

Rabbi Asch's Sabbatical Leave Frequently Asked Questions **January 3, 2022-January 31, 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's new contract states that she will be on sabbatical each January.

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

We have a talented group of lay leaders Daf Yomi, Torah study, Shabbat in the Wild, and our Tu BiSh'vat Seder while Rabbi Asch is gone. We will be joining with Rabbi Vinikoor's congregation in Bath for Shabbat services. 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 Cree Krull 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 plans to spend time being outside, reading, cooking and listening to podcasts. She will also be continuing her work for the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Who do I contact with questions about the sabbatical?

You may speak with Temple President Cree Krull with questions.

Who is in charge of what during the sabbatical?

Sabbatical Committee: Ilana Gilg, Nancy Kelly, Cree Krull, Susan Bakaley Marshall and Julia Underwood 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 will join with Beth Israel (Bath)

Hebrew School: Bria Watson and Rich Goldman

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: Julia Underwood

Discretionary Fund: Pastor Chrissy Cataldo

You can find a listing of how to reach people [here](#).