

Dear Fellow Congregant:

It is my pleasure to announce to you that the Board of Adas Yoshuron has offered Bryan Mann, a senior student at Hebrew College in Boston, the position of Rabbinic Intern from September 2017 through May 2018. The Board thoroughly interviewed him in person in Rockland and remotely. Those who met him found him to be personable, knowledgeable, kind, and enthusiastic. Although he has not yet been ordained, he will be able to officiate at services and life cycle events as well as work with the Hebrew School. Bryan will be in Rockland on alternate weekends and his calendar will be posted in HaShofar.

I'd like to provide a little background to the Board's decision to engage Bryan as a Rabbinic Intern rather than take another approach to near-term rabbinic leadership. When the Strategic Visioning subcommittee dealing with spiritual leadership for our shul met in February, it understood that the timeframe for recruiting a Rabbinic Intern had passed and only three viable options remained: seeking a suitable full-time or part-time Rabbi or an Interim Rabbi. From those choices, the subcommittee recommended that a search begin to identify and raise the necessary funds to hire an Interim Rabbi, believing this would serve to provide a rabbinic presence for our congregation while preparing us to determine our longer-term future.

However, shortly thereafter, the Board became aware that Bryan was available and initiated the recruitment process, while recognizing that this decision would impact the subcommittee's recommendation to seek an Interim Rabbi as the next step. The Board feels that retaining Bryan's services as a Rabbinic Intern provides benefits that would be missed if we were to continue to engage a series of visiting Rabbis as has been done since last December. We feel Bryan's bi-monthly visits will offer a more significant and consistent rabbinic presence and relationships with our members and the wider community, even as we continue the Strategic Visioning process that has been so successful thus far.

We are attaching Bryan's rsum so that you may begin to get to know him, at least on paper. We look forward to introducing you to Bryan Mann in person as we inaugurate this next chapter in our congregation's 105-year history.

Shelley Kushner, President and

the Board of Adas Yoshuron Synagogue

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Gail Wartell, Administrative Assistant

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