Reb Lea-h Campolo graduated from the Judaic Studies program at Oberlin College and received ordination as a rabbinic pastor and maggidah (one who seeks inner meaning and then makes connections) from Rabbi Zalman Shachter-Shalomi in 1993. That same year she founded and became the spiritual director of Congregation Beit HaDorshim in Brookline, MA. She has been a long time member of B'nai Or Boston and a member of a women's interfaith community at the Monastery of St. Clare.

Reb Lea-h teaches through many modalities including storytelling, music, humor, and text study using diverse wisdom sources. She teaches monthly classes at ascentshul.com, a school established to study the mystical and psychological dimensions of Torah. Her particular field of interest is the psychology and universality of Judaism. She follows in the age old and evolving tradition of spiritual maggidic teachers, whose work is to inspire and encourage by heart and mind connection to move toward positive action and greater spiritual potential.

Through the years Lea-h has been an activist in the issues of homelessness in Appalachia and in Boston. She was instrumental in opening the Parker Street Shelter in Mission Hill in Roxbury, MA. She has worked as an educator, builder, and curriculum writer to create a national and international model for reducing urban violence and unemployment in our cities among young people.

Life's enjoyments for Reb Lea-h include music, swimming, sea kayaking, beekeeping and parenting. Some of her teachings come from the lessons these activities have taught her.

Joan Cooke is currently finishing up her first year as a student in the Aleph cantorial program. She has studied music since early childhood including singing with Dartmouth College Handel Society. An experienced leader of High Holy Day and Shabbat services at the Upper Valley Jewish Community in Hanover, NH and Beth El in St. Johnsbury, VT, Joan has also taught Hebrew school for many years in both of those communities.

In 2010, Joan led the High Holy Day services at Hampshire College in MA. She looks forward to joining Reb Lea and the B'nai Or community in creating a meaningful High Holy Days 5772 experience.

CHARLES J. BERGER