



## La Jolla Rabbi Philip Graubart Joins San Diego Jewish Academy

**San Diego, CA – June 7, 2017** – Rabbi Philip Graubart, former Senior Rabbi of La Jolla’s Congregation Beth El, has been named as the next Director of the Advanced Institute for Judaic Studies (AIJS) and San Diego Jewish Academy’s (SDJA) first-ever “Chief Jewish Officer.”

“Rabbi Graubart has had a stellar career as a congregational rabbi for Congregation Beth El in La Jolla,” said Chaim Heller, SDJA’s Head of School. “He has also been a teacher and consultant at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and has been a frequent lecturer and teacher at SDJA over the past few years.”



The primary purpose of the Academy’s Advanced Institute for Judaic Studies is to provide top-tier Judaic education for their students. SDJA is also looking to build a school-community connection over Jewish learning.

“Our students will benefit from Rabbi Graubart’s excellent teaching, warm and compassionate soul, and keen sense of humor, said Heller. “He will be engaging with students in a variety of ways, including direct teaching, weekly sessions of “ask the Rabbi,” teaching our faculty, leading “drop-in” Torah study for parents, and more.”

“I’m honored and thrilled to be joining the SDJA team beginning this fall,” said Rabbi Graubart. “SDJA is the institution that gave my children their essential Jewish identities. The Academy’s faculty, students and staff taught them to appreciate and respect different approaches to Judaism, to value ethical Jewish living, to place Israel at the center of their Jewish identities, to love learning in all its forms, and to see life as a constant journey toward the sacred. I’m so grateful to be given the opportunity to help impart these great lessons to a new generation of students.”

SDJA students will have the opportunity for Judaic learning that goes beyond what is typically offered in a pluralistic school,” said Heller, “and they will experience the integration of Judaic Studies and Israel in the general studies curriculum.

“I recognized what a great asset SDJA was to Jewish life in San Diego, said Graubart. “Besides offering a high quality Jewish education to hundreds of Jewish students every year, the Academy created and nurtured the families who became the backbone of our Jewish

community. SDJA families lead our efforts in support of Israel, built our *Tikkun Olam* structure, volunteered in every dimension of Jewish life, and, most importantly, honored the essentially pluralistic nature of our San Diego Jewish community.”

“It will be my great pleasure and privilege at this point in my career,” added Graubart, “to work directly with these families, along with an outstanding and dedicated team of teachers, administrators, staff, and community supporters.”

# # #

**About SDJA:**

San Diego Jewish Academy is shaping the foundation of future thinkers, creators, and community leaders by blending modern education with greater purpose and meaning.

Our mission is to further Academic Excellence, Social Responsibility, and Active Jewish Living.