

Dear Friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

During the last congregational meeting on January 21st, an assessment for security guards was approved unanimously. Those of you who come to shul regularly, will know that we have wonderful and dedicated security guards, who keep all of us – members, staff, custodians, and clergy – safe.

In addition, we have been blessed with a wonderful student Cantor, Rachel Black (we all call her Cantor Rachel), thanks to the Cantor search committee and the leadership of our shul. Cantor Rachel not only has a beautiful voice and is knowledgeable in nusach, but she is engaging, caring, creative, and resourceful.

Our kiddush committee, led by Susan Diamond and a wonderful group of volunteers, has been providing all of us with delicious Shabbat luncheons, thanks to the generosity of many of our members.

The shul schedule explodes with programs, classes, small groups, adult education presentations, pickleball, Israeli dancing, Hebrew classes, and more. We have a dedicated staff, loyal and hard-working custodians, a smart, kind, and proactive executive director, and the rabbi isn't too bad either. In addition, a group of young parents is meeting regularly to think about new spaces for their children and teenagers.

What I am trying to say, in other words, is that our beloved Hillcrest Jewish Center is a wonderful, and safe, place to be.

All we need now is for all of our members to be more present. While we will continue streaming services, especially since we have members who are homebound and cannot attend in person, we want to encourage everyone who is able to join us in person for Shabbat services, minyan, and classes.

Get the most out of your membership! Try a new class, a small group, help make minyan, come and meet new people you haven't met, and keep our shul vibrant. Those in a position of leadership in our shul, are doing their part to make a difference. We need YOU to do yours!

Many blessings and see you soon!

*Rabbi Manes Kogan*