

## **On the Occasion of Sharon Rendelman's Farewell Shabbat**

Delivered by: Rabbi Stephen Kahn  
Congregation Beth Israel – Scottsdale, Arizona  
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This week's parsha *Behar-Bechukotai* begins with the instructions to the Israelites concerning land tenure once they enter the Land of Israel. In great detail, the portion enables us to understand that God's design for the Land of Israel is one of production and a time for rest. The seventh year we are taught is part of a continuous cycle of years called the sabbatical year, just as the seventh day of the week is our Sabbath.

The subtext of this parsha is relatively simple. Everything under God's dominion goes through transitions; from one cycle to another. As people we are called upon to make these transitions sacred whether they are personal or professional, enjoying the passages of time in our lives are linked to how we acknowledge the sacredness of the world around us.

This evening we mark a transition for our community. For nearly a decade Sharon Rendelman has been deeply immersed in the sacred work of God. Creating a safe and holy community within the Chanen Preschool has been her passion and commitment to God's creation.

I have always said that Sharon has one of the sharpest minds of anyone I have ever met. From our first meeting at a restaurant in Union Square in San Francisco before I began my service to Congregation Beth Israel, I always have had a sense that when you speak with Sharon, she always seems to see something, hear something or know something that you may not necessarily understand yourself. Her ability to understand adults and children, her keen sense of intellect in meticulously running a major "operation," within our congregational community and her sense of yiddishkite – of Jewish identity and knowledge have been the component parts of a very successful Preschool.

Sharon has brought many gifts to her sacred work here at Beth Israel. Mostly she has brought us the gifts of her family – her husband Michael who has been an actively engaged member of our Mensch Night Out community and her biggest fan. Sharon has brought us two children, Kelsey and Erik who have grown up through the ranks to become among our most celebrated BITY Presidents and aides both in our Religious School and Preschool. Sharon has given us Lanie and Riley with their frequent visits to their rabbi's offices for candy and smiles. Sharon has indeed brought us many gifts.

We will always be grateful to Sharon for the many great things we have done together for this sacred community. At the same time we are happy for her and for the King David School where she will serve as Admissions Director and Assistant Principal for the primary school. We only wish you Sharon and Michael, Kelsey and Erik, Lanie and Riley to go from strength to strength as you mark this sacred transition. Amen.