

Mazel Tov David and Chany on your 20 years of service to our beloved Shul and community! Orit, Shaya, Nava, Noam and I feel so blessed to have had a front row seat to see the gift that each of you has been to our Shul. You have modeled for us what it means to live a life of chessed, kindness, humility, generosity, patience, and love. You have each given more of yourselves to all of us than can ever be repaid. And most importantly, you have always done it with grace and a smile.

I'm reminded of the Mishna in Pirkei Avot that quotes Rabban Yochana Ben Zakai asking his students:

צאו וראו איזוהי דרך ישירה שידבק בה האדם.

What is a good way for a person to live their life?

R' Eliezer suggests having an Ayin Tova, a good eye. R' Yehoshua says to be a Chaver Tov, a good friend, R' Yossi teaches to be a Shachen Tov, a good neighbor, R' Shimon teaches HaRoeh Et HaNolad, to have foresight, and R' Elazar teaches to have a Lev Tov, a good heart. After contemplating the answers, Rabban Yochanan declares that he prefers R' Eliezer's answer "for those who have a Lev Tov, a good heart, possess these other qualities."

David and Chany, remarkably you embody each and every one of these qualities. You have an Ayin Tova, you see the good in everyone and in every situation. You throw yourselves into every project and initiative - who else would go out, buy, and put on a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich costume to enliven our record setting Great Big Sandwich Make? Who else would plot out a path and drive behind a truck playing music with the Rabbi and Chazan on it, in the rain no less, to ensure every child got their Simchat Torah candy bags?

You have both also been a Chaver Tov to so many. Orit and I have cherished our friendship - there are only so many people out there who are willing to be a Chaver Tov and go along with some of our crazy Programming ideas. Who else, drives around on a Saturday night to deliver prizes, Publishing Clearing House style, during a livestream Zoom Havdala Dance Party?

As a Shachen Tov you ensured that everyone in our community always had a place over Shabbos - so often opening your own home to the most overlooked members of our Shul. At the same time, your ability to be Roeh Et HaNolad, to have foresight on every detail of every program is remarkable. From ensuring David's Shacharis on Rosh Hashana finishes at exactly the right minute, to making sure every detail of a program, every ingredient of a Challah bake and every logistic of a project is accounted for, almost always when unasked and unanticipated.

But above all else, it is your Lev Tov, it is your generous spirit and heart that we pay tribute to this evening. You constantly think of the needs of others before your own. I would be remiss if I didn't also mention your incredible children who have followed in your footsteps and have done the same, putting others first while doing so much to our Shul.

Friends, there is no replacing David and Chany Fleishhacker. Every single person in this community has been touched by your Lev Tov and your commitment and love. I don't need to go around the room and ask who has benefited from your hard work. From the countless hours behind the scenes setting up, cleaning up, organizing, supporting families during simchas and bereavement, ensuring the Shul runs smoothly, preparing for Board Meetings, and so much more. We have all been the beneficiaries of your family's dedication, so often and too often not even realizing it. That truly is leadership worth celebrating.

Rabbi Jonathan Sack's z"l, whose yahrzeit was just observed, perhaps said it best, "Leaders take responsibility for creating the conditions through which G-d's purposes can be fulfilled. They are not passive but active...Leaders begin with an envisioned future, but they also know that there is a long journey between here and there; we can only reach it one act at a time, one day at a time...Leaders see the destination, begin the journey, and leave behind them those who will continue it. That is enough to endow a life with immortality."

As you take the next step in your journey to Israel, know that you have inspired and given so much to us all. Now, it is high time that we express our Hakarat Hatov, our sincerest thanks and appreciation from the bottom of our hearts as we stand in awe, appreciation, and love for you both. Mazel Tov!