



Rabbi's Message



"And the one who does not know how to ask, you should begin for him, as it says: And you shall tell your child on that day, saying, 'For the sake of what God did for me when I went out of Egypt' (Exodus 13:8)."

This quote, from the Passover *Haggadah*, is familiar to all of us. It comes at the end of the passage describing the four children at the *Seder*. This is an important moment of Jewish inclusion, showing us that children have a vital role in our rituals, even before they reach the age of *Bar* or *Bat mitzvah*. Not only are they there to fulfill a ritual role (reciting the four questions), but they also remind us that we have the obligation to teach them, and to pass on all that we have learned and experienced in our lives.

There is also an important educational message here: our children and students need to be met where they are, and not where we want them to be. Each child in this passage provides us with a different type of question, and requires a different response. The wise child asks about *halakhah* and ritual, and receives an answer that focuses on what is done. The wicked child appears to be separate from the community, and is treated that way. The simple child asks a simple question, and receives a vivid response. But the child who does not know how to ask does not ask a question, and the parent is not responding to the child. Instead, we are told that we must begin the conversation ourselves - "you should begin for him."

This openness gives us an opportunity to share what it is that makes Passover special, that makes it the most observed holiday in the Jewish calendar. And the *Haggadah* tells us that the most important part of Passover is not the ritual. It is not the sacrifices. It is not the cleaning or the careful checking of *hekhshers* and ingredients. The most important part of Passover is our experience. Our own stories of slavery and freedom, and our own memories of the holiday and of *Seders*. By sharing what we find meaningful in the holiday, and the experiences that we have had with it, we demonstrate the significance of Passover and Judaism more viscerally than can ever be taught in a classroom or through a sermon.

How do we bring people into our community? Our family? Through stories. By sharing with them the moments that made us who we are, and that connect us to what has come before. The Passover *Seder* gives each of us an opportunity to share our stories with family and friends, with people who know us well, and with perfect strangers. Through the sharing of stories we build connections, and we pass on the Jewish values and experiences that have impacted our lives the most.

This year at your *Seder*, step away from the text of the *Haggadah*. Follow the example of the parent of this child, and explain to everyone there why Passover matters to you. Share memories of your Passover experiences as a child. In this way we will build new memories and new connections, and fulfill the meaning of the *Haggadah* - "the telling."

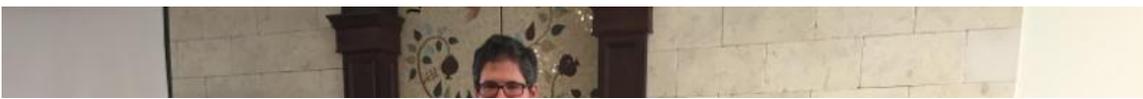
בשלו,

Rabbi Alex Salzberg

TOP

From the Desk of Our Education Director

"Whoever teaches his son teaches not only his son, but also his son's son - and so on to the end of generations." **Talmud, Kiddushin 30a**



In this Issue

[Rabbi Salzberg's Message](#)

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

[President Steve Martin's Message](#)

[Gala Update](#)

[Pesach 2016/5776](#)

[Yom Hashoah](#)

[Mazal Tov!](#)

[Directory Update](#)

[PJC Cemetery Program](#)

[Israel News Bits](#)

[PJC Library News](#)

[PJC Torah Guide](#)

[Tributes & Donations](#)

[Mishloach Manot Thanks](#)

Top

Upcoming PJC
Activities & Events

April

9 -- Tot Shabbat/11am

9 -- Midnight Run/9pm

10 -- Sheldon Horowitz
Lecture/10am

10 -- Annual
Gala/5:30pm

30 -- Women's
Group/1pm

May



5 -- Yom Hashoah Program with Dr. Moshe Avital/7:30pm

7 -- Shabbat HaYeladim/9:30am

14 -- Tot Shabbat/11am

15 -- Sheldon Horowitz Lecture/10am

20 -- Shabbat B'Shamayim/5:30pm

21 -- Women's Group/1pm

22 -- Tag Sale/9am-3pm

26 -- Yom Ha'atzmaut with Israeli Scouts/5pm

June

3 -- Community Shabbat Dinner/ following services

4 -- Tot Shabbat/11am

16 -- Congregational Meeting/8pm

25 -- Women's Group/1pm

Top

Quick Links

[Donate to the PJC](#)

[Find us on the Web](#)

[2016 Calendar](#)

[2015-16 Board of Directors](#)

On April 2, we will celebrate the first *Bat Mitzvah* of the current *B'nei Mitzvah (Zayin)* class. It will be Daviel Schulman's *Bat Mitzvah*. I am counting the days. Each *Bar/Bat mitzvah* that we celebrate in our community moves me deeply; if you have ever sat near me during a *Bar/Bat mitzvah* at the PJC, you probably noticed I cannot hold my tears when the *Bar/Bat mitzvah* is on the *bimah*. It doesn't get better with the years - the opposite, I think - the older I get, the faster the tears start to roll. I don't even know why I even put my mascara on each morning - it will all be gone by Kiddush-time...

What is it about this ancient ceremony (as well as *brit-milah*, baby namings, and weddings...) that touches our hearts so deeply?

As I glance towards the *Bar/Bat mitzvah* child, images of the celebrating family come to my mind. I remember their first day at our Learning Center. The first conversation I had with the parents. Their fears, questions and worries. The many times we celebrated holidays together, their questions in class, their voices in prayer, their opinions, Purim costumes, and so many other memories. The images from the past dance in a whirlwind in my mind; I try to focus on the present moment and my prayers for the future of the celebrant. I hope his/her learning will not end here. I hope the wisdom s/he just started to gain as s/he grappled with this Torah portion and the time devoted to learn every element of the ritual will not go to waste. I hope that Judaism and the importance of Jewish learning will remain an integral part of their lives and that they will continue to seek, to question and to grow within it. As we will all chant at the end of the Torah service, "it's a tree of life for those who hold fast to it..."

I know that for my hopes to take place, it's not enough to pray; rather, it takes a village. We, the community, are the ones to send the clear message that Jewish learning towards an adult Jewish life doesn't end at *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. That's just when it starts. To be a *Bar/Bat mitzvah* means to be able to perform the *mitzvot* our tradition demands from us. It is said: "*Talmud Torah k'neged kulam*" (Mishnah Pe'ah, 1:1)- The value of Torah learning is equal in importance to respecting elders, bringing peace among men and performing deeds of loving kindness altogether. Although our sources have additional sayings about the values of other *mitzvot*, it's clear that continued learning is seen in Judaism as one of the most important deeds; we are the People of the Book: it envisions that each Jew must set aside one portion of his/her time to continue to grow his/her Jewish knowledge. The value of "*Talmud Torah*" - Jewish learning - implies that the wisdom from our sources helps us sort right from wrong; it informs our choices as we go about our lives. Jewish study includes the expectation that its lessons will help us deal with the struggles of life - if we "hold fast to it".

When we recite the *V'havta*, the prayer after *Sh'ma*, we say: "*V'shinantam l'vaneycha, v'dibarta bam* (...)", meaning, "You shall love Adonai your G-d with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up (...)"- What is it that we are supposed to "impress" our children with? How are we supposed to do it? And how can we make sure that our own children will continue the tradition? I leave these questions open for

each one of us to answer.

As we come together as a community to celebrate this year's *B'nei Mitzvah*, let's make sure our message to each of our teens is loud and clear: this is just the beginning of your life as a Jewish adult. To continue to grow and deepen your knowledge and connection to Judaism, you must continue to learn. Become an active member of our incredible *madrichim* team, attend Hebrew High School, and continue to engage in *Tikkun Olam* activities. As we set aside time for all the important things in our teens' lives, let's make sure that there is also a special time for Jewish learning and Jewish growth. Come talk to me if you have ideas to enhance the opportunities we have for our teens to engage with the community, to continue to develop the beautiful garden of knowledge they began in the LC, where the tree of life started growing in their hearts and minds. Don't let their garden dry out.

I guess my tears will continue to roll down in every *Bar/Bat mitzvah*; but now you can understand why...

So I would like to wish the Schulman family much *nachat* as Daviel reaches this milestone in her life.

I hope she continues to grow and shine her unique light around her family and our community. There is a special place for her right here at the PJC Learning Center to continue to grow her garden of Judaism, as she strolls on her life path towards adulthood.

Mazal Tov and B'sha'ah Tovah, Sheechyanu!

Ana Turkienicz

Education Director

[TOP](#)

President's Message



Why is this night different than all other nights? Like so much of Jewish life, this simple question evokes a multi-layered response. At the most superficial level, we join together with family and friends to have a meal. We surround ourselves with the memories of Passovers gone by, embrace the warmth of relationships and the burgeoning Spring. Passover is the Spring parallel to Thanksgiving. This alone makes Passover the most celebrated of all Jewish Holidays in America.

More importantly, Pesach offers an opportunity to examine and embrace what's essential to us. I fear that we have become increasingly shy about explicitly engaging in conversations

about meaning. I worry that in reaction to the possibility of being overly prescriptive about morality, or because engaging in difficult debate might create conflict, we are reluctant to have open discussions about what we believe is fundamental. I have come to believe that it takes active effort to overcome these fears, but that when we do, we deepen our self-understanding and our relationships. Respectfully listening to each other about things that really matter is a cornerstone of truly connecting. The Talmud models the power of respectful disagreement, and passionate considered debate remains at the core of Jewish learning.

Pesach provides an incredibly rich opportunity to take this leap of faith and engage our family and friends in meaningful learning. The themes that can be engaged range from the meaning of freedom and slavery, the power of telling stories and how those stories morph over time, environmentalism, why does being Jewish matter, making sense of the incredibly complex issue of "chosenness", etc., etc. There are many different *Haggadahs* that have been published with different spins that can provide everything from Talmudic sources to kids' games to help with the process. Check out one of the many *Haggadahs* for different audiences recommended in the Forward column "Freedom From The Slavery of Passover Seders" by Jay Michaeson: <http://forward.com/culture/104464/freedom-from-the-slavery-of-passover-seders/>. If you are interested in social action/social justice, I recommend the American Jewish World Service source sheets https://ajws-americanjewishwo.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/text_study-exodus_freedom_responsibility.pdf.

The internet makes a wealth of resources available. Simply taking 30 or 40 minutes a week before

Passover to think a bit about what you would like to talk about at your Seder will be richly rewarded. My experience is that if you simply prime the pump with a question and a text, most of us are eager to engage in serious conversation about important issues. We just need to create a structure that catalyzes conversation.

One of the central themes of Pesach is gratitude. I would be remiss if I missed this opportunity to thank everyone at the PJC for enriching my life, our lives. Hildy and I are a bit embarrassed, but profoundly grateful, that we will be honored at this year's PJC gala. The PJC has been a powerful stimulant for us to deepen our lives - from friendships, to community, to study, to deep contemplation about what is truly important in life - and has provided support for the difficulties that life has inevitably thrown in our path. Like everyone else, there are parts of life that oppress us and yet we are incredibly fortunate for the many freedoms we are blessed with, the PJC community being one of the most important. We are grateful beyond our ability to express that gratitude.

With love, *Chag Pesach Kasher V'Sameach!*

Steve

[TOP](#)

PJC Gala Update



The **PJC 2016 Fundraising Gala** is Sunday, April 10th, from 5:30-10:00 pm. If you are able to join us, please submit your reply card or [register online](#) as soon as possible. The Gala Committee greatly appreciates the community's support and looks forward to gathering together on Sunday, April 10, to celebrate the PJC and our wonderful honorees, Hildy & Steve Martin!

[TOP](#)

Pesach 2016/5776

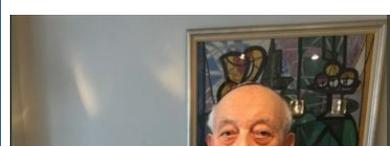


Begins Friday, April 22nd

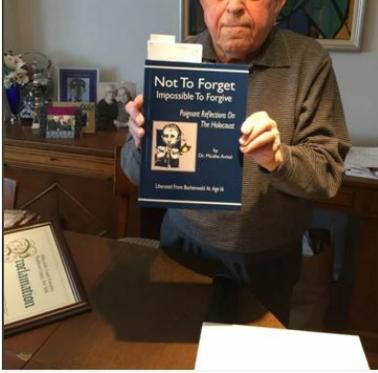
As we approach Passover, Rabbi Salzberg has compiled a holiday guide to assist our congregation, including candle lighting times, blessings, prayers, a preparation checklist and service times. To access this year's Pesach information packet and preparation guide, [click here](#).

[TOP](#)

Yom Hashoah Program at the PJC



Featuring **Dr. Moshe Avital**
Thursday, May 5th at 7:30pm



Please join us on Thursday, May 5th, at the PJC when we will observe Yom Hashoah [Holocaust Remembrance Day], featuring speaker Dr. Moshe Avital. Dr. Avital was born in Czechoslovakia, and during the Holocaust was imprisoned in six concentration camps. He was deported to Auschwitz at age 14 with his entire family, was separated from them and - after much suffering - was liberated from Buchenwald by the American Third Army on April 11, 1945. In total, Dr. Avital lost 200 relatives.

After Liberation, he was hospitalized for two months in a makeshift hospital in Buchenwald. He was sent to Ecouis, a village in Normandy, France for recuperation. There he joined the illegal immigration to the then Palestine.

His ship, which was named the Children of Buchenwald, was intercepted by the British navy on the Mediterranean. He was forcefully removed from the ship by the British Forces and imprisoned in Atlit Detention Camp in Palestine.

One night, Moshe Avital was liberated by members of the Hagannah - "A Jewish Underground in Palestine". He later joined the Hagannah and fought in the War of Liberation 1947-1950. He also fought in the 1956 War with the Israel Defense Forces in the Sinai War.

In November 1950, he came to the U.S. and pursued his higher Academic education at Yeshivah University, graduating with high honors, and earning a BA and MS in Education, and a PhD in Hebrew Literature.

For 50 years, he has served in various Educational positions in the United States. Dr. Avital speaks half a dozen languages and is a translator. He was the official Hebrew to English Translator for the ABC Network for the proceedings of the then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Israel, and the proceedings of the Knesset - the Israeli Parliament - in November 1997.

To date, Dr. Avital has published 15 books, most about Jewry, Zionism, Jewish education, the Holocaust and the Bible. He is a well-known author and speaker on the Holocaust. He presents extraordinary testimony, both as a survivor and as an educator, bringing to light many unknown facts of the Holocaust era. He provides psychological, philosophical and theological analysis, as well as reflections regarding the perpetrators of the Holocaust. Dr. Avital divides his time between New Rochelle and Israel.

[TOP](#)

Yasher Koach to Our PJC Education Director!



Ana Turkienicz, our Learning Center Education Director, will be spending three weeks in June - July volunteering as a Hebrew teacher, teaching the educators in the Cuban Jewish Community.

Wishing Ana a well-deserved *Yasher Koach* as being named one of the 2016-2017 winners of Rodeph Sholom School's Paul Druzinsky Teacher Enrichment Fund Award recipients!

The Paul Druzinsky Teacher Enrichment Fund helps RSS attract, retain, and reward outstanding faculty by awarding two annual grants of up to \$7,500 each to selected faculty members for one-of-a-kind, transformative experiences related to their fields.

"I have been teaching Hebrew, Prayer and Torah for the last 10 years since I came to America, and I have been privileged to do so in a country where we have the freedom to access knowledge and technology to enrich our instruction and engage our learners. I have always been interested in learning about Jewish Communities who manage to keep their Judaism alive and survive as a community against all odds," Ana Turkienicz says about her upcoming trip to Cuba.

"I learned about the Jewish Community in Cuba many years ago and about their struggle to survive as Jews and as a community. I am fascinated by their strength, and I believe as a Jewish Educator in America, I have much to learn from Jews who have struggled to keep alive the flame of Judaism in spite of all the restrictions and shortness of means, media and resources. I believe such an encounter can help me grow as a Jewish educator and as a human being, forcing me to explore beyond the limits of what we

know today and this meaningful acknowledgement of her talent & vision!

[TOP](#)

Mazal Tov to Our Newest PJC Member!



On Thursday, April 7th, Siri Wright will complete her conversion process to Judaism. This represents the culmination of a long & meaningful journey of learning and self-discovery. The PJC congregation looks forward to celebrating with Siri and formally welcoming her into the PJC community.

Please join us on April 30th Shabbat when Siri hosts Kiddush in honor & recognition of her conversion!

[TOP](#)

Membership Directory Update



The PJC is initiating a Membership Directory update. Please look for further information and details in our *Weekly Announcements*. We plan to send you a copy of the information we currently have in our database for your family, and have you return it to our Office Manager, Julia Coss, updated and complete.

Thanks in advance ... more details to follow soon!

[TOP](#)

The PJC Community Cemetery Program



The PJC Cemetery Committee would like to suggest that the time to learn about our project, and to consider making a purchase, is **now - no matter your age or situation**. Our cemetery area is at Mt. Eden in Hawthorne, NY, and the director - Steve Cipolla - is happy to discuss what is available, costs and how this works, as well as show you around. He can be reached at (914) 769-0603. The Cemetery Committee, chaired by [Jacqueline Schachter](#), would like to encourage members to speak with her about this program, as well.

[TOP](#)

Israel News Bits



Magic Carpet Redux

The final nineteen Jews who wanted to leave Yemen for Israel were airlifted out in a secret operation organized by the Jewish Agency in mid-March 2016. Since 1949, over 50,000 Yemenite Jews have made *Aliyah*, the earliest in a secret operation code named Magic Carpet. Only 40 to 50 Jews remain in Yemen. Those Jews refuse to leave Yemen despite the absence of any communal infrastructure, and risks of harassment, forced conversion to Islam and even murder.

From New York Knicks to... Hapoel Tel Aviv

Former New York Knicks star and 3-time NBA dunk champion Nate Robinson has joined Hapoel Tel Aviv for the remainder of the 2016 season. He led Hapoel to victory and scored 25 points in his first outing but will have his work cut out for him in trying to lift Hapoel from its dismal 10-14 record with nine games remaining.



Girlfriend Outs Pretend Haredi Jew

The IDF sent a draft notice to a man who claimed a religious exemption after his girlfriend posted Facebook photos of the couple kissing and described their sexual relationship. The IDF offers exemptions to most Ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, Jews. The IDF is considering a cyber unit to track and test the credibility of citizens who seek military exemptions based on being Ultra-Orthodox.

Israel's Response and Ramifications of Istanbul Terror Attack

Three Israeli members of a culinary tour group were killed and ten Israelis were wounded in the suicide bombing in Istanbul in mid-March 2016. Israel's response, on Shabbat, was immediate and remarkable. Private Medivac jets were dispatched the same day to return some of the wounded to Israel. In addition, on the following morning, the government sent an Israeli Hercules (an airplane medical facility with doctors and intensive care) to care for and evacuate the remaining wounded and return the bodies of those who were killed. Foreign Service members also went to Turkey to help their colleagues. There is mounting evidence that the Istanbul suicide bomber targeted Israelis. The surprising result of the horrific terror attack could be the acceleration of the rapprochement between Israel and Turkey as both countries need the other for security and economic cooperation.

[TOP](#)

PJC Library News



There is a wealth of books on Jewish themes in our PJC Library. Drop in and take a look. Books are arranged by categories and marked by white labels. We have shelves on varied topics: ancient Israel, modern Israel, Holocaust studies and literature, Jewish history, Jewish literacy, Israeli writers, Jewish fiction, Jews & Christianity, biography, children's books, books for youth, *chumashim*, *talmudim*, *siddurim*, and Jews from other lands, to name a few.

Borrowing a book is easy. There is a pocket with a green card in the back of most books. Write your name and the date you take the book out on the card. Hand the card into the Office. Julia will periodically check to see how long books have been out. If a book is out more than a month, she will send you a gentle reminder. To return a book, place it in either of the two blue bins found in the Library and in the Office.

On the bottom ride side on the wall adjacent to the kitchen, below the Israel shelves, is an empty cabinet set aside to keep source books you may need for services. Please make use of it as needed.

Come to the PJC and READ!

[TOP](#)

The PJC Torah Guide



The Learning Center's Hebrew High School has created a video demonstrating many of the Honors that are given out during a typical Shabbat morning service, so that anyone can see what is expected, and feel comfortable accepting an Honor at the PJC. Click [here](#) to watch the video; the password is shalom451.

This video is also intended to be shared with family or friends who may be visiting the PJC, and are uncertain about accepting an Honor. Our thanks go out to the members of the Hebrew High School for stepping up to support our

...and the members of the Hebrew High School are stepping up to support our community, and our deep gratitude goes to Neco Turkienicz, who filmed and edited what you see.



If you would like to practice any of the Honors before participating, please contact [Rabbi Salzberg](#)--he would be happy to work with you directly.

[TOP](#)

Tributes & Donations



Tributes to the PJC In Memory of ...

- Ann Connolly & Gordon Medenica, IMO Janice Rossman
- Jennie & Jeremy Driesen, IMO of Janice Rossman
- Kate & Adam Lauzar, IMO of Janice Rossman
- Kate & Adam Lauzar, IMO of Joyanna Steinberg
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO Joyanna Steinberg
- Nora & Marc Mazur, IMO Janice Rossman
- Elaine & Marc Prager, IMO Janice Rossman
- Jeanne & David Radvany, IMO Janice Rossman

Donations to the PJC from ...

- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IHO of the Yahrzeit of Vivian's mother, Emma Kamins

Special Donations to the PJC from ...

- Leah & John Leonard for a new Memorial Board, in loving memory of Harriett & Henry Smith

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

- Marjorie & Dolph Becker, IHO Ted Brown's 80th birthday
- Robert Kahn, for the Maot Hittim Fund

Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)

[TOP](#)

Mishloah Manot -- Thanks to All Who Participated!

CHAG
PURIM
SAMEACH

For the PJC Community

From your friends at the PJC

Abeshouse Family

Barback Family

Norman Bloom

Brown Family

*Zultowsky/Cecil
Family*

Cohen Family

Cohen Family

Eleanor Dreyfus

Driesen Family

Druckerman Family

*Klopott/Frankel
Family*

Funess Family

*Korenstein/Glickman
Family*

Goldenberg Family

Goldiner Family

Goldman Family

Goldman Family

*Schachter/Haft
Family*

*Simpson/Handelman
Family*

Herzog Family

Horowitz Family

*Prigot/Hovaness
Family*

Jablowsky Family

Jaffe Family

Kasper Family

Absher/Katz Family

Klebanow Family

Klein Family

Krulak Family

Lanoil Family

Lauzar Family

Leonard Family

Levine Family

Patricia Levinson

Read/Mailick Family

Martin Family

*Castiel/Morgan
Family*

*Goldstein/Nacht
Family*

Neubardt Family

Peck Family

Einzig/Perkis Family

Susan Perrotti

Tzetzso/Ploski Family

Prager Family

Rosenberg Family

Rossmann Family

Rothberg Family

Hersh/Rubock Family

Safer Family

Salzberg Family

Samuels Family

*Saunders/Adams
Family*

Serebransky Family

Sigel Family

Singer Family

Smith Family

Stampfer Family

Jacqueline Stein

Silva/Stettner Family

Teitell Family

Trachten Family

Turkienicz Family

Weisman Family

Weissman Family

[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