

# AHARON N. VARADY

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*Contributing to a more vibrant Jewish culture by modeling creativity, compassion, and mindful awareness through innovative teaching and craft.*

## EDUCATION

***Bachelor of Arts, History*** 1996

SUNY Binghamton, Harper College, Binghamton, New York

- Minor studies in Geology and Judaic Studies; Golden Key and Phi Alpha Theta

***Master of Community (Urban) Planning*** 2004

University of Cincinnati, DAAP, Cincinnati, Ohio

- Specialization in environmental planning, GIS, land use, and urban history
- Masters thesis on the planning history of a historic housing cooperative (see [lulu.com/cdi](http://lulu.com/cdi))

## EXPERIENCE

***Founder & Director*** Spring 2009-Present

The Open Siddur Project

- Founded an open source online collaborative publishing platform bridging craft and the digital humanities
- Josh and Rena Kopelman Chair of Online Community Organizing at Presentense Institute Summer Workshop

***Fellow*** Fall 2009-Summer 2010

Yeshivat Hadar, New York City, New York

- Studied Talmudic and Biblical literature in Hebrew and Aramaic

***Program Assistant*** Spring 2009

Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival at the Gershman Y, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Wrote press releases for festival screenings
- Drafted letters to raise funds and other in-kind donations

***Program Director*** Spring 2008

Hillel at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Organized weekly cultural events, wrote grant applications, and mentored students

***Educator*** Fall 2006-Spring 2009

Bnai Israel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Philadelphia Area Synagogues

- Taught Hebrew to grades 3-8

***Urban and Regional Planner*** 2006–2008

The Shaw Group, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- Editorial support for the [Coastal Plan of Louisiana](#), writing press releases and articles, designing PowerPoint presentations, and designing and maintaining the project website, newsletter, and listserv
- Helped author an annexation plan for the City of Port Allen, creating an existing conditions report, future land use study, a website for the [Port Allen CDC](#) and over 30 maps describing past, present, and future development

- Community Planner*** 2005–2006  
 URS Corporation, FEMA ESF-14, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana
- Prepared the Community Baseline study for the Vermilion Parish Long Term Community Recovery Plan, a plan to aid the parishes affected by hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005 (see: [louisianaspeaks-parishplans.org](http://louisianaspeaks-parishplans.org))
- Project Assistant*** Fall 2005  
 Urban Institute, International Activities Center, Washington, DC
- Analyzed expense reports and processed purchase orders, invoices, visa requests, etc.
  - Supported overseas field offices
- Researcher and Program Assistant*** 2004–2005  
 Trust for Public Land, Center for City Park Excellence, Washington, D.C.
- Researched city park systems and urban park policies
  - Published article “[Learning Virtually Everything About Your Park](#)” (*Parks & Recreation*, NRPA 9/2005)
  - Co-authored report on TPL experience managing and developing city park sites
  - Prepared PowerPoint presentations and made website recommendations for Center
- Graduate Assistant*** 2002-2004  
 School of Planning, DAAP, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Prepared statistical profiles and census reports for Cincinnati Planning Department
  - Surveyed and documented brownfield sites for urban land use initiative
- Open Source Programmer, System Administrator*** 2000–2002  
 Datarealm Internet Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Administered GNU/Linux and Windows servers
  - Authored programs and scripts using open source languages and databases
- Computer Support Specialist*** 1997–2000  
 University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Provided second tier computer network and desktop support to IT personnel
  - Wrote technical support documentation for end-users and IT support services
- Community Arts Director*** 1998–2002  
 The Philadelphia Ambient Consortium, Philadelphia, PA
- Founded an organization for promoting Ambient and other new music in Philadelphia
  - Curated monthly performances in partnership with artists and non-profit organizations
- Urban History Researcher*** Summer 1995  
 Southwestern PA Heritage Preservation Commission, Johnstown, Pennsylvania
- Developed a heritage tourism project for Minersville, a historic working neighborhood
  - Constructed a history through archival research and primary source analysis
- Radio Programmer (FCC Licensed)*** 1994–2002  
 WHRW Binghamton, NY (90.FM) and WKDU Philadelphia, PA (91.7FM)
- Prepared weekly radio program, “Amplified Harmonic Resonance”
  - Programmed shows in accordance with FCC regulations and station policies

More information available at: [Aharon’s Omphalos](#), and the [Open Siddur Project](#)