

There is an ancient connotation between summer and adventure. In our tradition, summer began with the first day of Passover, when we stop praying for rain, and ended with the last day of Sukkot, when we begin praying for rain again. The third Pilgrimage festival, Shavuot, is in between. It makes sense; it's much more pleasant to go on pilgrimage without the threat of rain. Of course, here in Oregon, the rain persists beyond what our near Eastern ancestors might have imagined!

Reflecting the ancient reality that summer is the best time for pilgrimage, during the summer, our program calendar here at TBI slows down. With so many members spending their time outdoors, in the garden, camping or traveling, I tend to see fewer of you in the building. That's part of the normal ebb and flow of synagogue life, and makes it even more exciting when we gather after our various adventures for the Yamim Nora'im, the Days of Awe.

But don't forget that we are here if you need anything. We will still be holding our brief Wednesday minyanim, as well as Shabbat service. I will be working with lay leadership for the High Holidays and regular services, with a back-up pastoral team, and otherwise using the time to lay a firm groundwork for my time away. By the time you receive the next newsletter, I hope to be out on maternity leave, having my own very new adventure with the beginning of motherhood. If you have any concerns about how this will go, please reach out to me or the Board. If you are going through a difficult time, please be in touch.

People often preface their requests for my time with the comment, "I don't want to bother you; I know you're so busy." The most important part of my job is your concerns, and I am not too busy for them. It's true that once I'm on leave, you won't be able to reach me for a little while, but while I am still here, I am really present. Your well-being is important to me.