



# Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE  
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER  
November 2016  
5777 Tishrei / Cheshvan

## Rabbi's Message



Here we are.

We have spent an incredible amount of time together over the past month. We have been together for Rosh Hashanah, for Yom Kippur, for Sukkot, and for Simchat Torah. In between those moments we have gathered for *Tashlich* at Shore Park, a Sukkot Shabbat dinner (that was moved out of the Sukkah because of rain), a *Shabbat Mishpachah*, and a Young Families Sukkot brunch. Through it all we have been together, singing and praying.

But now we are on the other side. There is a joke that describes Cheshvan (the month that follows Tishrei) as a rabbi's favorite month. This is because there are no holidays this month, and synagogue life starts to get back to normal. I have to admit, I am looking forward to only preparing for two services a week, instead of four or five. But the month of Cheshvan also means that I will be seeing each of you a little bit less as our lives return to the way that they are for the rest of the year.

But just because the Holidays are behind us, that doesn't mean that things will be quieting down at the PJC. Our Adult Education classes are about to begin, with a new class designed by JTS called The Ethical Life, in which we will discuss Jewish approaches to many of the ethical dilemmas that face us in our modern lives.

I am very excited about it, and encourage you to sign up even (or especially) if you haven't taken an Adult Education class before.

The Learning Center will return to its normal schedule, after a month of missed Tuesdays. This means more opportunities for our children to discover their own forms of Judaism, and build connections with their peers and with me.

We are also finalizing plans for our teen service trip to Cuba in February, which is shaping up to be a fantastic experience for everyone. We have space available for more teens, if you happen to live with one who is interested, and we have space for more chaperones, if you aren't a teen, but want to join us. Please reach out to [me](#) or to [Ana](#) for more information.

We are also going to start seriously working towards planning our trip to Israel this summer. This will be an incredible opportunity for families and individuals to experience our Holy Land from inside the comfort of our PJC family. I promise that it will be an unforgettable adventure. Reach out to [Mimi Steinberg](#) for more information about the Israel trip.

That is only a small sample of what will be happening in our community this year. There will also be lectures, social action projects, blood drives, *havdallah* events, dinners, a gala, and much more. So while the Holidays are over, our opportunities to be together will continue all year long. And of course, every week there will be Shabbat services, a chance to connect with one another and with the Divine, with the appropriate level of PJC energy and song.

If none of that works for you, I'm still here, and would love to talk about just about anything (seriously, I had a long conversation last week about Tiffany pink). Call me, make an appointment, or just stop by.

I look forward to spending 5777 with all of you, and all that the year has to offer.

בשלו,

Rabbi Alex Salzberg

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## Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

### November

**6** -- Breakfast Run/ 7am

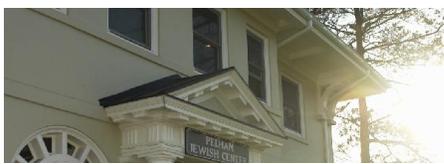
**8** -- Soup Kitchen/ 4:30pm

**20-22** -- Thanksgiving-in-a-Box Drop Off @ Huguenot Memorial Church/9am-5pm

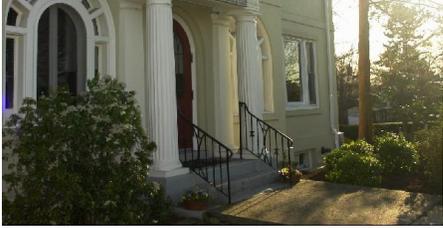
**20** -- Pelham Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @ Huguenot Memorial

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## High Holiday Appeal 2016/5777



Along with the High Holiday season comes our annual PJC High Holiday appeal. This year we have been presented with an amazing gift from the Rossman Family; a gift of up to \$100,000. How this works is that for all donations that increase from last year, the



Rossmans will match the increase, two for one (up to \$5,000 per family).

**For example, a \$100 increase from last year's donation becomes \$300 more for the PJC; i.e., \$100 + (\$100x2 (Rossman gift)) = \$300.**

More than ever, this year, please consider giving more than you did in 2015. We stand to gain for every gift that shows an increase, the amount is not significant. With Rob and his family behind us, the PJC stands to gain up to an additional \$100,000 that will provide a solid foundation for our future. These funds will not be used for operational expenditures, but for capital intensive projects. Rob and his family want to make a difference for the future of our community.

It is important to note that we only have one shot at this gift. Let's do this together. As a community. The closer we get to 100% of families giving more, the closer we get to \$100,000 - which will be a beautiful show of gratitude for the Rossman's graciousness.

Each of you will receive a call regarding our appeal this year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact [Lisa Neubardt](#).

Thanks very much in advance for your support.

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Church/4pm

**December**

- 1** -- Women's Group/ 1pm
- 10** -- Hooked on Havdalah/4:30pm
- 13** -- Soup Kitchen/ 4:30pm

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**Quick Links**

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**From the Desk of Our Education Director**

*(...) "Teshuva, tefillah, tzedakah, will remove the evil of the decree"  
(High Holidays Machzor)*

During the High Holidays' prayers, as we atone for our wrongdoings and pray for forgiveness, we recited a few times that "*teshuva* (repentance), *tefillah* (prayer) and *tzedakah* (acts of kindness) will remove the evil of the decree". Judaism associates prayer with internal resolution and action. The three concepts, tied in a conditional stance, work together to help mend the brokenness - both internal-personal and external-worldly brokenness. In the Jewish calendar, the month of Heshvan follows the High Holiday season. This year, the new month of Heshvan will start on November 2. Since Heshvan itself is a month without Holy Days, it was declared 10 years ago as the "Jewish Social Action Month", a month devoted to bringing our lofty High Holidays' promises into concrete actions. During the month of Heshvan, we will increase acts of kindness, for the betterment of the world which the rabbis believe was created during Rosh Hashanah. (*Hayom harat Olam* - today the world was born) We are granted a full month for pursuing Social Justice and doing our part in the partnership we have just resealed in communal prayers with the *Kadosh-Baruch-Hu*.

What's intriguing though is that the command for *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, is not unique to one month, one holiday or one season in the Jewish calendar. It is actually repeated in our liturgy at least three times a day, every day! We are constantly reminded in our daily prayers that our mission in this world is to work for its improvement. For example, all Jewish prayer services end with the "*Aleinu*" prayer: may it be after Morning *Shacharit*, Afternoon *Mincha*, Evening *Ma'ariv*, or Holy day services.

This reminds me of my brother, who lives in Brazil, who always tells me that he waits to hear the word "*Ve ne'emar*" at the end of "*Aleinu*" because he knows that's the end of services. He told me that *Ve'ne'emar* sounds to him in Portuguese like the name "*Neymar*", the famous Brazilian soccer player, and my brother says he thinks that "*Neymar*" is now coming at the end of prayer to "win the game"...

I like this metaphor, since actually, by reciting the *Aleinu* at the end of every prayer service, we kind of wish to "win the game": we are ending our prayers by taking upon us (the word *Aleinu* means: it's on us) the commitment to go out and serve G-d by doing *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. Let me clarify: We say: "*Aleinu leshabeach l'Adon Hakol*" - it's upon us- *aleinu* - to exalt - *leshabeach* - the Master of all - *Adon Hakol*. We continue our prayer by saying: That didn't make us as the other nations- *Kegoyey Aratzot*- and didn't place us as "families" (animals) on earth- *she lo samanu kemishpechot haadama*". We merit the fact that G-d, by giving us life and by placing us within the Jewish people, also gave us responsibility. The prayer continues with "*Al ken...*" (therefore) which we generally recite silently, and the words: "*letaken* (to repair) *olam* (the world) *b'malchut shadday*" (in the kingdom of G-d). So let's reflect - what are we really committing to as we finish our prayers with "*Aleinu*"? How are we supposed to go out from the prayer

service into the world and "win the game" as we have just committed to? This sets us up for the triad: "Teshuva, tefillah, tzedakah". Every single time we end prayer.

Interestingly, the original spelling of "*letaken olam*" was once written with the Hebrew letter "*khaf*" - כ - instead of a "*khof*" - פ - as it is written today. This original version, found in texts from the 10<sup>th</sup> century Rabbi Saadia Gaon in the Cairo Geniza, would have a different meaning for the words "*letaken olam*": with the letter "khaf", it would mean to "establish a world under the kingdom of God". Considering that the *Aleinu* prayer dates from the time of the destruction of the Temple, the words "*letaken olam*" initially meant re-establishing the Great Temple, conceived as a universal symbol of wholeness, peace and beauty.

In a short video produced for the recent Metropolitan Museum of Art Exhibit, "*Jerusalem 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven*", the Jerusalem-born author Ruben Namdar says: "the absent Temple is not just a Jewish symbol. (...) it is a universal symbol. Every person, every culture, can relate to a lost dome of innocence, a time where at least mythologically you were one with yourself, with creation, with the world, with the place you stand on, with G-d, with Heaven, with earth. We all have ruined temples."

*Letaken Olam*, then may have at least two meanings, depending on the different spellings: re-establishment of the Temple in a Messianic vision, or repairing the world, fixing the brokenness and fragmentation we see around us. It can also be a combination of both: By doing our share of acts of kindness and repairing the world, we are working towards the rebuilding of the ancient temple, towards utopian times of wholeness, of *shlemut*, as the hassidic vision. We are also working towards rebuilding ourselves as temples. Trying again and again to reach wholesomeness. It's a holistic view of how our actions towards others will also help each one of us become better people.

The Jewish Month of *Heshvan*, Jewish Social Action Month, becomes a launching point to set us in motion towards fulfilling the daily command of *Tikkun Olam*. We may spell it with the Hebrew letter "kof" - to repair the world, the contemporary concept, or the letter "*khaf*", the traditional concept - to create or establish a new world. Therefore, as we conclude our High Holiday prayers and exit the month of Tishrei, we should be all set to embark in a journey of Social Action, of a daily practice of *Tikkun Olam*, through acts of loving kindness, generous giving and just by being a mensch; linking the visions of our past, acting in the present and impacting the future.



PJC HHS students bring donations of school supplies to JCCA's Cottage School in Pleasantville.

During Heshvan, the Jewish Social Action Month, the students at the Learning Center will be partnering with [Fair Trade Judaica](#), a non-for profit organization that is building a fair trade movement in the Jewish community, linking Jewish values of human dignity, self-sufficiency, and environmental sustainability with fair trade standards assuring fair and livable wages, no child labor, and healthy and safe working conditions. We will learn about slave labor existing in our world in our time and how to create change. We will encourage others to purchase only fair-trade products, such as fair trade kosher chocolate (Guilt-Free *Guel't*) from [Divine Chocolates](#) for Hanukkah, to enlighten places that have been darkened by [trafficked child labor in the cocoa fields of Western Africa](#). Please help our students make a difference in the world by purchasing your guilt-free Hanukkah *guel't* from them! Keep an eye open for the LC students and their guilt-free Hanukkah *guel't*!

Wishing you *Hodesh Tov*, a Happy month of *Heshvan*,

Ana Turkienicz

## How to Meet the Rossman Challenge with an IRA

If you are taking a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA, this letter about both a possible tax benefit for you and contribution to the PJC may be of interest.

By utilizing a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" from your IRA, you can meet your obligations to the PJC (and, hopefully, exceed them) by using money that you had made tax-deferred and that you now can make tax-exempt.

There is a provision in the Tax Code called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. This provision was made permanent in December 2015, after having been sporadically renewed since 2006.

In general, it permits a person taking RMDs (i.e., over age 70 1/2) to make a non-taxable distribution directly to a charitable organization (e.g., the PJC). It also states that while such a distribution qualifies to meet the RMD requirements, it can also be used for any distribution from an IRA (up to a limit of \$100,000/year and not for actual tuition). As you might expect from a tax benefit, a QCD cannot be used in the calculation of itemized deductions. It will be considered by the PJC as a normal contribution (except for payment of actual tuition) and you will receive a tax letter at the end of the year. There are other limitations and permissible actions which might be specific to you (see IRS Pub. 590-B); please consult your tax advisor before acting.

Considering fundraising for the PJC, if you can utilize a QCD, you might see fit to increase your contribution to reflect this benefit. The QCD can be used to cover many of your obligations to the PJC, such as dues, High Holiday contributions, etc. The **Rossman Family Challenge** can be met with an increase in your High Holiday contribution. Our Treasurer, [Ted Brown](#) is willing to wait for you to cover these with a QCD.

This is not tax advice. You should consult with your tax advisor before taking any action, as distributions from IRA's vary in their consequences depending on your specific tax situation.

## Thanksgiving-in-a-Box



The annual [Thanksgiving-in-a-Box](#) food drive for needy families, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, has become an interfaith Pelham event. This year, the drive will be coordinated through the Pelham Jewish Center, Huguenot Memorial Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help/St. Catharine's Church, Christ Church and the Pelham Community Church.

Pelham volunteers will be partnering with [Family Services of Westchester](#) and providing boxes of food to families in their Port Chester, Tarrytown, Mount Vernon, Yonkers and Pelham locations.

\*It is *halachically* permissible to purchase non-kosher food in order to donate it to an impoverished family. If one is interested in learning the *halachic* sources about this, feel free to contact Rabbi Salzberg.

We are asking volunteers to assemble a box of food for a family of 6-8 people. Last year, we were able to provide much needed food for 600 families, and we are hoping to do the same again. But, we can only achieve this with your help. How can you participate? It is really simple!

**STEP 1:** Contact [Rachel Collens](#) via email, or via phone at (914) 738-4160 and let her know you'd like to put together a box!

**STEP 2:** Pick up the box at the PJC that is **marked with your name on it**. (This is important, as we need to keep track of how many boxes we are delivering.) **Boxes are now available in the PJC entryway.**

**STEP 3:** Buy the **specific** food items (outlined on the reverse side) and pack the box.

**STEP 4:** Bring the box to Huguenot Memorial Church (901 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham Manor), and leave it in the library, which is located on the first floor. There will be signs and people accepting deliveries. Boxes can be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from Saturday-Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.

If you are interested in helping deliver the boxes on Wednesday morning, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, please e-mail project coordinator, [Tina Constable](#).

This year's **Thanksgiving-in-a-Box** items include (Note: everything will fit inside of the box except for the ham):

- 1 pre-cooked sliced spiral ham (8-10 pounds - you will find these in the meat section of your grocery store. **Please, no canned hams.**)
- 2 (28-32 oz.) bags of rice
- 3 (15 oz.) cans of corns
- 3 (15 oz.) can of peas
- 1 (5 lb.) bag of potatoes -- approximately 12 potatoes
- 1 (3 lb.) bag of apples -- approximately 8-10 apples
- 1 (1 lb.) box of pasta -- any kind
- 1 (24 oz.) jar of tomato sauce
- 1 bag/container of cookies
- 2 (64 oz.) containers of juice (Please, **no cider or anything that needs to be refrigerated!**)

**\*\*Manor Market** (4775-77 Boston Post Road, Pelham Manor) will have competitive prices for all of the box items. If you are going to be away, or if the box is too difficult to carry, please call Alan, Craig, Anthony or Luis at (914) 636-2208, and they **will put a box together for you and deliver it to the church**. The cost is \$69.00/box.



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# **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

SHARING THANKSGIVING THROUGH OUR  
GRATITUDE TOGETHER

Family Friendly, Community Gathering Time of Celebration

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016**

**4 PM AT HUGUENOT MEMORIAL CHURCH**





*Sponsored by the Pelham Interfaith Council, representing: Christ Church (Episcopal), Huguenot Memorial Church (Presbyterian), Pelham Jewish Center, Community Church of the Pelhams (United Church of Christ), and Our Lady of Perpetual Help/Saint Catharine's Church (Roman Catholic Church)*

**BRING A CAN OR BOX OF FOOD FOR THE ANNUAL INTERFAITH FOOD OFFERING  
[MONETARY DONATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED] TO BENEFIT A LOCAL FOOD PANTRY**

**901 PELHAMDALE AVENUE**

**914.738.3488**

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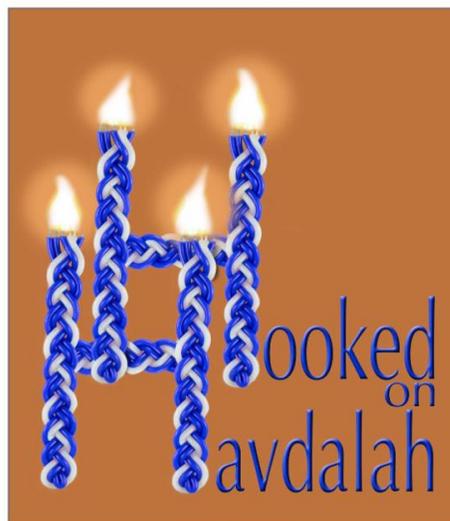
## Save the Date -- Hooked on Havdalah

### **Come Celebrate Hooked on Havdalah With PJC friends old and new**

*An evening to socialize and have fun for all ages!*

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*



Join us for Hooked on Havdalah --

a fun evening for Pelham Jewish Center members and friends.

This well-loved family event has been now expanded to welcome all congregants and all ages.

Meet new friends or enjoy time with those you already know.

Meet new friends or enjoy time with those you already know.

4:30-6 pm dinner in a congregant's home

6:30-8 pm gather at the PJC for jazz, wine, & dessert; there will be a special kids program to allow adults time to enjoy the conversation and music.

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, December 1st to [Wendy Rackley](#) so that we can arrange final details.

Contact [Mimi Steinberg](#) (917) 627-3123 or [Wendy Rackley](#) (914) 954-0200 with any questions or to volunteer to host a dinner.  
All food, beverages and supplies are provided.

Please feel welcome to share this event with other families who might also enjoy this occasion.

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## Teen Service Trip to Cuba Planned



The PJC is planning a Teen Service Trip to Cuba during the February 2017 school break (February 17th - 22nd), led by Rabbi Salzberg and Education Director, Ana Turkienicz. The group will work with the Jewish community that Ana

visited this summer, will celebrate Shabbat in their shul and experience Cuba.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact [Ana](#) -- all teens *B'nei Mitzvah* age & up are welcome, as are adult congregants!

To learn more about the Jewish Community in Cuba, click [here](#).

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## PJC Israel Trip -- Summer 2017

Please contact [Mimi Steinberg](#) if you are interested in joining the trip or to get more information.

When we say "*B'shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim*" this year, we really mean every word of it... and we want **YOU** to be with us and share this transformational experience.



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## PJC Library News

Thank you to all who have donated books to our PJC Library. Just a reminder, all books donated must be on a Jewish theme or by a Jewish author. We will continue to add new and relevant books to our collection on an on-going basis. All are welcome to use the Library.

To borrow a book, find the green card in the pocket at the back of the book. Write your name and date you borrow the book. Leave the card in one of the two blue bins - either in the Library and or with



Julia in the Office. Drop off returned books to these bins.

If there is a Jewish-themed book you think should be added to our PJC Library collection, please let our Librarian [Barbara Saunders-Adams](#) know.



Our Librarian will be available to make reading recommendations on Tuesdays between 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Looking forward to seeing you in our Library!

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## "Share a Simcha" Returns!

# *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 [Leah Leonard](#). This will be a regular *Hakol* feature, so keep your news and updates coming!

- *B'sha'ah Tovah* to David & Melanie Samuels on the engagement of their daughter Stephanie to Michael Carniol, son of Renie and Paul Carniol.
- *Mazel Tov* to Lynn Jablowsky and family on the occasion of her son Brian's *Bar Mitzvah* on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- *Mazel Tov* to Steve Almo & Anne Bresnick and family in honor of the *B'nei Mitzvah* of their daughters, Sarah & Emma on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- *Mazel Tov* to David & Hnin Goldman and family on the occasion of their son Josh's *Bar Mitzvah* on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## High Holiday Food Drive Thank You!

**BRONX JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.**

**2930 Wallace Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467**

*Volunteer Department: contact Niti Minkove,*

*917-693-3084 or [Nminkove@bjcconline.org](mailto:Nminkove@bjcconline.org)*

October 2016

To the Congregants of PJC

Thank you so very much for your most generous gift of an overflowing load of food from your amazing Yom Kippur collection. The very generous donation went a long way to fill the shelves of our food pantry which regularly feeds more than 3700 meals each and every month. The folks lined up when the food was dropped off went all the way to the corner. Your generosity went a very long way to help alleviate hunger in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Bronx

Your congregation has been a long and dear friend of our agency, and as usual this meaningful gift continues the tradition of supporting us in so many ways.

We are so grateful for your friendship, and for the extraordinary way you share it with us on a regular basis

Wishing you all peace, happiness and good health in the new year. We pray for a year of continued collaboration and doing good together.

With warmest wishes and a toast to our long time friendship,

Most Sincerely,

*Niti Minkove*

Director of Volunteers, Bronx Jewish Community Council

# Tributes & Donations



## Tributes to the PJC in Honor of ...

- The wonderful High Holiday services offered this year, by Arlene Barst
- Brian Jablowsky, in celebration of his *Bar Mitzvah*, by Theodor & Vivian Brown
- The engagement of Melanie & David Samuels' daughter, Stephanie, by Theodor & Vivian Brown
- Melanie Samuels' Simchat Torah Honor, by Michael Carniol & Stephanie Samuels
- John & Leah Leonard, for sponsoring the Break-Fast, by Martin & Meryl Druckerman
- Neco Turkienicz, in celebration of his U.S. Citizenship, by Martin & Meryl Druckerman
- The Pelham Jewish Center's congregatin, by Virginia Herron-Lanoil
- Melanie Samuels' Simchat Torah Honor, by David & Adam Samuels
- Ted Brown's Simchat Torah Honor, by David & Melanie Samuels
- Marjut Herzog's Simchat Torah Honor, by David & Melanie Samuels
- Marshall & Naomi Jaffe, by Martin & Ruby Vogelfanger
- Melanie Samuels' Simchat Torah Honor, by David, Sarah, Owen & Joseph Zalcmann

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

- Eleanor Einzig, in memory of her son, Aaron
- Demaris Jacob Goldstein, in memory of her husband, Amnon

**Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)**

**If you wish to pay by check, please mail all tributes & donations to the Pelham Jewish Center, P.O. Box 150, Montvale, NJ, 07645. All donations to the [Rabbi's Discretionary Fund](#) should be submitted to [Julia Coss at the PJC office](#).**

**Thank you!**

**The Pelham Jewish Center**  
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Pelham Manor, NY 10803  
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