

**From Bonnie Bornstein Fertel,
Ad Journal Chair**

I was amazed 30 years ago when we became part of the Agudath Israel community, to see the likes of you, Nat. At first glance, you reminded me of my grandfather in stature and appearance. This initially gave you a special place in my heart. Truth be told, Nat, along with the Rabbi, you played a tremendous part in my journey of embracing our faith and traditions. Listening to you daven warmed my soul and I looked forward then, as I still do today, to hearing you as you speak on behalf of our congregation in prayer, lovingly interrupting the Rabbi with poignant commentary and profound pride. You smile adoringly at the many children that run up to the Reader's Table each Shabbos in anticipation of their lollipop, a tiny bit of love from Nat.

Nat, you were there when our older daughter, Pamela became a Bat Mitzvah and stood at the Reader's Table. She beamed as you spoke to her, a day she will not forget.

Nat, you were there when our younger daughter, Jill, was named in the old Goodwin Chapel. You were there at the Reader's Table for her Bat Mitzvah and when she spoke in shul after her return from a trip to Poland and Israel, as a participant of The March of the Living. You took the time through bittersweet tears of joy, as is typical of you; to tell her how very proud of her you were to have made that trip. To this day, Jill still speaks of that Shabbos, and of course, of you.

Nat, you were there when during our renovation, when our services were held at Grover Cleveland Middle School and our now son-in-law Marc joined us for Shabbos services for the very first time. You approached him and offered an Aliyah to Marc, which touched him deeply. He still speaks of that day with affection and amazement that someone whom he had never met was so warm and inviting and made him feel so comfortable.

Nat, you were there on the High Holidays bringing your passion to my husband, Richard and reminding him of the many years as a youth that he accompanied his grandfather in the Orthodox shul in New York.

Nat, you were there when I came to shul on the Shabbos evening as I mourned the death of my mother and then my father. You have greeted so many mourners in your special way, and it is a comforting greeting indeed.

Nat, you have been there on so many occasions for so many people, in your humble, unselfish manner.

Nat, you were there for me and my families as you are for so many other families at Agudath Israel. You are affectionately referred to as "Mr. Shabbos" because no one sings the praises of the Sabbath like you do.

I am blessed to have developed a wonderful friendship with you and Bea and I am so grateful for that. Nat, you touch my heart in ways that I cannot easily express, and I am not alone. Because you see, when I coined the phrase "We Love Nat" for this celebration, because **I love Nat**, I knew that so many others did too!

May you and your family be blessed with the best of everything, always.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.