



May 27, 2021
16 Sivan 5781

Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Ph.D.
Congregation Agudath Israel
Caldwell, NJ 07006

Dear Alan,

It is my personal pleasure to join the voices honoring you for 42 years of dedication to and leadership of Congregation Agudath Israel. Together with Rita, you passionately served this community, whose membership nearly tripled during your tenure. As you begin this next chapter, we honor you and your success in transforming Agudath Israel into NJ's largest Conservative congregation.

Alan, since our student days when we co-authored the educational pamphlet, *Jewish Religion in America*, I've always benefited from your prodigious knowledge of, keen insight into, and passionate dedication to the Jewish people past, present and future. I also experienced firsthand your profound impact as a rabbi on the communities you serve—first when my late husband Gershon, z"l, succeeded you in Bensalem, PA, and then over the years through various opportunities to engage with the Agudath Israel congregation.

JTS has also benefited from your leadership in numerous ways since you were ordained and earned a doctorate. You brought your skills and vision for the Conservative Movement to JTS's Board of Trustees as the Rabbinical Assembly's president. As a confidant to Chancellor Ismar Schorsch, you served on his Rabbinic Cabinet as well as on the Chancellor's Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism. And, as Chancellor Arnold Eisen looked to rabbinic leaders, you stepped up and were part of his initial cadre of "Kitchen Cabinet" Advisors.

A passionate champion of the ideals and institutions of the Conservative Movement, you have inspired and recruited numerous talented young people to pursue careers in the rabbinate, cantorate, and Jewish education. All of these JTS alumni, along with the communities they lead today can link their success directly to you – for seeing in them the Jewish leaders they were destined to become.

Please accept my heartfelt *yasher koah*, on behalf of your friends and colleagues at JTS, on your outstanding career of service to the Jewish people.

We at JTS are so proud and honored to call you an alumnus.

Warmly,

Shuly Rubin Schwartz
Chancellor