

ELEVATE & INSPIRE



The RCA Scholar-in-Residence Initiative for Smaller Communities



The RCA is excited to share a new program called *Elevate & Inspire: The RCA Scholar-in-Residence Initiative for Smaller Communities*

The program is designed to bring outstanding Scholar-in-Residence experiences to smaller synagogues that often miss out due to budgetary constraints. The goal is simple: connect talented pulpit Rabbis from smaller communities with congregations hungry for an inspiring guest speaker. These Rabbis might not be regular faces on the usual Scholar-in-Residence circuit, but they bring fresh energy and deep Torah knowledge to their teaching.

We aim to:

- 1) **Make Great Jewish Learning Available to Everyone:** Help smaller communities access meaningful learning experiences that might be otherwise out of reach
- 2) **Open New Doors:** Give talented Rabbis the chance to share their Torah beyond their home communities
- 3) **Lift Everyone Higher:** Build pride and recognition for shuls whose Rabbis join this initiative

How it works:

- 1) **Fair Compensation:** Hosting synagogues provide a \$500 honorarium plus travel costs for the Rabbi and his Rebbetzin.
- 2) **Give and Receive:** Each participating Rabbi hosts another Scholar-in-Residence at least once a year.
- 3) **Focus on Quality:** Rabbis will polish their best talks through practice and preparation
- 4) **Grow Together:** We're offering training and coaching to help Rabbis take their presentations to the next level
- 5) **Learn from Each Other:** Through our "Drasha Chavruta" approach, Rabbis pair up to give each other feedback and support, making sure every talk hits the mark

We believe this program will strengthen our smaller Jewish communities, spotlight talented Rabbis, and create lasting connections between congregations across the country.

My colleagues Rabbi Ira Ebbin (rabbiebbin@ohav.org) and Rabbi Wes Kalmar (rabbikalmar@asktshul.com) are spearheading this initiative. Please reach out to them if you'd like to get involved or share your thoughts about the program.