

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dear Friends:

We were all looking forward to come to our synagogue on SHABBAT BEREISHIS to dedicate two special TORAH covers brought from JERUSALEM by a very special person.

I was very pleased to see so many of you and didn't have the slightest idea that I will be honored too. With your presence you have gained at least 3 MITZVOT, because you came to honor the HOLY ONE, the TORAH and the SHABBAT. However for honoring me you will not get a MITZVAH, but a lot of thanks and appreciation for your friendship and for all the kindness you have shown to me for the past 30 years. I didn't recognize myself when I listened to all the nice things that were attributed to me. The danger is that I might start to believe it. Calling me a TORAH READER is all right. A FRIEND - of course - and very much so! However to give me the title of a TEACHER is hard to accept, because I feel like a student who is still in process of learning. The fact is that all of you are my real teachers. Just imagine how fortunate I am for being accepted by you and by showing me the way how to adjust in my new home with a different environment and making me feel a proud AMERICAN.

After arriving to the United States 32 years ago I feel like an old uprooted tree which has been transplanted into a different soil and climate. Thanks for helping me to grow and find happiness in my new adopted country.

Affectionately,
Morris Alexander

Watertown, Oct. 22, 1999.