

Congregation Communications:

The Roman philosopher Seneca is quoted as saying “every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.” This sentiment is particularly relevant to our congregation at this time. After over 22 years of distinguished service, Rabbi Kaplan has announced his intention to retire at the conclusion of his current contract term at the end of July 2010. While we receive this news with very mixed emotions, we are very happy for Rabbi Kaplan and wish him and his family only the best. As they look forward to exploring new opportunities during retirement, we too, have new opportunities to grow and evolve as a congregation.

A search committee has been formed and has been working very hard on the process of finding a new Rabbi. We have been in contact with the Reconstructionist Placement Office of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) and with other synagogues who have recently conducted Rabbi searches. Two overriding principles that have been stressed repeatedly are community involvement and active communication. The purpose of this note is to outline where we are in the search process, and to ensure we are supporting both of these principles.

The basic steps of the search and placement process are outlined below:

- identify our community's needs,
- work with the RRA and JRF to identify potential candidates,
- interview and select a final candidate,
- formalize employment.

We are currently in the initial stage of identifying our congregation's needs and are looking for input from as many congregants as possible. To facilitate this, the search committee has scheduled a series of information gathering sessions (see below for dates) to address a number of questions including:

- 1) Our community has many strengths. What attributes does a new spiritual leader need to help support those strengths?
- 2) Our community is changing and has needs that have yet to be met. In which new areas can an incoming rabbi help us move forward, and what attributes will be necessary in our new spiritual leader to help us achieve important new goals?
- 3) What skills and attributes will a rabbi need to help us grow spiritually?
- 4) What is the most important thing a rabbi should know about us?

We hope you will be able to join us at one of the following sessions:

13 September	Kick-off event at Mens Club Breakfast
22 September	Meeting during Religious School on Tuesday afternoon
7 October	10AM - Weekday AM meeting
18 October	Sunday AM Meeting (not during a Men's Club Breakfast)

In addition two 'home' sessions (Middletown and Landenberg, PA) and a discussion with the older Religious School students are planned. If necessary, additional interaction will be scheduled. Please check your Shofar, e-mail, and the TBE website for details.

If you are not able to participate in one of the planned sessions, we would welcome and encourage your input in any form. Please feel free to contact the search committee via e-mail at search@tbede.org, mail or hand deliver a written response to the Temple Office in care of the Search Committee or contact a Committee member directly.

We look forward to your help as we embark on this challenging, but exciting opportunity.

Search Committee Members:

Karen Antell

Arlene Johnson

Marla Norton

Staci Bagel

Al Kagel

Corey Romao

Bob Denmark

Mike Kletter

Mike Rudolph

Nanci Hersh

Adina Mattes

Jack Stone

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”