



Rabbi's Message



The Selichot service is the official kick-off of the High Holiday season. The term "Selichot" (סליחות) refers to a set of penitential prayers and *piyyutim* (liturgical poems) that are designed to lead us to reflect on our actions. In Sephardic communities, Selichot are recited daily throughout Elul - the month preceding Rosh Hashanah. In Ashkenazic communities, we begin to recite Selichot late on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah.

The ritual of Selichot is first mentioned in a Midrash about King David:

David knew that the Temple would be destroyed in the future and the sacrificial cult would be nullified, and David was troubled thinking, how will Israel make atonement then? So God said to David, when troubles come upon Israel, let them stand before me together as a single unit and make confession before me and say the Selichot (forgiveness) service before me and I will answer them.

But how did God reveal these services to Israel? God came down from the heavenly mist like a *sheliach tzibur* (a cantor) wrapped in a tallit, and revealed to Moses the order of the service of forgiveness.

Aside from the powerful imagery of God coming down to lead us in prayer, this midrash provides an insight into the essence of Selichot. Throughout the High Holidays, we need to be able to reflect openly and honestly on our actions over this past year. But an honest look at our mistakes is hard, almost impossible. My mind shies away from admitting the wrongs that I have committed; I don't want to acknowledge the hurt that I have caused people.

Selichot gives us the opportunity to practice before the High Holidays themselves. In this midrash, God made the choice to demonstrate a Selichot service, rather than describing it to Moses. Seeking forgiveness and achieving *teshuvah* is not an intellectual exercise. It needs to engage our entire being. We need to see it done, and do it ourselves, in order to know what is in store for us.

This year, our Selichot service will reflect this view. Carey Hochberg has generously offered to open her home to our community, and to lead us in a session of meditative yoga in order to direct our bodies, minds, and souls towards the work that is ahead of us. I invite everyone to join us at the Hochberg home (35 Meadowood Path, New Rochelle, NY 10804) on Saturday, September 24, at 8:00 p.m.

If we come into the High Holidays cold, there is a greater chance that we will leave the same way. If we warm up and come together prepared to do the work, then we have a real chance to achieve lasting change.

בשלום,

Rabbi Alex Salzberg

[TOP](#)

In this Issue

[Rabbi Salzberg's Message](#)

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

[President Darren Lee's Message](#)

[High Holidays 5777](#)

[Exploring the New Mahzor](#)

[Teen Service Trip to Cuba Planned](#)

[High Holiday Food Drive Begins](#)

[PJC Library News](#)

["Share a Simcha" Returns!](#)

[PJC Torah Guide](#)

[Tributes & Donations](#)

[Top](#)

Upcoming PJC
Activities & Events

September

11 -- Sunday Morning
Lecture Series/10am

20 -- Cuba Service Trip
Info Session/6:30pm

20 -- Exploring the New
Mahzor/8pm

24 -- Exploring the New
Mahzor/1pm

24 -- *Selichot* Service
& Meditative Yoga/8pm

October

1 -- Women's Group/

From the Desk of Our Education Director

"To those whom much is given, much is expected." - John F. Kennedy

I heard this quote in a sermon given at the PJC a few years ago, and since then, it has resonated with me. I reflect about how privileged I have been: for being born with this skin, in a democratic country, for being blessed by a family who raised and educated me in the Jewish tradition, empowering me with values that guided me to choose my profession. I have been blessed in the journey that brought me to America and to work in NY, with one of the most diverse, knowledgeable and resourceful Jewish communities in the world.

I have been given quite a lot in this world. Much is expected from me. That is why I made a decision, when I heard that sermon on that day, that I would try to do more for others who

haven't. *Rabban Gamliel the son of Rabbi Judah HaNassi would say: It is not incumbent upon you to finish the task, but neither are you free to absolve yourself from it. (Pirkei Avot - Ethics of the Fathers, 2:16.)*

What could I give to another community that hasn't been blessed with all the richness we have around us in NY? In my mind, I kept thinking - I have been given so much - much is expected of me... The existing volunteering missions didn't seem appropriate for me; I should give what I have, not just time or money, but acquired skills. Well, perhaps I could teach Hebrew and thus help Jews connect to prayer, to Jewish text, to Jewish tradition and to their own Jewish identity. I could make a difference by helping Jewish communities that haven't been blessed with access to the rich resources we have regarding Hebrew learning.



Reading from a 100 year old Torah at the Sephardic Synagogue of Havana.

A three hour-flight away from us, across from the Florida Keys, there exists such a Jewish community. One that has been living for almost 60 years behind the thick barrier of embargo. One that cannot order books and workbooks from Amazon or any other website available at the tips of our fingers. One that cannot send students to gain wisdom at Rabbinical Seminaries or Cantorial Schools. One that doesn't have Hillels in their colleges or Jewish Day Schools in their communities. That is the Cuban Jewish Community. A community that has no rabbi or cantor, or the financial resources to hire one. A community living in isolation that has been struggling to maintain its Jewish identity alive.



1pm

2 -- High Holiday Food Drive Begins

2 -- Erev Rosh Hashanah Ma'ariv Service/7pm

3 -- Rosh Hashanah Morning, Torah & Musaf Services/ 8:30am; Children's Services/10am

3 -- *Tashlich* & Dessert at Shore Park/4:30pm

4 -- Rosh Hashanah Morning, Torah & Musaf Services/ 8:30am; Family Service/10am

8 -- Shabbat Shuva with Avinoam Segal Morning Services/ 9:30am

11 -- Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Services/ 6pm

12 -- Yom Kippur Morning, Torah & Musaf Services/ 8:30am; Children's Services/10am

12 -- Yom Kippur Yizkor Service/approx. 11:30am

12 -- Yom Kippur Mincha & Ne'ilah Services/4:15pm

16 -- PJC Sukkah Building/11:30am

17 -- Sukkot Morning, Torah & Musaf Services/9:30am

18 -- Sukkot Morning, Torah & Musaf Services/9:30am

20 -- LC Sukkot Celebration/5pm

21 -- Kabbalat Shabbat & Ma'ariv Services & Dinner in the Sukkah/6:30pm

23 -- Young Family Brunch in the



Street sign at the corner of Calles Linea & C in the Vedado Neighborhood of Habana.

As a teenager growing up in Brazil, I was always been fascinated by Cuba's history, nature and culture. I developed a strong desire to visit and learn about the Cuban people. The Cuban Jewish Community used to be as big as my own hometown Jewish community in Brazil- 17,000 people - but since the 1958 Revolution, it shrank to 1,000 Jews. A few years ago, I watched a documentary called "[Los Jubanos - the Jews of Cuba](#)", by Milos Silber, a friend of mine. I was deeply moved by the voices of Cuban Jews interviewed in the movie. I wanted to go and do something for them. But how? Well, "When there is a will, there is a way". So now that I had the resolve, I needed to find a way to make it become true.

Luckily, I happen to also work at the Rodeph Sholom School in NY as a Hebrew Language Specialist (yes, that's my day job...). Rodeph Sholom School has a Professional Development Fund, called the "Druzinsky Fund", established to allow two faculty members to fulfill their dreams each year. So I asked the Druzinsky Fund at RSS to help fulfill my dream: spending the summer in Cuba teaching Hebrew to the Jewish Community there. And - more reasons for high expectations - much was given to me! I thought I could learn one or two things about Jewish Education: How has this community been able to maintain the Jewish traditions and identity against all odds? Perhaps I could find some answers there to my challenges that would assist me while trying to make Judaism relevant here in NY.

Additionally, through the Druzinsky Fund generosity, our own PJC community was able to do an even greater *mitzvah* - to provide the Cuban Jewish community with much-needed medicines and First Aid kits. In Hebrew, we say "*Mitzvah goreret mitzvah*" - One *mitzvah* leads to another *mitzvah*. And this was just so incredibly amazing - the open-hearted generosity from our PJC members filled two large suitcases with medical supplies, which I added to a third big suitcase already loaded with Hebrew learning books provided by the Druzinsky fund's grant.

On Friday, June 17, late afternoon I finally arrived at La Habana. I dropped my luggage at the apartment I was staying and took a cab to the synagogue. I arrived when their Kabbalat Shabbat services were just starting. I knew no one, besides the local Education Director with whom I had been emailing and calling for the past three months. I sat at the back of the big Sanctuary, which once used to serve a huge community, and now had about 80 congregants celebrating a joyful Kabbalat Shabbat service. I was deeply moved to see teenagers leading the different parts of the Kabbalat Shabbat service and the active involvement of all who were there. I also spotted two Israelis sitting right before me, mesmerized by what they were seeing. The Israelis later explained to me that they came to Cuba as tourists and had no idea there was a Jewish community there. They found the synagogue just by chance, as they were walking on the street. They were just as incredulous as I was to see how vibrant the community was.



Sukkah/10:30am

24 -- Shemini Atzeret
Morning, Torah & Musaf,
& Yizkor
Services/9:30am

24 -- Erev Simchat
Torah Ma'ariv
Service/7:00pm

25 -- Simchat Torah
Morning, Torah & Musaf
Services/9:30am

[Top](#)

Quick Links

[Donate to the PJC](#)

[Find us on the Web](#)

[2016 Calendar](#)

[2016-17 Board of
Directors](#)

I spent three weeks teaching Hebrew at the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Habana, starting at 10am with teachers, then 2pm with the [Synagogue Youth group](#), then 4:30pm with children and at 6pm again with another group of teachers, finishing every evening at 8pm. The grant was enough to cover travel and lodging expenses to bring teachers from other communities in Cuba, those who live 5-7 hours away from Habana. I could not believe the commitment, the motivation and the passion these people have. Truly moving and inspiring.

Being present at the synagogue every day, 8 hours a day, for three weeks, interacting with people so intensely for such a concentrated period of time, made me part of the community. I learned not only about Jewish education, as I initially hoped for, but most importantly, about Jewish survival. I learned how the Cuban community supported each of its members physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually.

Looking back to the time I spent there, I think the Jewish Community in Cuba symbolizes the greatness of our tradition. How wise were our rabbis as they committed us to sustain a *minyan*, (a minimum of 10 people) to pray -- so that people would engage in Jewish life together and depend upon one another, creating a community. And how fantastic it is to see how the countless community ties I witnessed among the members of the Beth Shalom *Kehilah* are the pure reason for the survival of this vibrant, knowledgeable, caring and welcoming community. I was given so, so much more than I expected.

Their very name, Beth Shalom ("house of peace"), is symbolic of the *shlemut*, the wholeness of their presence in each member's life. I felt I should continue with what I started, and could not abandon this community that now were so close to my heart.



Last Day of Religious School in Habana. Find Ana in the picture (Hint, look for a red cap!).

So I guess you can see I fell in love with my Jubanos. And all I want to do now is let you come and experience some of their energy, their inspiring commitment, as I did. In February, during President's week, the LC will be going on a Service Trip to Cuba. We will help clean and repair the Jewish Cemetery in Habana, spend Shabbat with the community, learn about their history and tour a little bit too! Please let me know if you would like to join us; I would love to have you there with me. I promise, you will be blown away!





I got the "Morah" T-Shirt!

Saludos y abrazos calientes,
(The Spanish version of warm regards)

Ana Turkienicz

Education Director

[TOP](#)

President's Message



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, albeit steamy!

While summer is usually a time of rest and repair, at the PJC it is a very active time... a time of transition to a new board, developing programming for the upcoming year and -- of course -- preparations for the High Holidays. This is the first year we will be using our *Lev Shalem Mahzorim*, which include new readings, interpretations and commentary and will require considerable integration work for Rabbi Salzberg, Avinoam and the Religious Practices Committee. (Classes to learn and explore more about this wonderful *Mahzor* with Rabbi Salzberg have been scheduled for later this month. If you would like to see the *Mahzor* beforehand, please contact Rabbi Salzberg directly).

With so many vacations, summer is also a time when we rely heavily on lay leadership. This summer, many first-time service leaders stepped forward and numerous families assisted with our Kiddush prep, cleanup, as well as ensuring our building needs were met. This is a wonderful example of how we continue to build strength as a community. Thank you to all for lending a hand!

Earlier this summer, we celebrated together a double Bar Mitzvah, a wedding and a *bris* and, over the coming months, we will be celebrating 12 B'nei Mitzvahs! With so much going on, it is sometimes easy to miss the meaning in what we are doing. To me, the meaning is building sacred time and space in our busy lives, coming together to support each other and celebrating life cycle events as a community.

I look forward to the coming weeks, leading into the High Holidays, when we will find time to reconnect, to pray, to sing, to learn, to schmooze.

This is going to be an exciting year. We have a very motivated new Board and some great ideas. I have already had numerous interesting and supportive conversations with many of you, which shows me how committed you are to the success of our community. I hope you will continue to reach out if you think we can do something differently, to suggest some new programming, to start a new tradition, to offer your assistance or simply to say hi.

Darren

[TOP](#)

High Holidays 5777 at the PJC

This is the PJC's annual Shofar blast - your first wakeup call! - with information to help you plan for the upcoming High Holidays. Rosh Hashanah begins on Sunday evening, October 2nd, just a few weeks away!

We are so fortunate to have Rabbi Salzberg and Avinoam Segal lead our community in beautiful, intellectually stimulating and emotionally



engaging services that few congregations get to experience. And we have a full program of related activities throughout the High Holidays. We encourage you to try something new this year. Give yourself a chance to experience, in a new way, what makes the PJC's High Holidays so special.

A complete schedule and information flyers for all services and activities, from *Selichot* through *Simchat Torah*, can be found in the High Holidays Information Packet by clicking the link below. A printed copy **will not** be sent in the mail.

[High Holidays Information Packet \(click to open\)](#)

A number of our programs and activities require RSVPs, including:

- Guest Registration
- Listing Loved Ones in the *Scroll of Remembrance*
- Participating in Sukkot Programs
- Ordering a Lulav and Etrog
- Renting a Sukkah

All replies should be made by clicking the link below to our online sign up form, as we are **no longer using paper sign up forms**.

[High Holidays Online Sign Up \(click to open\)](#)

Please note that the reply deadline for a number of programs is Friday, September 23rd.

We look forward to seeing you at the PJC next month, and we wish you and your family a healthy, happy and sweet New Year!

[TOP](#)

Exploring the New *Mahzor*



This year we will be using a new *Mahzor* for the High Holidays: *Mahzor Lev Shalem*. The *Mahzor* presents us with new prayers, new translations, new commentaries and new *kavvanot*.

Please join Rabbi Salzberg at one of the upcoming sessions when he will discuss why we have made this switch, and some of the ways that the new *Mahzor* will help add deeper meaning to our Days of Awe. **Sessions have been scheduled on:**

- Tuesday, September 20th, at 8:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, September 24th, after Kiddush (approximately 1:00 p.m.)**

Dedicatory [book plates](#) for the new *Mahzor Lev Shalem* are \$54 each, and may be donated in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you have not yet placed an order for a dedicatory book plate, you may access the order form [here](#).

[TOP](#)

Teen Service Trip to Cuba Planned



The PJC is planning a Teen Service Trip to Cuba during the February 2017 school break, 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 come to the planning session -- open to parents and teens -- on Tuesday, September 20th, at 6:30 p.m. (during Hebrew High School). The exact dates of the trip will be discussed at this meeting.

Attending the meeting is not a commitment to participate in the trip. Everyone is encouraged to attend this information session. Please RSVP to [Julia Coss](#) in the PJC office.

[TOP](#)

High Holiday Food Drive Begins October 2nd

The PJC High Holiday Food Drive will begin on Sunday, October 2nd, and last through Sunday, October 16th. Fill a grocery bag with non-perishable food, especially boxes of cereal, pasta, canned tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, and powdered milk. Grocery bags will be made available at the PJC in late September. Bring packed bags to the PJC anytime between Sunday, October 2nd, and Sunday, October 16th.

As in past years, all items collected will be donated to the Bronx Jewish Community Council which provides social services to aid thousands of low-income Bronx residents of every creed, race and religion to live happier, healthier lives.

If you have any questions, please contact [Linda Levine](#).



[TOP](#)

PJC Library -- New Books Available

Seven new books on Israel are now available in the PJC Library. They include books for adults and youth, which can be found in either the section on Modern Israel for non-fiction or on the shelf for Israeli Writers for fiction. There is also a new book for children, told in the voices of both Israeli and Palestinian children.

The new titles **for youth** include:

- *Yoni Netanyahu: Commando at Entebbe*, by Devra Speregen
- *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*, by Valerie Zenatti
- *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*, by Deborah Ellis

The new titles **for adults** include:

- *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, by Amos Oz
- *The Hilltop*, by Assaf Gavron
- *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who United Jerusalem and Divided a Nation*, by Yossi Klein-Halevy
- *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, by Ari Shavit

We look forward to seeing you in the Library!

[TOP](#)



"Share a Simcha" Returns!

simcha!

Beginning with this issue of *Hakol*, the PJC brings back the "Share a Simcha" section for congregants to share their news with our community. Please submit news about family

members -- engagements, births, job updates, kid achievements, community acknowledgements and any other milestones to [Leah Leonard](#). We plan to make this a regular *Hakol* feature, so keep your news and updates coming!

- *Mazel Tov* to Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz and family as they celebrated their grandson's Ilan Yehuda Amkraut's Bar Mitzvah at the PJC on June 18th, following his service in Caesarea, Israel on April 25th.
- *Mazel Tov* to Jerry & Romina Levy and family on the occasion of their son Aiden's Bar Mitzvah on June 18th.
- *Mazel Tov* to Avinoam & Havi Segal and family in honor of their son Nadav's Bar Mitzvah in July in Alon, Israel.
- *B'sha'ah Tovah* to Jacqui Stein in honor of the engagement of her daughter, Dana, to Brad Levine.
- *Mazel Tov* to Heather & Steven Schneider and family in honor of their son Benjy's Bar Mitzvah on September 10th.
- *Mazel Tov* to Greg & Theresa Breskin and family on the occasion of their son Noah's Bar Mitzvah on September 17th.

[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 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 Salzgberg](#) -- he would be happy to work with you directly.



[TOP](#)

Tributes & Donations



Tributes to the PJC In Honor of ...

- Ilan Yehuda Amkraut, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, by Ruth & Stanley Biloon
- Ilan Yehuda Amkraut, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, by Miriam & Theodor Brown

- Ilan Yehuda Amkraut, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, by Vivian & Theodor Brown
- Ana Turkienicz, in support of her summer trip to Cuba to teach the Cuban-Jewish community, by Meryl & Martin Druckerman
- The PJC Community, by Melissa Dreyfus-Erner & Barry Erner
- Eleanor Dreyfus, on the occasion of the marriage of Melissa Dreyfus & Barry Erner, by Mary & Paul Goldiner
- Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz, on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of Ian Yehuda Amkraut, by Mary & Paul Goldiner
- Melissa Dreyfus & Barry Erner, in celebration of their marriage, by Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz
- Rabbi Alex & Clara Salzberg, on the birth of Nathaniel, by Kate & Adam Lauzar
- Ilan Yehuda Amkraut, on the occasion of his bar mitzvah, by Paula & Richard Lerer
- Rabbi Alex & Clara Salzberg, on the birth of Nathaniel, by Linda & Mark Levine
- Ilan Yehuda Amkraut, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, by Patricia Levinson
- Melissa Dreyfus & Barry Erner, in celebration of their marriage, by Patricia Levinson
- Ana Turkienicz, in support of her summer trip to Cuba to teach the Cuban-Jewish community, by Jeanne & David Radvany
- Ted Brown, our new Treasurer, by Melanie & David Samuels
- Ana Turkienicz, in support of her summer trip to Cuba to teach the Cuban-Jewish community, by Deborah & Morris Stampfer

Tributes to the PJC In Memory of ...

- Jerry Lanoil, by Vivian & Theodor Brown
- Jerry Lanoil, by Jill & Barry Goldenberg
- Marty Benjamin, by Mary & Paul Goldiner
- George Levinson, by Mary & Paul Goldiner
- William Grossman, by Florence Grossman
- Jerry Lanoil, by Hildy & Steve Martin
- Ines DiGioia, by Jeanne & David Radvany
- David Erwich, by Jeanne & David Radvany
- Jerry Lanoil, by Jeanne & David Radvany
- Joyanna Steinberg, by Jeanne & David Radvany
- Jerry Lanoil, by Melanie & David Samuels
- Jerry Lanoil, by Barbara Saunders-Adams

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

- Vivian & Theodor Brown, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nadav Segal
- Melissa Dreyfus-Erner & Barry Erner, in honor of Rabbi Alex Salzberg
- Meryl & Martin Druckerman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nadav Segal
- Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz, in honor of Leah & John Leonard
- Virginia Herron-Lanoil, in honor of Rabbi Alex Salzberg and with gratitude for all of his support to their family
- Maria & Adam Abeshouse, in memory of Jerry Lanoil
- Florence Grossman, in memory of Phillip Grossman
- Andrea DeRose Kahn & Robert Kahn, in memory of Jerry Lanoil

Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)

If you wish to pay by check, please mail all donations and tributes for the PJC to Julia Coss at the PJC office. This includes donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

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