

October 1, 2024

As we prepare for the New Year (5785), Rabbi Dana has some important news to share with our congregation. After much discussion with Rabbi Dana over the past six-months, they have decided to choose an alternative path and leave Temple Beth Am when their contract expires in June of 2025. In addition to being a time of celebration and reflection, the Jewish New Year is also the time of year when congregations and rabbis engage in contract conversations; we're profoundly grateful to Rabbi Dana for their service to our community, and for letting us know of their long-term plans.

First and foremost, we are deeply appreciative of the many roles they played and the many souls they have touched in their years here. Rabbi Dana joined us in 2019 to support the formation of our Gan, our innovative youth learning community. Then, as Temple Beth Am was quickly pivoting during the pandemic, Rabbi Dana took on a full-time pulpit role, doing everything from pastoral care and musical support to teaching and leading virtual services. Rabbi Dana joined us not knowing what would be asked of them, yet they stepped up to take on all of the challenges of fostering a community both through and coming out of a pandemic. This was exhausting work and our gratitude is endless. Rabbi Dana has shared with many of you the personal toll that this pace has taken on them and their family, and we all want to support their health and well-being moving forward. We know this is exhausting work, and our gratitude runs deep.

Therefore, Rabbi Dana will be working a reduced schedule in the coming months. This gives our beloved rabbi the time and space they have earned to rejuvenate, heal, and make this a healthy professional transition. With the full support of the clergy, Board, and professionals, Rabbi Dana will be given the time to work on finding their next professional endeavor and spend time being a congregant and spiritual seeker over the High Holy Days and months to come.

Moving forward they will still work part-time to support our community's pastoral and rabbinic needs. Please know that any support you are currently receiving from Rabbi Dana will continue throughout the new year. With Rabbi Dana's partnership, we will thoughtfully integrate all of your spiritual needs into our transition planning.

With this reduced schedule Rabbi Dana will be here to support the community as much as possible; however, we hope that we can also come together to help support and respect Rabbi Dana's personal needs. An example of this is that you may see Rabbi Dana at services as a community member rather than a spiritual leader, so please give them all of

the gracious welcoming and support you would give to any other member of our community.

Once again, we want to thank Rabbi Dana for partnering with us in this important decision and for their years of dedicated service to our community.

May you all be blessed with a sweet and healthy New Year.

L'Shana Tova,

Gaby Charlton, Board President

Dauida Sims, Executive Director

Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick