

April 9, 2017

Beth Sholom Community,

We are delighted to announce that Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz will serve as our second Rabbi on the High Holy Days this year. Rabbi Berkowitz will join Rabbi Pitkowsky, along with Cantor Ronit Wolff Hanan and Nadav Nahshon, in leading the services in the Sanctuary and the Auditorium.

Rabbi Berkowitz is the Director of Israel Programs for The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and co-founder of *Kol Ha-Ot*, a Jerusalem-based venture devoted to exploring the arts and Jewish learning. He is a member of The Wexner Heritage Program Faculty and has taught extensively throughout the United States. He also has a great deal of experience in serving as a High Holy Day Rabbi. He was ordained from JTS in 1999, is a Wexner Graduate Fellow alumnus and most recently an alumnus of the fifth cohort of the Hartman Rabbinic Leadership Institute. He grew up in New Jersey, and now lives in the Arnona neighborhood of Jerusalem with his family.

An accomplished artist, Rabbi Berkowitz was formally trained in Jewish scribal art in Jerusalem and completed the writing of *Megillat Esther*, the illumination of several *ketubbot*, and a limited edition artist portfolio entitled *Passover Landscapes: Illuminations on the Exodus* which was acquired by Yale University, exhibited at Yeshiva University Museum (April, 2006) and is on permanent exhibit at The Jewish Theological Seminary. *The Lovell Haggadah* (jointly published in 2008 by The Schechter Institute and Nirtzah Editions) is based on this work. In 2008-2009, he studied illustration and oil painting at The Jerusalem Studio School. He designed a series of tzedakah boxes and just recently finished a major twelve panel installation for the JCC of Harrison in New York.

Our task force was deeply impressed with Rabbi Berkowitz, and we look forward to introducing him to our congregation in the fall.

We'd like to take a moment to thank our fellow members of the task force that conducted the search to fill this position. We appreciate their thoughtful participation to this process. Our task force included Lyn Light Geller, Cantor Ronit Wolff Hanan, Marian Kugelmass, Karen Misler, Alan Modlinger, and Alex Wulwick.

We hope you and your family have a hag kasher v'sameach. We look forward to seeing you over the holiday.

Debbi Bohnen, Ritual Committee Chair  
Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky

**Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky**  
Congregation Beth Sholom  
354 Maitland Avenue  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
[rabbi@cbsteaneck.org](mailto:rabbi@cbsteaneck.org)  
[201-833-2620](tel:201-833-2620)