation)  
Internet: [www.jg-berlin.org](http://www.jg-berlin.org) / <http://sukkat-schalom.de/>
- Liberale jüdische Gemeinde Beth Shalom, Munich, Germany  
Internet: [www.beth-shalom.de](http://www.beth-shalom.de)  
I was an active lay service leader and elected member on the management board of the congregation, before beginning my rabbinical training in 2002-2006.

#### JEWISH ORGANISATIONS

- South African Association of Progressive Rabbis
  - Member
- South African Zionist Federation
  - Member of the Management Committee (2015-2019)
- Allgemeine Rabbinerkonferenz in Deutschland  
(General Rabbinical Conference of Germany)
  - Associated Member
- Central Conference of American Rabbis
  - Member
- arzenu Deutschland e.V. (ARZA Germany)
  - Founding Member, Member of the board till 2010
- World Zionist Organisation
  - Delegate to the 36<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress 2010 and  
Member of the the 36<sup>th</sup> Zionist General Council (Va'ad  
HaPoel, 2010-2014)
- Beth Hillel Potsdam (Hillel Potsdam)
  - Founding Member, Member of the board till 2013
- Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft Berlin-Potsdam  
(German-Israeli Society Berlin-Potsdam) - Member

### Publications

- Das Problem der Aguna (The problem of Agunah)  
In: Walter Homolka, Das jüdische Eherecht  
De Gruyter Verlag, Berlin, 2009
- Reich und Arm begegnen einander (Rich and Poor Meet Each Other)  
In: Predigtmeditationen im christlich-jüdischen Kontext Plus: Tikkun olam – Prophetisch predigen  
Verlag Studium in Israel, 2011

### References

Provided on Request