RABBI DAN MOSKOVITZ REMARKS
GOODBYE SERVICE TEMPLE JUDEA
3/22/2013

1. A little bit like attending my own funeral
2. Thank you to:
    a. My wife Sharon, our parents Larry & Patti, Arthur & Susan and our children Judah, Levi and Estee.
        i. Rabbi Harold Kushner addressing a class of newly ordained rabbis once said the following:
        ii. There will be Friday evenings when you will rush your family through dinner so that you can get to services on to give a sermon about the Sabbath as uninterrupted family time. There will be days when you leave a sick child at home or a child studying for a test, while you go to teach religious values to the synagogue youth group. There will be Sundays when you cancel plans for a family picnic to officiate at a funeral…" The list goes on.
        iii. Sharon's understanding of my calling in life, my family's patience, acceptance and support of my two loves – them and all of you are why you have all said such nice things this evening. Thank you honey for helping me serve this community, thank you to my family for always supporting me in this holy work.

b. To my Temple Judea colleagues, Rabbi Goor, Rabbi Wissot and Cantor Mark for leading such a beautiful service. And to Rabbi Bender who couldn't be here. To each of my colleagues thank you for your beautiful partnership and friendship through the years.
c. To my good friends and rabbinic colleagues, Rick, Joshua and Bruce – thank you on behalf of this congregation. There were countless times that I would call on you for advice, ask to borrow materials, ideas and sometimes I'd just take them and not even ask. You have made me a better rabbi by your friendship. You communities are blessed to have you and I am doubly blessed to have you in my life.
d. Ellen, Diane, Margie, Beth, Kathryn, Laurie, Gabby, Tammy, Sherryl, Amy, Iliana, Josh, Pietro, Richard, Lauren, Beverly, Adam for being such wonderful friends and support in the work that I have done here through the years.
e. A special thank you to Debbie Shayer and Deb Saady who share the role of clergy assistant. And to Pam, Leslie and Sandy who proceeded them. I could not have done what did these many years at the congregation were it not for these incredible women keeping me organized and on task, or at least trying to.
f. Thank you also to Andy and the TJ leadership for the thoughtful honor and the privilege of

serving as your rabbi. Andy is my friend and always will be, he was in an impossible situation these last two years of the rabbinic search, as was I and we didn't always make it easy on each other. The search is over but the friendship continues. My dad, Larry was temple president of two temples at the same time while I was growing up. It's a daunting and sacred task. Temple Judea is fortunate to have Andy's leadership and I want to thank all of the temple presidents I have worked with over the years for the confidence you showed in me and the support you gave me.

3. My best friend and colleague Rabbi Rick Steinberg – who I have known since I was 7 and he was in my mom's religious school class. Reminds me as we share sermon ideas every year that every rabbis has about 10 sermon themes that they just repackage and give over and over again. So in anticipation of tonight I looked over the dozens of sermons I delivered here at Temple Judea and turns our Rick was right. I also turns out that most of them are online and have been viewed by my new congregation so I can't use any of them again. From those ten themes I wanted to share three with you.
4. The three things I have tried to teach you not only in my words but in my deeds as your rabbi.

5. **[ONE] LIFE IS PRECIOUS, IT IS SACRED AND IT IS FINITE**. We are all going to die – we cannot control or change that. The only thing was can influence is how we live – so live a life of meaning and purpose. It was my HHD sermon last year but I gave it countless times at every funeral, baby naming and bar/bat mitzvah as well. This is the only life you get – fill it with holiness, with love, with service to others, with intention and attention. Don't waste it – nobody has two funerals.
6. **[TWO] EMPATHY** At the core of the Passover seder at the core of Judaism is the commandment to see ourselves as once having been slaves in the land of Egypt. The Jewish perspective on EVERYTHING is empathy. The real lesson of all the trails and torment the Jewish people have been put through for generations is that we of all people should understand the pain and suffering of others. My second teaching I want to leave you with is be more Observant Jews, not in terms of ritual and kashrut, though there is nothing wrong with that, but more observant Jews with regard to the lives and needs of others. Notice other people and the challenges they face in life, understand them before you judge them. Put yourself in their shoes, see the world through their eyes, treat every person you meet as though they were your own child and be an empathic expression and extension of God in their lives.

7. **[THREE] LIVE ON JEWISH TIME.** I don't mean come late to things – if they say one thing about me when I leave this place I hope you will say I started things on time. What I mean by live on Jewish time is that the Jewish calendar, its times and season, holidays and observances is an ingenious blueprint for living a life of meaning. Shabbat tells us to stop each week from the rushing of our lives and thank God and those around us for the blessings in our life. Yom Kippur reminds us to make amends, Hanukkah of the power of the few in the face of the many. Regular study of the weekly Torah Portion gives insight and context to present as it also honors our past. To sit shiva, remove ourselves from the world to focus on what our world has lost when we lose a loved one is profound. Its not about the deli its about the soul. Here too the list goes on. Live your life on Jewish time, tradition became a tradition because it had something of value to offer every generation – if it didn't our people would have thrown it out long ago. Follow it, observe it, honor it – may it be your life may it lengthen your days.

8. **It is a custom at the end of a lesson for the teacher to give a blessing to his/her students.** The blessing is called Kaddish D'rabanan – the Rabbis Kaddish and it says at its heart:

a. Upon Israel, and upon our teachers, and upon their students, and upon all the students of their students, and upon all those who occupy themselves with the Torah, here or in any other place, upon them and upon you, may there be abundant peace, grace, kindness, compassion, long life, ample sustenance and deliverance.
b. The blessing blesses the student three times more than it does the teacher. That is how you have blessed me, three times more and then some. For all that I tried to teach you, you taught me more. For that I am thankful, for that I am blessed and for that I bless you.