

RABBI KUSHNER ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT FOR JULY 2018

It is with not a small amount of sadness tempered by a deep breath and a joyous eye to the future that I write to inform you of my decision, in close consultation with our synagogue's leadership, to retire as your rabbi on July 1, 2018. At that time I will assume with honor the status of Rabbi Emeritus accorded to me by the Board of Trustees.

While retirement will open a welcome doorway into the next chapter of my life, the prospect of concluding my rabbinate with you is daunting. For almost forty years my life has been filled with countless opportunities to be your teacher, to be your guide through life's joys and sorrows, and — in partnership with you — to help make Temple Ner Tamid into the unique community it is today. In return you have enriched my soul and filled my heart. Our relationship is a gift that will forever be a source of satisfaction and joy.

Of course, there is still much time for us to draw even closer. We have more than two years of Torah between us. We have more than two years to continue our mandate to repair the world and explore ways to allow God into our lives, to draw closer to our people and build bridges with our neighbors. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

In the meantime, please know this: The great strength of Ner Tamid is not any one individual. We are a sacred collective. What makes us who we are . . . is you. Moreover, we are blessed with visionary leadership and a deeply dedicated professional staff. From Iris Schwartz to Arlene Sherman, Missy Jacobs, Ronni Pressman and particularly Cantor Meredith Greenberg, alongside our President Andi Robik and the chair of our transition team, Ken Cohen, Temple Ner Tamid remains in exceptionally gifted and loving hands. I have absolute confidence that my retirement will be an opportunity for our congregation to “grow” from strength to strength.

I am so proud of all that we have accomplished throughout these past four decades. Our dreams that we birthed in 1980 have been fulfilled beyond any of our expectations. One of those dreams was to guarantee this Jewish community for generations to come. Nothing could bring me a greater sense of accomplishment than to bequeath the mantle of rabbinic leadership to that next generation.

As such, my primary goal over these remaining two years will be to ensure a smooth transition to my successor. And we are all here to help you throughout that process. Until that day arrives, however, I will eagerly continue to serve you. I remain grateful for the privilege of being your rabbi. For me, it is a blessing.