



**Greenburgh Hebrew Center**

515 Broadway Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

914-693-4260 Main

914-693-4907 Fax

[www.g-h-c.org](http://www.g-h-c.org)

Jay M. Stein, Rabbi

Anna May, Cantor

Barry A. Kenter, Rabbi Emeritus

Naomi Feinkind, President

15 Shevat 5781  
January 28, 2021

Dear Friends,

We Jews have a love affair with numbers and words. Most often we focus on the numbers seven, ten, perhaps the number 40, or 120. Often overlooked is the number 15. As I write these words, it is Tu biShevat, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat, traditionally the New Year for the Trees. In six months, it will be Tu b'Av, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Av, marked by festive celebrations in the vineyards of ancient Israel. There are fifteen steps to the Seder, fifteen verses to Dayeinu and fifteen Psalms that begin "A Song of Ascents." These Psalms were recited by the Levites as they climbed the fifteen steps to the Temple in Jerusalem. The last of these, Psalm 134, reads:

A song of ascents.

Now bless Adonai, all you servants of Adonai who stand nightly in the house of Adonai.

Lift your hands toward the sanctuary and bless Adonai.

May Adonai, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.

As we all join together to celebrate Naomi Feinkind as she completes her tenure as President of the Greenburgh Hebrew Center, we take note that her ancestors (as well as Michael's) served as *kohanim* in the ancient Temple. Daily they lifted their hands as they blessed the congregation with the threefold Priestly Benediction. As they assured the proper functioning of ritual practices, they helped to keep us together as a people and as a nation.

Serving as a synagogue president is no easy feat even under ordinary circumstances; all the more so during a period of pandemic and economic stress. Naomi, benefitting from her multiple years of service to GHC in a wide variety of roles and functions, has used her very real skills to keep us together. We salute her and wish her well as she moves to the role of Immediate Past President. She has stood day and night watching over and caring for her community; she has lifted her hands to benefit the Jewish people. We ask that God continue to bless her, Michael, Josh, Beth and Todd, and their families with all that is good and meaningful. *Yasher koach* and *kol tuv*.

Barry A. Kenter

A vibrant egalitarian Conservative Jewish community in Westchester County,  
embracing our traditions while actively participating in our changing world.