



# Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains

The Professional Organization of Jewish  
Spiritual Health Specialists

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June 4, 2024

Dear NAJC Chevre,

We are thrilled to announce an exciting development in the leadership of *Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains*. **We are incredibly blessed to share that as of July 1, 2024, Allison A. Atterberry will be our new Executive Director.**

As you know, over the past two years, NAJC's Personnel Committee has held an international search for our new Executive Director. This search process has been extensive as this role will shape the thriving future of our beloved NAJC. We believe it is critical that this person is devoted to the history and *mesorah* of NAJC as well as possess the skills to innovate and expand our organization's vision, reach, and impact.

With a proven track record of success working with NAJC in various roles since 2018, Allison brings a deep love of NAJC as well as a wealth of experience in both the non-profit sector and the field of healthcare. Her extensive background predating her work at NAJC as a former registered nurse, project manager, and administrator positions her as an invaluable asset to the organization and its future. Beloved by both our NAJC membership and the Board of Strategic Partners (composed of the executive leadership of NACC, APC, ACPE, and CASC), Allison has been serving as Interim Executive Director since January 1, 2024.



She is excited to begin this new chapter of leadership with NAJC, sharing: *"I am honored to be a part of the NAJC team. The past five and a half years with Neshama have been the best of my career, and I look forward to contributing to the organization's impact and success. I am excited about growing NAJC and the field of Jewish chaplaincy."*

In partnership with our Board of Directors, Allison will drive the organization's strategic initiatives, innovation, financial growth, and continued development both in the field of chaplaincy and in the wider Jewish community. She will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of the office, including supporting our membership, all NAJC committees, and the Certification Commission. She will have a special focus on

fundraising and outreach as we continue to situate and strengthen NAJC as the professional gold standard in Jewish spiritual care in America, Canada, Israel, and beyond.

The Personnel Committee and Board of Directors enthusiastically support Allison A. Atterberry as our Executive Director. We want to express tremendous gratitude to our fellow Personnel Committee Members, Rabbi Rebecca Kamil, Rabbi Neal Loevinger, Rabbi Bryan Kinzbrunner, Chaplain Barry Pitegoff, and Rabbi Lynn Liberman for their work in envisioning this position and in finding the right person to partner with us in this new chapter.

Please join us in welcoming Allison into this new role!

We invite you to send her a *Mazal Tov* note by contacting her directly at [najcallison@gmail.com](mailto:najcallison@gmail.com) or (305) 394-8018. You can find Allison's bio and a list of our NAJC Board of Directors and their contact information [here](#).

As Jewish chaplains, we know how meaningful and integral our roles are in the lives of those we serve. Over the past 8 months, this need has only become magnified as we continue to process our trauma and grief since October 7th, combat the rise in antisemitism and terror around the world, and continually hope and pray for peace, the safety of all, and the return of the hostages.

NAJC is strongly committed to our love and support of *Am Yisrael* and *Medinat Yisrael*. This is a pillar of who we are as the Jewish spiritual care organization. As part of this commitment, we will continue to work tirelessly as a crucial voice in interfaith bridge-building and advocacy within the sphere of spiritual care, lifting up the voices of our Jewish colleagues, patients, families, and clients. We are truly grateful for our partners and allies in the field of chaplaincy who join us in these efforts.

We have much work ahead of us together, and we are grateful to have the leadership of our Board of Directors, our Executive Director Allison A. Atterberry, and you (our membership representing the diverse tapestry of modern Jewry) to guide and ground us.

May we be blessed to go from strength to strength and merit to be a source of light, Torah, and *chizuk* to *Klal Yisrael* and the wider world.

Bivracha,

Rabbanit Alissa Thomas-Newborn, BCC  
NAJC President

Rabbi Dr. Joseph S. Ozarowski, BCC  
NAJC Immediate Past President and Chair of the Personnel Committee