



Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER
January 2019
5779 Tevet / Shevat



Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

January

- 10** -- Board Meeting/
7pm
- 12** -- Women's Group/
1pm
- 13** -- Blood Drive/
9am-1:30pm
- 13** -- Book Group/
11:30am
- 21** -- MLK Day/Offices
Closed
- 26** -- Hooked on
Havdalah/4:30pm

February

- 1** -- First Fridays
at the PJC/5:45pm
- 9** -- Open Book/
10:30am
- 10** -- *Fiddler on the
Roof* Performance/
1:00pm
- 12** -- Soup Kitchen/
4:30pm
- 14** -- Board Meeting/
7pm
- 18** -- President's

In This Issue:

Leadership Messages

[Rabbi Salzberg's Message](#)

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

[A Reflection by Davi
Schulman](#)

PJC Programming

[PJC Spring Gala](#)

Congregant News and Donations

[Thank you to Les and Sybil
Rosenberg](#)

[High Holiday Thank You List](#)

[Share a Simcha](#)

[Tributes & Donations](#)

Rabbi Salzberg's Message

I often feel that I come crashing into Shabbat. There is so much to prepare. There is the food, Shabbat dinner, of

course, and also special food for Shabbat morning and afternoon. The house needs to be put into order, pushing back the chaos that threatens to swallow us over the course of each week. Phone calls to make, wishing family and friends a "Shabbat Shalom" - this is an important opportunity for me to check in, and I try not to be rushed as I do it. And of course, there are always one or two last minute preparations for Shabbat at the PJC.

It is all worthwhile, because as soon as the preparations are complete, it is time to light the Shabbat candles and welcome Shabbat into our home and our lives. Immediately after lighting the candles, we turn to my favorite moment of Shabbat: when Clara and I bless our children.

This is an important moment for me; so much of the week is spent getting things done that I will sometimes forget why. By making the first ritual act of Shabbat blessing my children, I remind myself that family and tradition are the priorities that guide my life and that infuse my actions with meaning. It is a moment to stop and reflect on the blessings in my life and to share them with my children.

I do this while reciting the traditional words:



יְשִׁימְךָ אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרָיִם כְּבָרְךָ רַבְרָבָה וְרַבְרָבָה לְחַלּוּלָהּ

Y'simeich Elohim k'Sarah, Rivkah, Rakhel, v'Leah

May you be like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

יְשִׁימְךָ אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרָיִם כְּבָרְךָ רַבְרָבָה וְרַבְרָבָה לְחַלּוּלָהּ

Y'simcha Elohim k'Ephraim v'chi'Menashe

May you be like Ephraim and Menashe

יְבָרְכֶךָ, וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ

Yiva-re-che-cha Adonai v'yish-m're-cha.

May God bless you and keep you

יְאִרְהָהּ פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵיךָ, וְיִחַנְךָ

Ya-eir Adonai panav ei-le-cha vi-chu-ne-ka.

May the light of God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

יְשִׂאָהּ פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵיךָ, וְיִשְׁמְלֶךָ שְׁלוֹמִים

Yisa Adonai panav ei-le-cha v'ya-seim l'cha shalom.

May God's countenance be lifted up towards you and may God give you peace

The words of this blessing come from three different moments in our history. The bulk of the blessing - the final three lines - is from Numbers 6:24-26 and is known as the Priestly Blessing. These are the words that Aaron and his sons used to bless the Israelites. They are the words that are recited in the Amidah to this day, and that many congregations use when the Kohanim step to the front of the community to bless the congregation.

The introduction to this blessing is traditionally adjusted depending on the gender of one's children. For sons, the first words come from the end of the book of Genesis, when Jacob blesses Joseph's two children, Ephraim and Menashe. He expresses his prayer that all of Israel would look to these children when seeking blessing, which is why we quote him in this moment.

Sadly, and perhaps not surprisingly, there is no similar moment in the Torah when a patriarch offers a blessing to his daughter. It wasn't until the 17th century that the introduction for daughters was written, looking to the four Matriarchs for blessing.

By putting all three of these sources together, I believe that we hold up what has made Judaism so meaningful for millennia. From one perspective, Judaism is all about community. We are the descendants - literal and spiritual - of the Israelites. We have been blessed with the words of Numbers 6 for countless generations. When we give this blessing to our children, we tie them to that tradition as well.

From another perspective, Judaism has always been the story of a family. Genesis quickly focuses our attention on Abraham and his determination to create a family. The family is familiar and far from perfect. Parents make mistakes. Children struggle. Outside circumstances make life complicated. But the story concludes with Jacob and his grandchildren - the only time that we see such a scene in the entire Torah. When we evoke this moment in our blessing to our children, we emphasize the importance of family.

Adding the Matriarch to the formula, thousands of years after the blessing was first conceived, is an acknowledgment that something had been missing before that point. Our tradition and its liturgy are not perfect and never will be. However, we recognize this fact and have the ability and authority to make changes when they are necessary. We are the heirs to countless generations that have made Jewish life meaningful in their own way; we pray that our children will be able to do the same.

This is what we evoke when we bless our children at the beginning of Shabbat each week. We separate ourselves from the week that has ended, connect ourselves to our community, express the importance of family, emphasize the ability to adapt and change, and share our hope for the future.

Thank you,
Rabbi Alex Salzman

[TOP](#)

[Top](#)

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

Education Director's Message



For my day job at the Rodeph Sholom School in NYC, I commute by train as much as I can. I normally board the first car - the one closest to the exit in Grand Central so I get a better chance to catch the next shuttle to Times Square. There is an intriguing familiarity that builds up as one commutes on the same train car each morning at the same time. I know my fellow commuters. That means I recognize them. I don't really "know" them. On the other hand, our MTA conductor, Karen, knows us all. Every morning, I see how she greets each and every one of the regular commuters in the first car with her warm smile as she comes to check our tickets. Karen also notices when one of us has been missing for a while: "I haven't seen you lately, how are you?". As we approach NYC, generally after Harlem 125th station, Karen usually joins the commuters standing by the train door for a chit-chat. Upon arrival to Grand Central, Karen moves to the first car window and waves



each or "her" passengers goodbye: "Have a great day". I find myself looking forward to her smile and "Good day" wishes every morning, although Karen doesn't really "know" anything about me or what I do, I wait for her to smile to me so I can smile right back to her.

I have been pondering about Karen and her relationship with our Harlem line early morning commuters; I have been reflecting about how she makes me feel and I wonder if that's the case for all other commuters that travel with me. What's about her smile, her care, and attention, that makes such a difference in our daily routine? I guess she makes our non-personal commute feel a little more "human".

Dr. Ron Wolfson, in his book "Relational Judaism" reminds us that human beings are made in the image of G-d, and that "the image of G-d is *within* [each human being], but the presence of G-d is found 'in the between', in our relationships". Perhaps what I perceived in Karen's smile and her persistent attention reminded myself about my own humanity. Through her human connection with the passengers, she ignited the Divine sparks that emanate as human beings connect to each other. Interestingly, her name, Karen, translates into Hebrew as "ray", like a sun ray, and as of now, for me, Karen will be called "sparks".

As you read this edition of the Hakol, our weekly Torah portion tells about the saga of Moses and Pharaoh in Egypt, from the book of Exodus, Shemot. One of the first verses in the book of Exodus reads: "A new king arose over Egypt, who did not know about Joseph." (Exodus, 1:8) What does it mean - a new king who didn't know Joseph? A king who not only didn't know Joseph or his family (the Israelites), or what he has done for the survival of the whole Egyptian nation by saving them from famine. A king who didn't know about the past of his own Egyptian nation and didn't know about the relationships his ancestors had with Joseph and his family. Not only this pharaoh is described as one who doesn't "know" Joseph, but later on, he also proclaims he doesn't know G-d or who G-d is. He seems not to know, and not wanting to know. He doesn't value his own nation's history and past, nor makes an effort to cultivate relationships that were once part of the daily routine in his kingdom. A king who didn't know about Joseph, or about G-d. A king who isn't interested in knowing and creating relationships with the people who live around him. One who can't put his trust in others and doesn't want to be trusted either, since his "promises" to Moses and Aharon, while negotiating the release of the Israelite slaves, weren't kept.

We crave for relationships, to be known, recognized, noticed. We look forward to familiarity, to intimacy, and to connections. We develop trust and confidence as we convince ourselves that it's safe to smile, and safe to return a smile. Safe to offer help and wish each other a good day. Safe to notice that someone is missing, look for and care for them. This is what is so special about our PJC Learning Center community. The familiarity we develop among our students, teachers, and parents, the sentiment that this is our little "Jewish home", our warm place to feel free to be Jewish. Where everyone "knows" me, and I feel secure and confident. That's our community. And we want our students to feel that this is what is so special about being Jewish - the ability to create community and intimacy by coming together, building relationships, learning and celebrating Judaism together. The intimacy created when we realize that we share a common past and worry about the same things in the present, A familiarity that develops when we share the same hopes for ourselves, our families, our communities, Israel and the world.

That is the reason why when a student misses class, Torah Time or Junior Congregation, we REALLY miss them! We care about each and every one of our students and look forward to seeing them in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our LC teachers, like Karen, my early morning MTA conductor, greet students with a smile and wish to bring them safely to their destination, wishing they have a safe metaphorical journey. Each of our students is an important participant in their class community and the larger LC community. We hope that our graduates will also learn to care for each other and their communities wherever they are. We will be always waving at them with a big, warm smile. That's why this year for Hanukkah we chose the theme of "Keeping the Flame Alive". Through building a strong community and investing in meaningful Jewish learning experiences, we hope each and every one will enjoy a meaningful and joyful lifelong Jewish journey and arrive safe and sound to wherever their journey will lead.

Ana Turkienicz
Education Director





[TOP](#)

A Reflection by Davi Schulman

Davi Schulman wrote this beautiful reflection for her New Rochelle High School newspaper. We intended to include the article in the December Hakol, closer to the tragedy in Pittsburgh, but it was accidentally left out. We are including it now as a reminder of the power of our community.

On the morning of Saturday, October 27th, Jews all over the world attended regular Shabbat services. But something devastating occurred in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue: an anti-Semitic shooter killed eleven congregants and injured several more. Innocent people were victimized in a place that should be safe and welcoming. They were targeted for their religious beliefs and killed while praying.

In the week after the shooting, the slogan, #ShowUpForShabbat was created to encourage people to attend services. Synagogues far and near had special services for peace to commemorate the lives that were lost. My parents and I attended services here at The PJC. People of all faiths were encouraged to come, and some did. More than ever, I felt a warmth when I walked into the building. The singing sounded more passionate and powerful, as we all had a shared reason to pray. It is said that the Jewish community always comes through in times of hardship, and that was obvious on November 3rd. It was wonderful to see people of every generation: babies, children, teenagers, college students, young adults, adults, and senior citizens. Even though Pittsburgh is almost 400 miles away, we felt a strong connection with their community and continue to support them.

Rabbi Salzberg told us the story of the synagogue's former rabbi, Alvin Berkin, who still attended services weekly after he retired. He enjoyed sitting in the back of the sanctuary with his friends. But on Saturday October 27th he decided to stay home with his wife who happened to be sick. Now, every one of Rabbi Berkin's friends is dead. If it hadn't been for his wife, he would be too. When Rabbi Berkin returns to synagogue, he might have to sit alone. This specific story resonated with me as I know it did with others.

There were new intentions behind the prayers we recite. We always say The Prayer for the Safety of the American Military Forces. That day, Rabbi Salzberg encouraged us to think of the first responders who sacrificed their lives for the Jews in Pittsburgh while saying the prayer. Normally, only people who are mourning the loss of family members recite the Mourner's Kaddish. But since we are all mourning the deaths of the Pittsburgh victims, we all said the prayer. It felt as though we were in the same family as the victims: the Jewish family. I was honored to have led that day's Torah Service. Rabbi Salzberg explained that the portion included the death of the Matriarch Sarah. Interestingly, the portion is called חיי שרה (The Life of Sarah). The portion emphasizes Sarah's strong character and the life she led which outweigh the sadness of her death. This idea can be applied to the way we view the Pittsburgh tragedy. Although we grieve the victims' deaths, it is important to celebrate their lives as well.

During the week after the tragedy, my mind slightly drifted away from the incident. Maybe this is because I was too busy and worried about other things or because I just couldn't process it. Attending Shabbat services on November 3rd reminded me of how special the sense of community is at a time such as this. I know I am not alone when I say that tears were in my eyes throughout the whole service. At times they were tears of sadness, but at other times they were tears of joy and comfort. There was something empowering about that service. As a community we proved that we were not afraid to "show up for Shabbat" and that we are resilient.

[TOP](#)

Thank You Les and Sybil Rosenberg



The PJC would like to thank Les and Sybil Rosenberg for their generous and thoughtful gift of silver repairs and repolishing for our beautiful Torahs. The PJC was able to restore them, and every week we will be reminded of the Rosenberg's incredible gift.

[TOP](#)

PJC Spring Gala



PJC 65th Anniversary Journal Fundraiser

Spring Gala March 9th 2019

Take out an ad in our Anniversary Journal

- *Write a personal tribute to PJC
- *Promote your business
- *Support Our Future



For more details, contact:

Barbara Saunders-Adams
madamadam1955@gmail.com

[TOP](#)

High Holiday Thank You List

2018/5779 High Holiday Campaign – Thank You!!

In keeping with the PJC's established practice of publicly recognizing the generous contributions of our membership, I am pleased to present the results of the **2018/5779 High Holiday Fundraising Campaign**. We raised \$125,806 this year, all because of families such as yours. Each gift directly impacts all that is happening at the PJC, and I am grateful for the enthusiastic participation of so many members of our community. With gratitude and thanks, Barbara Saunders-Adams, Fundraising Chair.

Builders (\$15,000 and Above)
Leslie & Sybil Rosenberg

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

Leaders (\$5,000-\$9,999)
Adam & Maria Abeshouse
Jonathan & Marjut Herzog
Leah & John Leonard
David & Jeanne Radvany
Mark Singer

Principals (\$3,600-\$4,999)
Marshall & Naomi Jaffe

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Leah Lenney
Steve Liesman & Karen Dukess
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Joel Peck & Shelli Goldberg-Peck
Susan Perrotti
Marc & Elaine Prager
Barbara Saunders Adams & Sam Adams
Helen Stephenson

Patrons (\$500-\$999)

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Carlos Salama & Mona Gabbay
Alain & Joan Sasson
Rhonda Singer
Martin & Judy Teitell

Friends (\$100-\$249)
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Mark & Carey Hochberg

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Anonymous

Jacqueline & Patrick Hopper

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

Alec Cecil & Diane Zultowsky
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Joel & Beth Serebransky
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Jeremy & Sari Schulman
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Jacqueline Stein

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Andy & Lisa Neubardt
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Matthew & Rebecca Schwarz
Doris-Patt Smith
Peter & Suzanne Wies

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

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Howard Meyerson &
Emily Glickman
Peter & Andrea Rothberg
Harold & Sally Weisman
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Michael Droller
Martin & Meryl Druckerman
Zachary Ehrenreich &
Melanie Stern
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Stephen Handelman &
Susan Simpson

Supporters (\$18-\$99)

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Florence Grossman
Iris Kasten
Eugene Lief & Maria Kogan
David & Gabrielle Sasson
Mimi Steinberg

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

Anonymous (3)
Spencer & Ronnie Barback
Anne Borofsky
Larry & Diane Cohen
Michael & Michelle Dvorkin
Michael Glickman &
Deborah Korenstein

[TOP](#)

Share a Simcha!

simcha!

"Share a Simcha" allows congregants to share their news with our PJC community. Please submit news about family members -- engagements, births, job updates, kid achievements, community acknowledgements and any other milestones to **Jacqui Stein**. This will continue to be a regular *Hakol* feature, so keep your news and updates coming!

- Much Mazel to Zach Ehrenreich & Melanie Stern on the marriage of their son, Ben to Rebecca Orel on October 7th in New Marlborough, MA.
- Mazel tov to the Haber family on Lucy's bat mitzvah.
- Mazel tov to Eugene Lief and Maria Kogan on Isaac's bar mitzvah.

[TOP](#)

Tributes & Donations



Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)

Donations to the PJC from...

- Anne Field, in support of the PJC's projects and programs
- Jonathan & Marjut Herzog, in memory of Marjut's mother, Solveig Turner
- Jonathan & Marjut Herzog, in honor of Audrey Beerman and the PJC community, with appreciation for the support given to their family in the days following Solveig's passing
- Marshall & Naomi Jaffe, in honor of our pal and a great mensch, Larry Cohen
- Adam & Kate Lauzar, in honor of Zev & Melissa Haber, on the occasion of Lucy's *Bat Mitzvah*
- Adam & Kate Lauzar, in honor of Eugene Lief & Maria Kogan, on the occasion of Isaac's *Bar Mitzvah*
- David & Jeanne Radvany, in memory of Lester Kravitz
- David & Jeanne Radvany, in memory of Zachary Ehrenreich's father, Ludwig Ehrenreich
- Judy Shampianier & Michael Bowen, in memory of Michael Frankel's father, Ernest Frankel

- Judy Shampanier & Michael Bowen, in memory of Michael Frankel's father, Ernest Frankel
- Judy Shampanier & Michael Bowen, in memory of Lester Kravitz
- Judy Shampanier & Michael Bowen, in memory of Marjut Herzog's mother, Solveig Turner

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

- Martin & Meryl Druckerman, in memory of Marjut Herzog's mother, Solveig Turner
- Martin & Meryl Druckerman, in honor of Neco & Ana Turkienicz's 36th wedding anniversary
- Rosalie Kravitz, in memory of Lester Kravitz and with gratitude to Rabbi Salzberg for his support
- Barbara Saunders-Adams, in memory of her mother, Selma Saunders
- Barbara Saunders-Adams, in memory of Marjut Herzog's mother, Solveig Turner
- Helen Stephenson, in memory of Larry Levitz
- Gary & Evelyn Trachten, in support of the 2018 *Maot Hattim* Fund

At any time, if you wish to pay by check, please make it payable to **"The Pelham Jewish Center"** and mail it to our bookkeeping firm at: The Pelham Jewish Center, P.O. Box 418, Montvale, NJ 07645.

All donations to the **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**, at any time throughout the year, should be made payable to **"The Pelham Jewish Center -- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund"** and mailed directly **to Julia Coss at the PJC office**.

Thank you!

TOP

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