



Hakol

Dear ,

Welcome to the January 2016 issue of the Hakol, the PJC's monthly newsletter. In keeping with the times, and congregants' habits, this issue marks the electronic re-launch of the Hakol.

We have put much consideration into how the monthly Hakol issue can be most valuable and informative to our community, and to differentiate it from the weekly email announcements both in style and content. Our readership will continue to enjoy regular articles and commentaries from Rabbi Salzberg, Education Director Ana Turkienicz, and President Steve Martin. Tributes & Donations will be acknowledged. Seasonal & Event highlights will be covered. However, while regular on-going news will continue to be included in weekly announcements, it will generally not be duplicated in the Hakol. Also, the current PJC calendar through June, 2016 can be found both on the [website](#) and [Google](#). The complete [Board & Committee chair listing](#) is located on the website, as well.

Our goal is to keep you updated & connected with all the news in our PJC community via multiple communication channels, including weekly announcements, the monthly Hakol issue and current website information.

Happy reading!

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Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

January

9 -- Women's Group/ 1pm

10 -- Blood Drive/ 9am-1:30pm

12 -- "Crossing the Line": Anti-Semitism on College Campuses/ 7-9pm

22 -- Community Shabbat Dinner/ 6:30pm

24 -- Tu B'Shvat YF Program/10-11:30am

February

6 -- Tot Shabbat/ 11am

6 -- Hooked on Havdalah/5:30-8:30pm

13 -- Women's Group/ 1pm

26 -- Ramah Shabbat Program/6:30pm

Rabbi's Message



It's a little hard to believe that we have been together for six months already. It seems like only last week that I first walked into the PJC. I remember getting a kick out of seeing my name on the office door, and being intimidated by the number of empty bookshelves for me to fill. Reflecting on the past six months, I am already overwhelmed by the experiences that I have had.

I have seen tears of joy as we have celebrated two *b'not mitzvah*, an *aufruf* and a baby naming. I have seen tears of sadness and loss as we mourned the passing of seven amazing individuals who were connected to our community. I have watched with pride as members of our community have led services for the first time. And, I have watched as my daughter has become more familiar and comfortable inside this building with each passing week.

I have heard the incredible music of the High Holidays at the PJC, and still catch myself humming along with the "popcorn" version of *keter meluchah*. I have heard the laughter of our children as they run through the halls during Learning Center, and play on the lawn outside of my office window. I have listened to the scouts that we brought from Israel sing an incredible medley of religious and secular songs in three languages.

I have smelled the etrog on *Sukkot*, and enjoyed the way that it lingered on my hands for hours after services. I have smelled - through the unique ventilation system which seems to connect my office directly to the kitchen - the potatoes as the Learning Center fried latkes, and the countless dishes that people volunteered to cook to help celebrate a *bat mitzvah*.

I have tasted the food at the community barbecues that we held over the summer, the snacks at the afternoon adult education class and the pizza with the teens before Hebrew High School. I have enjoyed the delicious and elaborate *kiddushim* that individuals generously provide each week for Shabbat, and the wide variety of whiskeys that people have in their liquor cabinets. Most recently, I ate a pistachio cake that was baked for me in memory of my grandmother, inspired by a comment that I made in a sermon.

I have touched the metal poles and bamboo mats that make up the PJC sukkah as I joined many of the men in the community to assemble it. I have held the Torahs, which are the vital heart of our services and our faith. I have shaken hands with so many of you to say hello, or wish you a *Shabbat shalom*. I have hugged and been hugged in joy and sadness, to give and receive comfort.

But most of all, I have felt trusted and supported, loved and encouraged by everyone here. I have felt the warmth and the sense of family that makes the Pelham Jewish Center what it is, and that makes me so happy to be here. And I look forward to the many and varied experiences that I will have in the next six months, and in the years to come.

בשלום,
Rabbi Alex Salzberg

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From the Desk of Our Education Director



As I write these lines, we have just finished celebrating Hanukkah and are currently immersed in sending and responding to holiday greeting cards and gifts to our friends and neighbors. Two religious celebrations that intersect, intensifying conversations about faith, traditions and roots.

Many of our LC students are raised in interfaith homes, and I am in awe of how these families wisely manage to raise Jewish children. This reality became even clearer when we hosted the [Christian and Jewish Scouts from Tel-Aviv Yafo](#) this past December.

In conversations with the Scouts about their experience visiting our community, I was surprised to learn from them how truly impressed they were by the beautiful interfaith homes they visited. In Israel, their experience is much different than ours, since [Jews are legally forbidden to intermarry in Israel](#), unless one spouse converts to the other partner's religion. If neither spouse will convert, the engaged interfaith couple must travel abroad to wed. Therefore, in Israel, interfaith homes are rare. In contrast, here in the the US, the last Pew Research, [Religious Landscape Study](#), found that almost four in ten Americans (39%) who have married since 2010 have a spouse from a different religious group, which is a steep rise from their last study. Among the [Jewish population](#), the rate of interfaith marriages found in the Pew Study from 2013 was 58%. As much as our hosting PJC families enjoyed their intimate encounter with the Christian-Jewish Scouts from Tel-Aviv and Jaffa, having a taste of the best of Israel's youth, so were the members of the group exposed to a reality that is uncommon in Israel. From their reactions I learned that they were greatly impressed by how families in our community have worked out their diversity and created beautiful homes full of love, respect, comprehension and pride.

Sadly, recent national and international events of religious intolerance have found their way to the front pages of media in America. We and our children are bombarded by acts, words, and images that are becoming commonplace in our society. Some of us ponder on what will be the future of freedom of belief in our world. Confronted by this reality, I worry about the world our own children will be facing when they come to adulthood. Consequently, I have been reflecting much about the fabric of our own community and how can we incorporate and support interfaith couples who have opted to give their children a Jewish education. Additionally, I wonder if we have showed our gratitude to them for their contributions to our community and recognition for overcoming many hurdles in order to navigate the waters of their spiritual journeys. In my work at the LC, I have closely followed some of our interfaith families from their first steps, as they enroll their first child in the Learning Center, in search of a support system to help create their Jewish homes. Time and again, I feel humbled to witness families embark on a journey of Jewish Learning and meaning through their own children's experiences.

From our ancient sources, we learn how enriched we were by inclusion: Moses, the Levite, was married to Zipporah, a Midianite, and so was Boaz, married to Ruth the Moabite, the great-grandmother of King David. Our own congregation has been enriched and enhanced by the diversity of its members, and I feel truly blessed to be immersed in such an interesting mix of cultures, traditions, and backgrounds of Jewish families who chose the PJC as their home.

Furthermore, Judaism teaches the importance of working with others in the community to achieve social justice. "In a city where there are both Jews and Gentiles, the collectors of alms collect from both Jews and Gentiles; they feed the poor of both, visit the sick of both; bury both and restore the lost goods of both, for the sake of peace" (*Yerushalmi Talmud, Tractate Demai*). In the Learning Center this year, we took an important step towards incorporating the value of *Tikkun Olam* (fixing the world) by helping families engage in acts of kindness and helping the needy, both Jewish and non-Jewish. We called this program "*Masa-Hessed*" -- The Journey of Kindness. Families chose one of four organizations and come together on Sundays to learn about Social Justice in Jewish Thought, and then go to work with one of the partnering organizations: [Bronx Jewish Community Center](#), [Lift Up Westchester](#), [New Rochelle Humane Society](#) and [Kids' Kloset](#). Families have expressed their excitement and appreciation for the opportunity to engage together in *hessed* and have found a path for giving and contributing to the betterment of our

27 -- Ramah Shabbat Program/9:30am

27 -- PJC Gala/ 6:30pm

March

5 -- Tot Shabbat/11am

6 -- Morning Lecture Series/10:00am

16 -- Spiritual Practices Program with Rabbi Pamela Wax/7:30-9:00pm

20 -- Morning Lecture Series/10:00am

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to engage together in *hessed* and have found a path for giving and contributing to the betterment of our world. Together, we learned that our world will be built on kindness, just as our sages taught us that "[Olam hessed yibaneh](#)" (the world will be built on kindness).

Last but not least, thank you to the many PJC volunteers who help us make the LC a special and inclusive space for these Jewish Journeys to take place. A special thanks to Tracie & Jason Cohen and Roger Krulak for their families' recent contributions to the LC. *Yasher Koach and toddah rabbah!*

With much hope for a more inclusive, tolerant, peaceful, and kind world, and with much love.

Shalom,

Ana Turkienicz
Education Director



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President's Message



This week, we started reading the book of *Exodus*. We start in difficult times in Egypt and despite - or perhaps because of - our trials and tribulations, we emerge as a coherent community, *bonei Yisrael*. We are no longer simply a collection of families and tribes, but a people. And the magic of that is that our strength as a community allows us to prevail over many obstacles. It is not that we don't screw up - we screw up royally, collectively and individually.

We whine, we are ingrates, we are anxious messes terrified of the future and yearning for a mythic past that wasn't as great as we fantasize. All this, in an effort to avoid facing the present, confronting our very real struggles in the wilderness. Even when we are given nearly direct access to G-d, we are more frightened than relieved.

And yet, we thrive. We thrive because we learn the power of communal commitment. We accept that we have obligations not only to ourselves and our families, not only to our tribe, but to each other. That mutual commitment has remained a constant of Jews throughout history, and remains essential to the success of every Jewish community.

Commitment to community is hard. Arguably it is antithetical to the thrust of modern American culture, with its insistent privileging of self. When we work together doing the unglamorous work of holding each other up - not because we are friends or family, but simply because we are a community - we are investing in creating a collective resiliency against struggle.

There is tremendous power in knowing that we are committed to supporting each other. When someone in our community is sick, we will create a food train and people who have no idea who the sick person is still make time to provide for someone in need. When someone dies, we must make it a priority to attend the funeral or shiva house. When a child is having a *b'nei mitzvah*, we must attend services, even if the character of that day in *shul* is different from a normal prayer experience.

We do this partly out of self-interest. We cultivate community to know that when my time comes - as it does for all of us - someone will be there for me. There are times when family and friends are not, cannot, be enough. We do this partly in gratitude. As someone who has directly benefited from the support of the PJC community, I can attest to how important communal support can feel in a time of need. The desire to pay it forward derives from this experience.

Perhaps most importantly, we invest in our community because it is the right thing to do. It is how we have thrived as a people for millennia. We do it because when we are enjoined to walk in G-d's way, it means that we - like He - are our best selves in the context of a rich communal life.

Happy New Year.

B'Shalom,

Steve

Israel News Bits

Michael Douglas Receives Prize for Inspiring Others

Michael Douglas, Westchester resident and renowned actor, received the Genesis Prize from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel. The \$1 million Genesis Prize is awarded to an individual who inspires others through his or her engagement and dedication to the Jewish community and/or the State of Israel. Douglas recently and very publicly connected to Judaism through his young son who had developed his own connection through his friends. Douglas is an outspoken advocate against anti-Semitism and supporter of the State of Israel.

Turkey and Israel - Friends?

Economic realities are a strong driver of political solutions. Turkey is desperate for new sources of energy in particular because of its recent rift with Russia. Israel recently signed an agreement to develop its giant natural gas fields in the Mediterranean Sea. These two realities created a perfect recipe for a rapprochement after a five-year rift between Israel and Turkey. Both Turkey and Israel announced they are in discussions to restore relations and continue developing a pipeline that will allow Turkey to import natural gas from Israel.

Israel is 18th Best Place to Live

Each year, the United Nations publishes its Human Development Index that measures each country's success along three metrics: health and life expectancy, knowledge of citizenry, and standard of living. Israel ranks 18th out of 188 measured countries. It is higher than Japan, Belgium, and France, but lower than the United States. Norway is once again the gold standard.

The Kardashians are Moving to Israel - What?

Kourtney Kardashian (and her Jewish husband) is in advanced talks for an apartment along the Tel Aviv beach. It will be one of many homes around the world that the Kardashian family shares. You may not see them on the street, but the family's Passover visit is expected to be included on their reality cable television show.

PJC Gala to Honor Steve & Hildy Martin

We are delighted to announce that the PJC Fundraising Gala will honor Steve & Hildy Martin, in recognition of all that they have done - and continue to do - for the synagogue and our community. In addition to Steve's current service as President, both Hildy & Steve are past Presidents of the PJC and each has held numerous



positions on the Board of Directors for many years. They have given countless hours of time to better our community with their selfless commitment to the Learning Center, fundraising, social action and the Rabbinic search committee. Their leadership, enthusiasm and willingness to give of their time and talents - as well as their generous financial support - are truly inspiring.

The Gala will be held on Saturday, February 27, and will consist of an intimate dinner party in a congregant's home followed by a wine and dessert reception at the PJC, featuring a silent auction and a special tribute to the Martins. Expect to receive your Gala invitation in the mail in the coming days. And stay tuned to next week's announcements for details about the silent auction, as well as an opportunity to place a tribute to Steve & Hildy in the commemorative Journal.

Dinner hosts are still needed, so if you would be willing to host a dinner, please contact [Donna Weissman](#) as soon as possible.

PJC's High Holiday Campaign a Great Success

We are pleased to report the results of our 2015 / 5776 High Holiday Campaign. In raising over a hundred and forty thousand dollars, we exceeded our fundraising goal! A great deal of thanks goes to our congregants for their generosity and our telephone volunteers who gave of their time. The care and commitment to the PJC by everyone is evident. We thank you all for your continued support.

Builders (\$15,000 & Over)

Rosenberg, Les & Sybil

Pillars (\$10,000-\$14,999)

Martin, Steven & Hildy
Rossman, Robert & Janice

Leaders (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Goldman, Robert & Sandra
Haft, David &
 Jacqueline Schachter
Prager, Marc & Elaine
Radvany, David & Jeanne

Principals (\$3,600-\$4,999)

Abeshouse, Adam & Maria
Cecil, Alec & Diane Zultowsky
Jaffe, Marshall & Naomi
Leonard, John & Leah
Liesman, Steve &
 Karen Dukess
Singer, Mark
Trachten, Gary & Evelyn
Weissman, Michael & Donna

Guardians (\$2,500-\$3,599)

Cohen, Larry & Diane
Holtzman, Eugene & Mary
Serebransky, Joel & Beth
Sigel, Efrem & Frederica

Promoters (\$1,800-\$2,499)

Cooper, Leonard & Judy
Goldenberg, Barry & Jill
Krulak, Roger
Meyerson, Howard &
 Emily Glickman
Peck, Joel & Shelli
 Goldberg-Peck
Rothberg, Peter & Andrea
Samuels, David & Melanie
Stein, Jacqueline
Weisman, Harold & Sally

Benefactors (\$1,000-\$1,799)

Anonymous (3)
Driesen, Jeremy & Jennie
Funness, Richard & Marijane
Glickman, Michael &
 Deborah Korenstein
Herzog, Jonathan & Marjut
Hovaness, Haig &
 Andrea Prigot
Levitz, Lawrence &
 Helen Stephenson
Mailick, Dan & Lydia Read
Perrotti, Susan

Patrons (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (3)
Blumenthal, Steven &
 Charlotte
Bowen, Michael &
 Judy Shampanian
Borofsky, Annie
Dvorkin, Michael & Michelle
Horowitz, Sheldon & Gloria
Katz, Arthur & Lois
Klebanow, Jack
Lauzar, Adam & Kate
Levine, Mark & Linda
Mark, Len & Susan
Mazur, Mark & Nora
Meron, Michal & Tomer
Novikov, Andrei & Kate Collins
Ploski, David &

 Elizabeth Tzetzio
Reffold, Laurence & Beth Starr
Salama, Carlos &
 Mona Gabbay
Stampfer, Morris & Deborah

Sponsors (\$250-\$499)

Ehrenreich, Zachary &
 Melanie Stern
Fiorito, Naomi
Goldman, David & Hnin
Klein, Alfred & Shelley
Lanoil, Jerry &
 Virginia Herron-
Sasson, Alain
Saunders-Adams, Barbara
Singer, Rhonda
Smith, Theodore & Doris-Patt

Friends (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous (3)
Backer, Jon & Amy Ehrlich
Bloom, Norman
Cohen, Jason & Tracie
Dreyfus, Eleanor
Druckerman, Martin & Meryl
Frankel, Michael &
 Shayna Klopott
Goldberg, Matthew &
 Lisa Wagner
Grossman, Florence
Haber, Zev & Melissa
Handelman, Stephen &
 Susan Simpson
Hochberg, Mark & Carey
Hopper, Patrick & Jacqueline
Jacobson, Alex & Tatyana
Kahn, Robert &
 Andrea DeRose Kahn
Kasper, Jonathan & Tina
Kravitz, Lester & Rosalie
Lenney, Leah
Nacht, Marcelo &
 Cheryl Goldstein
Neubardt, Andy & Lisa
Perkis, Daniel & Eleanor Einzig
Stettner, Andrew & Jeanny Silva
Teitell, Marty & Judy
Wies, Peter & Suzanne

Supporters (\$18-\$99)

Anonymous (1)

Kasten, Iris
Schneider, Steven & Heather
Schulman, Jeremy & Sari
Steinberg, Mimi

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Tributes to the PJC In Honor of ...

- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IHO Lydia Read & Dan Mailick in celebration of their new home
- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IHO Roger & Catherine Krulak on their wedding
- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IHO Julia & Charles Woods on their wedding
- Jennie & Jeremy Driesen, IHO Kate Lauzar chanting Torah and Haftarah on her Bat Mitzvah anniversary
- Michelle Goldman, IHO Sybil & Les Rosenberg on their 50th wedding anniversary
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IHO Roger & Catherine Krulak on their wedding
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IHO Jesse Lanoil's engagement
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IHO Ana Turkienicz
- Elaine & Marc Prager, IHO the birth of Hildy & Steve Martin's grandson
- Leonard Sharzer, IHO Frederica Sigel
- Ruby & Martin Vogelfanger, IHO Naomi & Marshall Jaffe

Tributes to the PJC In Memory of ...

- Audrey & Hal Beerman, IMO Ethel Salzberg
- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IMO Dorit Chasoff's father, Menashe Admony
- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IMO Mitzi Pollinger
- Tracie & Jason Cohen, IMO Edythe & Herbert Benjamin
- Sandra & Robert Goldman, IMO Ethel Salzberg
- Miriam Korman, IMO Herbert Kornman
- Miriam Korman, IMO Herbert Kornman
- Kate & Adam Lauzar, IMO Nick Perrotti
- Patricia Levinson, IMO Mitzi Pollinger
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO Nick Perrotti
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO Mitzi Pollinger

- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO Ethel Salzberg
- Diane & Adam Safer, IMO Karen Safer
- Barbara Saunders-Adams, IMO Selma Saunders
- Mark Singer, IMO Alex Singer
- Mark Singer, IMO Ellen Singer
- Felice Zensius, IMO Marilyn Dvorkin

Donations to the PJC from ...

- Ronnie & Spencer Barback, in support of the PJC Social Action Program/Breakfast Run
- Meryl & Martin Druckerman, in celebration of the Israeli Dancers on Yom Ha'atzmaut
- Max & Sidney Fink, in support of PJC Programming
- Marjut & Jonathan Herzog, in support of the PJC Learning Center
- Marjut & Jonathan Herzog, in support of the Kids' Camp Shabbat
- Miriam Korman, with thanks to all of the wonderful people at the PJC who welcomed my late husband, Herbert, and me
- Hildy & Steve Martin, in support of the purchase of new PJC Benches
- Jeanne & David Radvany, in support of the PJC Social Action Program/Breakfast Run
- Sybil & Les Rosenberg, in support of the renovation of our Memorial Garden
- The Nathan & Fannye Shafran Foundation, in support of the PJC Learning Center
- Frederica & Efrem Sigel, in support of the PJC
- Nancy Street, in support of PJC Programming
- Ira Weinberg, for his warm welcome during the High Holidays
- Sally Shore-Wittenberg, in support of PJC Programming
- Robert Zorowitz, in support of PJC Programming

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

- Cheryl Agris & Richard Pine, IMO Cheryl's father, George
- Anonymous
- Ronnie Lynn Bader, in appreciation of the beautiful services offered during the High Holidays
- Ronnie & Spencer Barback, IMO Mitzi Pollinger

- Vivian & Theodor Brown, IMO Ethel Salzberg
- Sue & George Driesen, in appreciation of their warm welcome during the High Holidays
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO Steve's father, Melvin
- Meryl & Martin Druckerman, IHO Catherine & Roger Krulak on their wedding
- Meryl & Martin Druckerman, IHO Julia & Charles Woods on their wedding
- Eleanor Einzig & Daniel Perkis, IMO Dan's sister, Marion Last
- Eleanor Einzig, IMO her son, Aaron
- Florence Grossman, IMO her husband, William
- Jacqueline Schachter & David Haft, IMO David's father, Abraham
- Lois & Arthur Katz, IMO Arthur's father, Joseph
- Lisa & Andy Neubardt, IHO the birth of Hildy & Steve Martin's grandson
- Sybil & Leslie Rosenberg, to welcome Rabbi Alex Salzberg to the PJC

Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE](#) !

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