

December 24, 2019

Rabbi Steven Pruzansky
Rabbi

Dear Members,

Rabbi Ari Zahtz
Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Yosef Weinberger
Assistant Rabbi

Elysia Stein
Executive Director

Rivka & Yehoshua Szafranski
Youth Directors

Rabbi Jonathan Schachter
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Ethan Keiser
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Andrew Berkowitz
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Saul Kaszovitz
Assistant Treasurer

Esti Kaminetzky
Recording Secretary

Chaim Kiss
Gabbai Rishon

We would like to update you on the status of the CBY Rabbinic Search, especially for those who were unable to attend last week's Semi-Annual Generals Membership meeting.

At that meeting, the Rabbinic Search Committee ("RSC") updated the members on the search and how it has been matching up with the timeline set forth in the official Process approved by the Board, as well as outlining the remaining tasks and the timeline for their performance.

That presentation has now been uploaded to the shul's website where it can be viewed under the "Rabbinic Transition" tab (www.bnaiyeshurun.org/rabbinic-transition.html).

Please feel free to review that presentation at your convenience. Here, however, are some of the important highlights:

- The RSC has considered in excess of 50 candidates (55 to date).
- Of those candidates, 20 were applicants who officially submitted resumes (whether through the CJF or through direct application to the shul).
- The remaining candidates (35 to date) were a combination of *rabbanim* either recommended to us by third parties (primarily members of the shul) or who the RSC internally chose to pursue.
- Candidates included *rabbanim* from the US, Canada, England, Europe, and Israel.
- On December 14, after weeks of extensive research and review, the RSC reduced its list to 10 finalists, each of whom were invited to participate with the RSC in teleconference interviews. Those interviews have begun and are scheduled to run through December 25.

As a reminder of the work to come, following the completion of the teleconference interviews, the RSC will again reduce the list of finalists to approximately 6, each of whom will be invited to participate in face-to-face interviews with the RSC. Those are all

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expected to occur over the next month. The RSC will then be tasked with presenting to the Board at its next meeting the RSC's suggested slate of finalists.

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If that slate is approved by the Board, the finalists will each come to CBY for a Shabbat for their individual *Probah*. The dates reserved for those *Probahs* are February 14, February 28, and March 6.

Perhaps most importantly, the RSC feels passionately that any of the 10 candidates still in the running are all exceptionally qualified and, were any of them to be elected as our next Mara D'atra, we as a shul would be particularly fortunate. The RSC views its role at this point as simply finding the best of those already excellent choices.

This is the season of illumination, and so we hope you have found this enlightening and informative, but – as always – please do not hesitate to approach any one of us with any questions or concerns you might have, or to email the Committee as a whole at rabbinicsearch@bnaiyeshurun.org. Until then, wishing you all a *Chag Urim Sameach!*

Rhonda Avner
Steven Becker, Co-Chair
Chani Chesner
Saul Kaszovitz, Co-Chair
Simcha Katz
David Rauch
Danny Saks
Chaya Schwartz
Yaakov Sheinfeld
Dovid Weinstein