

Rabbinic Transition and Kolot's Transformation:
Key Elements of the Coming Years
May 2017 / Iyyar 5777

Summary Overview

With Rabbi Lippmann, our founding rabbi, approaching retirement in June of 2018, Kolot is approaching our first major clergy search in our 20+ year history. This is an exciting moment of transition and transformation for us as we choose new leadership for the next phase of our congregational life. The Transition Team, in consultation with our current leadership, has developed a plan moving forward that involves three key elements:

- a gala honoring Rabbi Lippmann's retirement and celebrating Kolot's 25th anniversary;
- hiring an interim rabbi to begin at Kolot in July 2018;
- and, finally, hiring a settled rabbi.

What's Coming Next?

5778 is going to be a big year at Kolot!

- In the fall of 2017 there will be a congregational survey and a series of house meetings to gather information from the congregation to guide the hiring process for the settled rabbi. We are hoping for 100% participation from the congregation. Once the information has been gathered, the findings will be reported to the congregation.
- The Rabbinic Search Committee will introduce a finalist for the interim rabbi position to the congregation in January or February of 2018.
- Throughout the year, there will be multiple opportunities to celebrate and say good-bye to Rabbi Lippmann.
- In June of 2018, the entire Kolot community will gather for a gala to celebrate Rabbi Lippmann's retirement and Kolot's 25th anniversary.
- In July of 2018, Kolot will welcome an interim rabbi to our congregation.

How Else Can I Participate in the Rabbinic Transition?

- Read your emails! There will be regular updates and occasional calls for volunteers in the Weekly and other emails from the Transition Team and Rabbinic Search Committee.
- Participate in and provide feedback following the Guest Rabbi Shabbaton, which will be held for each of the three finalists for the settled rabbi position. Your opinions about these finalists will be crucial to the decision-making process.
- Attend the congregational meeting at which the congregation will vote on the Rabbinic Search Committee's nominee for the settled rabbi position.

The Transition Team and Committees

Transition Team - Comprised of staff, board members, and congregants, the Transition Team (TT) oversees and coordinates all aspects of the rabbinic transition through the end of the settled rabbi's first year. The TT is the main source of communication with the congregation, designing processes to disseminate information and solicit input related to all aspects of the transition. The TT oversees the Rabbinic Search Committee (RSC) and makes recommendations to the board and staff on decisions impacting the transition. The TT coordinates with and provides support for Kolot's founding, interim, and settled rabbis, assisting their transitions in and out of Kolot. **Kolot Board member Carolyn Klaasen is the chair of the TT.**

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Rabbinic Search Committee – The Rabbinic Search Committee (RSC) will carry out two search processes for rabbinic leadership at Kolot Chayeinu: one for an interim rabbi who will begin working at Kolot July of 2018, and the second for our next settled rabbi. The members of the RSC are: Alana Krivo-Kaufman, Ami Kaplan, Arthur Strimling, Cindy Greenberg, Jonathan Gold, Josh Rubin, Kim Felsenthal, Nicole Fix, and Russell Langsam. **The co-chairs of the RSC are Cindy Greenberg and Russell Langsam.**

Gala Planning Committee – In June of 2018 Kolot will celebrate its 25th anniversary and the retirement of Rabbi Lippmann with a gala. **Board member Samantha Anderson is the chair of the Gala Committee.**

Still have questions? Email them to carolyn.klaasen@gmail.com.