



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

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Jay M. Stein, Rabbi

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Dear Jeff,

As you and I have often discussed over waffles, every two years I have to learn a new style of leadership. However, we never discussed that every two years I get a new partner and a new friend. It is one of the great perks of being a rabbi. We have shared so much, not just about the synagogue and its future and our dreams for our community. We have become friends and have been able to share our challenges and triumphs.

Your honesty and straightforward solutions have taught that truth can be partnered with kindness and genuine concern. I have watched as the difficulties of coming out of COVID for our community have affected you personally as you have always tried to do what is best for the community while balancing the wisdom of many stakeholders.

Leadership is stressful and emotionally demanding. The greatest leader the Jewish people ever had was Moses who said, : “Did I conceive all these people? Did I give birth to them? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors?... I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me —if I have found favor in your eyes – and do not let me face my own ruin” (Num. 11: 11-15).

You never sought the office of president. You were willing to help from behind the scenes and yet you led with heart and wisdom. The past two years have been filled with huge accomplishments and I hope you feel proud of what you have contributed to the long-term health and vibrancy of our synagogue.

Thank you for serving, for leading and for your friendship. And thank you, Leslie, for sharing him with us. I know it took an incredible amount of time. Sharon and I look forward to many more years of friendship.

Warmly,

Rabbi Jay M. Stein, D.D.