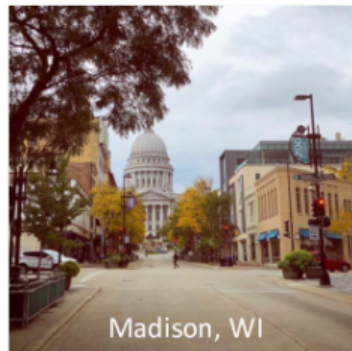


By the time the November Bulletin hits your inbox or mailbox, I'm almost back at work (I'm back in the office on Monday, November 4). In a paradoxical way, time has both stood still and flown since we brought our third child into the world. My parental leave has allowed me to not only battle colic and night feeds but more importantly, allowed me to recover physically and reconnect emotionally. These three months have been an invaluable gift to our family; and an investment in my wellbeing – as a mother and as a rabbi.

I am so grateful that Agudas Achim is such a thoughtful, progressive institution to have given my family this time. Advocating and implementing parental and family leave is a tangible way in which we can live out our Jewish family values, social ethics and models our commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). I am both very proud and deeply grateful of our community and the gift you have given your rabbinic family. Moreover, many of you have supported us with delicious, hearty, soul-

temperament loves to be held – another good reason to attend services!

During my twelve weeks of leave, we got to explore the Midwest and build important connections with other Jewish communities. My family spent Rosh haShanah in St. Paul, Minnesota, with Beth Jacob, and Yom Kippur in Madison, Wisconsin, with Beth Israel Center. We came back inspired with new ideas to float here in Iowa City. We made friends with rabbis and lay leaders in sister communities that share our Jewish values and Midwestern experiences and it was really powerful building up a sense of camaraderie (and to know, with some *schadenfreude*, that Minnesota is even colder than Iowa!)



Madison, WI