



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

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Asei l'khah rav—get yourself a teacher. And acquire for yourself a friend, a khaver. This is a verse from chapter one of the Sayings of the Fathers (Pirkei Avot), a tractate of the Mishnah that consists of ethical teachings by the earliest generations of rabbis.

This stunning teaching seems as fresh and applicable today as it was two millenia ago. When I arrived at GHC 4.5 years ago, I had already worked as a student and full-fledged cantor with a number of rabbis. Each had their *mayles*, their special qualities, but as I got to know Rabbi Kenter, I recognized that here was a man whom I could make my “rav,” my teacher—as well as my clergy partner. First of all, he is undoubtedly the most knowledgeable rabbi I have ever worked with. What's more, he is one of the most knowledgeable I've ever heard or read. But he offers his knowledge modestly and without conceit, which is why it is such a pleasure speaking with and learning from him.

Knowledge is one thing, but wisdom, generosity and respectfulness are even more precious qualities—ones which Rabbi brings to his relationships with all—congregants, friends and family alike. He has brought them to our clergy partnership, one of mutual trust, respect, and affection, for which I could not be more grateful. And Rabbi's devotion seems inexhaustible: he still comes up with wonderfully creative ideas and programs in every area of synagogue life with which he is involved.

I am also so grateful for the wisdom and generosity shown to Hal and me by Rabbi's wife, Judi—a life-partner, *baleboste* and *eyshet khayil* (woman of valor) who devotes her incredible energy, intelligence, common sense and passion not only to our shul but also to the Conservative movement worldwide. It's not all rabbis whose spouses are “on board” with the demands of the role. Both GHC and I personally are blessed to have been nourished by the Kenter family synergy for the last thirty years. Rabbi Kenter has been truly a rav (a rabbi) and a khaver (a friend) to so many, and to me and my family as well.

Khazak khazak v'nitkhazek—may Rabbi and Judi go from strength to strength. We will miss you, but know that your legacy will live on at your beloved congregation for many years to come.

Janet Leuchter, Cantor