

# A rabbi's fairy-tale job about to begin in Q-C

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Once upon a time, Tamar Grimm found a "fairy-tale" job.

Now, it's almost time for her to start turning the pages of Quad-Cities rabbinical history.

Ms. Grimm, a distant relative of the famous Grimm Brothers, will become the new rabbi at the Tri City Jewish Center in Rock Island, starting Monday, June 21. She will be the first female to hold that post.

However, she first needs to finish another large chapter in her life Sunday, by graduating from Hebrew College in Newton, Mass.

"It's a very exciting time of my life," she said in a telephone interview. "I've been in rabbinical school for six years, and I feel ready to take what I've learned so far and keep growing."

Her education at the "transdenominational seminary" taught her about all branches and movements of Judaism.

Growing up in Minneapolis gave her plenty of time to get to know people of other religious denominations, particularly Lutherans, she said with a chuckle.

Her new job at the Tri City Jewish Center allows her to return to her Midwestern roots and be closer to family. It also was a case of love at



Tamara Grimm

first sight, when she came to the Quad-Cities for a tour and interview.

"The thing that struck me the most was how warm and friendly everyone was," she said. "I knew that the people I met would be people I would love to spend my time with."

She's also a huge ice

cream fan, so Whitey's is a big draw.

Ms. Grimm hopes people meeting her will learn that she cares deeply for people, she's knowledgeable of Judaism and that she has a strong set of pastoral skills.

"The main thing is to be really welcoming to people and have the synagogue as a

## ► Tamar Grimm

- **Birth date:** Dec. 22, 1978.
- **Education:** Attended Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., graduating in 2001; Hebrew College in Newton, Mass., graduating Sunday, June 6.
- **Home town:** Minneapolis, Minn.
- **Favorite Scripture:** "My favorite is the story of Abraham, and how God speaks to him to go forth, and Abraham responds with an open heart and says OK, I'll go."
- **Favorite Biblical character I'd like to meet:** Moses.
- **Hobbies:** Running, rock climbing, reading.
- **One thing I feel strongly about:** "The main thing I feel strongly about is bringing healing to our world. We live in a world that is much in need of love and us taking care of each other. The reason I went into this work is to decrease the suffering in the world and increase the joy in the world."
- **I wish I knew how to:** "Most things I want to learn I have learned to do them already."

place to come to where their spiritual needs are met," Ms. Grimm said.

And where some "happily-ever-afters" may be found.