

When the Torah was given at Mt. Sinai, each and every person took in what they were capable of hearing. The sages say that there are 70 faces of Torah, and we all experience it differently.

This year, on Shavuot, as our community commemorates the giving of the Torah, I will be personally (God willing) focused on the revelation of a new human and of the demands that come with new life: the sleeplessness, the mess, the adoration. My revelation will be personal; I will not be with the rest of you.

I am indeed expecting a new arrival sometime around May 20th. Many of you already know this, but since our TBI informal information networks have not really recovered from the pandemic, I know this may be news to some of you. I want to make sure you aren't surprised by the (B"H – God willing) announcement of my parental leave in late May and June. While I am out, Rabbi Yisraela Tubman will be back-up for any pastoral and lifecycle needs that may arise. A wonderful rotation of both clergy and lay leaders will be running our Shabbat and Wednesday services as well as my weekly Thursday Torah study. And Rabbi Solomon will be organizing our community's Tikkun Leyl Shavuot on May 25th.

I hope to invite the community to celebrate and meet our new arrival at a Shabbat morning service around a month after the baby is born. We will be routing any needs for help that we have through the Tzedakah v'Chesed Committee, administered by Bev Behrman. If you are not on her list, and you would like to be, please contact her at bevbehr@comcast.net.

I will be back half-time in early July through September, leading services, responding to pastoral and life cycle needs and (of course!) preparing for the High Holidays.

In the meantime, this community will continue to share Torah, to gather, and to take care of each other in large and small ways. I hope that whatever revelation you receive in this season, it brings you closer to a sense of the divine and to connection with each other.