



Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, approximately every seven years, we grant our clergy a period of sabbatical time in accordance with the traditions of our synagogue and Jewish congregations generally. This practice is in line with the Torah's agricultural injunction to let the land lie fallow in each seventh year, reminding us that it needs time to refresh and regenerate so it can be used to sustain us for the other six years. I am writing to let you know that Cantor Becker's next sabbatical has been scheduled for February through August of 2020.

As we have done in the past, our congregation will enlist the help of a capable replacement. We are currently planning to hire an HUC student for the entire year who will work with Cantor Becker (and then take the reins from her). The Board was very excited about the possibility of welcoming a Cantorial Intern next year, helping that student to grow as a professional and learning new insights from the student as well. In Cantor Becker's absence we are committed to making sure our worship continues to thrive, our B'nai Mitzvah families feel well supported, and our adult programming continues to be rich and varied.

Our Tradition often asks us to break in divisions of seven. On the seventh day of each week throughout the year, we ourselves are commanded to rest and revive our souls for the following week. Cantor Becker's sabbatical will be a time for her to renew her own spirit as she takes on study and fieldwork she is unable to pursue while serving our congregation full time. We are confident that she will come back with new learning that will enrich both her cantorate and our congregation. We look forward to granting her this opportunity.

Please feel free to email [me](#) or [Cantor Becker](#) or [Rabbi Brown](#) if you have questions or would like to discuss this further.

L'shalom,
Karen Chapiro

