

Rabbi Search Committee Message

The Rabbi Search Committee (RSC) was formally launched at the September 15th Town Hall Meeting and since then the process has kicked into full gear. As we have just finished the month Elul and enter into our New Year, this is a time to take stock, a time of introspection, a time of new beginnings. Thus, harnessing the power of the season, the RSC was formed to engage in the holy task of guiding the process of helping Temple Israel fill the settled Rabbi position. In this message we'd like to introduce ourselves and the committee, describe the phases of the search process, and ask for your support and input.

The Co-Chairs:

Anne Gundry is a retired physician and teacher who has been a member of Temple Israel for over 30 years. She has participated in several other TI search committees. She is a former board member of Temple Israel, Jewish Community Center, and JFCS. She currently serves on the Board of Children's Theatre of Long Beach. She was recently married to David Hillinger, a lifelong TI member, and they share four children who range in age from 26 to 32 years old, all of whom attended Torah Center.

Vicki Scherwin is an independent leadership consultant specializing in executive coaching and leadership development. She is also an adjunct faculty member at UCI's Merage School of Business and CSULB's College of Business, where she teaches leadership and human resource management. Vicki has been a part of over a dozen faculty searches and other critical search committees in our Long Beach Jewish Community. She and her husband Todd have been members of Temple Israel for 4 years. Landon (7) and Sebastian (4) are both in Torah Center.

The Phases of Process*:

Information Gathering (Current-October): Chairs liaise with the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ). RSC seeks congregational input via TI Town Hall, rabbi attributes congregational survey, reports from the OII Committee's focus groups, and your input via email or other interactions. This information will be used to create our position posting, craft questions for the interview process, and evaluate the candidates.

RSC Conducts Applicant Review and Virtual Interviews (October-November): Interested eligible candidates (those in good standing with CCAR, with 3 years of experience or more, and contractually unencumbered) will submit their materials to the RSC. The RSC will review the candidates and select candidates to participate in interviews conducted virtually.

In-Person Candidate Visits, Congregational Participation (December-February): Up to 4 of the top candidates from the previous phase will be invited for an on-site in-person visit to Temple Israel where the congregation will have a chance to learn from them, engage with them, and provide their feedback.

Decision Making (January-March): Based on feedback from the congregation, the RSC will deliberate and make a recommendation of one candidate to the TI Board of Directors. Upon board approval the candidate will be put up to a congregational vote. In accordance with our by-laws, a positive vote of 2/3rds of the voting members is required to hire our new Rabbi. This vote will occur at an in-person congregational meeting, a quorum must be met, and members must be present to vote.

Welcome New Rabbi (July 1, 2020)

* This schedule is in alignment with the process and timeline suggested by CCAR.

Transparency and Confidentiality

It is our aim to keep you informed and updated throughout this process. It is also important to recognize that there are parts of the process that must remain confidential in order to protect our Rabbinic candidates. Names and other information about particular candidates is confidential until the in-person visits. RSC deliberations regarding the candidates is also confidential. If you know of a Rabbi that you'd like to apply for the position, encourage them to find our job posting through CCAR and/or let us know.

How YOU Can Participate

Complete the Rabbi Search Committee survey that went out via email.

Be sure to meet the candidates when they visit our congregation.

Vote at the congregational meeting.

Communicate with us in person or via email at tirabbisearch@tilb.org

Thank you for entrusting us with this critical responsibility. We look forward to working with you as we go about the sacred work of supporting Temple Israel in finding a Rabbi who will be the best Rabbi for the entire congregation.

B'Shalom,

Temple Israel Rabbi Search Committee

Anne Gundry, Co-Chair

Vicki Scherwin, Co-Chair

Carmel Artstein - Madrichah at Torah Center

Deborah Fabricant - Member for 20 years, current board member, parent and grandparent

Alan Kreida - Past Temple President and member for 29 years

Alan Lilien - Past Temple President and member for over 27 years, currently on the Foundation Board

Amy Lipeles - Past Temple President and member for 33 years

Barry Potter - Retired academic physician, member for 4 years, participates in Torah Study and Men's Minyan

Andrea Salisbury - Torah Center parent, member for 2 years

Scott Smeltzer - Torah Center parent

David Tillman - Member for 39 years, prior board member, prior JCC President, Federation Foundation board member

Rachel Van Raalte - Torah Center parent and TC Teacher

Ed Zwieback - Member for 23 years, prior Chair of TI Education, member of Grandparents Program