

BONNIE S. SORAK

EDUCATION

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL Graduated Cum Laude
Degrees: BS Communications/Public Relations
BS Political Science/English Minor
Palm Beach Junior College, Lake Worth, FL
Degree: AA Political Science

EMPLOYMENT

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) – February 2014- Present

Outreach Coordinator – Responsible for the overall marketing and messaging for the One Water Partnership, Blue Water Congregations, RiverWise Congregations, Trees for Sacred Places, Covenantal Partners Program, and other programs as assigned; Assists with recruitment of congregations to participate IPC's programs. Coordinates meetings, organizes volunteers for outreach events. Maintains communication with the participating organizational partners and congregations to ensure ongoing positive relationships. Tracks progress of congregations through programs and helps them initiate new efforts. Writes grant applications, reports and updates to website and database. All efforts aim to promote the underlying messages that drive home the importance of stormwater runoff control, and the opportunities for all congregants to be engaged in further efforts to restore our local waterways.

HC DrugFree – August 2013 to February 2014

Outreach Coordinator – interfaces with HCPSS staff and PT(S)As to coordinate public information programs including Teen Advisory Council, correspondence, spreadsheet/contact maintenance.

Howard County Public School System - November 2012 to February 2014

Substitute Teacher – filling in for absent teachers on an as needed basis in local school system.

Century21 C.F. Scott, Inc. - March 1992-August 2003

Sales Agent/Independent Contractor - Established and maintained an active, successful, real estate sales career. Coordinated the many details and documentation to bring contracts to closing. Built customer loyalty through repeat business. Marketing, special events. Contract negotiations.

University of South Carolina, Columbia SC - November 1991-August 1992

Community Educator - Best Chance Network for Women's Cancer Screening for the American Cancer Society under a Center for Disease Control grant. Recruitment, training and community mobilization of Volunteer Task Forces for 17 county area. Public speaking; development and implementation of volunteer training materials and other print materials. Liaison with medical service providers.

Council On Aging of the Midlands, Columbia SC - November 1988-November 1991

Senior Companion Program Director - Inaugural director of the Program for Richland County. Recruitment, training and placement of senior volunteers. Control over \$184,000 budget. Maintenance of program records and reports. Public speaking, news releases, press conferences, grant writing, print material. Increased volunteer hours by over 300% in second year.

Muscular Dystrophy Association, Columbia SC - July 1986-November 1988

Program Coordinator - Special event fundraising (raised over \$75,000 new money). Telethon Production Assistant. Implementation of local patient and community services program including coordination of clinics and summer camp with \$86,000 budget. Volunteer recruitment, public speaking, PSA's, news releases, newsletters and other print material

Palm Beach Regional Visiting Nurse Assoc., WPB, FL-Oct.1985-May 1986

Communication/Information Specialist - Writing brochures, press releases, promotions, grant applications and the 1985 Annual Report. Planning and implementation of special events. Maintenance of clipping file and media list. Coordination of volunteer activities.

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COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER

Committee Member Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) – August 2018-Present

- Serves as the Columbia Jewish Congregation's liaison to JCRC of Howard County, a committee of the Jewish Federation of Howard County; in conjunction with the Howard County Office of Human Rights served to bring Bystander Intervention to the community.
- Works to establish relationships with community leaders from government, NGOs and concerned citizens
- Serves as liaison to the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center Congregations and serves on the planning committee for the Courageous Conversations program

Founder/Co-Chairperson Columbia Jewish Congregation Green Team - October 2007 to 2018

- Coordinates Garden of Eden CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) within our synagogue and interfaith community under the congregation's Tikkun Olam Committee
- Initiates and cultivates environmental responsibility through "green" practices within our synagogue & interfaith community. Activities include facilitating an energy audit for our congregation's building, expanding our recycling programs and developing programs for the Sunday School for Tu B'shvet and Earth Day
- Spearheads Adult Education with team volunteers; offerings highlighting the environment and sustainability issues
- 2010 lead a class "(Matzah Ball) Soup to Nuts" a vegan Passover Seder tasting.
- Working with the Board and congregation towards approval and adoption of a "Greening Your Simcha" policy to encourage the greening of our operations, celebrations and education.
- Supports efforts of Solar Energy Subcommittee working to secure solar panels for Oakland Mills Interfaith Center
- 2008 Coordinates a vegan "break the fast"; 2010 organizes volunteers for Community Seder
- Coordinates CJCS Hanukkah Mitzvah Project with Jewish Community Services and Howard County Federation

Founding Chairperson Centennial CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) - 2009 to 2017

- Coordinates Inaugural CSA program by building partnerships amongst three Parent Teacher Associations, schools and farmer. First year 83 shares sold. 179 shares sold in 2010 183 shares sold. Program is on-going and in conjunction with Clarksville CSA has been incorporated into the CJC program (see above)
- Oversees Neighbor2Neighbor portion of the program donating "gift shares" and unclaimed shares to families in need as identified by HCPSS school Counselors and Pupil Personnel Workers.
- Coordinates publicity, volunteer recruitment and scheduling, media relations, social networking
- Oversees Steering Committee in farmer selection. Maintains positive working relationship with farmer, HCPSS and cooperating non-profit organizations

Centennial High School PTSA President - July 2011 to July 2013

- Presided over the CHS PTSA during unparalleled membership growth resulting in our PTSA being the largest in the county
- Reinvigorated efforts to reach out to minority communities re-establishing our Korean American Parent Association (KAPA) and initiating Chinese American Association at Centennial (CAAC)
- Established the new Eagle's Eye on Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award
- Increased fundraising efforts through Student Directory Ads, offering Mock SAT/ACT tests
- Maintained other established programs working closely with Administrative and Student Services Staff including initiating volunteers to help with Back to School mailing, coordinating Senior Scholarship Awards & Anti-Bullying Campaign
- Assisted two Eagle Scout candidates to complete their projects on school grounds

Centennial High School PTSA Board Member – August 2009 to 2014

Centennial Lane Elementary School Band Boosters President – 2010-2015 – Advocate for instructional instrumental music in public schools. Served on Howard County Parents for School Music and Centennial High School Friends of Music

Centennial Lane Elementary School PTA - 2003-2015 on the Boards and as Committee Chair in many capacities including Spring Fair Chairperson, Room Parent Coordinator, PTACHC Representative and Newsletter Editor (12 years)

September 2003/2004/2005 Raised funds for Howard County firefighters in honor of children that have a birthday on Sept. 11th