

MEET THE RABBINIC SEARCH COMMITTEE

Gayle Abram's family joined Beth Emeth four years ago when she became involved with The Tribe. Gayle's two toddlers are still too young for Religious School but loved playing at the Parenting Center every Sunday. She is excited by this huge responsibility and has enjoyed attending the focus group meetings and hearing all the different views and opinions our congregants have!

Liz Albright joined CBE 5 years ago and has been part of the Social Action Committee as a grant writer for CBE Soup Kitchen and organizing the Mitzvah Menorah with the help from her wife, Laura and two children. Liz's daughter enjoys playing in the parenting center while her son attends Religious School. "I feel honored to be part of the RSC and look forward to hearing from many of you about what you are looking for in a Rabbi."

Craig Alfred is an attorney based in Albany. He has been a member of Congregation Beth Emeth for his entire life. He has celebrated numerous life cycle events at CBE, including consecration, bar mitzvah, confirmation. More recently, Rabbi Shpeen officiated at his wedding to CBE Board Member Taylor Alfred.

"I am honored to serve on the Rabbinic Search Committee and am looking forward to welcoming a new Senior Rabbi that will build on Rabbi Shpeen's legacy while ensuring CBE's future for new generations of congregants."

Michael Bigley has been a member of Beth Emeth for over 22 years, when he married Laurie Stein, whose family has been at Beth Emeth for four generations. Mike was warmly welcomed, met many people who would become good friends, and came to love the rituals and services. "Being on the Rabbinical search committee is an honor and has enhanced my knowledge and appreciation of CBE and it's warm, committed community."

Jennifer Colman has been a member at Beth Emeth for 12 years and assisted with Children's Programming during High Holy Day Services the past few years. Jenn and her husband, David have four children, ranging

from ages 5-13. "I am involved with the Rabbinical Search Committee because our family has a long future ahead of us at Beth Emeth."

Dan Cotton, and his family, Katie Yezzi, Aliza and Ezra have been members of CBE since 2008. Through the variety of programs CBE offers and the support we've received through a range of life cycle events, our attachment to the CBE community has grown much deeper in the past 12 years. "I'm excited to work with the diverse and talented members of the selection committee to find our next rabbi with the capacity to honor CBE's rich history and inspire all of us to chart CBE's next chapter."

Dan Dembling is a lifelong member of Congregation Beth Emeth where he met his wife Laura while in CBEYG. A past CBE board member, Dan is proud and humbled to be serving on the Rabbinic Search Committee and the House Committee. He is currently participating in the renovations of the Sanctuary, Paul Hall and Wolk Hall. When not drumming in the CBE band, Dan is an architect and recently completed the design of the forthcoming Capital District Jewish Holocaust Memorial.

Cheryl Gelder-Kogan and her husband, Barry have been members of CBE since 1997. Cheryl served on the Beth Emeth Board; chaired the Social Action Committee, helped start Dian's Farm and co-chaired "Next D'Or", the most recent effort at identifying needs and desires of the membership of CBE. Cheryl is serving on the RSC in order to help ensure the next senior rabbi will be a vibrant member of the congregation and the greater Capital District community, developing new ways to sustain CBE and attract new members who will continue to enhance the religious, spiritual, educational and social experience for all members of CBE.

Robyn Marinstein, co-chairperson of the Rabbinic Search Committee is a third generation member of CBE and is currently serving as first vice president of the congregation. She has been active in the religious school, CBEYG, Membership Committee and is past president of Sisterhood. Robyn, and her husband Ed's children, David and Jessica grew up at CBE. Robyn is often heard to say the "temple is my second home" and she is honored to be a part of the search committee.

Steven Ostroff has been a member of CBE for 4 years. Steve grew up in the Albany area and knew many, many CBE congregants, so when he joined, it was like coming home again. Steve is involved with the choir, Ritual Committee and design work for the temple. "I am honored to work on the search committee and would like to be part of the selection of our new Rabbi. Besides the selection responsibility, I am getting to meet a cross section of congregants that I haven't had the opportunity to in the past."

Donna Rosen has been a member of CBE since 1992, upon moving to the Albany area with her husband, Lee, a CBE past President. She has been involved in a variety of CBE community activities over the years, including as a religious school parent of David and Jamie, both of whom were B'nai Mitzvot, confirmands and CBEYG leaders. Donna is very honored and excited to be part of this important committee!

Garry Sanders is co-chairperson of the Rabbinic Search Committee. He is a past President of Beth Emeth and its Brotherhood. Garry and his wife, Jane, were married at the temple. Their sons, Mike and Jeremy, were consecrated, became B'nai Mitzvah, and were confirmed at Beth Emeth, and both served as presidents of CBEYG. Garry plays piano in the Friday Night Shabbat Unplugged band.

Steven Shrager has been a member of Congregation Beth Emeth for nearly 40 years, has been involved with various temple committees during that time, and currently serves on the CBE board of directors as the chairperson of the cemetery committee. He works for the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) as the Director of Audit Services, and is married to Lynda Goldstein Shrager, a fourth generation CBE member.