

Shana tova! As you all transition from the days of summer into the new year, my family and I are of course going through our own transition, which as you know will keep me away from the synagogue for a while.

Though I will miss the rhythms of the synagogue, I know this is an excellent opportunity for many community members to serve and offer their gifts to the community, particularly as lay leaders and speakers for our Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Wednesday afternoon services. Some services will be led by experienced leaders who have been around for decades, and others by people who have only trained recently. I know they all bring a lot of heart and intention to their service.

Please support those who will be stepping forward as lay leaders. Even if you're not sure whether you'll like someone's style, consider attending their service to show your appreciation for their efforts and their gift of themselves. And while you're there, consider yourselves deputized as representatives of our community to look out for anyone who looks new or disoriented, and offer them a warm welcome!

If you do have any feedback for our Friday night leaders that you are uncomfortable sharing directly, there are addresses for that. Justine Lovinger is the Liaison for Cantorial Intern, Evlyn Gould, and Michael Griffel will be filtering feedback for the rest of the service leaders. Please do not be shy.

This synagogue has never been just about the rabbi. So many of you already give in arenas in which I am barely involved, if at all – from the 4th Sunday breakfasts, to the Yiddish Club, to the Safety Committee, as well as more initiatives than I have the words to share here. I so appreciate how this community depends on and is well-represented by volunteer leadership, and I know that my absence gives us an opportunity to take that to the next level.

I wish you all a healthy, happy few months. I look forward to what this new year will bring our community.