

Jessica K. Shimberg, joined the board of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light in 2014 as a natural progression within her “rabbinistry.” A lifelong learner, advocate, and partner with the earth, Jessica has long been associated with Jewish organizations that offer environmental education and advocacy and assist Jews in recognizing Judaism’s sacred relationship with the environment. She is fond of noting that before we were a “People of the Book,” we were a People of the Land - the Hebrew word for man (*adam*) shares its root (aleph-dalet-mem) with the word for earth/land (*adamah*). And although very comfortable in sacred indoor spaces, she feels most connected to the Divine Source of Life when among the trees or or in the desert southwest.

Jessica currently serves as the spiritual leader of The Little Minyan Kehilla, a central Ohio congregation she helped create in 2006, and is a rabbinic student with ALEPH - the Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She also works part-time as Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life at Ohio Wesleyan University, and loves the dynamic and generosity of interfaith work. A recovering litigator, trained mediator, and facilitator of conflict transformation, Jessica spent her early professional life assisting others in learning and utilizing collaborative ways to address systemic and interpersonal disputes. Her passion for life-long learning and spiritual growth led to her development as a spiritual leader within the Jewish community of her native Columbus, Ohio, and to her national work on social justice issues through T’ruah - the rabbinic call for human rights. Her desire is to assist the communities she serves in creating intentional and sacred relationships, while also facilitating individual spiritual engagement through Jewish and interfaith lenses. A lifetime of lessons and continued learning allow Jessica to assist others in the meaningful pursuit of an ongoing relationship with the Divine in our world through ritual, prayer, activism, and other creative and traditional approaches to religious expression.

Jessica is a graduate of Brandeis University and The Ohio State University College of Law. She is also "mom" to two teenage boys and a recycled dog (rescue) named Melody. She is passionate about preparing and enjoying “Slow Food,” gardening, hiking and camping, yoga and meditation, Hebrew chant, the moon and night sky, and Jewish Text Study.