



Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER
April 2018
5778 Nissan / Iyar



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Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

April

- 26** -- Board Meeting/
7pm
- 29** -- *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*
Celebration/5pm

May

- 5** -- Women's Group/
1pm
- 10** -- Board Meeting/
7pm
- 11** -- *Making Shabbos*
Cooking Class &
Shabbat Dinner/6pm

- 13** -- Book Group/
11:30am

- 15** -- Soup Kitchen

- 19** -- *Tikkun Leyl*
Shavuot/7:15pm

- 20** -- *Shavuot*
Services/9:30am

- 21** -- *Shavuot*
Services/9:30am

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Rabbi Salzberg's Message

Right now, we are in the midst of *sefirat ha-omer*, the counting of the Omer. This seven week stretch began on the second night of Pesach and will continue until Shavuot, 50 days later (Shavuot starts on Saturday evening,

5/19). When a Temple stood in Jerusalem, this period was marked by a daily offering of grain in gratitude for the harvest. Theologically, it links the Revelation at Sinai (Shavuot) with our liberation from slavery (Pesach). We can't have one without the other.

In between, we count: 1, 2, 3...

And when we reach a week, we start to count two different ways: "7, which is 1 week," 8, which is 1 week and 1 day," "9, which is one week and 2 days..."

In order to infuse this brief daily moment with meaning, it is popular to focus on something different each day. This could mean focusing on the Kabbalistic *middot*, the attributes of the Divine. Or it could be personal ethical development, for



example: dealing with humility, patience, and confidence. Such a program places this practice into a framework, and it gives us a reason *why* we devote 15 seconds a day to this practice which could be achieved by glancing at a calendar.

Quick Links

- [Donate to the PJC](#)
- [Find us on the Web](#)
- [2017-18 Calendar](#)
- [2017-18 Board of Directors](#)

It is also possible that by infusing each day of counting with a unique meaning, we are more likely to remember to count each night. I prefer not to adopt such a practice. Rather than superimposing meaning on counting the Omer, I treat it as an opportunity to take note of where I am each day - a brief pause in the slow steady march of my life.

Some days, I count in the midst of getting my children ready for bed. Once a week, I count at the end of Kabbalat Shabbat at the PJC. Other times, I count as I relax at the end of the day. More often than I care to admit, I count in the morning after forgetting the night before. Each experience is different, because each day is different. Counting the Omer brings this to the fore and helps to me to pause and take stock of each day as it passes.

I invite you to join me in this counting. Let us count together, each on our separate paths, yet each one leading to the same destination: the giving of the Torah and the beginning of the Covenant on Shavuot. Yesterday we counted 18 days of the Omer, so today we count...

Thank you,
Rabbi Alex Salzberg

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Education Director's Message



Sometimes we may feel that the Jewish Calendar takes us on an unstoppable roller coaster of time periods, weaving national and religious holidays, ancient and modern times, leaving us lost in the whirlwind.

For example, we just celebrated the holiday of Passover, the story of deliverance from slavery to freedom that is accounted in four of the five books of Torah. The story of the Exodus is a powerful foundation of our identity as a nation of dreamers: we were slaves, now we are free. We left Mitzrayim, wandered 40 years in the desert and got to our Promised Land. This is a Biblical story, not yet proved true; attempts to date the Exodus to a specific century have been inconclusive. 1 Kings 6:1 places the event 480 years before the construction of Solomon's

Temple, implying an Exodus at c. **1450 BCE**, but the number is rhetorical rather than historical, representing a symbolic twelve generations of forty years each. So let's assume 1450 BCE it's more or less the time of the Exodus story.

A month before Passover, we celebrated the holiday of Purim - another story about deliverance from evil - that takes place in Persia, sometime around the year 357 BCE, when the prime minister of Persia, Haman, plotted to kill all Jewish people in the Persian Empire. The Jews who were living then in Persia had been expelled from Israel by the Babylonians. Jerusalem was plundered, and Solomon's Temple was destroyed. Most of the Jews were taken into

captivity in Babylon, and Jerusalem was razed to the ground.



From that period, we chant *Shir Ha Ma'alot*, from Psalm 120, before reciting *Birkat Ha Mazon*: - 1 *A Song of Ascents. When G-d brought back those that returned to Zion, we were like dreamers. 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the nations: G-d has done great things with these.* 3 *G-d has done great things with us; we are rejoiced. 4 Turn our captivity, O G-d, as the streams in the dry land. 5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 Though he goes on his way weeping that bears the measure of seed, he shall come home with joy, bearing his sheaves.*

(Psalm 120 - Shir HaMa'alot)

We were "like" dreamers, says the psalmist. We dreamt of returning to our land, and being able to rejoice there. A dream that was turned into reality two thousand years later, with the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, on 14 May 1948 (5 Iyar 5708) by David Ben-Gurion. A dream planted in a Biblical promise and sustained throughout 2000 years of Diaspora, until 70 years ago. A dream that came through with much blood, sweat and tears, reinvigorated by Theodor Herzl, who decided that it was time to make the dream become a reality: "*Im tirtzu, eyin zo agadah*" - if you wish, this will not be a dream.

This year, we will be celebrating 70 years of the Establishment of the State of Israel. On April 19, in Israel and around the world, Jews will celebrate 70 years of keeping alive the dream of two millennia. A celebration that follows two other

commemorations in the Jewish calendar, Yom Hasho'ah and Yom Hazikaron (Holocaust Memorial Day and the Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers) which are intrinsically connected with the three last lines in *Shir HaMa'alot*: 4 Turn our captivity, O G-d, as the streams in the dry land. 5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 Though he goes on his way weeping that bears the measure of seed, he shall come home with joy, bearing his sheaves.

The establishment of the State of Israel followed a long and painful period of anti-Semitism, found not only in the horrific events that took place during the Holocaust, but also in the two thousand years of Exile, of wandering around the world with no homeland and no protection from discrimination and persecution.



We could think that this is it. Our dream is now reality. No more dreaming! Unfortunately, that's not the case; we are not there yet! We cannot yet see the prophecy of the psalmist, "2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the nations: G-d has done great things with these."

Our survival as a nation, a culture and a faith is not secured. The ball is on our court now. We decide if the dream of thousands of years, the yearning of our ancestors and the Divine prophecy about rejoicing among the other nations is far away or attainable. Our actions in the world, our ethics and morals, the values we pass onto our children and the choices we make about priorities in our lives will define the next chapter in Jewish history. History has proved to us that each one of us can make a difference. Let's have our northern star be guided by the Jewish GPS, and let's translate our prayers and blessings into living reality - it's in our hands. The work isn't done yet, it's far from complete. At the Learning Center, we strive to bring the best Jewish education possible for our students and their families. But we need to work in tandem with parents that share the same passion for Jewish education and prioritize its importance when facing hard questions of the modern world.

The Learning Center will celebrate 70 years of Israel Independence on Thursday, April 19, with a very special program, led by our Shinshinit, Amit Danan. Make sure to mark your calendars and come with your children to rejoice! Help your children understand what an accomplishment this is and how happy and blessed we are for having Israel on the world's map today!

Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach,
Ana Turkienicz



Letter from the Board - House Chairperson

Did you know that members of the Pelham Jewish Center are invited to attend the monthly Board meetings? Board meeting dates appear on the [PJC website calendar](#).

PJC House Leader Michael Weissman walks us through his time on the House committee!

As I near the end of my current tenure as House Chair (my first stint as House Chair was around the turn of the century...this current century!), I am struck not as much by what we've done as an organization, but rather who we are as a community. The defining project over the past couple of years was the major renovation of the PJC, made possible with the funds raised by the 2016 High Holiday Appeal. Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to repair and paint the exterior of the building, paint the interior of the first floor, provide new landscaping throughout the entire grounds, purchase new chairs and carpeting for the sanctuary, and upgrade our security system.

These improvements to our physical space are fantastic! They not only provide a setting more pleasing to the eye, but an environment more conducive to prayer, reflection and community. That said, the most awe-inspiring part of the process was how the PJC membership came together to get this accomplished. It all started with the Rossman family's generous offer of a two-for-one match for any member's increase in contribution for the 2016 High Holiday Appeal over their previous year's donation. This unprecedented challenge definitely spurred the PJC to action. With increases in donations from all sectors of the community - the "young families" through the "old timers" (yes, I'm now in the latter group) - we experienced a \$40,000 increase in donations over the previous year. The Rossman family's match of \$80,000 enabled the renovations to move forward.

As if the financial generosity of the PJC membership wasn't amazing enough, the actual process of getting the renovation done brought to the fore another remarkable aspect of our community. Members from the Fundraising, Design and House Committees banded together to pick out colors and patterns (colors and patterns not so much my bailiwick), order carpets and chairs, and deal with manufacturers and deliveries. Julia Coss, our dedicated Office

Manager, adeptly managed the huge amount of administration and billing that comes with a renovation of this size. And last, but certainly not least, is the inimitable Adam Bukowski. Adam's diligence and attention to detail is surpassed only by his obvious dedication to the PJC and its members. He is constantly going above and beyond in order to make sure everything is done "the right way " He has certainly made my job as House Chair easier and for that I'm very grateful.

Being House Chair has given me the great privilege of insight into parts of the PJC that others may not have the opportunity to witness. To see our members as donors of capital and of time, of care and concern, but mostly as a community always willing to pull together to get the job done, has been the greatest reward of my tenure.

Thank you,

Michael Weissman

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Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration



Sunday, April 29th
5:00-7:00 p.m. at the PJC

Israeli Folk Dancing
Authentic Israeli Food & BBQ with Chef Miri
Israeli Wine Tasting with the PJC's own Roger Krulak & Dan Mailick

PLEASE JOIN US — ALL ARE WELCOME!

**RSVP to Julia in the PJC Office by April 20th
\$18.00 per Adult/\$9.00 per Child/\$50.00 per Family**



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New Member Spotlight: Meet the Silvers!



Last year, Sheri, Mike, and Noah Silver moved to Pelham where they have been active Pelham Jewish Center members since September 2017. Mike is a research analyst for a technology consulting company, and Sheri is a food blogger whose writing can be found at her blog [Sheri Silver](#) as well as for "The Nosh" at My Jewish Learning. Noah, age 9, is a Learning Center student. Sheri and Mike are also parents to Chelsea (26), who works in the fashion industry, and Conor (21), who is majoring in game design at Parsons, both of whom live in New York City.

The Silvers belonged to a Temple near Irvington where they used to live, but when they moved to Pelham they began looking for some options closer to home. The "resounding recommendation" was to check out the Pelham Jewish Center. According to Sheri, they visited, "fell in love", and joined when they enrolled Noah at the Learning Center.

Sheri's favorite things about the PJC are its opportunities for Social Action involvement and the incredible sense of community. Sheri, Mike, and Noah have all been involved in volunteer work, and their ability to make a difference is something Sheri "really loves about the PJC".

She also loves the small, close-knit Pelham Jewish Center community. Sheri says "you just feel like a part of things right away," and mentions as some highlights being invited over to the Salzberg's for brunch, along with other wonderful evenings spent at shul families' homes.

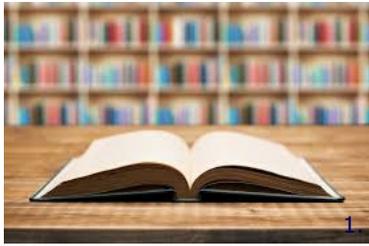
Noah and the rest of the family also love The Learning Center. Sheri says that Noah did a great job on the Four Questions and they loved that he had a wonderful, rich exposure to Passover in Hebrew School leading up the holiday.

The Silvers are excited about staying involved in the PJC and doing more volunteer work!

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Library Notes

I'm looking for volunteers to help weed out old books and those with more than one copy. We can absolutely work around your schedule, and the duplicate books will be boxed for a future sale. You may also choose one of these rejected books for your own.



In addition, if you have recommendations for Jewish-themed or Jewish-authored books that are not in our collection, let me know and we can consider purchasing them and expanding our library.

We have some new books this April!

1. [Future Tense](#) by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
2. [Madonna in a Fur Coat](#) by Sabahattin Ali
3. [The Last Watchman of Old Cairo](#) by Michael David Lukas

Thank you!

Barbara Saunders-Adams, Librarian

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Share a Simcha!

simcha!

"Share a Simcha" allows congregants to share their news with our PJC community. Please submit news about family members -- engagements, births, job updates, kid achievements, community acknowledgements and any other milestones to [Lisa Yelsey](#). This will continue to be a

regular *Hakol* feature, so keep your news and updates coming!

- Wishing much *Mazel* to Carey & Mark Hochberg on the arrival of their new grandson, Aiden Samuel Horvath, born on April 10th! Aiden joins new big sister, Alanna -- proud parents are the Hochberg's daughter, Jessica & husband, Mike.

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Tributes & Donations



Donations to the PJC from ...

- Spencer & Ronnie Barback, in support of the PJC's Social Action Program/Midnight Run
- Hal & Audrey Beerman, in honor of Barbara Saunders-Adams, for a wonderful Spring Gala
- Perla Glanzberg & Maurice Owen-Michaane, in memory of their mother and grandmother, Nelly Glanzberg

Donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, from...

- Les Rosenberg, in honor of Adam Abeshouse, Larry Cohen and Steven Martin, for helping him in his hour of need

Donations to Maot Hattim Fund, through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, from...

- Michael & Michelle Dvorkin
- David Haft & Jacqueline Schachter
- Jonathan & Marjut Herzog
- Sheldon & Gloria Horowitz
- Marshall & Naomi Jaffe
- Robert Kahn & Andrea DeRose Kahn
- Alfred & Shelley Klein
- John & Leah Leonard
- Mark & Linda Levine
- Patricia Levinson
- Steve & Hildy Martin
- Joel Peck & Shelli Goldberg-Peck
- Leslie & Sybil Rosenberg
- Rhonda Singer
- Morris & Deborah Stampfer
- Michael & Donna Weissman

Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)

At any time, if you wish to pay by check, please make it payable to "**The Pelham Jewish Center**" and mail it to our bookkeeping firm at: The Pelham Jewish Center, P.O. Box 418, Montvale, NJ 07645.

All donations to the **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**, at any time throughout the year, should be made payable to "**The Pelham Jewish Center -- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**" and mailed directly **to Julia Coss at the PJC office.**

Thank you!

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