

January 3, 2010



To the Temple Beth El Community,

We wanted to share some important updates from the Rabbi Search Committee.

In the past we have outlined the basic steps of the search and placement process which include:

- identifying our community's needs,
- identifying potential candidates,
- conducting screening, on-site interviews and selection of a final candidate,
- formalization of employment.

Since we submitted our application form to the Reconstructionist Rabbinic Placement Office in November, we received a number of resumes and conducted screening phone interviews to identify those candidates who appear to be a potential fit. We completed the initial resume and phone screening processes in mid-December.

We are now in the process of arranging for several candidates to visit us in January, February, and March. During these visits, the congregation will have opportunities to interact with, and provide input on, each candidate in a variety of settings. These visits will afford each of you several chances to get to know each of the candidates and to help promote Temple Beth El. We encourage everyone to participate in this critical aspect of this process and to have a voice in the future of Temple Beth El.

The first candidate to visit with us, Rabbi Gerald Fox, will be at Temple Beth El during the weekend of January 15-17. Rabbi Fox currently serves as spiritual leader for Temple Beth Shalom in Brigantine, New Jersey. He is familiar with the greater Wilmington Jewish community, having taught a number of classes at the Florence Melton Program of adult Jewish education in Wilmington. He has extensive experience with Conservative and Reconstructionist congregations, youth and adult populations, and also currently serves as a chaplain through Jewish Family and Children's Service in Philadelphia.

Rabbi Fox will be attending the Dalet class dinner and participating in the service on Friday, January 15. The service will begin at 7:00. Rabbi Fox will be leading Shabbat services on Saturday morning, January 16 at 9:30. He will be visiting the religious school and confirmation classrooms on Sunday, January 17. At 11:30 on Sunday, he will meet with Hai students and families. We hope to see as many members of the congregation as possible attend services on Friday and Saturday to get an opportunity to meet Rabbi Fox and give feedback to the Search Committee. In the meantime, anyone wishing to review Rabbi Fox's archived columns from the Temple Beth Shalom (Brigantine) website may access them at <http://seashul.org> under "Rabbi's Message."

Our next candidate visits are scheduled for February 5-7 and 19-21, and March 12-14.

Please feel free to contact the search committee via e-mail at search@tbede.org or contact a Committee member directly. We look forward to your help as we progress towards the selection of our new spiritual leader.

Search Committee

Karen Antell

Arlene Johnson

Marla Norton

Staci Bagel

Al Kagel

Corey Romao

Bob Denemark

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