



Rabbi Mario A. Karpuj
Rabbi Dr. Analia Bortz

17 March 2020

Chaverim,

I am pleased to share an exciting update to our rabbi search.

Last week, the Rabbi Search Committee made a recommendation to the Or Hadash Board of Directors based on input from our congregation about our recent candidate visits. I am delighted to announce the board's unanimous support of the committee's recommendation to offer Rabbi Lauren Henderson the position of Rabbi at Congregation Or Hadash. Subsequently, an offer was extended to Rabbi Lauren, which she has since accepted. Beginning this summer, she will lead our congregation into its exciting next chapter.

Seven months ago, when we embarked on this search process, I shared in my initial announcement that "Somewhere out there, just waiting to be discovered, is that next special Rabbi, who will inspire us in ways of his/her own, who will challenge us to keep on dreaming and who will help us to grow in new and exciting ways". Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our congregants, we truly feel we have found that special person in Rabbi Lauren!

While I was confident we would find our b'sheret, I knew it was going to be a daunting task. We could not have reached this point without the tremendous amount of holy work done by the members of our search committee, and I want to offer them all a huge Kol Hakavod and Todah Rabah! We all placed our trust in the leadership of Gita Berman and Lynn Epstein as our search committee chairs, and they were surely up to the task. And they were joined by tremendous committee members - Sandra Cuttler, Gail Duner, Stacey Hader-Epstein, Beth Tiemen-Feldstein, Dan Gordon, Jeff Nemhauser, and Silvia Serrano - each of whom brought unique skills, ruach, passion for our community, and contributions to the committee and the process.

The search process was an important step for our congregation; however, now begins the vital yet joyful phase of welcoming Rabbi Lauren into our community and assisting her transition to our congregation. Currently, we are putting together a transition committee that will be dedicated to helping her learn more about our congregation as well as our greater community.

As the search process for our new rabbi winds down, I am so grateful to all of you who have supported this sacred work. Your input and participation have been invaluable, and I look forward to standing beside you as we all welcome Rabbi Lauren and her husband, Joel Dworkin, to our kehillah this summer.

Mazal Tov to all of us!. May we continue to go from the strength of Rabbis Mario and Analia to the strength of Rabbi Lauren-- Hazak, Hazak V'nithazek.

Ben Nadler, President