



Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

OF AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

RABBI DR. BRADLEY SHAVIT ARTSON
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בע"ה

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כ"ב סיון תשפ"א

To Rabbi Alan Silverstein and the members
Of Congregation Agudath Israel

Dear Friends,

It is a pure joy to be able to celebrate the rabbinate of my friend, mentor, and colleague, Rabbi Alan Silverstein as he steps down from the august position of Senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudath Israel. For as long as I can remember, he has led this dynamic community with honor, wisdom, and strength. And through all those years, his love of his congregants and his devotion to the highest ideals of Emunah, Torah, and Mitzvot have been his North Star, guiding him faithfully to deepen our love of Israel, the Jewish people, and humanity through his steadfast example.

I have known Rabbi Silverstein since I was in rabbinical school in the 80s. He invited me to be a Scholar-in-Residence when I was still a student, writing a book on Judaism and nuclear proliferation. Think of the risk he was taking, subjecting his community to such a novice! At that time, he allowed me to join in launching the Atzeret LeChaim environmental project, an observance that has only increased in importance in the intervening years.

When we launched the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University, Rabbi Silverstein was president of the Rabbinical Assembly, and he shepherded our fledgling school into a vibrant partnership with the RA and helped us create a constructive relationship with the Jewish Theological Seminary so we could work together for the benefit of Conservative Judaism. Rabbi Silverstein pioneered with our Whizin Center to create innovative family education programming. And when we launched the Zacharias Frankel College, training Conservative/Masorti rabbis for Europe, again Rabbi Silverstein was there, providing encouragement every step of the way.

On a personal note, I have cherished my private conversations with Alan, his notes and emails, his brilliant presentations, and his abundant optimism when others might want to throw in the towel and despair. He inspires me to reach higher, dig deeper, and try again.

Alan, you have been a blessing to so many of us for so long. May you now reap a rich harvest of סיפוק ונפש and deep joy in all you have so generously planted across the years.

בברכת שלום,

Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson