



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

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Jay M. Stein, Rabbi

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Over 35 years ago, at the dinner table, my wife, Leslie, brings up a conversation saying she saw a nice Nursery School where we should consider enrolling our oldest child, Jenette. She was going on 2 and we were looking for a place which would fit our requirements for her. When I found out it was a run by a Conservative Synagogue, I really did not give it much thought. As a teacher, my wife had the early childhood education degree; so, if the curriculum was good for her, who was I to argue? What I did not realize at the time was that just by helping a little, I would become involved in the community. You know those lofts in the downstairs classrooms? About five or six of us, who had children in the then Nursery School, installed them. What about all the marker boards in each upstairs classroom? Three of us put up those. What I am getting at is that by getting involved, GHC has given me (and my family) lasting friendships, some going back those 35 years.

The question is: is that just me? I don't think so. Celebrating our seventy-fifth anniversary makes me wonder how many of you have made the same type of lasting friendships. People come and go, but through it all, these lifetime friendships continue. What a tribute to Greenburgh Hebrew Center that not only is it a place to find solace and connect to the Almighty, but it is also a place for social interactions that has no price tag. While I understand not everyone is involved like my family, nevertheless, everyone does have a connection here. You are part of a community that for over 75 years has always shared in each other's simchas as well as sharing each other's sorrows. When you are joyful, we are all joyful. When you are hurting, we all are hurting.

A lot has happened since its founding in 1947. Throughout the 75 years, GHC has gone through many transformations; perhaps the biggest was the merger with Midchester Jewish Center in 2004. Regardless of what has transpired through the years, one major aspect that has stood out is the dedication and commitment of the hundreds of volunteers who have led GHC through its ups and downs, with the only compensation being the gratification of the success of the synagogue. As its current President, I have often said that GHC is more than just a synagogue. It is a community of members who willingly volunteer their time for the benefit of all and a place where we can all call our "second home."

Happy Anniversary....GHC!

Keep Smiling,
Jeffrey Liss
Jeff Liss,
President

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