

## A Parting Blessing from a Congregation to Its Rabbi

*Show me your ways, God, and lead me on a straight path.*

Today, Rabbi, you are setting out on a sacred new path  
And we will miss you.  
You have left your indelible imprint on our holy community  
That will never be forgotten.  
You have inspired us in public  
And counseled us in private.  
You have rejoiced with us in times of celebration  
And comforted us in times of sorrow.  
You have advised us in times of uncertainty  
And shared teachings that will continue to resonate in our minds and hearts.  
We cannot begin to imagine all the sacrifices you have made on our behalf.  
We are so grateful to you for your years of leadership.  
Thank you for the wisdom you spread,  
Thank you for your listening ear,  
Your compassionate heart,  
Your words of Torah.  
Thank you for your patience in challenging times  
And for your forgiveness when we caused you pain.  
Thank you for all the prayers you offered on our behalf.  
Thank you for all the ways you blessed us,  
Thank you for the ways your blessings live on inside us still.  
Rabbi, today it is our turn to bless you:  
*May God be with you,  
May God bless you with health and strength,  
May God bless your efforts with success,  
May God shine on you and through you  
So that your teachings illuminate all those you touch.  
May God watch over you and shield you from all harm,  
May God bless the choices you make,  
May God bless the path you take,  
May you be a blessing to this world,  
And may blessings surround you now and always. Amen.*

## A Community's Blessing for a New Rabbi

*Be strong and courageous; never let Torah fade from your lips.*

Rabbi, today we are blessed to call you our rabbi.  
We are so blessed to welcome you as our leader and teacher.  
We look forward to sharing our joys together,  
We are thirsty to learn from you  
And eager to pray with you.  
We are hungry for your guidance and vision.  
We look to you to help us strengthen our holy community.  
Life can be unpredictable and unfair

Rabbi Naomi Levy is founder and spiritual leader of Nashuva, a groundbreaking Jewish outreach organization based in Los Angeles. She is the author of *Hope Will Find You*, *Talking to God*, and *To Begin Again*. She lives in Venice, Calif., with her husband, Robert Eshman, and their children, Adi and Noa.

And we thank you in advance for all the ways you will lift us up and comfort us  
In times of trouble and sorrow.

We thank you for taking on the sacred burden of leadership in Israel

And today we stand together as one to bless you:

*May God be with you,*

*May God bless you with health and strength,*

*May the light of Torah shine strongly within you*

*Illuminating all those you touch.*

*May your teachings take us higher and higher.*

*May God bless your efforts with success.*

*May God bless the choices you make.*

*May God bless this community with unity and peace.*

*May you lead us from strength to strength.*

*May God bless this new path you are about to undertake.*

*May God bless you with courage and the power to be bold.*

*May God watch over you and shield you from harm.*

*May you be a blessing to this world*

*And may blessings surround you now and always. Amen.*

## A Blessing from a Senior Rabbi Passing on the Mantle of Leadership to a Protégé

***Be strong and courageous; never let Torah fade from your lips.***

It has been my honor to lead and serve this sacred community

And it has been my joy to lead together with you and to mentor you.

We have all watched your strengths grow and your wisdom increase

We have all been blessed by your teachings.

Today I am honored to pass the mantle of leadership to you.

It is a sacred and holy burden

Which I know you will bear with awe and grace.

Today I bestow upon you my blessing:

*May God bless this new path you are about to undertake.*

*May God be with you,*

*May God bless you with health and strength,*

*May God watch over you and shield you from harm,*

*May God bless this congregation with unity and peace.*

*Under your guidance may a new era of learning and growth unfold.*

*May you lead this community from strength to strength,*

*May you inspire people to live up to their highest potential,*

*May you be granted the words to lift up the fallen,*

*heal the brokenhearted, comfort the bereaved.*

*May God bless you with courage and the power to be bold,*

*May you stand up for what you believe in.*

*May God bless the choices you make.*

*May God bless your efforts with success.*

*May God shine on you and through you*

*So that your teachings illuminate all those you touch.*

*May the days before you be filled with rejoicing and celebration.*

*May you be a blessing to this world*

*And may blessings surround you now and always. Amen.*

### Upcoming in Sh'ma

- New Visions for Jewish Education
- New Jewish Identities: Trends on Inheritance, Identity Formation, and Ethnic-Religious Expressions
- Metaphor: Uses and Interpretations
- Jewish Polarities
- Where Does History Begin?

What Jewish conversation would you like to have? Send suggestions for future Sh'ma topics to SBerrin@shma.com.