



November 1, 2017

Dear friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,



Someone came up with a clever T-shirt: "Rabbis Love Cheshvan." Although the Tishrei holidays bring with them their high quota of energy and charm, it is no secret that rabbis look forward to the "day after," more specifically to the Jewish month of Cheshvan, for an equal quota of tranquility and "boring" routine. It is as if God, in a demonstration of compassion and understanding for rabbis, cantors (and my wife would add) and Jewish wives, gave us a month with no Jewish holidays to catch our breath and to focus on other things.

Now, although November is barren of Jewish holidays, it has the most important American holiday – Thanksgiving. Yes, Thanksgiving has its share of family, food and cooking, but it also allows us to reflect on the meaning of gratitude and what it means to be American.

Many of us have done the "what am I grateful for" exercise, but not many have done the "what does it mean to me to be American" one. As an American who wasn't born here, I am curious about what your feelings and thoughts are in this regard, especially these days.

So let me invite you to put reflections in writing and share them with me by email or through a letter.

I look forward to hearing from you!
Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Cheshvan!

Rabbi Manes Kogan
rabbikogan@hillcrestjc.org