

# Cohen Kraus

He/They

mallorycohenkraus@gmail.com 513-575-6343

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## EDUCATION

**Hebrew Seminary for the Deaf and Disabled**  
Class of 2029 current Rabbinical Grad student

**Wright State University| Fairborn, Ohio**  
Class of 2019  
Studied for Bachelor of Fine Arts: Acting, Sexuality Studies Minor;

**School of Creative and Performing Arts | Cincinnati, Ohio**  
Class of 2015

**NFTY in Israel 2013**  
**LGBTQ Birthright Participant 2020**

**Repair the World Fellow with the Night Ministry and No Shame on U, and 826Chi**

**Tzedek Chicago Host**

**Creator of consent community Shchvitz and Queer Jewish Lex Chicago with 32 members**

## SKILLS

- Microsoft Office Suite,
- Google products (Google Drive, Sheets, Google Calendar),
- Creative
- Customer service
- Cold calling,
- Writing (Playwriting, Poetry, blog, Social media)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **The Josselyn Center**

**November 2023 to June 2024**

Peer Support Specialist

- Building and locating resources for guests based on guest-led interactions.
- Supporting Adults Ages 18+ in recovery and with mental illness with health and wellness goals.
- Making meals for guests as they come in and talking about what has been challenging through guest lead interactions
- Creating appropriate boundaries of disclosure of sharing and applying personal experience of mental health challenges.

### **Kokua Education**

**September 2023 to November 2023**

Substitute teacher

- Worked with all ages in charter schools on the west and south sides of Chicago, such as Aspira, ACRO,
- assisting with planned lessons, working with students of a variety of backgrounds, including primarily Hispanic and black populations, and people of all abilities
- Assignments are handed to me the day of when I am prepared and motivated to jump right in wherever help is needed

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## Moving Traditions

Tzelem Trans and Nonbinary Supervisor

August 2022-May 2023

- Facilitated and planned sessions around gender identity, healthy relationships, and sexuality issues for Jewish Trans and Nonbinary teens
- Communicated with parents and teens to schedule events
- Scout locations to hold events and build partnerships with venue hosts

## Mishkan Chicago

4th and 5th grade Mensch Academy Supervisor

August 2022-May 2023

- Participate in weekly professional development sessions Monday-Wednesday on behavior management and pedagogy
- Script and plan lessons with co-facilitator
- Teach and lead class weekly, Monday-Wednesday
- Adapt lessons and space to learners' needs and abilities
- Lead religious services for the whole school
- Helped learners develop their original game boards and other projects through learning through play
- Infused theater into the curriculum by teaching improv games, storytelling through text and song

## Beth Emet

7th-grade Religious school Supervisor

August 2021-June 2024

- Spending two years building an original curriculum on race, gender, choice-making, sexuality, and orientation
- Script and plan lessons with a co-facilitator and alone
- Teach and lead class weekly on Thursdays and Sundays
- Adapt lessons and space to learners' needs and abilities
- Help students create original identity murals based on their personal stories about their relationships with themselves and Judisiam.
- Collect supplies and plan youth group events both in and out of the house
- Provide and create a safe space for learners to thrive and explore their interests

## Keshet | Virtual

Training Supervisor

August 2021-Current

- Represented Keshet at Pride 2022 and marched in Chicago
- Spoke virtually for Boston synagogue for Trans Day of remembrance
- Facilitate Keshet's comprehensive sex and gender education training nationally on a gig-to-gig basis
- Participate in monthly staff training on gender and sexuality education

## Jewish Federation of North America| New York, New York (Virtual)

February 2021- June 2022

Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Director of Engagement

- Devised strategies to increase engagement with JEDI programming
- Helped build an LGBTQ Task Force in the Federation system by working with LGBTQ Federation members and partner organizations
- Created Pronoun Training as a part of an initiative called Identity Forum and facilitated original content with a virtual inclusive dialogue
- Meeting with federations to hear their concerns about how to create diversity, inclusion, and empowerment
- Completed research projects to recruit speakers with fast turnarounds
- Collected and presented data for how many people attended JEDI training

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- Currently working on LGBTQ curriculum for JEDI

## **Jewish Federation of North America | New York, New York (Virtual)**

**September 2020- January 2021**

### Changemaker Engagement Team

- Gathered data from Changemaker calls and built a document of conclusions, trends, and suggestions for implementing the next steps for alums of the Changemaker program.
- Called 115 individual Changemakers to gather data about their experience in the Changemaker program and hear about what they would like to see next for further alumni engagement.
- Maintained a relationship with 49 contacts from Jewish federations nationwide through email and individual Zoom meetings. Meetings and emails were about the progress of the people who graduated from the Changemaker Young Leadership Program and what each Changemaker was doing to contribute to their federation.
- Connected Changemakers aged 20-25 to fellow Changemakers in similar career paths using Facebook, Email, and calling and texting. These calls also had difficult conversations regarding feedback inclusion and advocacy regarding identity-related topics.
- Helped plan the General Assembly Afterparty and Changemaker Shabbat by working with partner agencies to create engaging content that embodied Changemaker's inclusive leadership model.
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## **Women's Theater Festival (Virtual)**

**September 2020- November 2021**

### Trans and GLB Inclusion and Literary Apprentice

- Worked as a casting assistant on the November 2020 Occupy the Stage Festival
- Marketing through trans-affirming Facebook groups and personal one-on-one outreach through email and direct messages increased the representation of non-binary and trans artists from 2 to 25 artists.
- Read and help choose 50 scripts for Occupy 2020 by providing feedback for the team about accurate trans and queer representation on each script read.
- Worked as a gender consultant on a script that included defining boundary questions between the actors and the director and providing research for the actors to engage with trans material.
- I devised and implemented Game Day for fundraising on Giving Tuesday, which helped raise \$1,000 for the company.
- Participated in 2 Facebook live interview sessions as a face of the Women's Theater Festival, talking about the future of inclusion and representation for trans and nonbinary artists in theater
- Will be mentoring and teaching a workshop with an original curriculum on writing the story from self for Trans and Nonbinary artists in a six-part series in March 2021

## **Lama Theater | New York, New York (Virtual)**

**March 2017-May 2017**

### LGBTQ Social Media Intern

- Responsible for promoting LGBTQ-based production *Charlie's Waiting*
- Connected virtually to local LGBTQ groups in the New York City area to come to the show and promote it on their organization's social media platforms
- Created weekly newsletters leading up to the show by formatting the content and pictures sent
- Communicated with supervisor digitally to promote the vision of the project on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, company website, and email
- Made Spotify playlists as promotional material for *Charlie's Waiting*, researching queer artists to make an individual playlist for each character. Posted the playlists on all social media platforms
- Located a queer graphic designer for the logo and programs that were used for the promotion of the show

## **Sexuality and Disability Conference | Dayton, Ohio**

**August 2017 - October 2017**

### Leadership Director

- Promoted a show on Facebook with a campaign about self-confidence, featuring a new cast member on each post

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- Packed a full house of a theater of 150 seats.
- Collaborated with a choreographer and students to tell a story using the music of LGBTQ artist Perfume Genius
- Worked with the director of Disability Services at Wright State to make the performance more accessible by bringing the actors closer to the audience and providing close captioning for projection as well as working with an ASL interpreter
- Led group-based discussions on the correlation between orientation, gender identity, disease, the body, and queerness that resulted in the show

**Hebrew Union College | New York, New York/Dayton, Ohio**

**November 2019 – April 2020**

Leadership Director, Founders Fellowship

- Attended leadership training and learned about program implementation for social action on the college campus
- Used a budget of 500 dollars to implement a program on Wright State College Campus to increase awareness around personal and religious identity
- Created resources for students, such as identity writing prompts and links to research on specific identity topics
- Made monthly reports of the status and success of the program for the supervisor to review
- Created a performance with students as a culmination of their work in research on identity and religion

## YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

**KAM Israel | Chicago, Illinois (Virtual)**

**September 2020 – September 2022**

6th and 7th Grade Jewish Religious School Educator

- Built original Jewish curriculum for the upcoming 6th and 7th grade year to be taught by all 6th and 7th teachers
- Works with supervisor Rabbi Lauren Reves to meet the needs of 10 students, nurturing their Jewish identity development through weekly 30-minute sessions
- Creates lesson plans that mix a given curriculum and original content born out of the student's interests.
- Created an interactive resource guide with students about Black Lives Matter that allows readers to make a change by signing petitions that the students researched and presented to the KAM community with an active discussion about racism.

**Shir Hadash | Chicago, Illinois (Virtual)**

**September 2020 – May 2021**

6th and 7th Grade Jewish Religious School Educator

- Develop and teach a year-long curriculum surrounding the intersection of Judaism and other identities through an eye on institutional change, social justice, and inclusive leadership weekly for 1 hour and a half sessions.
- Responsible for helping the students to implement a social justice project about identity to present to the Shir Hadash community

**Temple Shalom | Dayton, Ohio**

**August 2018 – May 2019**

Kindergarten Teacher

- Responsible for the care and well-being of children ages 5 and 6.
- Created structured programming such as crafts and musical lesson plans
- Facilitated learning of Jewish values and practices by providing virtual and tangible resources
- Developed effective relationships with parents through clear communication, checking in before and after school
- communicated with the supervisor on my progress

**Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) | Zionsville, IN May 2015 – August 2015**

Councilor

- Responsible for the care and well-being of teens ages 10-13.

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- Developed unit programs based on the ideas of the teens to have mock bat mitzvah parties, spa nights, and Torah studies
- Developed skill-building learning of the foundations to come up with a piece of theater that was presented at the talent show using each camper's skills
- Helped out with planning the teens' Shabbat service and providing coaching on their writing for the service
- Communicated with a supervisor about individual campers' struggles and goals with camp

## **Sababa Surf | Virginia Beach, Virginia June 2018 – August 2018**

Councilor

- Responsible for the case management of children ages 10-15.
- Supervised surfing, sailing, and other beach activities
- Organized a beach meditation program around teens' ideas about nature and how it interacts with Jewish identity
- Responsible for leading group discussions on gratitude each morning, Judaism, and leadership

## **JCC Apachi | Chicago, Illinois June 2019 – August 2019**

Drama Specialist

- Responsible for the teaching and well-being of children ages 4-12.
- Created structured theater programming such as teaching improv games and storytelling games
- Developed skill-building learning of the foundations of theater, working up to being comfortable with the performance
- Helped out with theme days at camp by coming up with creative, fast problem-solving ideas
- Communicated with a supervisor about individual campers' struggles and goals with camp