

## **Rabbi Daniel Greyber**

### **Sichat Rabbanim Learning Partner 2012**



**Rabbi Daniel Greyber** holds a Masters in Speech and Communications Studies from Northwestern University and was ordained in 2002 at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies of American Jewish University where he received the Henry Fisher Award for outstanding achievement in Jewish Studies.

Rabbi Greyber became the new rabbi at Beth El Synagogue, Durham, NC in 2011 after spending the 2010-2011 academic year as a Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel Leadership Institute in Israel.

In 2010, he completed an eight-year tenure as the executive director of Camp Ramah in California and the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center of American Jewish University. Rabbi Greyber was selected in 2006 for the inaugural

Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, a program which provides experienced camp professionals business, management, and leadership skills required to enrich their camps and compete in the summer marketplace.

During rabbinical school, he founded The Neshama Minyan at Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles and Minyan Nifla at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. Rabbi Greyber also founded LISHMA, an innovative learning program of Ramah and the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in which young adult Jews spend the summer exploring traditional Jewish texts, prayer and practice in the beautiful setting of Camp Ramah in California. As a result of the success of the LISHMA program, he was selected in 2001 as a recipient of the Joshua Venture Fellowship, which supports and trains emerging Jewish social entrepreneurs to transform their visions into action.

Rabbi Greyber was an adjunct faculty member of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. His writings have been published in *Dancing on the Edge of the World: Jewish Stories of Inspiration and Love* (Lowell House Press, 2000); *Many Ways into God's Palace: Essays in Honor of the 36th Anniversary of the Library Minyan* (Temple Beth Am, 2008); *CJ Voices Magazine*, *Conservative Judaism*, *Midstream Magazine*, *the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles* and other Jewish periodicals.

He was a gold medalist and Captain of the U.S. Swimming Team at the 1993 World Maccabiah Games. He has been named Rabbi for the U.S. team at the World Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he will be serving the more than 1,000 Jewish athletes from the United States who will be participating in the 2013 summer games. Please click here to view the [news release](#).

## **Prayer Stories and the Art of Davening** (by Rabbi Daniel Greyber)

*Here is a prayer story that continues to shape me: As some people completed their silent Shabbat prayers others who were already done waited for the rabbi to finish so the public repetition could begin. Naomi, the rabbi's eight-year old daughter, scurried through the women's section of the small synagogue in Arad. She ran up to her father, ducked under his tallit and asked him, "Abba, what do you say when you talk to God?" I heard her say. Undistracted, our short, joyous, and wise Scottish rabbi placed his hand on Naomi's head, gently touched her hair, and continued to sway in the rhythm of his prayer. Naomi scampered across the room. As she ran out the door she called to her little sister, "Abba couldn't tell me about talking to God. He was still davening.*

*Prayer stories both lived and told offer lessons beyond their words about how to pray. From Rabbi Aubrey and his daughter, Naomi, I learned that praying involves both concentration and loving attention—apart from the world and, at the same time, a part of the world.*

*In an effort to enrich my own prayer experience and to become a better prayer leader and guide, I look forward to studying prayer stories from our classical sources as a Sichat Rabbanim Partner.*

## **Evans Family Foundation**

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The Evans Family  
(L-R: Sarah, Robert, Eli, and E.J.)



Rabbi Steven Sager, Eli Evans, and  
Rabbi Daniel Greyber