



## Rabbi's Message



We are coming to the end of our first year together. With the celebration of *Shavuot* this month, I will have been here for a full cycle of holidays. It seems appropriate that this first year ends with *Shavuot*. *Shavuot* marks not only the giving of the *Torah* at Sinai, it also marks the completion of the counting of the *Omer*, a major milestone in the harvest calendar that governed the lives of our Israelite ancestors. *Shavuot* was essential in both contexts: as a theological moment of revelation, and also as a vital waypoint in the lived experience of our ancestors' daily lives. So, too, the *Torah* occupies a vital place in our lives today. We celebrate with the *Torah* at milestones, turning to it for guidance when we are lost. The *Torah* is also a daily companion, read every week in services, and studied in many contexts. It gives us guidance as we lead our daily lives.

On a recent Shabbat evening, we read in *Pirkei Avot* a saying of Rabbi Chananya ben Teradyon. He declares that whenever two people sit together and share words of *Torah*, the *Shekhinah*, the Presence of God, rests with them. Something powerful and

important happens when two people sit and truly listen to one another.

We have spent a great deal of time together over the past year. We have been together for services and meals, for classes and programs. I am starting to believe that I understand how the PJC operates, and what motivates people to commit themselves to this community. I have been with you in moments of celebration and moments of grief. I have also had the privilege of sitting with some of you individually over a meal, or a cup of coffee. It has been in those moments, when there is no event to plan, no issue to address, or question to answer, that I have had the opportunity to strengthen my relationships with you as individuals, and not only as members of the community.

This summer I am going to focus more of my attention on these moments. I will be reaching out to as many of you as I can, and inviting you out for a cup of coffee (my other goal is to learn all of the coffee shops in the area). I want to know each of you, and I want you to feel like you know me as well.

בשלום,

Rabbi Alex Salzberg

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## From the Desk of Our Education Director

*"Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth;  
on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul.  
The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else."* [A.J. Heschel](#) (1907-1972)



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Upcoming PJC  
Activities & Events

**June**

**11** -- Tot Shabbat/11am

**11** -- *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*/9:30pm

**12** -- Shavuot Services/9:30am

**13** -- Shavuot Services/9:30am

**16** -- Congregational Meeting/8pm

**25** -- Women's

**Quick Links**[Donate to the PJC](#)[Find us on the Web](#)[2016 Calendar](#)[2015-16 Board  
of Directors](#)

For the past four years, the Learning Center has celebrated in the spring a "Shabbat Mishpachah", (family Shabbat), where all LC students and parents join the main PJC service in the Sanctuary. Some may say - "Shabbat Mishpachah" is not once a year - it's every week! Or, as the Jewish poet and philosopher [Abba Kovner](#) (1918-1987) would say, "More than the Jews kept Shabbat, Shabbat kept the Jews".

Shabbat is a unique gift we received as Jews; by marking a special time at the end of the week, celebrating the sacred moment when G-d finished Creation, we too can leave the rushing of our daily life aside and embrace serenity, family, friends, having a designated personal moment to just be with G-d. From sundown on Friday to one hour after sundown on Saturday, we have the opportunity to place two special bookends and separate 25 magical hours, keeping this precious gift with us. And this happens every week, for every family, for everyone! How fortunate we are to have been presented with the opportunity to declare that we can just take "time off" and unplug once a week! And if we think deeper about the impact of such an idea, I wonder if this might have been one of the secret sources of Jewish survival: the fact that we managed to remain sane and safe by embracing spirituality and putting aside our materialistic lives once a week. Just so clever.

So yes, *Shabbat Mishpachah* is not an LC brand. It's ours. It has been ours for millennia. What we try to do at the LC is to encourage all to have a taste of it. And guess what? The most common response after our Shabbat Mishpachah has been: "Why don't we do this more often during the year?"

We learned our lesson. In the upcoming 2016-2017 year, starting next fall, the LC will have three sessions of "*Shabbat Mishpachah*": one in fall, one in winter and one in spring. Our goal in increasing the frequency is to allow for all families to feel comfortable in the main Shabbat service in the Sanctuary. We observed that families were extremely happy and honored to partake in the Shabbat service, and took active roles leading prayers and blessings. Our students were proud to see themselves and their parents involved in the service, and it was beautiful to see how children sat next to parents and followed the prayers in their Siddur. We are also hoping to offer more learning opportunities for those who would like to have a "crash course" on how our Shabbat service came to be this way, as well as the meaning behind the structure and the content of individual prayers.

The cherry on top is to see the weaving of relationships that start off around the Shabbat Kiddush table and are followed by mutual invitations for meals or play dates at each other's homes. This is how we see the idea of "how Shabbat kept the Jews" in practice - not only individually or as families, but also as a community. The recurring encounters around our Kiddush table (thank you Leah Leonard for coordinating this important *mitzvah*) allow us to share the good and bad moments in our life with others, offering support, thus accompanying the life cycle of the families in our community through these weekly sacred moments that G-d masterfully designed for our people.

So our goal for next year for our Learning Center families is "Occupy Shabbat"! Grab the beauty that the gift of Shabbat can bring to each one of us, to our families and our community, and make the most of it.

We at the Learning Center hope to do our best to help families integrate content and skills, so all feel comfortable and not overwhelmed by what at times may seem foreign and confusing. If we can just agree to take on this gift and let ourselves enjoy its beauty together, the rest will come. As Abraham Joshua Heschel says, "*The Jewish contribution to the idea of love is the conception of love of the Sabbath, the love of a day, of spirit in the form of time.*"

Or, as I would say, if we embrace and love Shabbat, Shabbat will embrace and love us. Wishing us many peaceful and joyful Shabbatot together,

## Ana Turkienicz

Education Director





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## President's Message



As the year winds down, we have much to be grateful for. The PJC has thrived during an important transitional moment. We have been blessed to welcome Rabbi Salzberg into our community. His steady grace, gentle warmth, and sweet sense of humor deepen our connections as we learn and share Torah with and from him. We end the year with strong, steady membership that continues to celebrate together, to mourn together, to study together, to care for and about each other.

We are imperfect and I apologize for my imperfections. We aspire to so much and we sometimes fall short. I have not accomplished all I hoped to this year, and I wish I could have done better. But despite those shortcomings, I remain continually impressed and humbled by how many people devote so much time to the success of our humble *shtiebl*.

I particularly want to thank the Board of the PJC for their tireless efforts. I cannot adequately express my gratitude or admiration, so instead will end with a poem by Marge Piercy that captures my admiration:

### To Be of Use

The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,  
the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.

With admiration and gratitude.

B'shalom,

Steve

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# Pelham Interfaith Council Adopts Mission Statement



INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL

The Pelham Interfaith Council has adopted a new Mission Statement to promote mutual understanding, respect, appreciation and cooperation among people of faith in the Pelham area.

The Council will seek to carry out this Mission "by extending hospitality and the gift of listening, fostering community, offering educational opportunities, providing moral leadership, sharing in service, serving Pelham's youth, and working for justice." One example of carrying out its mission is sponsorship of an annual Thanksgiving service in which clergy and laity of all the houses of worship participate. The Council will also work with the Town of Pelham on this year's 9/11 Remembrance Event and is seeking opportunities to sponsor educational meetings on interfaith topics.

The Council represents each of the houses of worship in Pelham and is open to people of all faiths in the Pelham area. As part of its Mission Statement, the Council adopted a section on Vision & Values as follows:

The Pelham Interfaith Council is committed to:

- Promoting mutual understanding, appreciation, and respect among Pelham's diverse religions and cultures;
- Providing opportunities for conversation, partnership, education, hospitality and celebration among its members;
- Respecting each other's religious observances and, where appropriate, sharing together in common prayer;
- Sponsoring an annual Thanksgiving service in Pelham;
- Pursuing common goals that build unity among people of faith in communities we serve;
- Providing moral leadership on mutually agreed-upon issues;
- Providing and advocating for poor, hungry, homeless and other marginalized people;
- Fostering peace, compassion, kindness, openness and trust; and
- Encouraging the communities we serve to embrace these values.

Co-chairs of the Pelham Interfaith Council are Leah Leonard (Pelham Jewish Center) and Bob Tracy (OLPH-St.Catharine's). Current members of the Council are:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help-St .Catharine's (Catholic)

Rev. Robert DeJulio, Rev. Trevor Nicholls, Jeannine Foxx, Maggie Klein, Bob Tracy, John Catalano & Josephine Catalano

Community Church of the Pelhams (United Church of Christ)

Rev. Noel D. Vanek, Yvette Wynn & Rhonda Morgan

Seventh Day Adventist Church (at CCP)

Adina Paul

Huguenot Memorial Church (Presbyterian)

Rev. Krystin Granberg, Rev. Jacob Bolton -- Associate Pastor, Kathy Jones -- Director of Music Ministries, Peggy Bam & Bill Hoare

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Rev. Matthew H. Mead, Jeffrey Hoffman -- Organist & Choirmaster, Alice K. Dean, Deacon Katie Lawrence & Mildred Johnson

Assemblies of God (at Christ Church)

The Pelham Jewish Center

Rabbi Alex J. Salzberg & Leah Leonard

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## Membership Meeting Announced

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Meeting of our membership will be held on Thursday, June 16, at 8:00 p.m. at the PJC. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend in person, if you can. The official announcement, proxy and budget documents were mailed to all members on June 1.

**The Nominating Committee is recommending the following slate of candidates for consideration at the Annual Meeting:**

**Officers (one-year terms): President - Darren Lee; Executive Vice President - Michelle Dvorkin; Treasurer - Theodor Brown; Secretary - Mark Levine**

**General Board Members (three-year terms): David Radvany; Andrew Stettner; Michael Weissman**

To access the official documents for the Annual Meeting, [click here](#).

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## High Holiday Mahzorim

The PJC is pleased to announce the purchase of new *Mahzorim* for the High



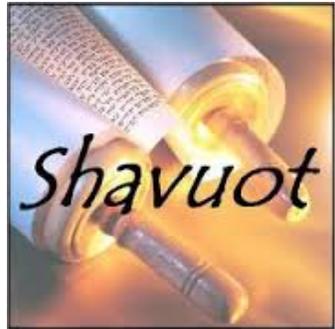
Holidays: *Mahzor Lev Shalem!* You may purchase a dedicatory **book plate** for a new *Mahzor* for \$54.00 each.

These **book plates** may be donated in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to recognize a special occasion. Acknowledgements will be sent to all recipients of a dedicated *Mahzor*.

To place an order for a dedicatory **book plate**, please click [here](#).

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## Shavuot at the PJC 5776



### Join us for *Chag Matan Torah* as we Celebrate Receiving the Torah!

#### Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> - *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*

8:00 pm - Seudah Shlishit [no charge for this traditional meal, but please RSVP to [Julia](#) so we know how many to expect]

9:30 pm - Havdalah, Candle lighting, short Ma'ariv

10:00 pm - Kiddush, Dessert, and Study Session

Among the various topics of learning planned for the *Tikkun* this year, we will include an introduction to the new PJC *Mahzor, Mahzor Lev Shalem*. We will discuss the unique layout of the page, and the ways that it is intended to facilitate the individual prayer experience. We will also look at the additions to this *Mahzor* in comparison to *Mahzor Hadash* (our current *Mahzor*).

#### Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> - Shavuot Day I

9:30 am - Shacharit, Torah and Mussaf Services

#### Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> - Shavuot Day II

9:30 am - Shacharit, Torah, Yizkor and Mussaf Services

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## Yasher Koach to Our PJC Education Director!



Ana Turkienicz, our Learning Center Education Director, will be spending three weeks in June-July volunteering as a Hebrew teacher, teaching the educators in the Cuban Jewish Community.

Wishing Ana a well-deserved *Yasher Koach* as being named one of the 2016-2017 winners of Rodeph Sholom School's Paul Druzinsky Teacher Enrichment Fund Award recipients!

The Paul Druzinsky Teacher Enrichment Fund helps RSS attract, retain and reward outstanding faculty by awarding two annual grants of up to \$7,500 each to selected faculty members for one-of-a-kind, transformative experiences related to their fields.

"I have been teaching Hebrew, Prayer and Torah for the last 10 years since I came to America, and I have been privileged to do so in a country where we have the freedom to access knowledge and technology to enrich our instruction and engage our learners. I have always been interested in learning about Jewish Communities who manage to keep their Judaism alive and survive as a community against all odds," Ana Turkienicz says about her upcoming trip to Cuba.

"I learned about the Jewish Community in Cuba many years ago, and about their struggle to survive as Jews and as a community. I am fascinated by their strength, and I believe as a Jewish Educator in

Jews and as a community. I am fascinated by their strength, and I believe as a Jewish Educator in America, I have much to learn from Jews who have struggled to keep alive the flame of Judaism in spite of all the restrictions and shortness of means, media and resources. I believe such an encounter can help me grow as a Jewish educator and as a human being, forcing me to explore beyond the limits of what we know today about Hebrew language instruction," Ana says.

Proud of Ana and this meaningful acknowledgement of her talent & vision!

Ana is accepting medical supplies & monetary donations for use during her trip until June 12th.

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## Membership Directory Update



The PJC is initiating a Membership Directory update. Please look for further information and details in our *Weekly Announcements*. We plan to send you a copy of the information we currently have in our database for your family, and have you return it to our Office Manager, Julia Coss, updated and complete.

Thanks in advance ... more details to follow soon!

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## The PJC Community Cemetery Program



The PJC Cemetery Committee would like to suggest that the time to learn about our project, and to consider making a purchase, is **now - no matter your age or situation**. Our cemetery area is at Mt. Eden in Hawthorne, NY, and the director - Steve Cipolla - is happy to discuss what is available, costs and how this works, as well as show you around. He can be reached at (914) 769-0603. The Cemetery Committee, chaired by [Jacqueline Schachter](#), would like to encourage members to speak with her about this program, as well.

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## Israel News Bits



### [Houzz Wins Google App Contest!](#)

Houzz, the popular home design app for Android and Apple devices, won "BestApp" in the first Google Play awards contest. Houzz was developed in Israel by Adi Tatarko and Alon Cohen. The app tracks design trends and solutions and includes millions of pictures categorized by room type, location and style.

### [500 Volunteers Seek to Save Dead Sea Artifacts](#)

The Dead Sea Scrolls are one of the most important archeological finds in the world. Discovered in the hard-to-reach Qumran caves in the the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, they contain the oldest Hebrew language copies of biblical texts, as well as other Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek writings from the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BCE to the 1<sup>st</sup> Century CE. Unfortunately, archeological looters from time to time plunder the caves. To save whatever might remain to be found, the Israel



Antiquities Authority, archeologists, researchers and 500 volunteers have determined to finish excavating the caves as the only way to protect against

future looting.

**Unemployment at New Low**

Israel's unemployment rate dropped to 4.9% in April, the lowest rate in 33 years. The rate in the 25-64 age bracket was even lower, at 4.4%. Approximately 193,000 people were unemployed, out of a work force of slightly more than 4 million people.

**Israeli Film Student Wins at Cannes!**

Or Sinai won first place in the category for student short films at the Cannes Film Festival. There were more than 2,350 entries from 277 film schools. Sinai graduated from the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem. Her film, *Anna*, is a story about a divorced mother in her thirties looking to be with a man.

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**PJC Library News**



There is a wealth of books on Jewish themes in our PJC Library. Drop in and take a look. Books are arranged by categories and marked by white labels. We have shelves on varied topics: ancient Israel, modern Israel, Holocaust studies and literature, Jewish history, Jewish literacy, Israeli writers, Jewish fiction, Jews & Christianity, biography, children's books, books for youth, *chumashim*, *talmudim*, *siddurim*, and Jews from other lands, to name a few.

Borrowing a book is easy. There is a pocket with a green card in the back of most books. Write your name and the date you take the book out on the card. Hand the card into the Office. Julia will periodically check to see how long books have been out. If a book is out more than a month, she will send you a gentle reminder. To return a book, place it in either of the two blue bins found in the Library and in the Office.

On the bottom ride side on the wall adjacent to the kitchen, below the Israel shelves, is an empty cabinet set aside to keep source books you may need for services. Please make use of it as needed.

Come to the PJC and READ!

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**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.

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**Tributes & Donations**



#### **Tributes to the PJC In Honor of ...**

- Sybil Rosenberg, by Helen & Jennie Driesen, with thanks
- Judy Shampnier & Mike Bowen, by Jennie Driesen, for their unflagging generosity and keen sense of humor
- Siri Wright, by Jennie & Jeremy Driesen, in honor of the completion of her conversion ~ Mazel Tov!
- Ana Turkienicz, by Melanie & David Samuels, in support of her upcoming trip to Cuba

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

- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO Ines DiGioia
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IMO David Erwich
- Hildy & Steve Martin, IHO Elaine & Marc Prager's granddaughter, Zoe Sasha Polsky

**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!**

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