

Rabbi Young assumes chaplaincy at The Medallion



Rabbi Avigayl Young led Simchat Torah services in fall 2019 in the Seven Acres chapel: Bobby Livitz, chair of the Religious Committee; Rabbi Young; and Medallion resident, Bernard Rich.

Residents of The Medallion Jewish Assisted Living recently welcomed Rabbi Avigayl Young to take over pastoral duties. Rabbi Young is scheduled to be on site at The Medallion to lead services most weekday mornings, as well as Shabbat and holidays. In addition, she will be leading educational classes on Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

On Friday evenings, Rabbi Young will be on hand to lead songs and prayers to welcome Shabbat. Her duties also include general pastoral care.

"I am excited to be back at The Medallion with the residents," said Rabbi Young. "I look forward to praying, studying and visiting with everyone."

Many Medallion residents already are familiar with Rabbi Young. For the past six years, pre-pandemic, she has led Shabbat morning and High Holy Days services for The Medallion and Seven Acres community.

Rabbi Young was ordained in 1999 by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. She also has a B.A. in secondary education and an M.A. in Jewish studies. Outside of her chaplaincy duties at The

Medallion, she provides online tutoring in Judaics and Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, as well as math and English, for students throughout the U.S.

"Our residents at The Medallion are thrilled to have Rabbi Young on board as their new chaplain," said Marsha Cayton, Medallion executive director. "Most of them already knew her from Shabbat and holiday services over the last few years. We are looking forward to having in-person services and classes with her every week."

Rabbi Mark Urkowitz, who has served as chaplain of Seven Acres and The Medallion since 2004, has retired. During his tenure, he enjoyed a special relationship with all the residents on the campus. Upon his retirement, he thanked the residents for the many years he was able to serve them.

"I learned as much from my resident 'students' at The Medallion and Seven Acres as I did from teaching them," said Rabbi Urkowitz. "You helped me grow as a person," he told them. In return, the residents, staff, board of trustees and volunteers thanked Rabbi Urkowitz for his many years of service and wished him well in his future endeavors. □