

## Near Long Run, and in the Long Run

Dear Friends,

You may have heard by now that I intend to retire. My contract with Temple B'nai Israel extends through the end of May, 2020, and I look forward to being your rabbi until then.

I am very happy to serve this synagogue, and I will be sorry to leave. You have treated me very well. In my experience, this doesn't always happen, and I appreciate it deeply.

White Oak and Pittsburgh have become home for me. I have been with you longer than any other congregation I have served, and I have lived at the same address in White Oak longer than anywhere else I have lived.

That being said, I have been on the bimah for 46 years, starting with my first student pulpit in 1972. I find that I am now able to retire comfortably, and I look forward to scaling back my professional activities and pursuing other interests.

As much as I enjoy living in White Oak and near Pittsburgh (a great city!), the Sonoran desert has a prior and stronger claim on me. I will return to Tucson, where I was born and raised. That particular landscape—its animals, plants and mountains—is imprinted on my soul. It's the most beautiful and fascinating place I have ever lived. (Yes, Jerusalem is fascinating, but "my" desert is more beautiful, by far.)

Once I am settled, I will contact area synagogues and offer to teach in their adult education programs. Teaching children has its joys, but I prefer teaching adults. Adult learners are motivated learners; one can't always say the same about children.

I hope to enroll in the docent program at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. I have spent many, many enthralling hours at the ASDM. Founded when I was still a toddler, it has always been a part of my life. The Museum has always been wonderful, and it keeps getting better. I have learned so much there, and I want to give back to it.

Also, I hope to travel. There are many places around the country and around the world that I would like to visit and enjoy.

My retirement date is a year and a half away. In the meantime, I am your rabbi. As you plan the transition to new spiritual leadership, I will gladly assist you in any way I can.

You have helped me to grow as a rabbi and as a man. I am grateful, and I look forward to enjoying our remaining time together.

Faithfully yours,  
Rabbi Paul Tuchman

