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*Building a Progressive
Jewish Community
in Brooklyn*

Interim Rabbi Job Posting June 29, 2017 / 5 Tamuz 5777

Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, a 24-years-strong, non-affiliated, progressive Jewish congregation in Brooklyn, NY is seeking an Interim Rabbi, as we prepare for the retirement of our beloved founding Rabbi Ellen Lippmann in July 2018. We seek an Interim Rabbi with experience in facilitating transitions from a founding or long-time leader who will help our congregation move to a sense of community and leadership independent of our founder.

Our transition process anticipating Rabbi Lippmann's retirement involves several core leadership teams: our Board of Directors, a Transition Team and a Rabbinic Search Committee. For over a year, through regular dialogue with the congregation, in town hall meetings and written communications, these teams have built a high degree of buy-in across our congregation for the hiring of an Interim Rabbi.

About Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives

Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives is a congregation where doubt can be an act of faith and all hands are needed to build our community. We are creative, serious seekers who pray joyfully, wrestle with tradition, pursue justice and refuse to be satisfied with the world as it is. As individuals of varying sexual orientations, gender identities, races, family arrangements, and Jewish identities and backgrounds, we share a commitment to the search for meaningful expressions of our Judaism in today's uncertain world.

Kolot has a diverse membership from all over Brooklyn of about 425 adult members and almost 200 school-age children. Our membership includes a wide spectrum of Jewish experience and engagement. Our services, based on *Kol HaNeshama*, the Reconstructionist Siddur, are crafted week-to-week by the Rabbi and Cantor, along with lay participation, enabling us to reflect our commitment to tradition while responding to events in our community and the world. Our High Holyday Services, which draw over 2,000 people each year, do not require tickets and are based on *Gates of Repentance*, the Reform Machzor are participatory, with contributions from member artists, activists, scholars, Torah readers, and children.

Kolot has developed a culture in which "all hands are needed." Members see the community as a space to explore and expand interests and talents. From world-class professionals to those with previously unrevealed ambitions, Kolot has attracted a deep and diverse talent pool that includes artists, business people, medical and legal professionals, activists, teachers and more. Our members not only shape New York City but also participate in a rich variety of social justice, cultural and civic activities within Kolot, in the larger Jewish community, and nationally. We have a strong infrastructure of congregational teams, including Gemilut Hasadim, Social Justice, a Race Working Group, Torah Study, Sacred Chanting, Jewish History, Leyning, Children's Learning, Teens and others. Through deep, continuing explorations of race and gender equality and justice issues, we have moved beyond merely welcoming those who are often marginalized in Jewish life to affecting affirmative change in the entire ecology of our community. The congregation is actively and deeply committed to becoming an anti-racist community, and is looked to as a model for how Jewish congregations can begin this work. Kolot is also involved in the ongoing struggles for LGBTQ equality. Within the congregation, we have built the trust and compassion necessary to sustain a continuing dialogue about Israel/Palestine.

Job Description & Responsibilities

Kolot seeks an Interim Rabbi who understands and has experience with the process of a community's change in leadership and who will help us navigate this transition. Simultaneously, the Interim Rabbi will fulfill the role of pulpit rabbi, participating in the full range of pastoral, educational, administrative, programming, outreach and other services.

Kolot is a collaborative community. We are committed to making "all hands are needed" into "all hands engaged." The Rabbi and Cantor collaborate closely in designing and leading services, and there is extensive lay engagement and leadership in worship, leyning, drashot and music.

The Interim Rabbi will also collaborate with the Cantor, Director of Learning and Action, School Principal, Executive Director, the Board and other lay leadership in the full range of congregational activities and administration, including ritual, pastoral, education, leadership, programming and outreach. The Interim Rabbi is an ex-officio member of the Board, works closely with the Executive Committee, participates in the hiring of staff as necessary, supervises the Director of Learning and Action, and, in collaboration with the Cantor, mentors the Student Rabbi. These responsibilities, however, will be organized and adjusted so that the Interim Rabbi can focus on facilitating the congregation's process of grieving the loss of our founding Rabbi, adjusting to the new realities, and preparing to embark upon a new era. We expect that the Interim Rabbi will challenge the congregation to look at our community in new ways and facilitate laying the foundation for the Settled Rabbi.

The term of the Interim Rabbi is from July 2018 through June 2019, with the possibility of extension, if agreed upon by the Board of Directors and the Interim Rabbi.

This is a full-time position with a salary of \$120,000, plus benefits.

This position is not open to members of Kolot Chayeinu and the Interim Rabbi will not be a candidate for the Settled Rabbi position.

Qualifications

Kolot Chayeinu is an independent, unaffiliated congregation; rabbis from any denominational background and ordination are welcome to apply.

REQUIRED:

- Alignment with Kolot's mission, vision and values;
- Smikha from a recognized seminary or rabbinic training program;
- Congregational experience;
- Experience as an Interim Rabbi or equivalent experience in organizational transitions;
- Excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills;
- Experience and ability to work with a diverse array of people, including people of varying ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations and Jewish backgrounds and commitments, as well as multi-faith, multi-race, and LGBTQ families and communities;
- Legal documentation to work in the US.

DESIRABLE:

- Familiarity with New York City and Brooklyn, including the Jewish communal landscape;
- Social justice or civic engagement experience.

To Apply

Interested applicants should email the following to The Rabbinic Search Committee at rabbisearch@kolotchayeinu.org, with "Interim Rabbi" in the subject line:

- A cover letter outlining why you are interested in this position, highlighting relevant experience and indicating how you learned about this opportunity;
- A resume or CV;
- A recent writing sample such as a d'var Torah or an article for a community newsletter;
- Contact information for three references who can speak to your qualifications relevant to this position.

Candidates are encouraged to submit early, and no applications will be accepted after October 15, 2017. Applications will be reviewed and phone or Skype interviews arranged on a rolling basis until a decision is reached.

For more information please visit www.kolotchayeinu.org.

Please direct questions or comments to the Rabbinic Search Committee at rabbisearch@kolotchayeinu.org. No phone inquiries, please.