



Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER
May 2018
5778 Iyar / Sivan



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- 21** -- *Shavuot
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- 1** -- Shabbaton at the

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Rabbi Salzberg's Message

At this point, you are all hopefully well aware of the PJC Shabbaton. You have received an invitation in the mail, you have seen it promoted in our weekly announcements, on the website, and on our Facebook page, you have

heard it discussed in services. And if all of that isn't enough, the invitation is included below, in this issue of Hakol.

I'm not going to take the time to cover the same ground and describe what will be happening at the Shabbaton (a lot), where it will be happening (at the PJC), when it is (6/1 and 6/2), or who it is for (everyone at the PJC). Instead, I want to share why I think a Shabbaton is important and what I hope we will accomplish. Over the course of this year, through the Making Shabbos programs, many of you have participated in learning how to create for yourselves the various ritual objects that are central to Shabbat. But that was never all that we did. Each time, as a part of the practical lessons that went into challah baking, candle dipping, spice mixing, and cholent cooking, we discussed the significance role that these objects play on Shabbat. And it is through that use, that we



significance role that these objects play on Shabbat. And it is through that use, that we infuse them with holiness.



Our Shabbaton - indeed, every Shabbat - is an opportunity to put all of that learning into practice. We will light Shabbat candles, bringing the light of Creation and the warmth of our homes to our communal table. We will eat challah, appreciating the wonder of the world we live in, and its ability to transform and sustain us. We will drink the wine and eat the Shabbat meals, gladdening our hearts and our souls. We will conclude with Havdallah, comforting each of our senses as Shabbat departs for another week. A Shabbaton is an opportunity to unplug, to recharge, and to reconnect. It is an occasion to experience the full range of what Shabbat has to offer, and to try something new in the company of those we love and trust.

Whenever the value of Shabbat is promoted in mainstream society, it is in the context of a 24-hour (people rarely bother with the final, 25th hour) unplugging from our ever-connected lives. They advocate putting away smartphones and social media, stepping back from the constantly updating news headlines, and engaging only with the here-and-now. This is an important first step for Shabbat, but it is only a first step. Shabbat, when it is only about what we don't do, is restrictive. Shabbat, when it is lived to its full potential, is liberating. After unplugging from the wider world, we need to pursue the avenues that allow us to recharge, both body and soul. We need to take a physical break from the daily routines that are our lives and give ourselves an opportunity to relax. But more than a day at the spa, Shabbat recharges the soul. Through conversations, prayer, study, and reflection, Shabbat is an opportunity to remind ourselves of what matters most to each of us, the values that can be lost in the transactional nature of our day-to-day lives. Both of those aspects of Shabbat, unplugging and recharging, are possible alone or in community.

But Shabbat is at its most transformative when it is an opportunity to reconnect. When we celebrate Shabbat together, we provide ourselves with openings to connect with one another, with ourselves, and with the Divine. We all have something unique to offer, and when we spend Shabbat together that gift can be revealed and appreciated without distraction. Every moment of the Shabbaton is another opening for this connection. The beauty of this Shabbaton is that at the PJC. This means that everyone will be able to participate even if they cannot to come for the entire Shabbaton. You can come for Friday night, you can come for Saturday morning, you can come for Saturday afternoon, you could come for two out of the three.

It is my hope that each of us will make the effort to come for as much as possible. I am asking you to push yourselves, and to participate as much as you are able. Push yourself, and be open to the experience of Shabbat together. I firmly believe that you will find it worth your time and effort.

Thank you,
Rabbi Alex Salzberg

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Education Director's Message



On Shabbat morning, April 14, the PJC hosted our Israeli Young Emissaries, Ofek and Amit, the "Shinshinim", for Shabbat morning services. Amit and Ofek are two High School graduates from Israel in a gap year before they join the Israeli Army. Their gap year (Shnat Sherut in Hebrew, thus the term "Shinshinim") consisted of serving Jewish Day Schools and Hebrew Schools in Westchester, following a strict schedule and curriculum, with the goal of bringing our children closer to Israel. In their own words, "to be a living bridge between Israel and the Westchester community".

In their Dvar Torah, Ofek and Amit shared impressions from their experience with us this year. When asked by one of our congregants, what was the main difference they found between American and Israeli society, Amit answered: "Americans really like to hold doors for you". Her answer elicited some giggling around the Sanctuary, but in my mind, as an Israeli living here in the US, I found it quite metaphorical. "Opening doors to you" is what America is about. That's how I felt when coming here with my family, embraced by the community and seeing the opportunities available to us, the open doors, as we actively immersed ourselves with American society. "Opening doors" is also what Judaism is about - helping one another go through transitions in life, through strong community relationships and welcoming strangers. On the other hand, Ofek and Amit were the "door holders" for our children to peek into real Israeli society. Through their involvement, our kids were able to create emotional and intellectual connections with the country that is the homeland to all Jewish people. One that they now have become familiar with and hopefully will "feel at home"



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when actually visiting it. And this in itself speak volumes about the value of this program, for our community and for the Israeli young leaders who get the privilege to be chosen as Shinshinim.

Amit and Ofek visited the PJC for Shabbat morning services twice this year. Their first time was in November, when we hosted "Pizmon". On that Shabbat, Amit was offered an Aliyah, and she confided with me that this was her FIRST TIME doing it - which means - she had her own "Bat-Mitzvah" here, with us, at the PJC. It was our time to "hold the door" for her to entry the world of Conservative Judaism in America. In Israel, it's rare to have girls coming for an Aliyah or reading Torah for their Bat-Mitzvah. Amit was born in the town of Holon, Israel, on April 13, 1999. Which means, on her second visit to the PJC, on 4/14/18, when we were celebrating Birthday Shabbat - it was also Amit's 19th birthday! Hopefully these two visits to our Shabbat services will be remembered fondly by her -- her first Aliyah and her 19th birthday in the US ... Next year, when Amit and Ofek join the Israeli Army, we hope that their experiences with our community will remain engraved in their memories as well as in ours, and when we visit Israel in the near future, we hope to be able to visit them!

Regarding their return to Israel, Ofek and Amit addressed how the Shinshinim program made an impact on them as well, as Ofek described: "Although we came to work with the Westchester Jewish community as ambassadors of Israel, upon our return home, we'll become ambassadors of the American Jewish community in Israel, because Israelis don't know anything about what it means to be a Jew outside of Israel, and we are going to tell them what it means to be Jewish in America." Amit added: "When I live in Israel, I don't need to do anything to be Jewish; I wake up in the morning, and I am Jewish. For an American, being Jewish is a daily choice. American Jews need to choose to actively do "jewish" things in order to be Jewish. Otherwise, their lives can go by with no connection to Judaism whatsoever, although they are Jewish by birth." I could feel a sense of pride going around the Sanctuary as each and everyone of our congregants nodded with their heads - being Jewish in America is a choice and demands a lot of effort -- pat yourselves on your backs, PJC'ers! During Kiddush time, congregants shared with me how impressed they were by our shinshinim -- their independence and maturity, and by their decision to come to the US to serve as young Israeli ambassadors.



The Shinshinim program is a collaboration between the Westchester Jewish Council, the Jewish Agency and UJA Federation. They live with host families in Westchester while working with children and young adults in different institutions including synagogues, schools, youth movements, JCC's and Hillel's. The Shinshinim mentioned that their host families were one of the highlights of their experience, while host families said that hosting a Shinshinim was a highlight for their family relationship with Israel. In the Fall of 2018, we will be bringing two new Shinshinim to Westchester. If you would like to become a host family for one of them, please [email me](#). To qualify as a host family your home should have a spare private bedroom. From our experience, Shinshinim are best hosted by families with at least one school-age child still living at home. Please expect that the Shinshinim will become part of your family!

In the name of the students and families of the Learning Center, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Tracie & Jason Cohen for their sponsorship of the Shinshinim program. Your generosity and kindness allowed our students and their families to experience Israel every week from a very close standpoint and build long lasting connections with the best of our Israeli youth.

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President's Message

The PJC has always been a special place for my family. For the last 20 years Claudia, myself and the kids have grown up with the PJC community. You have been our teacher, our friend, our life guide and so much more. We have shared celebrations and sadness and have always felt comforted and supported. We have made deep and meaningful relationships, we have been invited into your homes, and we have laughed, cried and sometimes argued (soccer is still by far a better sport than football!!)

It is within this context that I undertook my terms as president. This feeling of connection and closeness to the PJC has only been enhanced over the past 2 years. As a leader it is all too easy to get caught up in the day to day "transactions". The challenge for me was to consider where we are as a community along a continuum. Understanding where we have been and taking the necessary actions to secure our future. I have benefited from past leadership keeping us on a strong footing and providing clear direction. I am excited to see a new Board with new ideas, ready and eager to carry our mission forward.

It has been a privilege to work with Rabbi Salzberg and a committed Board who worked tirelessly to ensure our success. This hard work has paid off in many ways. Attendance at services and programs continues to be strong. Fund raising goals have been met. This last year 11 new families joined the PJC, the highest number in our recent history.

Ana and The Learning Center, our "crown jewel", remain a beacon of success to all Hebrew schools in our area. Considering our small size and limited budget, I am in awe at the depth of programming, the commitment of our LC teachers, and the incredible Jewish education our children are receiving.

I have tried to ensure transparency and open communications during my presidency. Of significant importance to me has been our open and honest interactions. On phone calls, at Kiddush, or any other time I have received respect and gratitude. Regardless of the topic of our interactions they always ended with you thanking me. And for that, more than anything, I thank you.

I am grateful for your trust, support and for allowing me the opportunity to lead a community I have so benefited from being a part of. I look forward to sharing our continued journey together.

With Gratitude,

Darren Lee

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Letter from the Board - PJC Board Fundraising

Did you know that members of the Pelham Jewish Center are invited to attend the monthly Board meetings? Board meeting dates appear on the [PJC website calendar](#).

Fundraising Chair Barbara Saunders-Adams tells us about her time on the Board.

Why should I give? That's the first question the Fundraising Chair has to answer.

Last year, our theme was "Community". Your support for the PJC makes it possible to continue to create the intimate environment that nurtures our sense of community, helps us see the world through a Jewish lens, enhances our spirituality, and motivates us to do *tikkun olam*. Through the Learning Center (which our fundraising dollars help support), we pass on our values to the next generation.

Once we have our theme, it's time to recruit volunteers to make the HH fundraiser calls, write a fundraiser letter and last year work with Andrea Rothberg on the Rosh HaShanah appeal. We create a spreadsheet with names and phone numbers of the congregation members and divide the calls among the volunteers. With Julia's help, we keep track of all pledges and checks received. When that's completed, it's time to send out "thank you" letters.

No sooner than the HH drive ends, it's time to decide upon a theme for the Gala, recruit a committee of volunteers to share in the decision-making, and the multitude of tasks necessary to make our spring fundraiser a success.

The Fundraising Committee decides what entertainment is appropriate at a reasonable cost. We create an invitation, determine how far in advance we want to receive the responses knowing that many congregants will wait to the last minute (even the night of the Gala) to hand in their checks.

Without knowing the final number of participants, we recruit Host Families for pre-Gala dinner hosting, determine if the dinners will be meat or dairy and order the drinks, etc. in keeping with our theme. We promote the Gala in Announcements and HaKol, which this year Deborah Karson volunteered her design expertise for our invitation and save-the-date promotion pieces.

If there is time and enough volunteers, we can sell ads to local businesses to increase our revenues. In addition, this year we plan to host a Tag Sale, which means advertising for and collecting items for the sale.

Last year, we had live and silent auctions which required time to solicit auction items, decide which auction each item was appropriate for and keep track of who bought what. Afterwards, we had to send out appropriate letters for tax purposes. And finally, we had to keep track of checks received and determine how much we spent and what was our profit.

Running the Fundraising Committee is labor intensive. Our PJC community relies on not only our members' financial donations, but also their time commitment -- sharing our fundraising efforts among a team of dedicated volunteers contributes to our success.

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Shavuot Celebration



The Pelham Jewish Center

2018 Shavuot Community Celebration *Ancient Texts Meet Modern Challenges*

Saturday, May 19

8:00 PM: Dairy & Fruit Dessert

“Tikun Leil” Shavuot Study Session:

Ethical Wills:

What they are, and why we should have them



Book of Ruth:

What were Naomi's intentions?

Brief Holiday Evening (Arvit) Services at 9PM

thejpc.org

451 Esplanade, Pelham Manor, NY

PJC Shabbaton

A Shabbaton is an opportunity to experiment. A chance to step outside of our comfort zones and test out new avenues to immerse ourselves in Shabbat.

We will be joined in this experience by Dr. Galeet Dardashti.

Dr. Dardashti holds a PhD in cultural anthropology and is an Assistant Professor of Jewish Music and Musician-in-Residence at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

A vocalist and scholar, she is the first woman to continue her family's tradition of distinguished Persian-Jewish musicianship. She has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative performers of Jewish music today. Having studied with her father, Hazzan Farid Dardashti, Galeet Dardashti has 17 years of professional cantorial experience.

Pelham Jewish Center
451 Esplanade
Pelham Manor, NY
10803

(914) 738-6008

RSVP by Friday, May 25:

office@thepjc.org

www.thepjc.org

THE
SHABBATON
IS HERE!

UNPLUG
RECHARGE
& RECONNECT

JUNE 1-2
@
OUR HOUSE
(THE PJC)

We invite you to immerse yourself in Shabbat and experience the many ways in which Shabbat continues to keep the Jews.

[Click here](#) for a link to Dr. Darsheeti's complete bio which includes additional links to her actual recordings.

The PJC Shabbaton - Come Celebrate the Gift of Shabbat Together!

Friday, June 1:

Unplug

6:30 P.M.:
Musical Kabbalat Shabbat
With Galeet Dardashti

7:30 P.M.:
Shabbat Dinner

8:30 P.M.:
Mizrachi Sacred Songs
(Piyutim)
From Pulpit to Pop Chart
With Galeet Dardashti

Shabbat, June 2:

Recharge

9:30 A.M.:
Shabbat Morning Services
Parashat "B'ha'alotecha"

12:00 P.M.:
Kiddush in Honor
of our Graduating HS Seniors

1:00 P.M.:
Shabbat Yoga & Mindfulness
Tai-Chi
Sports
Open Book

Shabbat, June 2:

Reconnect

8:00 P.M.:
Nigunim
(More music!)
Dessert & Wine

@
The Salzberg's Place

9:00 P.M.:
Havdalah & S'mores
by the Fire
@
The Salzberg's Backyard

RSVP by Friday, May 25

office@thepjc.org or www.thepjc.org

Cost:

\$18/Adult/Day — \$50 Maximum/Family

\$9/Child Ages 5-12

Free for Children Under 5

\$72 Maximum/Family for Both Days

*All Are Welcome
at Services!*

REGISTER today for the PJC Shabbaton!

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Reflections on Israel Trip

Eight Grader Brian Jablowsky recently went on a two-week trip to Israel with his school, Carmel Academy! He reflects on his experience and thoughts below.





Upon my return from the trip, I felt more connected to our homeland and the people who live there.

I was lucky enough to participate in several unusual and enriching experiences. In Jerusalem my class went to an organization called "Pantry Packers." There we assembled packages of rice and other non-perishable food which will be distributed to people in need. I felt satisfied because I was able to give my time to people less fortunate than myself.

On Friday night while we were praying at the Kotel, I had a strong sense of connection to the setting. I felt spiritually and historically connected. While we were praying, there was a flock of birds circling above us. It was as if they were angels showing us that this was the right place to be. The people at the wall were so engaged in their prayer, it seemed as if they had a direct connection to g-d. It made me proud.

We traveled to the Gaza border to visit the community of Netiv Ha'asara, made up of about 250 families. Tzameret, a local artist, created a movement to decorate the grey border wall with ceramic tile pieces as a path to peace. We each chose a tile and wrote a message of peace on the back and affixed it to the wall. Visiting this place gave me a sense of hope for peace.

My trip to Israel made me grateful and proud to be a Jew. I look forward to returning many times throughout my lifetime.

Thank you,
Brian Jablowsky

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Library Notes



Volunteers are needed to help sort out old books and those with more than one copy. We can absolutely work around schedule limitations, and the duplicate books will be boxed for a future sale. Volunteers may also choose one of these rejected books for their own.

In addition, if anyone has recommendations for Jewish-themed or Jewish-authored books that are not in our collection, let me know and we can consider purchasing them and further expanding our Library.

We have more new books this month!

1. [Future Tense](#) by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
2. [Madonna in a Fur Coat](#) by Sabahattin Ali
3. [The Last Watchman of Old Cairo](#) by Michael David Lukas

Thank you!

Barbara Saunders-Adams, Librarian

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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 [Lisa Yelsey](#). This will continue to be a regular *Hakol* feature, so keep your news and

updates coming!

- Sending a *Mazel Tov* to Jeremy Schulman for singing an inspiring *Shir HaShirim* for the first time on April 7th!
- Much *Mazel* to Larry Cohen for chanting a beautiful *Haftarah* for the first time on April 21st.
- Wishing a hearty *Mazel Tov* to the PJC's newest "Dr." Dan Mailick for successfully defending his dissertation on May 1st and completing his Ph.D.! *Kol Hakavod* on this impressive accomplishment.
- *Mazel Tov* to Howard & Emily Meyerson in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Julia, on May 12th.

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Tributes & Donations



Donations to the PJC from ...

- Barry & Jill Goldenberg, in memory of Jill's father, Lionel Forer
- Barry & Jill Goldenberg, in memory of Jill's grandfathers, Herman Stern and Menke Forer
- Adam & Kate Lauzar, in honor of Dan Mailick successfully defending his Ph.D. dissertation

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

- Robert & Andrea DeRose Kahn, in honor of Len & Judy Cooper's wedding anniversary, and Judy Cooper's birthday

Donations to Maot Hattim Fund, through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, from...

- Chris & Elizabeth Strader

Make Tributes & Donations [ONLINE!](#)

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!

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