

Roman Konoplev-Esgenburg

I was looking for liberal synagogues at an early age where women and men are not separated during prayer. The first place I found in West Hollywood, California in Kol Ami Congregation. I really enjoyed services there with my friend. The second place was Shir Libeynu. For the first time in my life I really felt safe and welcome during the High Holy days. I am looking forward to serving the Shir Libeynu Community.

I grew up surrounded by the mixture of different cultures: Jewish, German, and Russian. At age 17, I moved to Moscow to study Chemistry at the Moscow State University and graduated in 2014 with Master's degree in Chemistry. Later, I worked as a Researcher at the Department of Medicine, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany where I performed research and testing of blood, drinking water and other fluids. In the summer 2013, I worked on a project "Redox properties of Green Fluorescent Proteins" at the Chemistry Department, University of Southern California, USA. The summer of 2014, I spent at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot on a project in Computational Chemistry. In August of 2014, I returned to Los Angeles where I started my PhD program in Chemistry and worked as a Teaching Assistant. In summer of 2015, due to health circumstances, I moved to Toronto, Ontario, where I am currently working as a cosmetic engineer as well as a private tutor in Math, Chemistry and Science.

In the past year I served as Vice-President and Secretary of the Shir Libeynu board. I also actively engaged new members and volunteers, proposed new strategies for Kiddush organizing, worked on new promotion materials and strategies, and represented the board at events, including MNjcc LGBT Shabbat dinners.