



Shalom Y'all!

New beginnings are never easy. It's often a time many feel a sense of chaos and uncertainty. In Genesis G-d creates the world out of dark, chaotic nothingness. And yet out of that darkness comes light that fills the entire universe. Since the beginning of time our people have feared transition. When Moses wanted to take the Israelites out of Egypt it took him time to convince the Israelites to leave. Who wouldn't be worried to leave a place of familiarity? And yet the Israelites thrived in their new land made of milk and honey. How could have Abraham and Sara felt when at 100 & 90 year's old they discovered they were pregnant? That must have been quite a transition for them. My new congregation will be in Ocean Side, Long Island at Temple Avodah.

Eight years ago I came to Augusta, Georgia not knowing anyone nor much about the South. It became my home and a place I love. I learned how to say, "Y'all" and "Augusta". I know my Southern accent is still a work in progress. I ate boiled peanuts (yuck) and attended a ball game. I was invited into your homes, shared meals with you, celebrated holidays & simcha's and mourned with you. A piece of my heart will always be with my Congregation Children of Israel and those countless friendships I made in Augusta, Georgia.

I encourage each of you to look back at our photos. We've had many wonderful programs and events. We created a more inclusive & diverse congregation. As Congregation Children of Israel transitions to another rabbi and as I begin my new journey let's be proud of our accomplishments.

In Micah 6:8 it says, "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with G-d." When we listen to G-d we learn this is the meaning of living in G-d's image.

I love each of you and I will miss my Southern home.

With all my love,

Rabbi Shai

A look back...



















