

Congregation Beth Hamedrosh
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Rabbi Yonah Gross, Rabbi

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Rabbi Meir Cohen, z'l

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*deceased

October 21, 2009

Dear Members of the Congregation Beth Hamedrosh Community,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I write you this brief note. I look forward to joining you very soon.

Last Shabbos, as we began the Torah reading cycle anew, I pondered, as I do each year, that even though we read the same portions year after year, a new layer of depth and understanding is revealed each time and builds upon the knowledge and insight we already possess. I reflected on the unique opportunity granted to me to lead this wonderful congregation with its rich, extensive history and to endeavor to enhance it even further. I thank you all very much for your confidence and support.

I have much gratitude to the Rabbinic Search Committee, led by Max Bienstock, and to the shul leadership, led by Mark Zohar, for the care and concern they displayed throughout the search process. With all of the potential that I envision for the congregation and for the Wynnewood community, it is the professionalism and sincerity of the shul's leadership that allows me to be most optimistic for greatness.

My grandmother, when she first came to the United States shortly before World War II, found refuge and a home in Philadelphia, and lived here for thirteen years. I've always felt a special connection to the area, but little did I imagine that this would be the city that I would call home too.

Over the next few weeks, Chava and I will be preparing for our move from Phoenix to the city where my family first laid down roots in America. While there is much to be done, I would love to hear from you even prior to my arrival. My email address is rygross@gmail.com and my phone number (for now) is 602-388-0083.

While it is true that we are leaving many meaningful relationships behind, we look forward to building many new ones with each of you. There will be happy times and unfortunately sad ones, times to laugh and times to be solemn, times to learn and times to teach, but it will all be a part of growing together as individuals and as a community.

With much anticipation and optimism,
 Rabbi Yonah Gross