



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

515 Broadway Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

914-693-4260 Main

914-693-4907 Fax

www.g-h-c.org

Jay M. Stein, Rabbi

Janet Leuchter, Cantor

Barry A. Kenter, Rabbi Emeritus

Philip E. Karmel, President

Dear Phil,

Greenburgh Hebrew Center is fortunate to have been led during the last two years by Phil Karmel. I can't imagine a more dedicated lay leader, particularly given his work load as a prominent environmental lawyer. Phil is an outstanding Torah reader, one of our most dependable--rarely turning down a request. He is a mainstay of morning minyan. He enjoys subbing for the rabbi in teaching and preparing divrei Torah. He and his wife Barbara buy, prepare and help set up and clean up our kiddush lunches on every day of every Festival holiday. And he's probably been doing many more mitzvot I am not even aware of. He's been doing all this for years, and did not stop when he became president.

And here's the thing: he is a man of principle, so he does all this not for the public recognition, but because he is genuinely committed to Conservative Judaism and our community, and therefore wants what's best for us to grow and flourish.

Phil embodies the best qualities of a "yekke," with his insistence on punctuality and no-nonsense action, and a genuine hasid, with his inner piety and love of singing. He makes me start exactly at 9:30 on Shabbat morning and then proceeds to daven each word, no matter how much of the service he has missed for whatever reason. He is a man of integrity.

Hal and I salute you, Barbara, for your support of Phil's involvement all these years. And we salute you, Phil, for all you have done for GHC and the Jewish community. Here is hoping that we will continue to benefit from your unique combination of abilities and dedication, and from your friendship and sense of humor, for years to come.

L'shalom,

Janet

Cantor Janet Leuchter