

### **Bio: Rabbi Debra Smith**

Rabbi Debra Smith is the Founder and Spiritual Leader of Or ha Lev Jewish Renewal Community, formerly in New Jersey and now a virtual full community.

Rabbi Deb is a clinical social worker and marriage and family therapist with 20 years clinical experience in private practice.

She is also the author and editor of five Jewish themed books .

A long time major focus of Rabbi Deb's work is in the field of professional ethics. She is the recipient of the New Jersey chapter of NASW's Trailblazer Award for her work in Ethics education. She was the Founder of the Ethics Committee of The National Association of Social Workers NJ Chapter and served as its Chairperson for 7 Years.

She is the recipient of the Leo Brody Award given to her for her "demonstrated professional excellence, personal commitment to Jewish values and exceptional leadership skills."

Rabbi Deb has worked as an interfaith educator and activist for the last 15 years. She serves as co leader of a chapter of the national organization, The Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom. She has also served as Rabbi in Residence at the Drew University Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Deb teaches extensively in the multi faith community, teaching about Judaism and facilitating dialogue among Christians, Muslims and Jews and those of other faiths.

Rabbi Deb is a faculty member in the Judaic Studies department of DOROT in New York City for more than 25 years. She is also a faculty member at the Aleph Ordination Program of the Jewish Renewal movement.

In addition to rabbinic ordination, Rabbi Deb also holds Master's Degrees in Social Work, Jewish Studies, and Education.

Rabbi Deb and her husband, Neil Smith, make their home in Boynton Beach, Florida, and in Monroe, New Jersey. They are the parents of two grown daughters, Elana and Dana, and the happy owners of their golden doodle, Sammi.