



Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER
April 2019
5779 Adar II/Nisan



In This Issue:

Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

April

- 19** -- Erev Pesach
- 19** -- Fast of the First Born/7-8:30am
- 20** -- Passover Services/9:30am
- 21** -- Passover Services/9:30am
- 24** -- Passover Lunch/12pm
- 26** -- Passover Services/9:30am
- 27** -- Passover Services/9:30am
- 27** -- *Yizkor* Service/11:30am
- 27** -- Women's Group/1pm

May

- 1** -- Yom Hasho'ah Program/6:30pm
- 2** -- Yom Hasho'ah

Leadership Messages

[Rabbi Salzberg's Message](#)

[Education Director Ana Turkienicz's Message](#)

[PJC President Michael Dvorkin's Message](#)

PJC Programming

[Passover Information Packet](#)

[PJC 65th Anniversary Journal](#)

Congregant News and Donations

[Amazing Things Happen at the PJC](#)

[Share a Simcha](#)

[Tributes & Donations](#)

Rabbi Salzberg's Message



On Friday, March 15th, 50 members of the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand were killed in a racist terrorist attack.

On Friday, March 22nd, our community responded. The call went out from the UJA (largely organized by our own Kate Lauzar) to show up at seven different mosques throughout the region. This call was specifically framed in the context of the aftermath of the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh - just as others showed up for us, so too, must we show up for them.

I shared this message with the PJC community, and more than a minyan of us showed up at 1PM on a Friday. An equally large group told me that if they would not have been out of town, they would have been there as well. We were warmly



have been out of town, they would have been there as well. We were warmly welcomed by leaders of the community and were publicly thanked from "the bimah" during the service.

Sadly, as Jews, we know what it is to feel unsafe in a country that we consider our homes. As Jews, we know what it is to feel threatened in our synagogues and community centers. In recent years we have watched with alarm as antisemitism has risen around the world, in our country, and right here in Westchester.

I am proud of the fact that, in response to this distressing reality, we have not chosen to cut ourselves off from the wider community and worry only about ourselves. We have not ignored our own safety - a robust security committee has been meeting regularly since the fall and is working on plans and procedures to ensure the safety of everyone at the PJC. In addition to these responses, we have also actively reached out to other communities and individuals who are facing similar discrimination and shown them that they are not alone.

Maimonides, a scholar who was no stranger to Islam or the Muslim world, wrote in the Mishnah Torah, *אמרו חכמים אין בניהו עולם הזה לימות המשיח ולא שיעבוד מלכות אומות*

Our Sages have said that there is no difference between This World and the Days of the Messiah except subservience to the kingdoms of the world alone.

Maimonides believed that our world isn't fundamentally different from Messianic times; the only thing holding us back is the human drive to dominate one another. This drive is an expression of our *יצרה רעה* - yetzer ha-ra' - our evil inclination - and it exists in all of us. It is our responsibility to recognize it and channel it into making the world better.

In Hebrew, the term for humankind is *בני אדם* - b'nei Adam - the children of Adam. It reminds us that we share a common ancestor and should view one another as family. Hafiz Zakir Ahmed used this phrase - the Children of Adam - repeatedly throughout his sermon on March 22nd. It was a reminder of the shared tradition that connects our two faiths.

He also shared a hadith - a saying or story about Muhammed in the Muslim tradition. In it, a funeral passed by Muhammed he stood up. It was said to him, "It is a Jew." Muhammed replied, "Was it not a soul?" It seems that those around Muhammed would have thought that he would stand only for a fellow Muslim. Muhammed, however, understood that we are all souls deserving of respect. In our own terms, we say that all of humanity is made in the Divine Image.

That shared belief was on display in the mosque that Friday, and I cannot express my pride and appreciation that so many from our community lived our Jewish values that day by showing up.

Thank you,
Rabbi Alex Salzberg

[TOP](#)

Education Director's Message



"We were slaves in the ghettos of Poland / to Hitler, Führer of Germany, accursed be his name / And we were taken from there... to be killed and enslaved / led naked across the snow and ice, / -- and even were we all were wise and smart / able to work tenfold our strength, / a downright miracle would it be / if from every community of Jews one or two remained, / And those who tell of the suffering of the Jews of Poland / will live to see the downfall of Hitler and Germany."

Aharon Carmi, From *That Inferno*, p. 113 - [The Last Passover at the Warsaw Ghetto](#)

When my grandfather, Ignacio (Yitzchak) Folberg z"l, died in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1967, he had next to his deathbed a copy of the recently published "[Mila 18](#)" in Spanish. My father brought the book to Brazil and I read it several times in my teenage years. Both my late grandfather and my father z"l used to live on Mila street # 6, in Warsaw. It wasn't called the ghetto then, since they left Poland before WWII started. They were the lucky ones, the reason why I can write these words to you today. Other members of the Folberg family, including Hana Folberg, my namesake, and their children, weren't that lucky. They were sent to their death in the camps.

On April 19, 1943, the first night of Passover, Mila street # 18 was the headquarters of the Jewish Resistance in the Ghetto. This was the date the Nazis decided to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto. On the same date, April 19, 2019. 80 years after WWII. Jews around the world will be sitting around their Passover Seder tables to retell the

- 3** -- First Fridays at Five Forty-Five/ 5:45pm
- 5** -- Book Group/ 11:30am
- 8** -- Yom HaZikaron
- 9** -- Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration & BBQ/ 6pm
- 11** -- Women's Group/ 1pm
- 16** -- Board Meeting/ 7 pm
- 19** -- Tag Sale/9am-1pm
- 27** -- Memorial Day/ Offices Closed

[Top](#)

- Quick Links**
- [Donate to the PJC](#)
 - [Find us on the Web](#)
 - [2018-19 Calendar](#)
 - [2018-19 Board of Directors](#)

story of the Exodus. When we recite the words from the Haggadah: "Vehisheamda la'avoteinu v'lanu" (G-d stood by our forefathers and by us), the images of the Ghetto fighters and their struggle up to their last breath will be in my mind. When I hold the green Karpas, symbol of the renewal of life in Spring, and dip it into the salt water, I will be thinking about the tears shed by our ancestors, their last thoughts and hopes.

April 19, 1943 marks not only the last Passover in the Warsaw ghetto. It was also the date of the [Warsaw Ghetto's Uprising](#). Their resistance lasted for almost a month; when men, women, elderly and children, fought and held onto life from the underground bunkers of the Ghetto. At the LC, the Bnei Mitzvah students have been learning about the Holocaust. I had conversations with our teens and I feel touched by their sense of responsibility and ownership regarding teaching the Holocaust to the next generations. For example, Hannah Steinberg one of the upcoming Bnei Mitzvah said: "in the near future we won't be able to listen to personal accounts from the Holocaust. That's why it's so important to me to learn about it in order to be able to pass it along the next generation". Max Gerber another Zayin class student recently visited Berlin with his family. Upon his return he shared with the class how little we really know about what actually happened. Max shared: "we learn from the survivors, but the really awful stories were buried with those who didn't survive". He pointed out that Germany is the country that does the most to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and transmits those lessons to the new generations. The Zayin class students researched about different aspects of the Holocaust and presented their projects to the rest of the class in an effort to share as much as possible about this subject.



Traditionally, the Zayin class (Bnei Mitzvah) is charged with crafting and leading the LC's Yom Hasho'ah Commemoration which is a culmination of their learning about this issue. We invite Holocaust survivors to share their story with our students and the Bnei Mitzvah students lead a moving candle lighting ceremony with texts they selected or wrote for the event.

The Learning Center's Yom Hasho'ah ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 4:30 PM. All are invited to join in and commemorate with us, so we will never forget.



This year on the first night of Passover, Friday, April 19th, I hope we can set a moment to remember this same night seventy-six years ago; the night when a few hungry, desperate and exhausted Ghetto survivors fought the Nazis with all their might. We will dip the green karpas in salt water, blessing G-d for the renewal of life in Spring, and for the rebirth of Jewish communities around the world. We will thank G-d and Jewish strength for Israel's existence, the symbol of renewal of our people. We will feel blessed for celebrating our Passover seder in freedom, with family and friends; for being able to read the Haggadah and break matzah together around our beautifully set holiday table. We will taste the salty water with the green karpas and be grateful for nature, for clear water, and for all the abundance around us. And we will remember to share our blessings with those around us who aren't as fortunate, through tzedakah and Ma'ot chittim, the special Passover charity for the poor. May our community always enjoy the blessings of Jewish tradition and its holidays in good health, and may we continue to learn from our past in order to strive for a better future for us and all of humanity.

Wishing each and everyone of you Chag Pessach Sameach, a Happy Passover,

Ana Turkienicz
Education Director

[TOP](#)

A Message from the PJC President

How do you react if someone asks whether you're "religious"? I suspect many of you react the way I do and quickly answer in the negative. I've never once copped to being "religious" and if anyone ever says I am, I always take care to correct them. Sometimes I might get a little pushback- why, for instance, have I been going to services regularly for the last however many years then if I'm not "religious"? Why do I look for meaning in the Torah? What am I doing being President of a shul if I'm not "religious"?

The answers can be complicated but mostly it comes down to this: while I feel uncomfortable claiming to have become more religious in middle age, I'd have to agree that I've become more Jewish. "Jewish" of course means many things- a people, a tradition, history, customs, obligations, language, food, and much more, and yes, religion. But the words "religion" and "faith" are too small and too limiting to completely describe what being Jewish is and can be. So that's why I can spend so much time and effort being Jewish and still honestly push away the word "religious."

Which is to say that you too needn't take the plunge into religiosity to get more out of Judaism and more out of the Pelham Jewish Center. Attending services and events, taking an adult ed class or even participating in a discussion on this week's parsha while simultaneously being "not religious" doesn't make you a fraud. To the contrary, it makes you honest because you're coming to these things authentically and not out of obligation.

contrary, it makes you honest because you're coming to those things authentically and not out of obligation.

So if you've never been one to attend Shabbat services because you figure you're just not the type, I can confidently say that there's no such type. And I can just as confidently say that if you give it a shot there's a pretty good chance that later on you'll look back and be thankful you did. The reason I'm so confident is that our synagogue is full of people like me who somewhere along the way became "more Jewish" (if not more religious) and not a single one will tell you they've ever regretted it.

Michael Dvorkin
PJC President

[TOP](#)

Passover Information Packet 2019/ 5779

Passover is coming soon! The holiday begins on Friday, April 19, at sundown and ends Saturday, April 27th, after sundown.

The Pelham Jewish Center is excited to support you in preparing for Passover through the Passover 2019 Information Guide, available in full at the PJC website [here](#).

If you need help selling your *Hametz*, the PJC *Hametz* Proxy is available [here](#).

PESAH AT THE PJC 2019/5779

Pre-Pesah Checklist

Saturday, April 13th

- Shabbat HaGadol ("The Big Shabbat" before Passover)
- Services begin at 9:30 A.M.

Sunday, April 14th

- The synagogue kitchen is cleaned for Pesah. Please do not bring any food into our building from Sunday, April 14th, through the week of Pesah.

Thursday, April 18th

- Bedikat Hametz (בדיקת חמץ - Checking for Hametz) After dark, hide 10 pieces of hametz (crackers or small pieces of bread) around the house. Using a candle or flashlight to light the way, find the hametz and brush it into a paper bag using a feather and wooden spoon. Set aside for next day. See the front of your Haggadah for readings.

Friday, April 19th

- Fast of the First Born (תענית בכורים) Shacharit (Morning) Services at 7:00 A.M. Immediately following services, we will have a Siyyum Behorim. (While first-borns are obligated to fast the day before Pesah, they may eat if they attend a celebration marking the completion of a course of study). If you are fasting, the fast begins at dawn, 5:42 A.M. **There will be a light break-fast served.**
- Mehirat Hametz (מכירת חמץ - Selling Leaven) Please complete your proxy giving Rabbi Salzberg authority to sell your hametz. Bring it to the shul or fax it (914-931-2199) by 9:30 A.M.
- Make a contribution to your synagogue Maot Hittim Fund ("Wheat Money") to help the needy celebrate Pesah.
- Remove last hametz from your house, car, office, etc.
- **Eat last hametz** by 10:40 A.M.
- **Bi'ur** Hametz (בעור חמץ) Burn collected hametz by 11:47 A.M. (no blessing; Reading at front of Haggadah)

Pesah Services & Events

Friday, April 19th

Erev Pesah
Minyan and Siyyum Behorim 7:00 A.M.
Candle Lighting 7:20 P.M.
First Seder!! – NO Kabbalat Shabbat Service at the PJC.

Saturday, April 20th

First Day of Pesah
Shacharit 9:30 A.M.
Candle Lighting After 8:24 P.M.
Second Seder (begin counting Omer)

Sunday, April 21st

Second Day of Pesah
Shacharit 9:30 A.M.
Havdalah 8:24 P.M.

Wednesday, April 24th

Passover Lunch 12:00 P.M.

Thursday, April 25th

Candle Lighting 7:27 P.M.

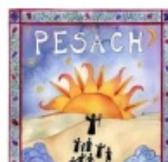
Friday, April 26th

Seventh Day of Pesah
Shacharit 9:30 A.M.
Candle Lighting 7:28 P.M.
Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 27th

Eighth Day of Pesah
Shacharit (YIZKOR) 9:30 A.M.
Havdalah 8:32 P.M.

Rabbi Salzberg will arrange a post-Pesah hametz "buy-back" on **Saturday, April 27th, at 9:00 P.M.** Do not use or unpack your hametz before then.





[TOP](#)

Amazing Things Happen at the PJC...

Last month Michael Weissman donated a kidney to Dan Kushnick. They are both doing well. What a mitzvah! They were encouraged to follow the brave role model of Ana Turkienicz.

Kol Hakavod!

[TOP](#)

It's Worth the Wait...

The *PJC 65th Anniversary Journal* is expanding. For this reason, we have changed the date of publication to coincide with the year end festival of Shavuot. The *Journal* will cover events from the nearly seven decades of PJC history. It will include your personal tributes and photos if provided. The *Journal* should be a keepsake worth the wait. Please keep the tributes coming. As well as advertising from local merchants.

Deadline for submission is May 1st.

Barbara Saunders-Adams
Fundraising Chair

[TOP](#)

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 **Jacqui Stein**. This will continue to be a regular *Hakol* feature, so keep your news and updates coming!

[TOP](#)

Tributes & Donations



Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)

Donations to the PJC from...

- Herbert & Emily Folpe, in honor of Pat Levinson's 80th birthday
- Robert & Sandra Goldman, in honor of Marjut Herzog's work on this year's Purim celebration
- Robert & Sandra Goldman, in honor of Clara Salzberg's contributions to this year's Purim celebration
- Alfred & Shelley Klein, in honor of Dan Kushnick, with wishes for a complete and speedy recovery
- Alfred & Shelley Klein, in honor of Michael Weissman, with wishes for a complete and speedy recovery
- Adam & Kate Lauzar, in honor of Ted & Vivian Brown, with appreciation and wishes of good luck as they move away to be closer to family
- Adam & Kate Lauzar, in honor of Michael Weissman receiving the **Hero of HOPE** Award from Community HOPE Services at their Annual HOPE Gala
- Rachel Meyer, in memory of Audrey Beerman's father, Harvey Shore
- Jeremy & Sari Schulman, in honor of Daniel Kushnick

- Jeremy & Sari Schulman, in honor of Michael Weissman
- Joel & Beth Serebransky, in honor of Daniel Kushnick, with wishes for a speedy recovery
- Joel & Beth Serebransky, in honor of Leah Leonard
- Joel & Beth Serebransky, in honor of Michael Weissman

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

- David & Mika Erner, in honor of Rabbi Salzberg
- Adam & Kate Lauzar, for *Matanot L'evyonim*
- Steven & Heather Schneider, in honor of Rabbi Salzberg

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!

[TOP](#)

The Pelham Jewish Center
451 Esplanade
Pelham Manor, NY 10803
Phone: 914-738-6008 ~ Fax: 914-931-2199
Email: office@thepjc.org ~ Web: www.thepjc.org