

**Rabbi Asch's Sabbatical Leave Frequently Asked Questions**  
**January 11, 2021-February 7, 2021**

**What is a sabbatical?**

The term "sabbatical" is related to the word Shabbat (a time of rest). In the Torah, every seventh year is a sabbatical year where the land lies fallow. Sabbaticals are typically taken by rabbis in their seventh year of work for a congregation. During this period Rabbi Asch will not be working and will have the opportunity to rest and study as well as spend time with her family. Rabbi Asch will also have one month of sabbatical in her next contract year.

Who will serve the congregation during Rabbi Asch's sabbatical?

We have a talented group of lay leaders Daf Yomi and Torah study while Rabbi Asch is gone. We will be joining with Rabbi Vinikoor's congregation in Bath for Shabbat services. Madeline Cooper will be teaching our Prophets Study and Frankie Sandmel will be teaching Introduction to Judaism. All of Rabbi Asch's regular responsibilities will be covered by congregants or guest teachers. This will be a chance for everyone to learn from some wonderful rabbis and Jewish scholars. Additionally, we have a talented team serving as our sabbatical committee to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

**Who do I call if I have an emergency?**

Nancy Kelly is serving as the contact person in case of a death or serious illness. Several local rabbis have volunteered to be available to officiate at funerals and support families through the grieving process. We also have a dedicated group of volunteers under the leadership of Susan Bakaley Marshall who can help those who are ill with visits or meals.

**Will Rabbi Asch be in contact with us during her sabbatical? Will she be checking email or answering her phone?**

Rabbi Asch will not be checking in on the synagogue during her absence. One goal of the sabbatical is for Rabbi Asch to have the ability to step back from the day-to-day work of the synagogue to gain distance and clarity. This will help her return refreshed and renewed.

Email:

Rabbi Asch will not be checking her email during her sabbatical. Please do not send her emails. If you forget and email her, you will receive a detailed "away" message directing you who to contact in her absence. When Rabbi Asch returns to work, she will delete all emails in her inbox without reading them.

Phone Calls and Texts:

Rabbi Asch will also not be answering calls or texts to her emergency cell phone. Temple President Chuck Cohen will be in touch with Rabbi Asch if an emergency arises which the board feels needs her attention.

Social Media:

Rabbi Asch will not be checking social media during absence and will not see your posts or Facebook messages.

No doubt many of you will see Rabbi Asch around town during her time "away." We ask that you not discuss synagogue business with her when you see her around town. You should feel free to ask her if she has read any good books or cooked any new recipes lately!

**What will Rabbi Asch be doing on her sabbatical?**

Rabbi Asch has two goals for her sabbatical: rest and learning. Rabbi Asch will be teaching a JanPlan course at Colby College on the Good Life. She will also be supervising her children's at home schooling (and thus learning a lot!) She plans to spend time being outside, reading, cooking and listening to podcasts.

**Who do I contact with questions about the sabbatical?**

You may speak with you may contact Rabbi Asch prior to the commencement of the Sabbatical or Temple President Chuck Cohen prior to or during the Sabbatical.

**Who is in charge of what during the sabbatical?**

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Sabbatical Committee: Chuck Cohen, Nancy Kelly, Cree Krull and Susan Bakaley Marshall will be serving as the sabbatical committee and making sure that everything runs smoothly while Rabbi Asch is away.

Torah Study and Daf Yomi: Cree Krull

Services: We are invited to join with Beth Israel (Bath)

Hebrew School: Bria Watson and Jenna Greenbaum

Prophets Study: Madeline Cooper

Introduction to Judaism: Frankie Sandmel

Pastoral Care: Susan Bakaley Marshall

Death and Serious Illness: Nancy Kelly is the contact person and will have a rabbi get in touch with you

Weekly Email: Cree Krull

Discretionary Fund: Reverend Carie Johnsen