

B”h

Dear readers and friends:

Perhaps this introduction will be different from those that appeared in previous issues.

Four years ago I arrived to a small community and, with the passing of time, I adopted it as a family. Days went by, the links with its members (young and old) strengthened, and we grew up together.

This Aruban community (Beth Israel Synagogue), my community. made it possible for me to meet a wonderful group of people, you, my dear readers and your respective congregations.

Rabbi Gustavo Kraselnik, from Kol Shearith Congregation in Panama, honored me to follow in his steps as Executive Director. For this I am more than grateful, but there is a commitment that I must assume.

After thinking about it for a long time, my wife, Sonia, and I have decided to accept a proposal to change communities and move with our family to Florida, U.S.A.

Feelings do not change, neither do relationships. I will always be grateful to all of you for having allowed me to enter your homes via this bulletin for a long time.

I would like to tell you that the executive direction of our dear UJCL remains in the best of hands and well guarded, not by one but two colleagues, Rami Pavolotzky and Daniela Szuster, rabbis of Congregation B’nei Israel, Costa Rica.

On a personal note, it was a true pleasure and honor to have been a part of the editorial group of Mifgash, next to Martha Lichtenstein.

I am proud of being a part of the UJCL (even though across the miles) and I ask you to continue contributing to this project that, with everyone’s effort, is becoming every day a bigger reality.

Thanks to all of you, dear readers.

*Rabbi Marcelo Bater*