

**Greenburgh Hebrew Center**

515 Broadway Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

914-693-4260 Main

914-693-4907 Fax

www.ghcny.org

Jay M. Stein, Rabbi

Anna May, Cantor

Barry Kenter, Rabbi Emeritus

Naomi R. Feinkind, President

When I was first asked to take the position of Executive Vice President, my initial response was “you must be kidding”. There was no way I would agree. As many of you may (or may not know), The Feinkinds & Lisses have been very close friends for a number of years. We have shared each other’s simchas and been there for each other’s misfortunes. So, when it was said to me that Naomi needed me in this position, how could I turn it down? My biggest concern was that we would not always see eye to eye with one another and our friendship would be tested. Let it be known, we have not always agreed. While I am the one who is usually right, we both have remained good (if not stronger) friends.

Truth be told, Naomi is the one who is usually right. Backed by her years of teaching experience and her communication skills, the desire to help the less fortunate should be commended. Her dedication to GHC is unmatched. Her commitment to details is extraordinary. However, above all, she wanted to make a difference. I hope you realize how much she has.

Hit with a pandemic within the first year of her two-year term, she could have just taken a step back. But that is not Naomi. Instead, she enlisted the clergy and leaders of GHC and formed and led The Planning for the Future Task Force that met every Monday for over eight months and then monthly since then. Her agendas were usually two pages which included such issues as maintaining the facility, protocols for High Holiday and Shabbat Services, B’nai Mitzvah, Religious and Early Childhood Schools. No one, in my opinion, could have overseen this better. However, that is not all. It was her leadership that convinced the board to update our website. This has been a major undertaking, but it is being done. It was with her pushing that we began to offer the option of paying by credit card. It was her constant directive to keep the membership engaged, especially during this pandemic, by offering as many virtual programs as we could. She emphasized how important it was for board members to be in constant contact with our members by calling them and assuring them that we are here if needed. She researched and purchased the tents to keep the ECC safe and in session.

The above are just some of the initiatives Naomi has accomplished during her tenure. Let it be known that her years of teaching experience rubbed off on me. I learned a lot more than I could have ever envisioned when I accepted this position.

Jeff Liss

Executive Vice-President