



February 26, 2010

Dear Fellow Congregants,

During the past five years, we have been fortunate to come to know and respect Rabbi Jesse Gallop as our spiritual and educational leader; for three years as a rabbinic intern and for the past two years as our temple's first installed ordained rabbi. As a congregation, we have grown in number and as a community under his guidance.

Yesterday, Rabbi Gallop sent a letter to members of our congregation about his upcoming departure. As you are aware, Rabbi Gallop's contract with Beth Chaverim will expire June, 2010 and he has accepted a position at another congregation beginning July, 2010. We will miss Rabbi Gallop dearly but, at the same time, wish him much mazel tov (good luck) as he begins this next exciting chapter in his professional life.

I am pleased to report that our search for a full-time rabbi continues to progress within the parameters of our planned process and timeline.

We have been fortunate to receive many resumes from well-qualified rabbis who show great interest in joining our community. To date, the rabbi search committee has conducted five teleconference interviews with two additional phone interviews scheduled to take place this upcoming weekend. The next major step in this process will be to meet personally with top candidates, most likely here, at Beth Chaverim. The in-person visits by candidates will give our search committee an opportunity to learn more about each candidate and to provide opportunities for interaction with our community. The visits also give the candidates an opportunity to learn more about our congregation, lay leadership, and the Northern Virginia/Loudoun County area.

While our search committee has been impressed by many of the candidates, narrowing the field is a demanding proposition. We must do our best to select the ideal candidate to meet the needs of our congregational family. By the same token, we are also competing with synagogues for the top candidates. Throughout the search process the search committee has and will continue to welcome input from the entire congregation. To this end, the results from the rabbinic search survey completed last fall have provided important guiding principles for the rabbinic search process.

As the rabbinic search progresses, we plan to introduce the leading candidates to the members of Beth Chaverim by inviting them to visit us. As visits are scheduled, we will provide advance announcement by e-mail in the hopes that congregants will participate in the search process and provide a warm Beth Chaverim welcome.

Please be an active participant in the search process. If you have questions or comments you can reach Mark Raffman, the search committee chair, at [worshipvp@bcrcva.org](mailto:worshipvp@bcrcva.org).

B'Shalom,

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