



## Greenburgh Hebrew Center

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Friends,

Abraham Joshua Heschel in a wonderful essay entitled *The Essence of Spiritual Living* writes, "Indeed, we must be open to the remote in order to perceive the near. Unless we aspire to the utmost, we shrink to inferiority." This evening it is a pleasure to joy in the celebration of Sherry Padva who has shown her vision both as president of this congregation, our *Kehlich Kedosha*, Greenburgh Hebrew Center and as a ready servant of this community. We are proud to call you one of our own. This evening we honor a woman who has pushed both herself and those closest to her to never shy away from challenge and thereby aspire to the utmost.

As the description of Sherry floods my head the directives of our tradition line up.

- ✓ "If I am only for myself what am I?"
- ✓ "Honor a person for who she is: but honor her more for what she does."

Both speak to the character of this great leader.

Whether it is through making meals in the kitchen, coming to minyan or serving on countless committees, Sherry is a living example that no task is too small, no job insignificant when it comes to building community. Sherry has continually taught us the critical lesson that survival is the product of a strong Jewish identity as she has given of herself so fully to this great institution. Sherry shows us the unique contribution that every person has to make.

As Jock Elliot said of David Ogilvy "I thank you for the standards you set for all of us—standards of discipline, standards of hard work, of vision of style, of candor, of civility." And I paraphrase "I thank you for making us proud – proud of you and proud to be a part of your life.

With a full heart,

Rabbi Jay M. Stein