15 UNDER 40 YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

SENIOR Lifestyles

Shalom Park’s kosher kitchen

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Rabbi Samuel Spector, 30, is the senior rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in Salt Lake, Utah. Born in 1988 in Seattle, Wash., he majored in Judaic studies and minored in behavioral psychology at UC-San Diego, where he was active in Alpha Epsilon Pi. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude. Rabbi Spector earned an MA in Hebrew letters and was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles.

Why, despite your youth, did Kol Ami choose you as its spiritual leader?

I saw tremendous potential in Kol Ami. It has a rich history in a beautiful city with a young population in a state where religious affiliation

As a member of the Denver Lodge, I created programs to assist low-income families during the holidays. Organized toy drives for kids at the Kunsberg School for Chronically Ill Children (now called Morgridge Academy) on the National Jewish campus, and a gift box program for people to sponsor families at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. I was able to put a smile on the faces of those who were struggling.

What activities led to you receiving the Label A. Katz young leadership award?

I traveled quite a bit with my parents around the country attending district and international events.
example, in the spring at UCLA, there was a panel discussion about the Middle East with a Kurdish, an Israeli and an Armenian. Students for Justice in Palestine get in the face of the Armenian student and ripped his flag down. It was frightening. We want universitites to be places where there’s a free exchange of ideas. We want to talk about almost anything. and the bad. You don’t get to just shut the whole thing down.

I would lump that in with BDS. It’s about de-legitimizing the state of Israel. We give microgrants to students who come to our events. The more open the dialogue, the less likely those nasty elements will succeed.

What on campuses makes you feel positive?

For Israel at 70 we launched an international service organization. It’s involved in human rights and diplomacy needed to lead an organization work?

There needs to be a change in the way Jews from labels and expressions? May we create a room where people can talk from the Jewish community where what’s my best way to support these efforts? It made me want to invest more and get others to do the same.

RABBI LEHRFIELD

My father. Someone once told me that they describe my father to others as the “Perfect Jew.” He is a unique individual who is wholly devoted to Judaism and the Jewish people.

He is a partner at one of the country’s top law firms and still devotes countless hours a day to his personal story. He gives his time and resources not just to the Jewish community but what’s my best way to support these efforts? It made me want to invest more and get others to do the same.

I grew up in Miami, so I love the beach. I hate snowboarding, rock climbing and mountain climbing for the ocean any day. I always have my surfboard handy.

I don’t like to laugh and have fun?

I discovered in my Jewish community an outlet for every person to express his or her uniqueness. I saw that through the Jewish community. I could be involved in advocacy, helping learn and the stories of others, while also embracing both my own family’s stories.

I’m not always the one to do anything else.

Do you believe G-d is an active participant in our lives?

I served on the lodge’s board as chair of the professional and outreach committee and now I’m a professional counselor. During that time, I reached my goals in the following ways:

It’s rewarding to see how volunteers can make a difference.

I served on the board as chair of the young professional and outreach committee. I’ve grown a lot since then.

It’s really like.

I’ll be spending several more years in Israel.

I believe we live up to our motto: “The Global Voice of the Jewish Community.” With all volunteer-led organizations we face several barriers that make it difficult to reach those high aspirations of doing good. The biggest frustration for me as not being able to accomplish everything I want when I want it, or not being able to do anything else.

What are your other interests?

I’ve been working in mental health for the past 31 years and as a professional counselor. I’ve worked full time for the Colorado Crisis Connection through the Mental Health Center with as well as clients in my private practice. I’m especially interested in working with teens and young adults. When my time isn’t consumed with work, I enjoy spending time with friends and family. I like to play tennis, get outdoors and have the adrenaline rush of an emergency situation in which you’re Challenge and having to think on your feet, you may enjoy opportunities to help people.

Just like most lines of work, it’s important to have other interests and hobbies that distract and breathing your work. If someone is interested in becoming an EMT, I would suggest they talk to current first responders and apply for an internship. They can see what it’s really like.

RABI SAMUEL SPECTOR

It’s important for a rabbi of a congregation like Kol Ami in University City to have a job. It is also the place I would like to raise a family. I jumped on the opportunity.

Describe your rabbinic and personal strengths.

I feel that I have an ability to talk with people on a human level. I served on the lodge’s board as chair of the young professional and outreach committee. I’ve grown a lot since then.

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