

November Update

The Rabbi Search Committee (RSC) is tasked with finding an extraordinary Rabbi to fill the Religious, Spiritual, Educational, Pastoral, Social Action and related needs of Columbia Jewish Congregation and Columbia Jewish Community School. Since our last congregational update on June 23rd the RSC has completed a great deal of Discovery and Planning activities that have resulted in submitting the Job Opening with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in October and preparing for our first round interviews with potential candidates beginning on November 10th. The Committee also met with West End Manhattan Reconstructionist Synagogue President and Rabbi Search Committee Chair in September reviewing the impact of COVID-19 on their successful Rabbi search earlier this year. It was after this meeting that the committee, with input from the CJC Executive Board, made a key decision to change our plan for weekend in-person candidate visits to weekend virtual candidate visits.

Over the next two months the RSC will continue receiving resumes, scoring resumes for an initial interview, then scoring the results of the interview for a recommended second interview. The plan is to arrange virtual weekend visits that are planned to begin in early February and run through March for a subset of candidates. As with the weekend visits all interviews will be virtual.

Weekend virtual visits will include many opportunities for our CJC and CJCS communities to get to know the Rabbinical candidates through formal and informal settings. Candidates will take a leadership role in the weekends three Shabbat Services where we'll have an opportunity to view their service leadership skills, experience them read and chant Shabbat prayers, chant from the Torah, and give a thought provoking drash. Other planned weekend virtual visit activities include: A Teen Discussion; Getting to Know You Shabbat Lunch and Learn; Coffee House as part of the Havdalah Service; and Sunday afternoon with CJCS. Lastly, the Rabbi Search Committee will provide various mechanisms for accepting congregational feedback.

We encourage the congregation to follow our progress by reviewing the monthly updates found on our [CJC Website](#). Please feel free to contact our committee chair, [Alex Ross](#), or any of the committee members, [Joe Bergstein](#), [John Evans](#), [Judee Iliff](#), [Dan Shernicoff](#), [Judy Young](#), [Michelle Krupka](#) and [Julie Burns](#).

We welcome your continued support and input into selecting Columbia Jewish Congregation's new long term Rabbi.

On behalf of the RSC,

Joe Bergstein, Communications Liaison