



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

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Jay M. Stein, Rabbi

Janet Leuchter, Cantor

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Naomi R. Feinkind, President

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Dear Fellow Congregants,

Cantor Janet Leuchter is one of the most caring, engaging, and knowledgeable cantors I have known. My first contact with her dates back to when she started here in the fall of 2010. I remember her warm, infectious smile and her pleasant, easy-to-sing-along-with voice. Judy and I spoke with her at kiddush and, slowly, our friendship began to blossom. I was immediately drawn to her knowledge of music. For example, Cantor Janet can hear various trope and nusach styles and give explanations of their regional and ethnic origins. It's really impressive.

In 2013, I got to know her better when she prepared Joseph for his bar mitzvah. Although he now readily participates in services and *leyns* Torah confidently, that was not always the case. Cantor Janet implemented a thoughtful plan to help Joseph become more comfortable singing and speaking in front of the congregation. I was lucky to have "crashed" one of their lessons a few weeks before his bar mitzvah. I was awestruck by one moment in particular. Joseph sang the melody for one of the Shabbat morning prayers and Cantor jumped in to harmonize. As a parent, you hope your children have teachers who truly "get" them. Without a doubt, Cantor Janet got Joe.

Cantor Janet has taught many of GHC's children with this same attention and care. However, students and their parents are not the only grateful ones. Adults, like me, benefit from her expertise and, as a good teacher, she knows everyone learns in different ways. Most of all, she teaches with amazing care and patience for all. For that, we will always be grateful.

As a Shabbat morning "regular", I am always moved by the way she leads services with spirituality and engagement. I love when she looks around the room to ensure that we are singing with her. Moreso, I marvel at her energy and stamina throughout the High Holy Days, including the countless hours spent rehearsing the choir. Her rendition of *Kol Nidre* will always be special to me and remains one of my favorite parts of the liturgy.

I would be remiss if I did not mention how much I have enjoyed working with her this year in my role as the VP of Religious Affairs. I really felt a part of the "Team" and, as a team, we accomplished so much.

Cantor, thank you very much for your hard work and dedication to our GHC family. Judy, Ilana, Joseph, and I will miss you very much. Kol hakavod and all our love to you and Hal.

Andrew Goldstein, MD
GHC Vice President