



Dear B'Yachad Families

As a new year of our outstanding religious school, B'Yachad, is about to begin, we want to thank you for being part of our school's family. Since its founding several years ago, B'Yachad's faculty, professional and lay leaders have worked hard to provide all of our students and their families with the best Jewish educational opportunities. We could not have done this without all of you. Thank you, and thank you for being our partners in our children's growth as members of the Jewish people and religion.

We are proud that Ohav Shalom, Temple Israel and B'nai Sholom are working together to make B'Yachad a strong school which benefits all of our students. One example of this strong collaborative work is the search committee—comprised of members of all three synagogues—who worked tirelessly to find us a new education director.

As you may know, our director, Ruth Malka, has stepped down from her position. We want to thank Ruth for all of her work through the end of July to insure a smooth transition to our new director. We also thank Ruth for her leadership, energy and creativity, and we wish her hatzlakha (the best success) in her future endeavors.

**We want to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new education director, Rabbi Miriam Midlarsky Lichtenfeld.** Rabbi Miriam has been in the area since 2008 and has had the opportunity to meet and work with all of the clergy involved with B'Yachad.

Rabbi Miriam was born and largely raised in Boulder, Colorado, and received a degree in International Relations and Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She started off her rabbinic studies at the Hebrew Union College, but was ultimately ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2003. During rabbinical school, Rabbi Miriam met and married her husband Rabbi Ted Lichtenfeld, the rabbi of Congregation Agudat Achim (CAA.) After ordination, she ran a religious school and taught adults and children in New Jersey, and adults in New Orleans.

Since moving to Niskayuna in 2008, she has written the curriculum for and taught at CAA's Hebrew High School, taught adult education classes, facilitated and run many programs for the Rosh Chodesh and Social Action committees and co-founded and co-runs a Tot Shabbat service there. For the last 2 years, she taught middle school and fourth and fifth graders Judaic Studies at Hebrew Academy, where she also founded and ran a Middle School alternative prayer service. Rabbi Miriam has 3 children, Tali, Ari and Shuli.

Rabbi Miriam is thrilled to have this opportunity to transmit her love and passion for Judaism to the children at B'Yachad. Please feel free to contact her with any questions, suggestions or just to introduce yourself after August 1st at: 489-4706, ext 17.

We welcome Rabbi Miriam to B'Yachad and look forward to working closely with her to provide a Jewish educational experience that will imbue our children with a love of Judaism and learning.

All our best wishes,

Rabbi Don Cashman  
B'nai Sholom Reform Cong.

Rabbi David Eligberg  
Temple Israel

Rabbi Rena Kieval  
Cong. Ohav Shalom

Rabbi Daniel Ornstein  
Cong. Ohav Shalom

Judy Avner  
Pres., Cong. Ohav Shalom

Sam Morris  
Pres., Temple Israel

Libby Liebschitz  
Pres. B'nai Sholom Reform Cong.

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