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Rabbi David Z. Vaisberg, M.A.R.E., M.A.H.L.

Dear Julie,

Who would have thought that our first years together would be like this during our initial conversations about my coming to Temple B'nai Abraham? We had no idea what would come. And, in these uncharted waters of Jewish life, I have been so grateful to have you as a partner, colleague, and friend.

A verse in Genesis (5:1) reads, "This is the book of the generations of Adam." One rabbi of the Talmud, Reish Lakish, is curious about the verse, as no such book existed. He decides that this verse meant that God must have shown to Adam, in the Garden of Eden, all of the sages and leaders of every generation to come — a reading of the generations to Adam. This means that from the start, each generation, each historical interval, would have its own set of leaders and teachers, particularly suited to meet the needs of the time.

For Temple B'nai Abraham, you are that leader for this generation, for these particular years. You were the one particularly suited to come back for another presidential term, with your knowledge, creativity, and commitment to community, past, present, and future. You jumped back in when we needed decisiveness with collaboration, history with vision, and time and energy to bring us forward from the COVID-19 shutdown into the new life of the present moment. You served us with a whole heart and a full spirit. Thanks to your efforts, we are entering our next chapter with more stability, a robust plan for the years ahead, and a stellar new team of professionals and lay leaders. Julie, you, our four- and two-more-year congregational president, showed up when we needed you and gave it your all. For this, we, your community, are so very grateful.

For the additional good fortune of being able to call you a dear friend, from our laughs amid challenges, our conversations over dog walks and drop-offs, and our Sunday hang-outs, I am so very grateful.

Julie, we at Temple B'nai Abraham thank you and the whole Silbermann family for all you have and continue to give to this community. May you and yours be blessed just as you have blessed us.

May you always go from strength to strength,

David Z. Vaisberg, Senior Rabbi of Temple B'nai Abraham