

Dear Friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

If you are like me, you probably get countless emails a day. In this past year, many of the emails I received, could be grouped under the title "bad news." Beginning with October 7, 2023, the hostages in Gaza, the increase of antisemitism, the harassment of Jewish students on campus, the indifference of the civilized world, and the list goes on.

So, I was very happy to receive an email this past week. The subject was: "Now for our MANY WINS this week!" The email listed the following good news:

- UNRWA has been rejected for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize!
- Professor Finkelstein from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania became the first tenured professor fired for pro-Palestinian rhetoric!
- U-Conn President Maric finally said enough to antisemitic and misogynist actions on campus!
- Brown University voted against DIVESTMENT!
- Binghamton SA Congress voted against BDS!
- Northwestern ended their relationship with Al Jazeera!
- Tufts University suspended SJP following publication of a disturbing graphic featuring assault rifles, urging students to "join the student intifada" and "escalate" event!
- Many more license plates related to Oct 7 have been removed!
- Minnesota Vikings posted about October 7th, commemorating the victims and remembering the hostages!
- President Peña of Paraguay strongly supported Israel by moving the Paraguayan embassy to Jerusalem and honoring October 7th victims with mezuzahs!
- Antisemitic Mayor of Manassas Park will not be seeking reelection and Manassas democrats will not endorse her!
- The Weather Channel ads in NYC subways featuring a woman in a keffiyeh were immediately removed and the company president profusely apologized!
- Pat Gelsinger, CEO of Intel, has shared compassionate and thoughtful messages to Intel's Israeli employees!
- The President of Argentina delivered a powerful rebuke to the UN, calling out their absurd and hypocritical condemnation of Israel!
- Reverend Graham of Samaritans' Purse donated 14 ambulances to Magen David Adom in Israel!

- California Governor Gavin Newsom defied CAIR and signed THREE important antisemitism bills into law!
- Senator Marco Rubio and Senator Tim Scott introduced the Preventing Antisemitic Harassment on Campus Act!
- Congressmen Chris Pappas (NH,D), Jake Auchincloss (MA,R) and Josh Gottheimer (NJ,D) all spoke up for Jewish students in demanding elite universities do more to protect Jewish students!
- Governor Abbott declared October 7th as a Day of Observance for Israel in Texas!
- Maryland Governor Wes Moore lit the Government House yellow on 10/7 in honor of the hostages still held in Gaza!
- Governor Hochul ordered flags flown at half-staff on State buildings and landmarks illuminated in yellow to honor 10/7 victims!

#### HERO OF THE WEEK:

- Pierre Poilievre, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and perhaps Canada's next Prime Minister, became a household name with his stern, unapologetic and highly clear remarks on Israel's righteous fight against the evils of Iran!

I hope that reading the above good news brightens your day. It did brighten mine. Yes, there are still plenty of the "other" news, but it is very important not to overlook the sources of light amid the darkness. Being mindful that there is more than bad news in the world, that darkness doesn't reign unchallenged; will move us to be grateful to our friends, and to build the much-needed resilience to keep up the good fight.

So, let's celebrate as much good as possible, and let's ask Hashem for more good news in the future.

Finally, as I recall good news, and sources of light and blessings in our lives, please join me in extending a heartfelt Mazal Tov to Joan Hausmann, HJC Bulletin editor for 38 years, upon reaching the milestone of her 90th birthday. May Hashem give you strength for many years to come, so all of us will continue to enjoy your light and your blessings.

*From my heart,  
Rabbi Manes Kogan*