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Dear Friend

I am delighted to begin 2020 by writing to you with exciting news about Alyth's professional team.

We are thrilled to let the community know that Cantor Tamara Wolfson will be joining Alyth in the Spring to work alongside Rabbis Josh, Hannah and Colin, and with Katie, our Head of Music.

Tamara has been working as Cantor at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue and as Spiritual Leader of Kehillah North London in Stoke Newington for the last 18 months following her move to London in May 2018. Tamara was born and raised in New York and grew up surrounded by music at home, at school, and at her synagogue. She was a frequent cantorial soloist at her home synagogue, Temple Israel Center of White Plains. Tamara received a Bachelor's Degree in Jewish Studies from the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, and then went on to cantorial studies at HUC-JIR's Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York.

The Executive and I are grateful to the professional team under Rabbi Josh's leadership for all they have done during this past year to continue to deliver outstanding tefillah, programming and care. We are very excited now to be able to expand the team with the addition of a Cantor. I know that our Rabbis and staff are looking forward to working with Tamara who is hugely talented. Her warmth, skill in traditional hazzanut, and passion for communal prayer, Jewish life and study, will contribute hugely to the life of our community.

Cantor Tamara has written the following for us to share with you: *"I am thrilled to be joining you this Spring and can't wait to start praying, singing, and learning with you. When I first encountered Alyth in 2017, I was so impressed with the vibrancy and variety of activities, the high standard of musicality I witnessed in prayer, and the way in which the community felt effortlessly warm and welcoming. I feel lucky to be joining a team with some of the best and brightest Rabbis in the country, and look forward to sharing your Jewish lives with you over the coming years."*

We will update you on the exact timing of Tamara's start as soon as possible. In the meantime, we are also continuing our recruitment process for another rabbi to join the team. As a dynamic community with over 3,500 individual members, we believe that Alyth should have a team of four rabbis and cantors, who are able to continue to innovate and meet the diverse needs of our members. We look forward to updating you on this recruitment in the near future.

With my very best wishes for the year ahead.

Russell Baum  
Chairman

