

Rabbi Martin J. Berman
הרב מנחם יוסף ברמן

בס"ד
שבת י"ח, תשע"ט

January 24, 2019

Dr, Charles Trauring
president Boca Jewish Center/Shaaray Tefilla

Dear Dr. Trauring,

El Paso is high desert country at the farthest western end of Texas. It is not a place where you would expect to find a strong Jewish community, Yet it was my good fortune to find such a community which included two outstanding exemplars of yiddeshkeit – Joe and Candy Neustein. It is so appropriate that you are honoring Candy and Joe z"l the week of Parshat Terumah. For the Parashah opens with the command to take an offering **מֵאֵת כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּנֵנוּ לְבוֹ** from every willing person. As Rashi comments this meant that the offering was out of the goodness of the heart of the giver. It is an appropriate time because I remember their generosity through both financial means but more importantly by their personal commitment of time to build a caring Jewish community.

Over the many years that have passed since those days I have had the opportunity to come across them. One of those opportunities was in Israel when Joe received smicha from Pirchei Shoshanim, not to use it to his benefit but as a sign of his commitment to the study of Torah.

Joe has been taken from you much too early but you still have Candy to help strengthen your community. She is truly an Eyshet Chayil and you are so fortunate to have her. May Joe's memory and Candy's continued commitment strengthen your congregation.

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