

Rabbi Gabriel (Manes) Kogan
Hillcrest Jewish Center
183-02 Union Turnpike | Flushing, NY 11366
718-380-4145
rabbikogan@hillcrestjc.org

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HILLCREST JEWISH CENTER, Fresh Meadows, New York
Rabbi of a 275-family congregation

2006 – Present

- Expanded the existing adult education programs and started cycles of special interest, adult education breakfasts and scholars in residence weekends.
- Taught five weekly classes on a variety of Jewish topics, including Mussar, Talmud, prayer, Bible and Jewish mysticism.
- Encouraged lay leaders to take roles of educators and prayer leaders.
- Pioneered the Mental Health Initiative at Hillcrest Jewish Center to create awareness on mental illness and to fight stigma.
- Restored a feeling of friendship and camaraderie among the members of the synagogue.
- Strengthened the weekly minyan through personal involvement.
- Launched a weekly Shalosh Seudot sponsorship program as well as a monthly “Friendship Kiddush” to boost increase attendance to services.
- Collaborated with the executive director, cantor, staff and lay people to develop a more effective system of communication with the members of the synagogue.
- Created a “Guide to the Shabbat Morning Services” to enhance the understanding of Shabbat morning services.

US ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, Jamaica, New York
Chaplain

2022 – Present

- Provided religious support for Jewish service members by teaching classes and leading services.
- Led invocations at various army events, such as promotions, changes of responsibilities, and social military gatherings.
- Provided spiritual support for all services members by establishing individual and consistent connections
- Advised the Commander on religious issues impacting service members and army routine.
- Activated to various correctional facilities in New York State during the 2025 New York State department of correction strike.

ST JOHN’S UNIVERSITY, Jamaica, New York
Adjunct Instructor in the Theology Department

2013 – 2019

- Taught courses in Jewish Thought, Jewish Ethics, and Jewish Marriage and Family.

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, Roanoke, Virginia
Rabbi of a 150-family congregation

1998 – 2006

- Strengthened Jewish values, traditions and practice in the only Conservative synagogue in the region.

- Trained and involved lay leadership in delivering sermons, teaching conversion classes, and leading services.
- Inspired steady growth of a new weekly Sunday morning Minyan.
- Facilitated creation of a preschool program, complete with a new curriculum on Shabbat and Hebrew language. Preschool continues to this day.
- Created ongoing community engagement mitzvah projects such as “Mezuzot Galore for Every Door” project to provide Mezuzot for every Jewish house in the Roanoke Valley and the “Shabbat Candles” project to encourage Shabbat candle lighting.
- Encouraged Torah Study on a weekly basis through an active partnership with “Partners in Torah,” a program that matches Jewish adults who want to know more about their heritage. The success of the Roanoke program has been used as a case study by the leaders of “Partners in Torah.”
- Served as a Jewish presence on community boards and special events throughout the Roanoke Valley and beyond.
- Created an extensive Jewish reference library and video and music collection.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, Blacksburg, Virginia
Adjunct Instructor in the Religious and Judaic Studies Programs

2003 – 2006

- Created and taught courses in Rabbinical Literature, Jewish Thought and the Holocaust.

CENTRO ISRAELITA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Rabbi and Educational Director of a 100-family community

1996-1998

- Strengthened a Jewish community presence in the Dominican Republic after a 50-year gap in religious leadership.
- Created ongoing minyanim, adult and children programming, and holiday-specific special events.
- Served as the only rabbi in the country and a liaison between the Jewish community, the government, and the Israeli Embassy.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Counselor in the City of Buenos Aires’ Prevention Program in Family Violence.

1993-1996

- Selected to be among the first leaders of an intervention program for groups of men incarcerated for violent crimes.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

SEMINARIO RABINICO LATINOAMERICANO

Buenos Aires, Argentina

1993

Abraham Joshua Heschel Rabbinical School

Rabbinic Ordination

HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, Israel

1993

Masters in Education

UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES

Buenos Aires, Argentina

School of Psychology (6-year program)

1989

Licenciado en Psicología

TRAINING & FELLOWSHIPS

UJA Federation of New York New York Rabbinic Fellowship for Visionary Leaders - Inaugural Cohort	2014-2015
Institute for Jewish Spirituality – Seventh Rabbinic Cohort	2011-2013
The Kellogg School of Management Education for Jewish Leaders	2011
Shalom Hartman Institute Senior Rabbinic Fellow (Rabbinic Leadership Initiative)	2007-2010
Joint Distribution Committee, Buenos Aires, Argentina “Leatid” Program	1995-1997
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel The Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora. Senior Educators Program	1991-92

CIVIC ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Queens/Nassau. Honorary Board Member	2025
American Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care Team Member – NYC	2020-Present
Board Member, New York Board of Rabbis	2022-Present
President of the Roanoke Valley Ministers’ Conference	2002-2003

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Rabbinical Assembly since - 1993
Member of the New York Board of Rabbis since 2007. Board Member since 2022.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Fables from the Jewish Tradition. Mayapple Press. 2008.

Scroll of Esther: In the Original Hebrew with A Corresponding Spanish Translation. Featuring Commentary by Rabbi Manes Kogan. Meguilat Ester (El Libro de Ester). El Original en Hebreo y su Versión Castellana con Comentarios del Rabino Manes Kogan. L.B. Publishing Co. 2001

LANGUAGES

Spanish, Hebrew, English and Yiddish