

BS"D

Dear David and Chany,

I wish I could be with you in person, at this special event, as it a well deserved night of recognition and appreciation for you both and for all you did for our beloved Baron Hirsch Congregation and the Memphis Jewish community. Tonight, marks a milestone in your lives as well as a milestone in the congregation's history.

In Parashat Chayei Sarah, that we read this past Shabbat, the Torah describes how Avraham sent Eliezer to find a wife for his son, Issac. According to our Sages, Elizer who was the most loyal servant and fully committed to Avraham had a daughter of his own. Eliezer thought that his daughter could be a wonderful match for Isaac. However, Avraham refused to hear about such a match and asked Eliezer to go on a mission to find a wife for Isaac.

Eliezer had all the reasons to fail the mission, and return to Avraham to report that he could not find anyone for Isaac. By doing so he could potentially increase the chances that Avraham would succumb to the pressure and permit Eliezer's daughter to marry Issac. However, the narrative tells us that Eliezer did everything he could in order to not only find a wife for Issac, but also to bring Rivka as quickly as he could. Eliezer knew that the overall mission is more important than any other self-interest or personal goal. Eliezer placed Avraham's goal and request above his own and made sure that that mission he was assigned would come to fruition.

It was a true pleasure to work with David for more than a decade on behalf of our beloved Shul, the Baron Hirsch Congregation, and the entire Memphis Jewish community. I saw first hand how not once, but many times, he was able to overcome any personal feelings or personal goals for the sake of our beloved congregation and community. He always placed the Shul's vision and the community needs before his.

As the senior Rav of Baron Hirsch Congregation (2005-2016) David and I tried every day to make Jewish experience at the Shul and the community meaningful and inspirational. David was always committed, dedicated and showed tremendous care to the Congregation and community.

David and Chany are an exemplary couple who live a life of Torah, Zionism and love to all people. I wish them much success in their upcoming endeavor and look forward to welcoming them in Israel.