

Zeh ha'yom asah ha'Shem,

This is the day that the Eternal has made,

Let us rejoice in it!

Shalom, shalom. I'm Joshua Chasan, rabbi of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue and Convener of the Burlington Area Ministerial Association (BAMA). On behalf of BAMA, I bring greetings and blessings to Rev. Mara and to the members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington on this wonderful occasion..

The pulpit of this Society has a long record of participating in the life of the larger community. We look forward to Mara's joining us, her clergy colleagues, in the sacred task of clergy in town to respond to pressing social, economic and spiritual needs.

Knowing her a little already, we are so grateful to you here at the UU for having the good sense to bring Mara to town. May you share many years of the joy and hard work which characterize religious congregations. We say to Mara in Hebrew, y'shar kohaykh, righteousness is your strength. And we say to you at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, y'shar koh'kehm, righteousness is your strength (in the plural). May you grow together in love and the pursuit of justice and peace.