

Dear TRT family,

I stepped into my position as TRT President hoping to have an easy time serving our community. Just kidding!

There is no doubt in my mind that the holy work of leading Jews in any organization presents many challenges. As the days came closer to starting my role as President, I realized that the key to ensuring our temple's success will be through understanding the hearts and minds of each of you.

We know TRT as our Center for Jewish Lives. Many of our children and members even call it their second home. That means a place where we feel comfortable and supported. We get used to certain things being a certain way: We love some aspect, we tolerate others. We try to change what we don't like. We want to feel in charge and when external conditions change, we want to make the right decisions to ensure the best impact on our family and loved ones.

I am 100% confident that our Board of Directors is of the caliber that can wholeheartedly represent our congregation in all decisions affecting our daily operation and our evolving future. And yet, **we are now at a turning point**. Brace yourself! **In the adjoining letter our beloved Rabbi Weber will announce his retirement at the end of June 2020**. Sigh! By then, he will have completed 36 years with us through all our triumphs and our challenges. I understand how significant the news is to you personally and to our whole congregation. Change is difficult, and we need to do it right. We have the right team in place to take us through this time.

We have plans in place for an Interim Rabbi for 2020–2021. Interim Rabbis are specifically trained to help congregations identify the guiding criteria toward the future of the community, especially after a long-tenure Rabbi. The interim Rabbi will help us search for a “settled” Rabbi to begin the next chapter in our story. This transition is very much a community process—one of introspection as we reflect on who we are as a congregation; what our future expectation and our children's needs are; and how we bring our best for the next generation (*L'Dor Vador*), and one of looking outward to reexamine our place in our greater community, the Reform Movement, and the world.

We can't and won't do this in a vacuum, and here is what I'd like to ask of **you**: provide us with feedback for what you'd like to see in our community future and participate in our temple events, so we can advance together.

There will be opportunities for each of us to participate in the upcoming community conversation through small targeted focus groups such as upcoming B'Nai Mitzvah families. In addition, you can communicate directly with your Board representative, or with me. I want you to understand that your views will shape our future together. Within weeks we will post meeting dates, so you will have the proper space for your views to be heard.

Over the course of the next year there will be ample opportunity to talk with Rabbi Weber to reminisce, say thank you, and *l'hitraot*. We will take the time to honor Rabbi Weber's contribution to our temple and to properly celebrate this double-chai chapter in our life together.

I am honored to serve you all in this sacred task and looking forward to hearing from you. My email is [tmimag@trt.org](mailto:tmimag@trt.org).

Tmima Grinvald

Temple Rodeph Torah, President