



Levine Family Sabbatical FAQ

By Rabbi Yosie Levine

In advance of our sabbatical, we thought it would be helpful to share the answers to some frequently asked questions.

When do you leave?

August 20th.

When can we say goodbye?

We will host a special Kiddush in honor of the membership on Shabbat, August 18th. Please join us!

When do you return?

June, 2019.

Where will you live?

We will live in a little yishuv called Yad Binyamin. It's around 20 minutes south of Rehovot. Our address is Slav 12B. Please feel free to pay us a visit!



Is Yad Binyamin in the West Bank?

No. It's closer to the Mediterranean than the Jordan.

Why did you choose Yad Binyamin?

We wanted to be someplace where the kids could transition quickly. Given that we will only be in Israel for ten months, we thought a smaller community would make more sense than a big city. Yad Binyamin is beautiful; the people are warm; there is a lovely English-speaking population; and it's centrally located.

Where will your kids go to school?

Our older children will attend the Broyer School, a Mamlachti-Dati-Torani (religious-public-Torah) school in Yad Binyamin. Our younger children will attend local pre-schools.

What will you be doing?

I have been pursuing a PhD in Early Modern European Jewish History at Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School. While in Israel, I will be a visiting research fellow at the Hebrew University. I will be working on my doctoral dissertation, the topic of which is Hakham Zevi Ashkenazi.

Who is Hakham Zevi?

You are invited to read my dissertation when it's complete. In the meantime, you can find a biography of Hakham Zevi online. Just google him. Incidentally, he was the father of Rabbi Yaakov Emden, the topic of Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter's doctoral dissertation.

Who is your doctoral advisor?

Prof. David Berger.

What will The Jewish Center look like in your absence?

Rabbi Dovid Zirkind will handle all the day-to-day rabbinic responsibilities. Rabbi Noach Goldstein will be our Assistant Rabbi. Ora Weinbach will continue as our Community Educator and Rabbi Elie Buechler will be our William Fischman Rabbinic Intern.

How will you keep in touch?

I will correspond regularly with the membership through an online journal. I will also return at least twice over the course of the year, the first time in November.

What if we need to get a hold of you in case of an emergency?

Both Rabbi Zirkind and the office will know how to find me.

This sabbatical thing sounds great. How do I get one?

The Torah envisioned that every person would pause periodically from their professional lives to create space for reflection and study. I am so appreciative that The Jewish Center's leadership and membership recognize the value of a sabbatical. I believe everyone can stand to benefit from a life shake-up. To whatever extent possible, I would encourage you to consider it. Whether it's a week, a month or ten months, why not think about a sabbatical? Not a vacation to relax; a sabbatical to reflect. What's stopping you?