



Chevre,

In this season of messages, I write to you with one final note for 2017 to let you know that Rabbi Greyber will be on a three-month sabbatical starting on January 30, 2018. Rabbinic sabbaticals are critical times for enrichment, skill-building, and rejuvenation. Our Rabbi's contract provides for a six-month sabbatical between July, 2017 and June, 2018. Because Beth El is in a period of unusual growth and change, the Rabbi and the Executive Committee have modified this schedule to decrease the impact of his absence at this time. We are grateful to Rabbi Greyber for volunteering to divide his sabbatical into two components:

- Three months for personal growth and development from January 30-April 30, 2018.
- Three summer-time study sessions as part of the Hartman Rabbinic Leadership Initiative in Jerusalem (2019-21) and three winter retreats (2020-2022).

Rabbi Greyber will be in and out of town during February, March, and April 2018. He will be on the *bima* February 10 and March 10, provide counseling when he is available, lead some services when there is a congregational death, and periodically check and make brief replies to emails.

We are fortunate that Rabbi Jerry Fox, a member of Beth El, will provide many rabbinic series during Rabbi Greyber's absence. Rabbi Fox will be available to make pastoral calls, meet with congregants, lead the Lunch and Learn program, and work with our lay leadership during Purim and Passover. We are grateful to Rabbi Fox for his service to the congregation. If you wish to schedule a time with Rabbi Fox, please contact [Sheri Hoffman](#). For those who have not yet met Rabbi Fox, please see below for a brief biography.

It is one of the great pleasures of membership in Beth El that we can rely on our lay community to lead us in so many ways. For religious services in particular, the Ritual Committee and the *Gabbaim* will ensure that everything proceeds smoothly. In the spirit of our diasporic theme - "*dislocation is an opportunity for innovation*" - let me also encourage all members of Beth El who wish to read Torah, give a *d'var*, or

otherwise contribute to our religious and communal life, to see the Winter of 2018 as just such an opportunity. Please contact [Bernie Fischer](#) if you wish to participate.

As you know, we are fortunate to have [Nancy Luberoff](#) as our Interim Executive Director. She has stepped directly into the stream of Beth El activities, and she has already provided a reassuring hand as we navigate the waters of our many transitions. As the Rabbi's sabbatical begins, if you have questions about any aspect of Beth El's operations, please don't hesitate to contact her or me.

L'Shalom,

Noah Pickus
President
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Rabbi Jerry Fox grew up in Great Neck, Long Island and attended NYU and HUC-JIR in NY, where he was a member of the first rabbinical class to spend their first year at HUC Jerusalem (1970-71). Rabbi Fox has served pulpits in Clarksburg-Fairmont, West Virginia; Roanoke, Virginia; High Point, North Carolina; and Hot Springs, Arkansas. He has also been active over the years in the Greater Carolina Association of Rabbis (GCAR). Rabbi Fox is also a visual artist, and is currently working on illustrations for a Jewish children's book.

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