

Steven D. Reece

From: Peter Berg <pberg@the-temple.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 16:07
To: sdreece@matzevah.org
Subject: RE: Appreciation and Request

Steven,

With much gratitude to you for being with us – a truly inspiring presentation that will help us greatly. It was meaningful for me and I know it was for our participants as well. Since I am one foot out the door, I will answer quickly, but we can certainly get together when I return as well. See my notes below:

Dear Peter,

I would like to thank you once again for inviting me to be a part of the orientation for the members of your congregation who will be traveling to Germany and Poland at the end of the week. I have been reflecting upon the experience; I was greatly enriched by it. I wanted you to know also that it was an extremely meaningful experience for me because it was the first time that I formally introduced myself and my work to a group of American Jews.

I felt that generally the meeting went well; however, there were a couple of difficult moments. I would like to get some feedback from you about the meeting and how I handle myself.

I realize that you are busy and will be leaving shortly for your trip. When you return, could we get together and discuss what transpired in the meeting, as I would like learn and grow in my understanding of how to best interact with you and your congregation. Here are my questions:

1. How do you think, the meeting went? **Very well. We learned a lot. Was organized (in three meaningful sections)**
2. Was it informative and helpful? **Yes, practical and historical**
3. Did it meet your expectations? **Yes, it did exactly what I would have hoped**
4. What would you have done differently? **I should have thought to bring a map**
5. How can I improve what I shared? **I would start on an upbeat end instead of starting with the “fear” and anti-Semitism” I know that is all true and we have to cover it. But it scared some people.**
6. Did I handle myself well when dealing with the issue of anti-Semitism in Poland? How might I better deal with such a sensitive issue in the future? **I think you handled very well, would have just done at the end, not the beginning.**
7. Was there any feedback from members of the group either negative or positive? **I haven’t heard yet as I had to get home. But they did thank me for inviting you, so I take that as positive.**

Concerning the orientation guide that I prepared, I also have a few questions:

1. Why do you think that this guide was needed? Most Jews know very little of this history, which is ironic since most come from Poland in some form or another.
2. How do you think that the guide met the need of the members of your congregation going on this trip? Very appreciative. I will r-read for the third time on the plane.
3. Could you share with me what spoke to you most or least? Very well organized with clear sections on history, Jewish specific history, and the importance of MATZEVAH foundation's work
4. Was there anything unclear or that needed further explanation not at all
5. What would you add or change? Perhaps a map.

We could meet and discuss these questions, if you wish. Or, if you want to write out your responses, you may do that. Whichever you choose to do is fine with me. We can meet when I get back – probably after Passover as my schedule is over-booked for the two weeks I get back due to having been out for two weeks. Would love that. Dianne can help.

If possible, I would like to meet with you once you return. I will contact Diane and set up a meeting with you through her. In the meantime, if you feel it would be of value for me to take part in debriefing the group, I would be glad to do it. If you wish, I could also prepare a few questions for you to consider. Please let me know, what you would like me to do.

Yes, we can figure de-brief out when we return. Again, will probably be after Passover.

I pray G-d's blessings upon your journey. May he bless you powerfully and give you insight as you lead your congregation through an intense and meaningful experience.

With much gratitude for your guidance and friendship.

L'Shalom,
Peter

L'shalom,

Steven

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