

News Release

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Contact: Kelly Statmore

215-862-1912

littleshul@kehilathanahar.org

KEHILAT HANAHAR'S SHUL SCHOOL EMBARKS ON NEW CHAPTER

NEW HOPE, Pa. – To further build on the success of its dynamic and growing religious school, Kehilat HaNahar, The Little Shul by the River, has hired a new education director. The school also has been accepted into the Designated School Program offered by the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education (ACAJE), the central source for Jewish educational endeavors in Greater Philadelphia.

Derek Rosenbaum, who will join the synagogue as Education Director on July 1, will build on the school's reputation for offering a robust curriculum for pre-K through high school-aged students. He will provide oversight, guidance and support to the more than 100 Shul School students, teachers and staff.

In addition, the school will work with ACAJE to refine its mission and vision for the future through a process that involves the entire KHN community. Beginning in September, the KHN education committee, Shul school staff, Synagogue leadership, and an ACAJE facilitator will work together with the Shul's membership to set a course for the next several years.

“Derek brings an enthusiasm and commitment to Jewish learning that will take our Shul School to the next level,” said Rabbi Sandy Roth. “Combine his expertise with

the systematic exploration and planning processes available to us through the ACAJE program, and we look forward to an even more innovative, productive and enjoyable Shul school experience for all.”

Rosenbaum brings many years of teaching experience to the position, along with a deep appreciation for, and commitment to, community service. He has been a field recruiter for Young Judea, taught English to Chinese students living in Zhejiang, China, and worked with Panim’s Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, among other positions. In addition to serving as Kehilat HaNahar’s education director, he is a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote. He has a B.A. in History from Columbia University and a B.A. in Jewish History from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

“I have a deep love for learning and teaching,” said Rosenbaum. “When this position became available, I knew it would be a wonderful opportunity to do both in a warm, dynamic environment. I look forward to becoming a part of the Kehilat HaNahar community as it continues to grow and provide a rich Shul school experience for each and every student.”

Kehilat HaNahar’s Shul School has grown from just 12 students in 1994 to more than 100 today. The program offer pre-K through Confirmation classes that focus on the intellectual, spiritual and social development of its students. Kehilat HaNahar also prides itself on providing a deeply personal Bar or Bat Mitzvah experience for each family that includes a special service created for each child.

Founded in 1994, Kehilat HaNahar is a Reconstructionist Synagogue in the heart of New Hope. In addition to traditional weekly Shabbat services, Rabbi Sandy Roth leads monthly family, children’s, meditation and musical services, as well as a host of continuing education programs, and a rich Shul school curriculum. For membership information, program details, calendar of events or directions, contact 215-862-1912, or visit www.kehilathanahar.org.

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