



# Hakol

THE VOICE OF THE  
PELHAM JEWISH CENTER  
January 2018  
5778 Tevet / Shevat



## Upcoming PJC Activities & Events

### January

- 1** -- Offices Closed  
**6** -- Open Book 2/ 10:30am  
**6** -- Women's Group/ 1pm  
**7** -- Blood Drive/9am- 1:30pm  
**9** -- Soup Kitchen/ 4:30pm  
**11** -- Board Meeting/ 7pm  
**15** -- Offices Closed  
**21** -- Book Group w/ Author Discussion/ 11:30am-2pm  
**21** -- "Joseph & the Technicolor Dreamcoat"/2pm  
**26** -- Singing Kabbalat Shabbat & Community Dinner/ 6:30pm  
**28** -- Making Shabbos: Havdallah Set Making/4pm

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### Rabbi's Message

New Years has never been an important marker in my life. January first hasn't ever felt noticeably different than December thirty-first, except that sometimes I am more tired. I have often found New Years to be a "holiday" with more build-up and anticipation than actual celebration or meaning, so I have let it fall by the wayside. It has always felt arbitrary - why is this the beginning of the year, rather than any other moment?

A similar question can be asked at the very beginning of the Torah. In the fifth verse in the book of Bereishit, we read: "And there was evening and there was morning, a first day." Why does the verse tell us about the

evening first? Surely the day starts when the sun rises, not when it sets. This quirk has led to one of the most notable things about Judaism: each day on our calendar begins with the setting sun. In contrast with the secular day that begins at midnight, our tradition teaches us to begin our days at sunset, continue through the night into the morning, and conclude as the sun sets again. This is why all of our holidays begin in the evening - Friday night is not the "night before Shabbat," but the beginning of the seventh day, a part of Shabbat itself.

There is nothing objectively right or wrong about either of these divisions. While a day has a clear length, there is no measurable moment when one





24-hour day ends and another begins. But based on this verse in the book of Bereishit, we declare that the Jewish day begins in the evening.

But it is not actually as clear-cut as it seems. Rashbam (Rabbi Sh'muel ben Meir), a great Torah commentator, and a grandson of Rashi, interprets this verse differently. He wrote:

The text does not come to state that the evening and the morning are part of a single day, for it only needs to explain how there were six days - that the morning broke and the night was finished: behold, one day was completed and another day began.

Rashbam is not arguing that we have been starting our holidays incorrectly throughout Jewish history, he is pointing out the possibility of a different interpretation. He is teaching us that the Jewish day begins at sundown because we as a people have decided that this is when the day begins. We could have made a different decision, but we chose this path.

The same can be said about the new year. The year is a cycle, and without some outside event to mark the transition from one year to next, we are forced to choose an arbitrary moment. In the case of our Jewish year, Rosh Hashanah marks the traditional anniversary of Creation; it is the "birthday of the world." But - as always - there was disagreement on this point, with some rabbis arguing that the world was created on the first of Nisan (in the spring) and not the first of Tishrei (Rosh Hashanah).

This helps to explain why we actually have four different "New Years" in the Jewish calendar, each marking a different transition. The Mishnah in Rosh Hashanah teaches that the first of Nisan is the New Year for festivals and kings, the first of Tishrei is for the year itself, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat (Tu Bishvat) is for trees, and the first of Elul is for tithing animals.

We can have so many New Years, because each of them marks something different, and because we come together and agree that they are moments to be commemorated. Rather than rejecting different opinions or possibilities, our ancestors chose to incorporate them all, recognizing that one day cannot include all of the different transitions that happen in a single year. We would be well served to keep this lesson in mind, and remember that our tradition is one of pluralism, recognizing that no one person or school of thought has exclusive access to truth.

With that, I wish all of you a Happy 2018, and I look forward to celebrating the next New Year with you as well! (Tu Bishvat will be on 1/31)

**3** -- Open Book 3/  
10:30am

**4** -- Movie Program/  
4-7pm

**8** -- Board Meeting/  
7pm

**9** -- Community  
Shabbat Dinner/  
7:30pm

**11** -- Making Shabbos:  
Candle Dipping/4pm

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

**19** -- Offices Closed

**24** -- Women's Group/  
1pm

**28** -- Kids' Megillah  
Reading/6pm

**28** -- Megillah  
Reading/7pm

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#### Quick Links

[Donate to the PJC](#)

[Find us on the Web](#)

[2017-18 Calendar](#)

[2017-18 Board of  
Directors](#)

**NEW YEAR'S EVE?**  
**That was so 3**  
**months ago.**

@memesofjudaism



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## Education Director's Message



Happy 2018!

*This New non-Jewish year of 2018 bears important numerical significance in Judaism. In Jewish tradition, the letters have numerical value, and the number 18 is made of the letters Yud ('y') and Chet ('n), respectively the 10th and the 8th letter in the Hebrew alphabet. These two letters also form the word "Chai", which in Hebrew means "life". So when a Jew sees the number 18, it automatically translates into "Chai", life, or being alive. There is a deep connection drawn upon the word "chai", its meaning "life" and the numerical value of the letters that comprise this word, 18.*

The Learning Center has enjoyed so many acts of selfless giving, and we are very blessed to have PJC members who give selflessly in many ways. We are very grateful to each and every one of the PJC members that have chosen to give the gift of Jewish education to the future generations. Your gifts to the LC children, through volunteering your time, your resources, your heart and thoughts, many times anonymously, impact everything we do. We always fall short in personally thanking all of our benefactors, so I decided to share here just a few of some of our giving angels, who have lately become personally involved in enriching the Jewish educational experiences in the Learning Center. I apologize in advance for not citing many others at this opportunity.



Recently, Dan Perkis arranged and conducted a Hanukkah Music Recital with LC young musicians Lucy Haber and Mira Schulman, performing at the PJC and lighting the 8th Hanukkah candle with the senior residents at the Willow Towers Assisted Living in New Rochelle. It's hard to express in words how much we are thankful for Dan's initiative and hard work when putting together all the different components of this special Hanukkah recital. His initial vision, followed by thoughtful and patient support along the way made it possible for our students to find a Jewish avenue to their musical talents, helping to create a new space for children to express their Judaism and shine. The Learning Center was lucky to experience the beauty of classical music - you could feel how the audience listened mesmerized when the girls performed!



Dan Mailick and Maria Abeshouse are in the midst of their second year teaching trope to our students. Dan and Maria have put together an incredible program where they meet weekly with our students for half an hour and teach them Haftarah trope. The students then learn one verse of an Haftarah and we are all looking forward to listening to them chanting on our next Shabbat Mishpachah, on April 28th. Teaching teenagers anything and especially trope - not an easy task - and we are deeply thankful for Dan & Maria's gift. Save the date for Shabbat on April 28th when we will be able to have a glimpse into their work with our students!



We all are thankful to Barbara Saunders-Adams, Morah Bela, for caring for the PJC Library and bringing back the beauty of Jewish books into our lives. Barbara also volunteers once a week to help our students choose PJC library books for their Shabbat reading, making suggestions and looking out for new and compelling Jewish literature fresh on the shelves. Thank you Barbara, for helping instill the love and the tradition of reading Jewish literature into all of us.



Elise Goldenberg, a LC alumna, is studying Early Childhood Education and is volunteering in our Kitah Alef-Bet, working closely with Morah Sonia and her students. We are so thankful for Elise's generosity and are very lucky to have her on our LC Team!

Last but not least, I would like to thank Marni Heller, our Hebrew High School teacher, for putting together our "Choose your Summer", an evening where our teens were exposed to different Summer opportunities in Israel for Youth. Marni invited a panel of 8 different Jewish organizations to come to our Hebrew High School (also on the 8th night of Hanukkah) and share their Summer programs for Teens in Israel. Click on the names of the organizations to learn about what programs are in store for teens in Israel, and please pass the message along to other Jewish teens you think might benefit from those opportunities. Here are the links for the eight organizations who presented to our HHS in December:



[USCJ: Nativ](#), [JNF & AMHSI: Roots Israel](#), [Young Judea: Israel Course](#), [URJ: 6 Points - Sci-Tech in Israel](#), [NCSY](#),

[BBYO: Passport](#), [The Jewish Agency: Project Ten](#), [Friends of Israeli Scouts](#) Thank you Marni for spearheading this initiative!

Happy 2018, a "Chai" New Year to each and every one of you,

Thank you for giving the gift of Jewish lifelong learning to the PJC Learning Center!

Ana Turkienicz

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## A Bit About Board Meetings - Social Programming

Did you know that members of the Pelham Jewish Center are invited to attend the monthly Board meetings? Board meeting dates appear in <https://www.thepjc.org/calendar>.

PJC programming encompasses not only religious holidays and events, but also social ones. We don't just pray together - we play together as well! Last spring, we had a PJC Seder - the first in a long time. Ana Turkienicz guided me in this huge undertaking, which was incredibly led by the Rabbi and Clara Salzberg. It was both a poignant and fun Seder, with a huge turnout that included members of all ages.

Additionally, we decided to bring in the Israeli style when celebrating Yom Haatzmaut - Israel's Independence Day - with Israeli wine tasting (PJC's oenophiles Dan Mailick and Roger Krulak hand-picked the wines, not the grapes!) along with catered food by an extraordinaire Israeli/Moroccan chef. In August, we had our "welcome back from camp" BBQ - always a hit, which featured the PJC's own chef extraordinaire - Noam Gretz.

There were many other events to highlight, but one that stands out was our Hooked on Havdallah event. Members

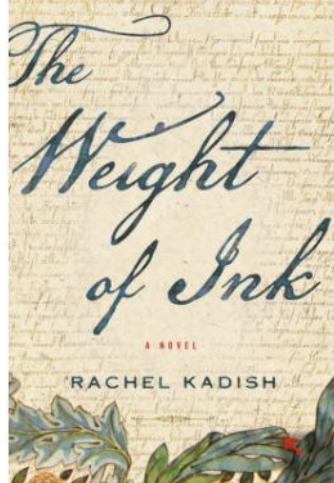
dined in congregants' homes and then came back to the PJC for dessert, wine and chat while listening to beautiful jazz by Israeli musicians. Our brilliant and accomplished Ana Turkienicz was my partner (again) in "crime" and once again, Roger came through with suggestions of the most delicious kosher and parve desserts to be found. We had many volunteer helpers: Jeremy Schulman, Sheri Silver, Noam & Danielle Gretz, Jason Glick, Peter and Suzanne Wies, and of course the folks that generously opened their homes to host dinner. Hanukkah was celebrated with fun crafts, sufganiyot, latkes for kids of all ages and organized by Clara Salzberg. In fact, Clara is heading the "young families" committee for programming with a powerful team that includes: Danielle and Noam Gretz, Roselle and Jason Glick, Sherie and Avner Mar-Chaim, Liz and Chris Strader, Julie and Mitch Cepler, and Audrey Beerman.

We have a Purim carnival coming up, a trip to a kosher winery in April, next session of the Rabbi's "Making Shabbos" program and much more. I plan on repeating the programming events that were successful last year (Second Seder, Yom Haatzmaut) and add a few new ones such as a Shabbaton - weekend retreat - in the first weekend of June and a trip to Israel in August. These events have happened because of the dedication and time so many PJC members have contributed - thank you!

If you would like to be part of the programming committee or have questions and suggestions please contact me, **Mimi Steinberg**.

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## Upcoming Author Chat!



On Sunday, January 21st, at 11:30am, the PJC Book Group will host author Rachel Kadish as she leads a discussion about 'The Weight of Ink', her recent 2017 National Jewish Book Award winner for Fiction. A luncheon will follow the discussion.

The event is open to PJC members and guests. No cost to attend, but please RSVP to **Julia Coss**.

Books will be offered for sale at a discounted price of \$20.00 per copy. Please make checks payable to the **Pelham Jewish Center**.

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## Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Community Dinner

### **Service and Community Dinner Friday, January 26th at 6:30pm**

Shabbat Shira, "Sabbath of Song", is the Shabbat when we read section of the Torah containing the biblical poem Shirat hayam, the Song of the Sea. Legend has it the song was miraculously sung by all Israelites, spontaneously and in unison, when they fled Egypt and slavery and crossed the red sea.

In anticipation of this service, we are holding a "singing Shabbat", full of people who love to sing. This group will meet once in the next few weeks to sing together and learn new melodies, and then will participate in the service.

They will also be working with the 3rd -6th grade Learning Center children so they will be able to participate in the service with us. If you would like to be part of the singing core, please e-mail **Jack Klebanow**.

Cost is \$18/ adult, \$6/ children 6-12, children 5 and under free; maximum cost per family \$50. Please RVSP to **Julia Coss** in the PJC Office. No cost to Learning Center families with children in grades Bet-Vav, but please still RVSP.

We hope to see you Friday evening, January 26th!

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## Making Shabbos - Havdallah Set Making on January 28!

Havdallah literally means separation, and it is the brief service that marks the transition from Shabbat back into the rest of the week. It is a service that uses several unique and distinctive objects. We will be braiding our own Havdallah candles, and mixing our own spices. We will also learn the meaning behind these rituals and the way that they can be used.

Please RSVP to [Julia](#) so that we know quantities to purchase. Open to all--no cost to PJC members; \$5 materials fee for non-members.



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**Open Book Program**

The Pelham Jewish Center

# The Pelham Jewish Center

## OPEN BOOK

### Torah Service

**12/16**

**1/6**

**2/3**

### The Amidah

**3/10**

**3/24**

**4/14**

Have you ever felt lost during Shabbat morning services?

Do you wish that you understood them better?

Come learn the intention of the prayers,

the meaning of the words, and the choreography of the service.

Saturday mornings at 10:30 in the Library

(During Junior Congregation)

**451 Esplanade**

[www.thepjc.org](http://www.thepjc.org)

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## Westchester Jewish Council Gala



Westchester  
Jewish  
Council

# 42nd Anniversary Gala

Saturday  
February 10th  
2018

The Westchester Jewish Council's Gala is coming up on Saturday evening, February 10th, beginning at 7:15pm at Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains.

The 42nd annual Gala, a key Jewish community building event, will be honoring our very own Gary Trachten for the important work and long-time devotion he has shown to the Council. The evening will also feature a catered cocktail dinner, comedian Avi Liberman, and the opportunity to connect with the wider Westchester Jewish network.

You can [register now](#) -- direct any questions to Donna Bartell at 914-328-7001.

## Mishloach Manot Fundraiser for Purim

### Purim: The First Jewish Gift-Giving Holiday

A little over a month from now, on February 28, we at the Pelham Jewish Center will be celebrating Purim. We will dress up in costumes, stomp and shake our groggers at the name of Haman as we hear the megillah read out loud and enjoy the story of how Queen Esther saved the Jews long ago. We will also continue the traditions of our original gift-giving Jewish holiday!

One of Purim's loveliest traditions is the sending of a small gift of food to family & friends. Each year, PJC volunteers create & deliver special gift bags to our members, staff, and college students filled with symbols of Purim -- sweets & hamantashen. Just as in all Jewish communities around the world, little baskets, plates, and bags are filled with at least two different types of food that are ready to eat, including delicious hamantashen, the triangle shaped cookies

Join in the fun and send a *Mishloach Manot* basket to the whole "Megillah" (the entire PJC community), for \$180. Your name and holiday greeting will be added to the card included with each gift. Everyone is encouraged to participate and donate at any level (multiples of 18 or "chai" are common) as we celebrate *Am Yisrael Chai*, that the people Israel still live on through all the challenges over these 1000's of years. This is a very important PJC fundraiser and even better, it's actually fun!

### Easy Hamentashen Ingredients

1 1/2 eggs  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
3/8 cup vegetable oil  
1 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 cup orange juice  
2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 cup fruit preserves, any flavor

### Directions

hamantaschen, the triangle shaped cookies that are also called Ozne Haman- the ears of Haman. These gifts are left on doorsteps with notes and poems and handed out to friends and family.

Some families and synagogues have themes for their packages, choosing a new theme each year. An important part of the tradition is to send the gifts through a third person, usually a child. The word *mishloach* is related to the word for messenger, *shaliach*. An important part of the tradition is to send the gifts through a third person, usually a child. The word *mishloach* is related to the word for messenger, *shaliach*. My kids grew up handing out Purim bags to friends and at synagogue during the Megilla reading. But that was in sunny Florida! The first year we were members my kids and I drove in a snowstorm to knock on doors and give these Purim surprises to members in Pelham. They loved it, and we realized that we have PJC neighbors sprinkled all around us and even near our dog park in New Rochelle. Cool! It would be so great if each family delivered one bag to a PJC neighbor. It really is a great way to truly connect.

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.  
Grease cookie sheets.

In a large bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in the oil, vanilla and orange juice.

Combine the flour and baking powder. Stir into the batter to form a stiff dough. If dough is not stiff enough to roll out, stir in more flour.

On a lightly floured surface, roll dough out to 1/4 inch in thickness. Cut into circles using a cookie cutter or the rim of a drinking glass.

Place cookies 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of preserves into the center of each one. Pinch the edges to form three corners.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until lightly browned. Makes 24.

<http://www.cdkitchen.com/recipes/recs/32/Easy-Hamantaschen129889.shtml>

**Sign up** to sponsor a Mishloach Manot gift by February 21, 2018.

Please contact **Marjut Herzog** with any questions about participating, helping to pick a theme and goodies, packing or delivering.

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## Library News



Seven exciting new books are coming to the PJC Library! Drop by sometime soon and take a look ...

#### Philosophy:

The Death of Death by Rabbi Neil Gillman  
Sacred Fragments by Rabbi Neil Gillman

#### Adult Fiction:

The Ruined House by Ruby Namdar

#### Young Adult Non-Fiction:

Marx, Freud, and Einstein by Corinne Maier & Anne Simon  
Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel by Francine Klagsbrun

#### Children:

A Concert in the Sand by Tami Shem Tov & Rachella Sendbark

#### Cookbook:

King Solomon's Table by Joan Nathan

## 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!

- Much *Mazel* to Melanie & David Samuels on the birth of their new granddaughter, Cayla Anne, born December 20th, to their daughter & son-in-law, Sarah & David Zalcmann, and proud big brothers, Owen and Joseph!
- *Mazel Tov* to David & Gabrielle Sasson in honor of their daughter Adina's *Bat Mitzvah* on December 23rd.

## Tributes & Donations



### Donations to the PJC from ...

- Adam & Maria Abeshouse, in memory of Jack Abeshouse, new *Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays* siddurim
- Evelyn Abeshouse, in memory of Jack Abeshouse, new *Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays* siddurim
- Anne Field, in support of the General Fund

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

- Helen Stephenson

**[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!

### The Pelham Jewish Center

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