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Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin

Dear Gail:

Finding meaning and satisfaction in what one does is a treat.

Finding meaning and satisfaction in what one does, within a warm and supportive community, is a gift.

Finding meaning and satisfaction in what one does, within a warm and supportive community, and having close at hand a beloved colleague who possesses uncommon wisdom, integrity, and humanity? A privilege.

For twenty years, that privilege was mine.

There is hardly a subject we did not discuss during the two decades we oversaw our respective sides of 300 East Northfield Road: the professional, the personal, even the philosophical. If it was important to you to run the good ship Temple B'nai Abraham smoothly and efficiently, it was equally important that it be run according to Jewish values.

You insisted Temple "business" be open and transparent even as you ensured privacy and confidentiality when called for. You championed those with whom you worked, ensuring all were accorded fairness in compensation and dignity in the workplace. All you do is suffused with compassion and good sense, both constantly present in countless conversations with members (and colleagues) whom life had presented with challenges.

I quickly learned to seek out your counsel. More important, even when I hoped for a different response, I learned to take it!

At different moments, we have been colleagues, friends, and confidantes. At every moment, I have cherished your presence. I am one of innumerable individuals whose lives you have enriched.

With gratitude for the ways beyond measure by which you guided me, with admiration and even awe at all you managed to do and the grace with which you did it, and with delight at welcoming you into this rather fun chapter called "retirement,"

Sincerely,



Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin