

June 5, 2020  
13 Sivan 5780

Dear Faith Joy:

It is with delight that I offer my congratulations on your decade of service to Temple B'nai Abraham. Of course, your departure is tinged with sadness for our family as it coincides with our move to New Jersey. We are nonetheless thrilled for you and David that you will be crossing the country to new and exciting professional adventures in beautiful California.

We met nearly two decades ago when you were Director of Admissions at HUC-JIR in New York. I was applying to rabbinical school and it is no exaggeration to say that you were responsible for launching me into the rabbinate, transforming what was then a dream into a reality. That was the beginning of our friendship and along the way I have had the good fortune of coming to know your family (sharing much too much homemade ice cream) and you have watched as mine has grown.

After my ordination, when I was a graduate student in Jewish history at Columbia, you brought me to B'nai Abraham to teach in the congregation's adult education program. It was during the last session of this course, amid a lecture on the origins of the Mishnah, that I received a telephone call from my wife, alerting me to the fact that she had gone into labor! Needless to say, we ended class early and you drove me to her. Shortly thereafter, our daughter was born.

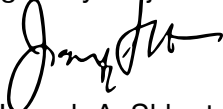
I am grateful that our lives have intersected in these ways, personal and professional, for so many years. I pray for you and David that your move will be fulfilling in every way, and even though we will be geographically more distant, I will continue to cherish our friendship.

At this moment, there is perhaps no more appropriate sentiment than that of the Traveller's Prayer, the *tefilat ha-derekh*:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמותינו שתוליך ידידנו לשלום ותצעידה לשלום. ותדריכה לשלום. ותגיעה למחוז חפצה לחיים ולשמחה ולשלום....

May it be Your will, our God and God of our ancestors, that You will lead our cherished friend, Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz, toward peace, and that her every step bring her closer to it. May You direct her toward peace and may her journey lead her to her desired place full of life, joy and peace.

Blessings on your journey,



Rabbi Joseph A. Skloot, Ph.D.

*Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Intellectual History*