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Rabbi Max Edwards

Dear Abby, Ruth, and Ellen,

Todah rabah! Thank you for your presence, your support, and your collective spirit of generosity. Each of you has made a considerable impact on the synagogue in my tenure and long before as well.

Ruth, your work to ensure the growth and development of our Social Action Committee, especially through the depths of Covid, has been harrowing to watch. You are the ultimate doer and believer that modeling acts of loving kindness leads others to the same well of *hesed* and compassion. We are a better community because you are a part of it.

Ellen, you know this building and these grounds like the back of your hand. You embody the belief that sacred space is only indeed sacred if it is maintained, cared for, improved upon, and inviting. Our building is a spiritual home to literally thousands of people near and far, and your vision in cultivating this holy space continues to be a source of light for us all.

Abby, any strong Jewish community starts with strong foundations of education. Your commitment to working with our educators and developing our identity as a community of learners is the pillar upon which all of this stands. From strategy sessions to working the register at marketplace, you have been a steady guide on our path and have supported opportunities for parent involvement beyond what many thought possible.

Each of you brings individual gifts that are worthy to honor, but what you share is the belief that a community has the potential to be greater than the sum of its parts. Something special and intangible happens when we come together for a purpose beyond ourselves, and you all model such generosity.

The Talmud (Sotah 38b) teaches that we are only blessed by God once we are blessed by others, that God needs humans to be at the vanguard of blessing before God steps in. Thank you for blessing us all through your dedication, and for being stewards and shapers Temple B'nai Abraham.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Max Edwards