



February 24, 2010

Dear Members of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation,

I have been blessed to be your rabbi for the past five years. You have opened your hearts and lives to me, and for that I will be forever grateful. Through these years and with your support, I have been nurtured in my development as a rabbi. I have countless fond memories of Beth Chaverim. As my contract at Beth Chaverim is set to expire this June, I have had to make decisions for myself and my family about the future of my rabbinate.

As many know, I have been looking at various rabbinic positions recently including Beth Chaverim. Last week I was blessed to be offered a position in Richmond, VA. I have chosen to accept this position which will begin in July. Accepting this offer was not an easy decision for me to make. The congregation I will be going to is a larger congregation than Beth Chaverim and my new position, as an assistant rabbi, will include responsibilities focusing on programs and initiatives working with young professionals in their 20s and 30s, interfaith families, social action, and youth programs; as well as traditional rabbinic duties. These duties appeal greatly to me and complement my strengths. Also, for the first time in my career, I will have a mentor who is a rabbi that I deeply respect.

For myself, I see this as an opportunity to grow and develop as a young rabbi. Please know that I care about each family at Beth Chaverim and that I plan to continue to work hard through the end of my contract at Beth Chaverim, helping to create a synagogue with a strong and vibrant future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you over the last five years. It has been a true honor and blessing!

With great appreciation and warmth,

Rabbi Jesse Gallop