

Israel Buffardi (he/him)

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

M.Div. 2019

Johnson & Wales University

B.S. Nutrition & A.S. Culinary Arts 2011

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Minister, UU Congregation at Shelter Rock Manhasset, NY, 2023-Present

Develop and implement membership and community engagement strategy; supervise interns; manage budget; lead worship; advocate for justice and inclusion.

Adjunct Professor of Ministry Formation, Meadville Lombard Chicago, IL 2023-present
Facilitates practical education and mentors aspiring ministers in the diverse arts of ministry, fostering a supportive environment centered on spiritual growth and meaningful community impact.

Interim Minister, UU Church of Halifax Halifax, NS, 2022-2023
Developed and implemented visionary future goals for a congregation in transition; supervised staff; managed budget; developed and implemented programming; led worship; advocated for justice.

Senior Minister, UU Church of Lancaster Lancaster, PA, 2020-2022
Implemented the mission of the congregation; supervised staff; managed budget; developed and implemented programming; led worship; advocated for justice and inclusion.

Assistant Minister for RE, UU Fellowship of Corvallis Corvallis, OR, 2019-2020
Implemented the mission of the congregation; developed, administered and facilitated RE programs for all ages; managed budget; recruited, trained and supervised staff and volunteers; led worship.

Ministerial Graduate Intern, North Parish North Andover North Andover, MA, 2018-2019
Developed and facilitated spiritual education programming; provided spiritual counseling; led worship; crafted and facilitated rituals; engaged in community outreach.

Ministerial Intern, Allen Avenue UU Church Portland, ME, 2016-2017
Developed and facilitated spiritual education programming; provided spiritual counseling; wrote and delivered public speeches; collaborated with community partners to organize for social justice causes.

Restorative Justice Facilitator, Restorative Justice Institute Brunswick, ME, 2016-2017
Facilitated restorative justice process meetings and engaged in community outreach.

Direct Support Professional, PSL Services/STRIVE Portland, ME, 2016-2017
Provided direct support and facilitated educational programs for young adults with disabilities.

Chaplain Resident Intern, Central Maine Medical Center Lewiston, ME, 2016
Provided pastoral care and counseling to patients and families in a hospital setting; completed a Clinical Pastoral Education program.

Arts and Justice Reform Graduate Intern, Maine Inside Out Portland, ME, 2015-2016
Collaborated with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth to create and share original theatre; provided direct support and mentorship; engaged in outreach and advocated for prison reform.

FoodCorps Service Member, FoodCorps/AmeriCorps Portland, ME, 2014-2015
Developed and facilitated nutrition and gardening programs for students; coordinated community outreach and market research for local Sustainable food Initiative; coordinated volunteers.

Human Resources Trainer, Coffee by Design Portland, ME, 2013-2015
Developed and implemented training programs for an artisan coffee roasting company; provided customer service, marketing, and sales support.

Farm-to-Table Cooking Instructor, Freeport Adult Education Freeport, ME, 2014
Facilitated adult cooking classes and discussions on farm-to-table cuisine.

Business Manager, Salumeria Philadelphia, PA, 2012-2013
Oversaw operations for an artisan food market; supervised staff; facilitated collaborative vision.

COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING
& VOLUNTEERING

Organizer, Halifax Interfaith Harmony Halifax, NS 2022-Present
Engage faith-based partners for interfaith dialogue and collaboration.

Healthcare Reform Advocate, Put People First PA Lancaster, PA 2020-Present
Engage community partners to advocate for universal healthcare; speak at rallies and events.

Election Justice Speaker, CASA Lancaster, PA 2020-Present
Engage community partners to advocate for voting rights; speak at rallies and events.

Communications Team, POWER Interfaith Collective Lancaster, PA 2020-Present
Engage community and faith-based partners to advocate for racial and social justice reform.

Board Member, Harvard UU Ministry for Students Cambridge, MA 2017-2019
Coordinated volunteers; planned student programming.

Garden Leader, Harvard Divinity School Garden Cambridge, MA 2017-2019
Coordinated volunteers and managed the student garden; planed events.

Food & Gardening Program Volunteer, Cultivating Community Portland, ME 2014-15 & 2017
Assisted with gardening, cooking, and nutrition classes with students grades K-12.

Anti-Racism Organizer, Showing Up for Racial Justice Portland, ME 2015-2017
Co-founded local antiracism organization chapter; organized meetings and local events.

Master Gardener Volunteer, UMaine Cooperative Extension Falmouth, ME, 2015-2016
Completed an intensive training in horticulture; served as a volunteer gardener and educator.

Writing Mentor/Facilitator, The Telling Room Portland, ME, 2014-2015
Co-facilitated writing workshops for immigrant and refugee students; assisted with outreach.

CREATIVE
PROJECTS

Farm to Institution New England Summit Amherst, MA, 2015
Presented on community outreach strategies to support local food initiatives in schools.

Community Television Network's Community Kitchens Portland, ME, 2013
Featured on a community television show to highlight farm-to-table cuisine.

Transfiguration X5 Providence, RI 2010-2013
Co-founded an experimental theatre collaborative with a group of local artists and students. Wrote, produced, and directed plays

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (Native), French (Advanced), Italian (intermediate), Spanish (Beginner)