



Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER
May 2019
5779 Nisan/ Iyar



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Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

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19 -- Tag Sale/10am-2pm

27 -- Memorial Day/Offices Closed

June

2 -- Israel Day Parade

7 -- First Fridays at Five Forty-Five/5:45pm

8 -- Erev Shavuot

8 -- Tikkun Leil Shavuot/8pm

9 -- Shavuot Services/9:30am

10 -- Shavuot Services/9:30am

10 -- Yizkor Service/11:30am

13 -- Board Meeting/7 pm

15 -- Women's Group/1pm

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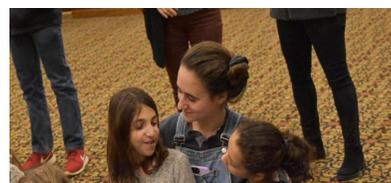
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Education Director's Message



In the Talmud, we read: "Rabbi Elazar said in the name of Rabbi Hanina, the students of Sages bring peace to the world, as it is stated, 'all your children are taught by G-d, and the peace of your sons is great.' Do not call them your children, but call them your builders:
"אל תקרא 'בנייך' אלא 'בונייך'"

When I see our madrichim, our teen teacher aides, in action during Learning Center classes, I think about this quote from the Talmud. And when I hear about what are our alumni doing in their adult lives. I think about this quote as well



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their adult lives, I think about this quote as well. In Hebrew, the word madrich derives from the word "derekh" - path, road. Madrichim, the plural form, are our young guides, orientators. Every year, we are blessed to have a talented cadre



of madrichim who volunteer their afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays, come to the LC and work with our children, helping our teachers in every class. This year, our madrichim are: Rebecca Ploski (Nitzanim), Emma Almo (Kitah Alef), Sarah Grossman and Andy Radvany (Bet-Gimmel), Sara Almo (Daled), Ellie Zusin and Rachel Lief (Hei-Vav), Annie Zusin and Eliana Herzog (Zayin) and Madison Cohen (LC photographer).

I see these young teens as the builders of today, as we read in the Talmud quote. Their actions are built upon the shoulders of those who came before them; they saw other madrichim in previous years, when they were younger, became inspired, and now they are our role models for the future generations.



Each one of our madrichim is a vital part of the tapestry of our PJC community. Each one of them has unique gifts, that they share with our students with much grace and generosity.

As you read these lines in the Hakol, we will be delving into the Torah Portion called "Kedoshim", (the holy ones). Maimonides, the Rambam, when commenting on the idea of the Jewish People as a Holy Nation, or a Holy People, said: [In calling on Israeli to be 'a kingdom of priests' it was as if God said to them], 'Become leaders of the world through keeping my Torah, so that your relationship to [humanity] becomes that of a priest to his congregation, so that the world follows in your path, imitates your deeds and walks in your ways.' This is my hope for our Madrichim. That they continue to be role models in their generation, not only here, in our community, but as they enlarge their circles of influence, that they seek to lead by example, rooted in Jewish values and in the spirit of Tikkun Olam, to make the world a better place.



I also wish to encourage additional teens in our community to join our madrichim team. We understand that in our world there is a pressing demand for academic success and our teens are pulled in many different directions in order to supply enough enticing records in their portfolio before entering college. We also know that by choosing to volunteer their time to assist our students at the Learning Center as well as lead different children activities at the PJC, these young teens are building their leadership skills and incorporating additional responsibilities that surely will become handy as they turn to their individual journeys in life. I know this from my own experience; I became a madrichah in the Habonim-Dror Jewish movement in my hometown, Porto Alegre, Brazil, at the age of 13. I can still remember the sense of responsibility, of leadership and the drive and motivation I felt to impart Judaism to younger children. I felt relevant, and my days were full of purpose, beyond the fulfillment of my school and academic obligations.

It is with great pride and satisfaction that from time to time I am requested to write recommendation letters for one of our madrichim as they apply to colleges, graduate schools, summer gigs or permanent positions as they grow into their professional lives. I hold in my memory vivid images of each one of them as they

took initiative, interacted with our students, lead activities, listened and helped teachers, and brought their individual talent and gifts into our Learning Center. I am sure that these teens also felt that they have enriched themselves with a sense of belonging, purpose and meaning as they developed new relationships with our children, teachers, families and congregants, and continued to groom their own Jewish identities when required to be Jewish role models for our children. One can say that our madrichim program is a "win-win" game for all the ones involved in it, and we truly appreciate the dedication and devotion of our current and past madrichim.



I would like to thank our 2018-2019 LC madrichim team. I am already looking forward to working with them next year! Yasher Koach to each one of our teen madrichim and to their families, for their support to the Learning Center and the betterment of the Jewish Education we are charged to deliver.

L'shalom,
Ana Turkienicz
Education Director





A Message from the PJC President

As I sit down to write this in the wake of yet another terrorist attack on people at a religious service, this time on the congregants and visitors at Chabad of Poway synagogue, I feel in me and around me an air of exhaustion, in every sense of that word: fatigue, depletion, debilitation, consumption. After you have felt and said everything the last few times around, what more can you say or feel and to what end? We know that we cannot allow ourselves to become numb and so it's at moments like this when we naturally decide that taking action - doing something rather than just feeling or expressing - is the necessary response.



One of the areas that demands action is the security of ourselves at The Pelham Jewish Center. The PJC does have a security committee who have worked hard at finding and implementing measures to increase our security, including updates to the alarm system, panic buttons, meetings and coordination with The Pelham Manor Police Department and more. Further measures are being explored and considered. But as beneficial and as necessary as these measures may be, there are costs to every one of them. Monetary costs, yes, but other kinds of costs too, and as we consider what further actions to take we have an obligation to acknowledge and scrutinize those costs.

Recently I've come across news articles examining whether and to what extent drills in schools really make the schools safer, acknowledging the negative psychological effects of the drills on students and teachers and questioning whether it's all worth it. That's not to suggest that any particular security measure is or isn't worth implementing, only that those questions need to be a part of the process from the start. That can be tough, because not only are there no easy answers here, even hard answers might be difficult to find. Added to that is the emotion and passion we each feel, which can be heightened or even inflamed at the very moment we feel the duty to act.

That emotion and passion are natural and necessary. But I believe that it's at times like this when we owe it to ourselves and future PJC members to make an effort to make decisions in as levelheaded and deliberate a fashion as we can, as difficult as that may be, rather than rushing into action out of a desire to do something or as an emotional reaction to a horrific event. As we move forward, our security committee will be informing membership on its activities and will be inviting discussion on the direction we take, and your input is always welcome.

Michael Dvorkin

PJC President

A Message from the PJC Board

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.

PJC Education Chair Marjut Herzog discusses her role ...



We are in the month of *Iyar*, which, as Ana taught us at my Learn Center Committee meeting, is connected to the word *Or*, light. It is a month of light, of promise, as the holidays we celebrate are connected to survival of the Jews and the modern State of Israel. Yesterday I felt such promise at the PJC as I volunteered to help support the Learning Center celebration of Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's 71st Independence Day. The best part was the creativity of the kids as teams worked together to design and decorate cakes in honor of the holiday. Each cake represented a major city of Israel. You may have seen this on the PJC Members page on Facebook. The teams produced beautiful cakes and creatively displayed aspects of each city: Tel Aviv with its towers, Jerusalem with its old city wall, Beersheva - a new yet ancient city in the desert, and technological Haifa with its cable car and city streets. The best part is that these kids are friends and are having fun being Jewish.

We are coming to the end of this year on the Board, my first of three years on the Board. We started in September with an afternoon getting to know each other and I can say that over this year I have felt so honored to be part of this aspect of synagogue administration. We have supported each other, built relationships, laughed, and made hard decisions. We are united in wanting only the best for our community. Participation on the Board has helped me understand much more and feel

more committed to what we are trying to achieve as an organization. The shootings at synagogues in Pittsburgh and Poway made me feel more deeply how precious the Jewish Community is in America, and how precious this community is and how critical the decisions of Board Members are, particularly now with respect to security both literal and figurative - to the long term security (fiscal, physical, educational, and spiritual) of our membership, our PJC home, and the Jewish community. Just like a real family, we need to educate our PJC kids to ensure that there is another generation that is committed to Judaism so that we continue to have a spiritual home as we get older. It would be lovely if every member could take the opportunity to participate in PJC Board leadership at some point, because it is on the Board you really learn what it takes and how precious and special this little congregation can be. The best part is that we on the Board are helping to build and maintain a building that is more than just that, it is a symbol of the ancient Tent of Meeting inhabited by people in worship and by Holiness, we have become friends and we want to make sure everyone in the PJC is having fun being Jewish.

Thank you,
Marjut Herzog

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Salzberg Brit Milah

Continuity. This was the theme of the Salzberg brit milah. The mohel, Rabbi Mark Cooper, quoted "Am Israel Chai". He explained that despite all attempts to eradicate the Jews, the Jewish people live on. Rabbi Cooper asked Rabbi Salzberg's Mom, Ginny, to light a candle symbolizing the addition of God's light into a new Jewish soul. The candle also represents the potential imbued into the community by this new life.

There was a strong showing of friends, family and congregants at the Salzberg *brit milah*. Beaming, Clara brought the tiny newborn to the mohel. The baby was placed on the lap of Alex's Dad. With a flourish, the mohel opened the envelope with the baby's name - Matan Knox. In Hebrew, *matan* means "gift". Clara described how Matan Knox received his name as follows: Her great grandfather, Knox Steele Shaw, lived on a farm in rural northeast Kansas while her grandfather Marvin Riederer Shaw lived in a small town in southern Minnesota with his wife and four young kids.



Once or twice a year, Knox would wake up in the morning and inform his wife, "I'm going to see Marvin." He'd pack a bag, head out to the road, stick out his thumb, and start walking. Knox's wife was frantic. He was not a young man and the trip from their farm in Kansas to Marvin's house in Minnesota was about 500 miles long. She would plead with him to reconsider, without success.

She would return to their farmhouse, call Marvin, and say to him, "Marvin, the old fool's done it again." For Clara, this story is about the importance of family. When her great-great grandfather had the urge to see his family, Knox didn't let logistics stop him. He simply started walking. And equally striking, despite his demanding job and 4 young children, Marvin always dropped everything to search for his father and bring him home to family. He never forbid him from coming or insisted on returning him to his farm, no matter how disruptive these excursions must have been. Today the distances between families have only increased, as have the demands on our time and attention. It's easy to think that we'll see each other at Passover, at Thanksgiving, at the next wedding. It's harder to countenance dropping everything and doing whatever it takes to be with each other, simply because we feel the need to be close.

Clara and Alex are naming their son, Matan Knox, after these two men, Marvin and Knox, whose love for family transcended convenience, good graces, and, yes, common sense. The Salzbergs hope that Matan Knox will grow into a man who will love others and show that love, in gestures large and small.

Rabbi Cooper noted that Rabbi Salzberg and Clara will raise Matan Knox through the lens of Judaism. Judaism will help guide him, help him form relationships and help him find meaning in life.

I sat between Lydia Read and Jacqui Stein. I realized how comfortable I am at the PJC. The three of us felt as if Matan was our baby too.

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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 **Jacqui Stein**. This will continue to be a regular *Hako!* feature, so keep your news and updates coming!

- **Mazel Tov** to the Schneider family on the occasion of Madison's *Bat Mitzvah!*
- **Mazel Tov** to the Rabbi and the entire Salzberg family on the birth and *brit mila* of Matan! Welcome to the PJC community, Matan.

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Tributes & Donations



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Donations to the PJC from...

- Environmental Coalition of The Pelhams, Inc., in memory of Lester Kravitz
- Steven & Hildy Martin, in support of the a Cappella group -- Keskeset -- performing at Shabbat service and this year's Annual Gala
- David & Jeanne Radvany, in honor of Dan Kushnick, with wishes for a full and speedy recovery
- David & Jeanne Radvany, in honor of Michael Weissman, with wishes for a full and speedy recovery
- The Nathan & Fanny Shafran Foundation, in support of the PJC's Learning Center Program
- Gary & Evelyn Trachten, in honor of Dan Kushnick, with wishes for a full recovery
- Gary & Evelyn Trachten, in honor of Michael Weissman, with wishes for a full recovery
- Gary & Evelyn Trachten, in honor of the birth of Matan Knox Salzberg
- Gary & Evelyn Trachten, in memory of the *Yahrzeit* of Joe Olensky, Evelyn's father

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

- Mark & Linda Levine, in honor of the birth of Matan Knox Salzberg
- David & Jeanne Radvany, in honor of the birth of Matan Knox Salzberg

Donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in support of *Maot Hittin*, from...

- Adam & Maria Abeshouse
- Mitch & Julie Cepler
- Michael & Michelle Dvorkin
- Jonathan & Marjut Derzog
- Robert & Andrea DeRose Kahn
- Patricia Levinson
- Joel & Shelli Goldberg Peck
- Leslie & Sybil Rosenberg
- Joel & Beth Serebransky
- Gary & Evelyn Trachten

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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