To the Temple Beth Torah Community,

After serving our Temple community for over two decades, Zelda Miller, Director of our David Joshua Berg Nursery School, has announced that she will retiring at the end of the current academic year. Zelda has been part of our Nursery School from its founding, over twenty years ago - first as a teacher and then as only our second Nursery School Director - and has provided a generation of our children not only with the foundational social and academic skills that have served them so well in life - as they have grown, literally, from toddlers to adolescents and into young adulthood - but also with some of their earliest and most formative exposures to Jewish culture, religion and values. Even as we wish Zelda and her husband, Alan, all the best in what we know will be a very active retirement, one filled with grandchildren, travel and many wonderful simchas, we know she will be much missed by her Temple Beth Torah family.

We will be honoring Zelda and her many contributions to our Congregation in the months ahead, culminating in a special celebration in the spring, the details of which we will be announcing shortly. Please stay tuned.

Although there is sadness surrounding Zelda's departure, I am very pleased to announce that we have recruited a dynamic, new Nursery School Director, Jennifer Fusco, who will be joining us on July 1. Jennifer has deep experience both in early childhood education and administration and in Jewish education. She served for four years as the Director of the Early Childhood program at the Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation, where, among many other things, she developed an innovative and highly effective thematic-based curriculum. Before taking
over the reins there, Jennifer served as Assistant Director of the Early Childhood Department at the Mid-Island Y-Jewish Community Center in Plainview. Jennifer also has direct experience both as a preschool teacher - she taught the four-year old class at Temple Beth David, in Commack - and as a Judaic studies teacher and facilitator - at Temple Beth-El in Huntington, where she is also a congregant.

We are truly privileged to have Jennifer assuming leadership of our Nursery School program. I wish to thank our outstanding search committee - Ruth Broitman, Jenny Capporino, Lauren Finkelstein, Alyssa Koerner, Jessica Lazar, Vanessa Newman, Merrill Poliak, Tara Schiff, Joyce Tisman, Robyn Weiner and Rabbis Moskowitz and Wiesenberg, led by Nursery School Committee Chair Hilary Manus - for their hard work, diligence, insight, sensitivity and care, and for making it possible for us to recruit Jennifer and to have a seamless transition in our preschool leadership. In a very competitive environment - many other Jewish preschools in our area are seeking new directors this year - everyone on our committee was a true, committed and impressive ambassador for Temple Beth Torah. Recruitment requires mutuality, and our committee simply made it impossible for our choice not to choose us as well.

Jennifer and her husband, Richard, will be the Temple's guests at our upcoming, March 7, pre-Purim Masquerade-Mardis Gras-Casino Night Fundraiser. If you haven't already signed up, please call the office right away, before all the tickets are gone. Bring your friends and extended family. It will be a terrific night of fun, a great way to support your Temple community, and the perfect opportunity to meet and to get to know the new Director of the David Joshua Berg Nursery School.

L'shalom,

Sandy