

Rabbi Alan Silverstein
Congregation Agudath Israel
20 Academy Road
Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

June 10, 2021

Dear Alan:

Even before we moved to New Jersey from Atlanta in 1983, Gail and I received a call from you to consider joining Agudath Israel. With your knack for perfect timing and salesmanship, it's no surprise that CAI's membership tripled during your tenure.

But as the ceo of the Federation of Great MetroWest for close to two decades, I want you to know how much I treasured your leadership not only for CAI but beyond its walls, encompassing the larger community, Jewish and general, and K'lal Yisrael.

The fact that Agudath Israel has more congregants involved with Federation and its agencies compared to any other synagogue is no accident. You always believed that increasing the size of the pie in terms of commitment allowed us to broaden our perspective to encompass the global as well as local challenges and opportunities confronting us in the 21st century.

Whenever there was an issue, whether actionable opportunities flowing from national Jewish population studies, addressing anti-Semitism or reaching out to the growing cohort of Jewish singles, you was the first person I called.

In your leadership positions in the Conservative movement, nationally and globally, you were an invaluable asset in helping to rally CAI and the movement in support of Israel during its numerous wars, the aliyot of Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry and the other momentous issues of our time.

When there was a crisis in Israel /Diaspora relations during the "Who Is A Jew" controversy, you were instrumental in helping MetroWest become a national leader in advocating for and funding initiatives promoting greater religious pluralism and understanding in Israel. You also served admirably on the boards of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency for Israel, bringing back the global issues they confronted to CAI's doorstep. You were also a leader in promoting inter-faith interaction and understanding.

On a personal note, you encouraged me to teach a current events class, now more than 4 years running, and Gail's active involvement as chair of the Inter-faith Committee.

As you enter retirement, you have the freedom to choose whatever path you want to follow. We hope you and Rita will be able to spend more time with the family and in Israel. We also look forward to gleaning pearls of wisdom from you via future classes and sermons in the offing and our continued friendship.

Gail and I wish you and Rita all the best as you enjoy the retirement you both so richly deserve.

All the best,

Max Kleinman