



# ELU V'ELU

Rabbi Gary Glickstein

אלו ואלו

I have always tried to learn lessons from accomplished individuals and integrate them into my life and work. As I said during these past High Holy Days, John Wooden, the legendary coach of the UCLA men's basketball team, taught me when to retire. He said: "It's time ... I did my best ... any time you can walk away saying you did your best, you've won."

He also added: "Th-Th-that's all folks." That is the part of his retirement that does not apply to me.

Ever since the announcement of my retirement from the position of Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom, I have been asked repeatedly three questions:

1. Why?
2. When?
3. The third question is, in the words of Marilyn and Alan Bergman and Michel Legrand (and sung by Frank Sinatra): *"What are you doing the rest of your life, north and south and east and west of your life?"*

Let me try to answer these three questions and one bonus question as best I can:

## Why?

My heart and mind (coupled with my aging body) tell me it is time. I was asked to become your rabbi at 37 years of age. I was young, energetic, in tune with the times, clear in my vision, and enthusiastic to take on any and all challenges - and there were many. Today I am conscious every day of the challenges of memory loss, lack of balance, tiredness, and other limitations which impede my ability to serve our congregation in the ways you deserve to be served. I am proud of what we have accomplished together over the last 33 years. It is time.

## When?

May 31, 2018, will be my last official day as Senior Rabbi. June 1, 2018, is my first official day as Rabbi Emeritus.

(Bonus question) What is a Rabbi Emeritus?

The title is an honorific bestowed upon me by our Temple Board to signify that I have served you honorably and well. The title also continues to connect me to Temple Beth Sholom. In my new role, I will support Rabbi Pomerantz in her new role as Senior Rabbi and follow her lead as she guides our congregation into the future.

## What will you do with the rest of your life?

In my career, I have seen so many whose lives were cut short. In the Psalms it is written, "The years of a person's life are 70 or by virtue of strength 80." I have been blessed to reach 70 years and hope to achieve the 80 number. However, none of us know about the next minute, let alone tomorrow. Our Board has gifted me with a sabbatical for the period of June 1, 2018, through December 1, 2019. Joanie and I are presently deciding on our hopes and dreams for that sabbatical time. If God wills it, we will take that sabbatical and return to South Florida afterward and reconnect with our congregation and community here. In my next Elu for April, I plan to share additional details with you. Stay tuned. More to follow.

As my Grams liked to proclaim: *"It's all for the best."* And I will add: *"Th-Th-that's NOT all folks."*

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