



ANDY KASTNER, THE SILK FOUNDATION CAMPUS RABBI

Email: rabiandy@stlouishillel.org

Phone: (314) 935-9037

Originally from Cleveland, OH, where he grew up attending Fairmont Temple, Rabbi Kastner graduated from Indiana University in 2002, with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Judaic Studies with a minor in History. After attending and working at the URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) for 7 years, Andy attended the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. He received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in 2010. Andy became a licensed shochet (kosher slaughterer) through an apprenticeship while living in New York City. Rabbi Kastner's work has been covered by a variety of publications including [The New York Times](#) and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Prior to joining St. Louis Hillel in 2010, Andy served as the Director of the Jewish Youth Encounter Program for the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and as a Rabbinic Intern at Beth Tfiloh Community School in Baltimore, Maryland. During the summers of 2007 and 2008, he served as a Jewish educator for, and later as the Director of, *PanimWorks*, a pluralistic service-learning program and cultural exchange for Jewish high school students from across the United States with a Native American community in Mancos, Colorado. Andy previously taught at Riverdale Reform Temple and served as its high school youth group advisor, he also served as an assistant program director for Beth Israel Conservative Synagogue. Prior to rabbinical school, he served as a program associate at the University of Michigan Hillel and Eastern Michigan University Hillel.

In NY, Andy founded *Smadar*, a community supported agricultural cooperative and also helped to coordinate a monthly men's homeless shelter. He has served as a scholar-in-residence at Yale University Hillel, the NYU Hillel Environmental Initiative, and Princeton University Hillel. In 2009, he received the Riverdale Jewish Community Council Leadership Award. This past summer, Andy visited the White House with the Jewish Social Justice Round Table to discuss aspects of the 2012 Farm Bill. An avid outdoorsman, a lover of food and the natural world, Andy may not be able to pat his head and rub his tummy simultaneously, but he is fond of digestive consciousness, thinking while chewing. Andy lives in St. Louis with his sweet wife, Leslie, and their vivacious toddler Asher.