



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

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The Journal event has a long tradition here at GHC, with the first mention of a journal event (and fashion show) dating back to the 3rd meeting of the Greenburgh Hebrew Center on February 25, 1947. This year, we have chosen to honor the 70th Birthday of the establishment of the modern State of Israel. As stated in our vision: *Ahavat Yisrael*, our love for Israel and for the Jewish people connects us inextricably to Israel, the state and its people.

As the chair of the GHC Israel Team, my husband, Mark, wrote the following:

"We, members of the Jewish people, have journeyed together for nearly four thousand years, becoming a productive, colorful, albeit stiff-necked people. Who we are is a byproduct of our faith, history, nationhood, exile, return, and long exile again. The State of Israel was reborn 70 years ago and is the nation-state of the Jewish people. It was reborn as a deliverance of a two thousand-year-old dream, achieving an ingathering of Jews from all four corners of the globe, and for the Jewish people to again be home."

Most of us do not remember being Jewish before there was a State of Israel; in fact, it is hard to imagine a time when we could not freely visit, send our kids to spend a summer or a semester there, or have a place to call home. We Jews of the Diaspora come from all over Europe, North America, the North African Countries, South Africa, the Middle and Far East, South America, and Australia and can all call Israel our home. It is the only place on earth where Jews are in the majority, and Jewish wisdom and values guide the leadership.

So, we are celebrating the 70th birthday of the establishment of the modern State of Israel to remind ourselves that there was a time that we had nowhere to go, nowhere to call home.

Back in 1947, at that 3rd meeting of the Greenburgh Hebrew Center, a Board of Trustees was elected, and the process of getting a charter to make GHC a legally recognized institution was begun, giving Jewish families in the Rivertowns a place to call home. Seventy-one years later, Mark and I are proud to continue to call GHC our home.

L'shalom,