

26 Tamuz, 5778  
July 9, 2018

Dear Friends,

In Ecclesiastes it says there is a time for everything, a time for every season, under Heaven.

In 2005, the Board of Directors and I agreed that I would serve as Rabbi of Adat Reyim through June, 2020, which is when I plan to retire. As that date approaches, the Board and I have discussed the need to begin the process of searching for a new rabbi. This will give the congregation time to think deeply about its values as a community and what it is seeking in the next spiritual leader.

Over the past 27 years, Sue & I have been honored to be a part of this growing and thriving congregation. We look forward to continuing to serve the congregation over the next two years. I am committed to helping us thrive during this important transition period.

After I retire, I will be pursuing other interests, including working with college students, educating about the consequences of discrimination and hatred, working with the RBI program (reviving baseball in the inner city), Black-Jewish dialogue, more interfaith work, conflict resolution between Israelis and Palestinians, and maybe even making a comeback as a pitcher with the Chicago White Sox :-). Sue and I want more time to be grandparents to our grandchildren in the Midwest and will be going back and forth more freely.

Please know that after all these years, I treasure the relationships we have built and this will be a challenging transition for all of us. We will have many opportunities over the next two years to celebrate together, learn together, make a difference together, and frankly, maybe even be a bit emotional together. But two years is a long time in our lives, and we look forward to continuing the *avodat kodesh* – the holy work we have done for the past 27 years.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Bruce Aft