

DAVID J. SMOLAR

301-339-3044 | d_smolar@hotmail.com | <http://www.youtube.com/shabbatai> |

www.KikayonProductions.com

"Smolar has created an event unlike anything else in Washington"

Washington Post on "The Chanukah Seder", 12/22/2008

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- ✧ **Creator and Writer/Producer**, www.KikayonProductions.com, providing out-of-the-box creative, non-frontal, self-guided products for Jewish learning for grades 5+
- ✧ **Proud Jewish educator** since 1994 for grades 5-12, adult education, and synagogue events
- ✧ **Dedicated tutor** for b'nai mitzvah, opening students' eyes both to Hebrew literacy and deeper textual understanding
- ✧ **Energetic junior congregation leader** for Shabbat and high holidays, infusing ritual and discussion with song and performance
- ✧ Talented author, songwriter, pianist, and producer of "**Torah Time Live**" *parasha* play program for every Shabbat
- ✧ Boundless creator and producer of original, DC-area community-wide Jewish experiences including **the annual Hanukkah Seder** and the first Jewish a Capella Festival of DC
- ✧ **Video Editor** of the non-profit BeyondTheShoah.com project, using interviews with young Jewish professionals raised and living in Warsaw and Budapest to build awareness of their revivals
- ✧ Inspiring public speaker and adult educator with numerous appearances at DC's **Latke-Hamentasch Debate**
- ✧ **Former board member and fundraising chair, Jewish Study Center** of Washington
- ✧ **SAG/AFTRA member** with experience in drama, improv, piano and guitar, music theory, composition, poetry, parody songwriting, Israeli dance, and singing and arranging for a capella
- ✧ Innovative Apple-certified **video editor, motion graphics designer, DVD author**, and producer for home-based In Between Things Productions

WORK EXPERIENCE

Spiritual Leadership, 1994-present

Washington DC Metro area congregations include Adas Israel, Tifereth Israel, Etz Hayim, B'nai Israel, Tikvat Israel, Har Tzeon

Teaching and Tutoring, 1994-present

Conservative Congregations include Adas Israel Congregation, Tifereth Israel, Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, Congregation Etz Hayim [Arlington/Fairfax], B'nai Shalom of Olney

PRODUCED AND PUBLISHED WORKS

- **The Chanukah Seder**, family-friendly hagaddah including instructions for seder plate, all the steps, and a full 'maggid' of the Chanukah story based on Josephus' account, with songs based on popular Broadway tunes, published 2006, copyright 2007
- **Torah Time Live**, a series of plays geared toward grade 7+ for Purim and the high holidays
- **Passover haggadot**, comprised of mostly original material, also fully musical, including "The 1985 Seder," "The Billy Joel Seder," "The Mellow 70s Seder," and "The Simon & Garfunkel Seder"

- **Numerous Purim Spiels** for Adas Israel Congregation, laced with parody songs and political satire

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Comprehensive understanding of Jewish History and the importance of dynamic traditions;
- Extensive knowledge of Hebrew Bible both from Halachic and secular points of view;
- Literate in Hebrew, etymology, grammar, *davening*, *layning*, and liturgy;
- Talents include singing, teaching, playing piano and guitar, arranging, composing, accompaniment;
- Vocal and stage experience translated into strong physical presence and clear, resonant voice
- Proud member, SAG/AFTRA, ASCAP

HEBREW SCHOOL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

GRADES TAUGHT	CONGREGATION	EDUCATION DIRECTOR	YEARS
Grade 5	Tifereth Israel	Eitan Gutin	2014-present
Grades 5 and 6	Ohr Kodesh Congregation	Rabbi Tirza Covel	Spring 2014
Grades 6 and 7	Congregation Beth El, Bethesda	Louis Nagel	2011-2012
Grade 7	B'nai Israel	Fran Zavin	1998-1999
Grade 6	B'nai Shalom of Olney	Gloria Eiseman	1996-1998
Grades 5-7	Oseh Shalom	Jackie Land	1994-1995

SPECIALTY JEWISH POSITIONS

Junior Congregation "Machar" leader, grades 3-5	Tifereth Israel	Eitan Gutin	2014-2015
Junior Congregation and High Holidays Leader, grades 4+	Tikvat Israel	Rochelle Helzner	1994-1997
"Shabbat Morning Live!" Junior Congregation and High Holidays Leader, grades 4+	Adas Israel	Josh Bender	2008-2012
"Shabbat Morning Live!" Junior Congregation Leader, grades 4+	Congregation Etz Hayim [Arlington, VA]	Michelle Hilburn	2010-2013
"Torah Club" leader [classroom trope training for b'nai mitzvah]	Adas Israel	Josh Bender	2011-2012
Adult Education Torah study series	Congregation Etz Hayim [Arlington, VA]	Michelle Hilburn	2010-2011
B'nai Mitzvah Tutor	B'nai Shalom of Olney, Congregation Etz Hayim [Arlington, VA]	Gloria Eiseman, Michelle Hilburn	1997-2000

Teacher, Jewish Study Center, "The <i>Puncta Extraordinaria</i> "	For Jewish Study Center, held at 6 th & I	Amy Schwartz	2009
Assistant Ritual Director	Beth El Congregation, Baltimore	Sandy Winters	1999-2000
Board Member, Fundraising Chair	Jewish Study Center of Washington	Amy Schwartz	2007-2009
Purim Shpiel, script and song writer and performer	Adas Israel	Gil Steinlauf	2006-present
The Chanukah Seder [an original musical work], producer and performer	For Jewish Study Center, held at 6 th & I, then at Adas Israel	Amy Schwartz	2006-2011
The First Jewish Acapella Festival of DC, producer and host	For Jewish Study Center, held at 6 th & I	Amy Schwartz	April 26, 2009

EDUCATION

American University, Washington, D.C.

M.A., Visual Media [Film/Digital Video], 2002

Montgomery College, Rockville, MD

Graduate work, TV/Radio Broadcasting, 1996-1998

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

B. A., Jewish History, May 1995.

Courses included:

- HIST 282--History of the Jewish People from ancient times through 1492;
- HIST 419E--Hebrew Messianic Texts, line by line translation of Abravanel's "Wellsprings of Redemption" (commentary on the Book of Daniel);
- PHIL 209I--Authority, Faith, and Reason in Judaism, the evolution of dogma from Rambam to Spinoza;
- HEBR 472--Reading Medieval Hebrew, in-depth examination of Halevi's Kuzari;
- HIST 418--Women in Jewish Society, piecing together the true nature of the life of a Jewish woman in ancient and medieval times through primary sources;
- HIST 374--Modern Jewish History I, survey of Jewish History through Haskalah;
- HIST 286--Ancient Jewish History, detailed review of apocryphal literature;
- Senior Thesis: *Sicut Judaeis* and the Popes of the XIIIth Century

Baltimore Hebrew High School, Baltimore, MD

Graduate with Honors, May 1989.

Courses [accruing to 12 college credits] included:

- Modern Jewish History
- Hebrew Literature
- Jewish Philosophy
- Rabbinic Commentary

Beth Tfiloh Community Day School, Baltimore, MD

Graduate and Commencement Speaker [in Hebrew], 1977-1986.

Professional Memberships:

Member of SAG/AFTRA, IBEW, ASCAP, WIFV, TIVA-DC

Former Board Member, Fundraising Chair, Jewish Study Center of Washington

Former Showrunner, The National Cotillion "Dub Ball" of Washington

Hardware and Software:

- Apple-certified end user, Final Cut Pro, Spring 2008
- Standard software: MS Office Suite, Lotus Notes, Outlook, IE and Firefox
- Editing: Final Cut Studio, Compressor, Premiere, Photoshop and After Effects, VLC
- FTP: Aspera, Fetch, Transmission

SECULAR WORK EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Beyond the Shoah, Washington, DC

November 2014-present

Video Editor

- Editing hour-long HD interviews into 3-5 minute issue-based video packages
- Researching photos, usage rights and creating motion graphics for use in video
- Transforming videos for web streaming and media archive management

Verizon Digital Media Services, Ashburn, VA 2014

May 2012-January

Quality Control Analyst

- Evaluated TV and film assets for visual, aural, and technical errors across multiple platforms, devices, and non-linear editors
- Generated asset and network performance reports via analysis software including Baton, Splunk, and Conviva
- Utilized intranet tools, including iVAPP, Core, and Aspera ILO, to research asset transform parameters, history, and location, and transfer files to SAN

Creative Video of Washington, McLean, VA 2010

August 2009-June

Video Producer/Editor

- Edited award-winning video for non-profit raising over \$455,000 in one night
- Wrote, voiced, and edited conference videos for national organizations
- Worked with clients to lead them through post-production to their goals

d/b/a In Between Things Productions present

2008-

Video Producer/Editor

- Shot, edited, and compressed short interviews for educational website
- Designed and outsourced DVD packaging for distribution
- Designed and updated website pages through content management system
- Composed supporting PowerPoint presentation as go-to manual for clients

Discovery Communications, Inc., Silver Spring, MD

2003-2007

Production Coordinator, Content Screener for Discovery, Science, Military Channels

- Fostered communication among internal contacts and outside vendors for over 100 hours of programming
- Evaluated and fact-checked scripts and cuts, verified accuracy of program material
- Flagged programming for sensitivity issues for four channels

American University School of Communication, Washington, DC

2001-2002

Media Manager, Final Cut Pro Editing Lab, Wechsler Classroom Theater

- Supervised completion of major \$40,000 media renovation of 100+ seat classroom theater
- Oversaw construction and design of digital video editing lab with staff of 10-15
- Taught advanced editing to over 50 undergrad and grad students
- Advised faculty on development of video production curriculum

WTOP Radio, CBS News local affiliate, Washington, DC

1997–2000

Assistant Editor, On-Air Talent, Producer of "Nightside with Dean Lane"

- Conducted interviews for human interest stories airing both locally and nationally
- Wrote, produced, and edited nightly anchor pieces
- Provided support to evening and overnight editors