

B”H

21 January 2019
Tu B'Shevat 5779

Dr. Charles Trauring, President
Boca Jewish Center/Shaaray Tefilla
21065 Powerline Road
Boca Raton, FL 33433

Dear Dr. Trauring and Members of the Boca Jewish Center Community,

What a great honor it is to write a letter of tribute for Candy Neustein and the late Rabbi Dr. Joe Neustein, of blessed memory. It is rare that life affords one the opportunity to publicly thank and acknowledge those who have contributed so immensely to *klal Yisrael*.

I first came to know Candy and Joe, z'l, in 1992 when I moved to El Paso, TX to work for the El Paso Hebrew Day School (known today as the El Paso Jewish Academy). To say that they welcomed me with open arms would be an understatement: they literally opened their home to me – a total stranger – for weeks until such time as I could find a home of my own. I quickly came to realize that the Neusteins were not only gracious hosts, but were, in fact, extraordinary pillars of the El Paso Jewish community, providing unparalleled leadership and philanthropy for virtually every Jewish organization in the city. Each in their own way, Candy and Joe inspired others to share in their strong commitments to Jewish life, literacy and engagement, and in doing so, help ensure that our small community was both vibrant and joyous.

As Director of Judaic Studies, I had the distinct pleasure of working with Candy and Joe on the expansion of EPHDS from a K-5 school to a K-8 school of over 120 children. There are many who would say that we built the middle school at the Neustein's kitchen table. I remember one night arriving to their beautiful home to find Joe at his desk, pouring over both an article in a medical journal and a *baraisa* in whichever *sugiyah* he was learning at the time, with Candy on the phone, solving the *crisis-de-jour* of the shul while moving from one child to the next as they made their way through the night's homework. This image of the two of them balancing home and work and community with such effortless grace has stayed with me all these years.

There is no doubt, that as you honor Candy as your *Eshes Chayil*, you too, have come to know the Neusteins in the same sort of way (albeit with grandchildren!). Even with the distance of time and miles, it is wonderful to know that Candy continues to be a *tour de force* and that Joe's legacy of leadership lives on. Mazel tov to Candy, the Neustein children and grandchildren, and of course, to honorees Lesli and Jordon Ross and their family as well.

Please accept my warmest wishes for continued *hatzlacha* in the wonderful doings of the Boca Jewish Center.

Wish prayers for peace in Israel, I am...

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc N. Kramer, CEO
Kramer Education Group