



CONGREGATION BETENU

JOSHUAL . SEGAL , RABBI

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July 30, 2012

Dear Congregation Betenu Members,

We are delighted to inform you that Joel Baron has accepted our offer to serve as interim rabbi at Congregation Betenu, starting in mid-December 2012, after Rabbi Segal's retirement. Joel will be at Betenu for one weekend in December and then two weekends a month from January through May 2013. On these weekends he will lead services on Friday evening, and will work with the students in Betenu's religious school on Sunday morning. In addition, the Board is working with Joel to determine the additional programs/services that will best serve the congregation on the Saturdays when he is here. If all goes well, both Joel and the board are hoping that this will be the beginning of a longer term association between Joel and Congregation Betenu.



Joel Baron

Joel is a second-career rabbinic student. This fall he will be in his fifth year in the six-year program at the Rabbinic School of Hebrew College in Newton, MA. This past year he served as Rabbinic Intern at Temple Shalom, a large Reform Congregation in Newton, where he had served on the board for many years in the past, including as president of that congregation. His experience as Rabbinic Intern at Temple Shalom included leading Kabbalat Shabbat services, participating in High Holy Day services, delivering sermons, teaching Shabbat Torah Study, coaching Torah readers, and regularly leading Shabbat morning services. He has led a breadth of ritual services, including weddings, baby-namings, funerals, and unveilings.

Joel's prior career was in academic publishing – both in the for-profit and non-profit sectors as operating executive, Board member, and consultant. In the past he was Publisher and CEO of the New England Journal of Medicine Group, responsible for a staff of 400, plus 100 MDs and PhDs who serve as working Editors of the various publications, including the world-renowned *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Joel and Rabbi Segal are working on plans for the upcoming transition between them.

Le-Shalom,

The Betenu Executive Board