



Mayyim Hayyim Announces a New CEO

Julie Childers, a nonprofit executive leader, with extensive experience in the fields of education, women and girls' health, and Jewish philanthropy, has been named the new Chief Executive Officer of Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Paula Brody & Family Education Center in Newton, Massachusetts.

Childers, who assumed the CEO position on July 5th, is the past Executive Director of Our Bodies, Ourselves, and former Vice President of Education at Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston College.

“I am deeply honored to be Mayyim Hayyim’s new leader, and to partner with an extraordinary staff and board,” said Childers. “Expanding opportunities for Jews of all genders and backgrounds to mark key moments in their lives feels increasingly vital. When I immersed at Mayyim Hayyim in 2006 to mark my own conversion to Judaism, I felt a true sense of belonging. In my role as Mayyim Hayyim’s next CEO, I am committed to deepening the spirit of beauty, belonging, holiness, and care that is the heart and soul of this organization.”

With more than two decades of professional and volunteer involvement in organized Jewish life — including at Gateways, Temple Israel of Boston, Temple Shalom of Newton, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles — Childers brings a dynamic mix of academic rigor and nonprofit sensibilities to lead Mayyim Hayyim into its next chapter.

Elisha Gechter, President of Mayyim Hayyim’s Board of Directors said, “I am excited to welcome Julie, who is a strategic, data-driven leader. She has already impressed me with her collaborative mindset, discernment, and tremendous heart. Julie’s experience within the Boston Jewish community, coupled with her strong understanding of the national Jewish landscape, will be of enormous value to Mayyim Hayyim.”

Childers’ appointment comes after a search process led by a committee of board members and community partners, followed by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors.

Search Committee Co-Chairs, Jordan Namerow and Miriam Berkowitz Blue, who serve on the Board of Directors shared, “Julie impressed us with her people-centered approach to leading and learning and her ability to balance big-picture thinking with strategic execution. We are delighted to partner with Julie during this important leadership transition and look forward to advancing Mayyim Hayyim’s work together.”

Childers joins Mayyim Hayyim less than one year after the opening of a shared campus with Hebrew College and other local and national Jewish organizations that are establishing a hub for Jewish learning, community, and creativity.

Rabbi Daniel Klein, Dean of Students at Hebrew College and a member of the search committee, shared, “I was deeply impressed by Julie’s emphasis on strengthening partnerships with other organizations and community leaders. She understands what it means to lead an organization committed to pluralism, and I am excited about the possibilities for our rabbinical students and alumni to engage with Mayyim Hayyim in new, meaningful ways.”

About Mayyim Hayyim:

Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and the Paula Brody & Family Education Center is an intimate and unique center for Jewish spirituality and learning. A threshold into Jewish life, Mayyim Hayyim reclaims the ancient tradition of immersion for the diverse needs of the 21st century Jewish community in greater Boston, New England, and around the world.

Since opening its doors in May 2004, thousands of people from around the world have visited and more than 20,000 immersions have taken place, including more than 3,000 men, women and children who have converted at Mayyim Hayyim. A serene and inspiring setting, Mayyim Hayyim is a wellspring for creative ritual, a gateway to meaningful Jewish practice and an international model of interdenominational cooperation.

In March 2017, Mayyim Hayyim convened staff and lay leaders from Adas Israel Community Mikvah in Washington, DC, ImmerseNYC in New York, NY, Libi Eir Awakened Heart Community Mikveh in Raleigh, NC, and MACoM in Atlanta, GA, and a mikveh network was born. The network’s purpose is to support communities who embrace an open, inclusive, and welcoming approach to the ritual of immersion. In April 2018, with support from the Natan Fund, Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, an anonymous foundation, and individual donors, Rising Tide Open Waters Mikveh Network became a reality and now supports mikva’ot in 37 communities across 21 states and DC and 6 countries.

www.mayyimhayyim.org

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