



Nov. 28, 2018

Dear Congregants,

As we anticipate the arrival of our festival of Chanukah, images of lights, reflections on our history, thoughts of faith and family provide backdrop for the following message:

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I share with you that effective July 1, 2020, a date that will mark 40 years of service to our congregation - I will transition to a new status within our community, that of Cantor Laureate. While I anticipate an ongoing and active relationship with the congregation, my formal responsibilities will be more limited in nature, even while I welcome and continue to cherish participating in your and your family's life cycle events.

I am grateful to our congregation's Board of Trustees, Rabbi Nosanchuk, both my clergy and staff colleagues, and my family, for helping me to consider a meaningful next stage in my career and beloved temple life.

As many of you know, it would be difficult to overstate how much these years have meant to me and how indelibly connected I feel to this congregation, this people of loving kindness. I have treasured my work as it has been a true labor of love and devotion. It has been a privilege to teach some of the wisdoms of our tradition, to chant its sublime liturgy, to visit the sick of our community, to help comfort the bereaved. Perhaps more than anything else, I have been afforded the honor of being a part of the life cycle moments of so many of you and I have endeavored, at those moments, to convey a sense of Jewish continuity, values, beauty, and meaning.

I also could not have imagined how deeply and meaningfully you all would impact and become intertwined with my life. You supported me in raising my two children, comforted me in my periods of mourning for loved ones, and stood by me as, like you, I faced the challenges that come to define our most difficult moments. I have learned from and been greatly enriched by each and every one of you, my beloved congregational family.

In my new part-time capacity, I look forward to continuing to study together, exploring the very important process of aging wisely, taking wonderful trips with you to locales across the globe -- wherever Jews have lived, and discovering new interests and challenges.

Always remember that God needs us to bring light into the darkness in our eternal job description as the Jewish people. Let us continue that work together.

With gratitude and loving thoughts to you all,

Cantor Sarah Sager