



June 17, 2021

Dear Alan,

Now that your beloved congregation has celebrated your retirement and expressed their gratitude to you for your 42 years of inspired/inspiring/dedicated Rabbinic leadership with a celebration worth of your service, I want to express a few personal thoughts.

Alan, you have just concluded one of the most significant congregational rabbinate in the American Jewish world experience. At the same time, you have extended your rabbinate far beyond North America to affect Masorti Judaism in Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world. While drawing so many to the beauty and meaning of our Jewish tradition, you have been a pastor, teacher, guide, friend, and support to the men, women, and children, recipients of your knowledge, compassion, and wisdom.

You have encouraged so many in times of adversity and enhanced the שמחות of your community. Most of all, you have just been רב in all dimensions of that title to those so fortunate to be a part of your congregation. רב to me and your colleagues in the Rabbinical Assembly, and to the many who were neither colleagues nor congregants, we have all identified with you because of your teaching and personal example. You have been a visionary, and you have helped others to consider how they could refine their vision. Your scholarship that earned you the title of Rabbi Dr. Silverstein will continue to influence the thinking of those trying to understand the American Jewish experience.

You have accomplished all of this with sensitivity and with a gentle application of the power of leadership that you acquired through all of your good works and your compassionate manner. I know that everything you accomplished reflects the gift of love and mutual respect shared between you and Rita. She shared every part of your life at Agudath Achim and served as advisor and an essential sounding board for your best initiatives and as a moderating force when needed. I know that from being with the two of you in informal moments and observing how she was an honest observer of your work as Bev has been of mine. You both deserve the perks that come with retirement to enjoy each other in new ways and to enjoy the blessings of your family. Enjoy this moment and take great satisfaction from all the moments that mark your rabbinate and so distinguish you. I am certain you will continue to teach, counsel, inspire new visions and directions for yourself and others.

I am grateful for our friendship. מזל טוב

בידידות
Bill