



RABBI JOANNA SAMUELS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Rabbi Joanna Samuels is the Chief Executive Officer at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, one of the largest Jewish Community Centers in the world, serving over 3,000 people each day. In the heart of Manhattan's Upper West Side, and together with our community, the JCC creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. The JCC imagines a community that is diverse and engages meaningfully with its values, culture, and ideas in people's everyday lives.

Prior to joining the MMJCCM, she was the founding executive director of Educational Alliance's Manny Cantor Center, where she redefined the Jewish Community Center and the Settlement House for a new era. Her work at the Manny Cantor Center was written about in *The New York Times*, *The Daily News*, and *The Jewish Daily Forward*. Following rabbinic ordination in 2002, Joanna served as the Rabbi of Congregation Habonim in New York City, where her leadership helped to revitalize the synagogue's community. She also worked as an advocate, strategist, and mentor for women's advancement and gender equity in the Jewish community at Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community. Joanna has written for local and national publications and taught at many institutions throughout New York City. Rabbi Samuels graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College and received Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow. She serves on the advisory board of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger and lives on the Upper West Side with her husband and two children, alumni of the Saul and Carole Zabar Nursery School.