



Greenburgh Hebrew Center

515 Broadway Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

914-693-4260 Main

914-693-4907 Fax

www.gbcny.org

Jay M. Stein, D.D., Rabbi

Anna May, Cantor

Barry A. Kenter, Rabbi Emeritus

Jeffrey S. Liss, President

26 June 2022

27 Sivan 5782

Dear Friends,

Mazal tov!

A classic American folktale tells of the little engine that could. It goes something like this:

A little railroad engine was employed about a station yard for such work as it was built for, pulling a few cars on and off the switches. One morning it was waiting for the next call when a long train of freight-cars asked a large engine in the roundhouse to take it over the hill. "I can't; that is too much a pull for me," said the great engine built for hard work. Then the train asked another engine, and another, only to hear excuses and be refused. In desperation, the train asked the little switch engine to draw it up the grade and down on the other side. "I think I can," puffed the little locomotive, and put itself in front of the great heavy train. As it went on the little engine kept bravely puffing faster and faster, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can."

I like to imagine that underlying a meeting that took place in the spring of 1946, Al Spiegel and Arthur Davis, both of blessed memory, saw themselves as helping to create a synagogue center in the Rivertowns. Unlike Yonkers, New Rochelle and White Plains that had a well-established Jewish community, the villages along the Hudson had a small Jewish presence. Slowly, carefully they brought together some two dozen families they identified by November, 1946. Some 20 families met in Hastings to create the Greenburgh Hebrew Center on January 28, 1947.

Seventy-five years later, GHC celebrates 75 years. The confidence first expressed by its founders continues to motivate its members and leaders. We are the little shul that could. That faith and confidence have motivated its members and leaders to reach this jubilee year. Using gematria, the code whereby each Hebrew letter has a value and each Hebrew word can have a significant numerical meaning, we find that 75 is the value of *bitachon*, which signifies strong confidence, hope, trust and security. May that assurance continue to motivate and impel GHC to even greater achievements. *Raq hazaq v'amatz*, only be strong of good courage.

Barry A. Kenter

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