

HAKOL

MARCH 2015

5775 ADAR/NISAN

THE PELHAM JEWISH CENTER

A Message from Rabbi Schuck



Dear Friends,

In his book *I and Thou*, Martin Buber describes the deep connections that human beings can create when we approach one another with an open spirit of true presence rather than a desire to benefit from the other. He called these I-Thou relationships.

For the last eleven years, I have done my best to approach every member of the PJC as an I-Thou relationship. I tried to remain open to genuine connection with each person in our community. This was not a membership outreach strategy or an attempt to serve the congregation through "relational Judaism." It grew out of my belief that each person on this planet has a spark of the Divine within him/her, and that this is worthy of our attention, curiosity and respect. As a result, I have grown extremely connected to so many people who reciprocated that openness. This connection runs deep, and it is comprised of moments in which we shared just about every emotion in the range of human experience. The mere contemplation of leaving this community of interconnected souls is itself extraordinarily difficult, but the sadness and loss that I feel pale in comparison to the gratitude and love that remains in the wake of these years. I glow when I think about that.

It is often tempting to emotionally protect ourselves by departing without saying goodbye. But in the long run, that only hurts more. So these next few months are an opportunity to engage in that process. I want to celebrate the beautiful and vibrant community that we have built together. I want to reassure you that your future is bright, and mostly, I want to hug you and say thank you.

For me, part of the process of saying goodbye is also taking responsibility for the moments in which I fell short. In 1957, Buber wrote the following words in the Afterword to his second edition (pp. 177-178):

...Is [the I-You relationship] not, like everything human, subject to the limitations of our inadequacy? ... Everything, from your own experience of looking day after day into the eyes of your "neighbor" who needs you after all but responds with the cold surprise of a

stranger, to the melancholy of the holy men who repeatedly offered the great gift in vain—everything tells you that complete mutuality does not inhere in men's life with one another. It is a form of grace for which one must always be prepared but on which one can never count.

Buber reminds us that our humanity limits us to perpetual imperfection. As I say goodbye to this community that I love so dearly I recoil at the thought that at times, I have been the neighbor who responded with the "cold surprise of a stranger." I find myself wondering about the times that I must have hurt people by not calling or visiting, by not listening as attentively as I could have, by not returning a smile, or by being dismissive, even in the smallest of ways.

How does a rabbi make up for such moments? Does the next smile restore the one withheld? I don't think so. I hope that over the next few months you will give me the opportunity to do *teshuvah* for the times that I may have hurt you. This is important to me.

Please accept this as an open invitation to set up a time to come to my study and begin the process of saying goodbye. Part of this process will be acknowledging our sadness, making amends when appropriate, and celebrating the grace of mutuality, the privilege of experiencing I-Thou relationships.

I am so grateful for the ways in which the PJC has nurtured me, supported and loved my children and Tali, and for the vast Torah that I learned from you over the past eleven years.

לשלום,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David A. Schuck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi David A. Schuck

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the challenging tasks of being president of a shul is creating an article each month for the newsletter. Before you turn around, another month has gone by and another article is due. When I began to write this month's edition, I suddenly realized eleven years with Rabbi Schuck had gone by and I only had a few more opportunities to put my thoughts into writing before we all move on to new phases in our lives. So I thought I would take presidential license and use my access to the Hakol to express some thoughts.

It's been a terrific 11 years. I'm not sure I have the words to do them justice.

I have had the privilege of being on the Board of Directors at the PJC for 7 of the years that Rabbi Schuck has been with us and for two of my years off the Board I was intimately involved in the strategic planning process. This was my first experience being on a shul board so I feel that, in a way, I've grown up in my synagogue life with Rabbi Schuck. He has been a teacher, mentor, friend and brother. When I look back on my Jewish life thus far, my thoughts will always and forever drift to Rabbi Schuck and the PJC.

When I think of Rabbi Schuck I think of warmth and love and compassion. My mind rushes to a good place. He makes me smile, happy, safe and secure. Whether I am sitting in his office talking about administrative challenges or sitting in the back row on Shabbat morning with my eyes closed trying to lose myself in the moment, he has always found a way to take me down a road that is inspiring, thoughtful and caring.

We have had our tussles; we have disagreed and argued and not seen eye to eye. Yet we have always had respect and Torah to guide and bind us. We have always embraced at the end of a contentious time. We have always grown from our time together. I know, without a doubt, that I am a better person today for having David Schuck in my life these past eleven years. For this, I want to say 'thank you' to him publicly and passionately.

And we know the strength of this man is buoyed by the wonderful and incredible Tali Aldouby Schuck. She, too, has been an important part of our lives at the Pelham Jewish Center and will forever be ingrained in our thoughts and memories if the past eleven years.

As President of the PJC and as just another congregant who has been lucky enough to participate in this wonderful time of our lives, I want to thank David and Tali for all that they have done for all of us and I want to wish them and Noam, Nadav and Ziv all the best of what life has to bring. I hope we can all remain a part of each other's lives as we go forward.

I am grateful for the many years we've shared together, and certain that I will always look back and see incredibly rich times of personal and institutional growth.

L'shalom,
Larry Cohen

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Abraham Joshua Heschel once said that "religion is the answer to ultimate questions". In his words, "the primary task of religious thinking is to rediscover the questions to which religion is an answer."

In the Learning Center, we strive to instill in our students both the awe that inspires one to make space for G-d in their lives as well as the ability to express and experience that relationship in many ways.

Recently, I have been blown away by the sincere expression of that kind of awe; in a conversation I was having with the LC students about planting trees in Tu Bishvat, I shared a personal story about Tu Bishvat in Israel during the First Gulf War in January 1991. I told the students that at that time I was a Kindergarten teacher on a kibbutz, and had prepared new trees to be planted by the families on Tu Bishvat. However, when the war broke out, people were apprehensive about organizing an outdoor community planting, since this could be dangerous. At that point, I stopped my narrative, and asked the LC students what do they think we should do: go out and plant the trees or stay at home for safety reasons. Many students offered solutions; none suggested staying home as an option. Among their answers, two of our fifth graders blew me away:

One student said: "you should plant because that was the first mitzvah given to the Jews before they entered the land of Israel"

Another student said: "you should plant because that would mean you have hope that Israel would win the war."

As I tried to hide the tears that were about to come rolling down my eyes, I realized that at that moment, as we learned about the religious traditions of Tu Bishvat, our LC students were able to connect their minds and souls across time and place with the families of my Kindergarteners in Israel, 24 years ago. And in some sense, by doing that, they were also connected to the Biblical Israelites who were about to enter the Holy Land.

Their answers were inspired both by knowledge and awe; a mix of their understanding of tradition and the sincere belief that they have some esoteric meaning that surpasses place and time.

Just for the record: in the end, on that Tu Bishvat 24 years ago, we decided to go on and plant our young pomegranate, almond, fig, olive and date trees, five of the Seven Species, right around our Kindergarten building in our Kibbutz, for the same reasons our PJC students found as binding and logical. By doing so, that group of families were allowing for Jewish life in Israel to be perpetuated through the powerful connection between nature, G-d and men. Just another small Jewish community in one of many times of distress finding meaning and promise of continuity in sticking with traditions.

Meanwhile, I have visited the place where the trees were planted. They are tall, and bear shade, fruit and are great climbing and hide-and-seek spots for the current kibbutz children. And Saddam Hussein... oh, well... we all know where he ended up...

Moreover, we should be proud of our LC students, and of course, our teachers too. If our students were able to come with the suggestions they shared with me on this truly challenging question, it means in their classes they are being offered the opportunity to reflect and debate on critical questions and come up with their own, based on their knowledge and spiritual connection with G-d.

Truly, after all, this is what will allow them to develop their own Jewish sense of self and community. And returning to A.J. Heschel's point, isn't this what Religion is all about?

Ana Turkienicz, Education Director



Sunday Morning Lecture Series With Gloria Horowitz

10:00 a.m.

March 22 - The Literature of Israel

April 26 - The Literature of Jerusalem

PJC Women's Group
March 28th at 1pm
Please join us!

RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We will be welcoming four rabbis to interview over the upcoming Shabbatot, and hope that you and your family will participate to the greatest extent possible. We would like feedback on the candidates from as many congregants as possible, so that the many voices that make up our community will help to inform a selection process that best reflects the 'right fit' for us.

Please keep in mind that we are looking to identify the candidate that will have the vision to lead us - not only in this moment of transition, but in the years to come, and ask that you keep an open mind and heart as we, together, consider our future. Finally, these weekends are not only for us to get a sense of the candidates, but also for them to get to know us as well. Not only to know us, but to fall in love with our community. Ultimately, at the end of this process, we want the person we select to want us too! We need your help to showcase and bring forth the spirit and beauty that IS the Pelham Jewish Center!

Here is the schedule for the coming weeks. We hope that you and your family will be able to spend some time with each of the four candidates, who are slated as follows:

Rabbi Eric Rosin, Feb 27-28

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, March 6-7

Rabbi Alex Salzberg, March 13-14

Rabbi Adir Glick, March 20-21

Several of these candidates are graduating rabbinical students, about to receive ordination. Many will recall that our beloved Rabbi Schuck was also newly ordained when we hired him, 11 years ago.

Each weekend, the interviewing Rabbi will lead Friday night and Saturday morning services, and teach words of Torah (sermon). There will be a community dinner each Friday night at the PJC. All are welcome, and encouraged to attend as many of the services, meals and teachings as possible so that you can assess the fit of each candidate for our community.

Each week we will send out detailed information about the visiting Rabbi, and the schedule of events for that weekend.

We ask that you RSVP for all of the Friday night community dinners (no charge), as soon as possible, so that those who have volunteered to cook have sufficient notice to plan beautiful dinners.

In spite of the sadness we feel in saying goodbye to Rabbi Schuck, we turn to face the future with curiosity and excitement as we consider the many opportunities before us for continued change and growth. Together we will create a meaningful future.

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MARCH 8, 2-4PM



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(914) 738-6008

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Kiddush Korner

Our PJC Kiddush represents a wonderful conclusion to the meaningful Saturday morning Shabbat service. It is a time to connect with fellow congregants, welcome new members & guests, and include our children in the weekly traditions. The weekly Kiddush is a special way to celebrate a *simcha*--birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations are just a few occasions to acknowledge. It is also customary to observe a *yahrzeit* by sponsoring a Kiddush in memory of a loved one.

Sponsorship is simple—we do it all, from menu planning to set-up and clean-up. Kiddush package options start at just \$200. Please contact PJC Kiddush Coordinator Leah Leonard at lleonard@optonline.net to reserve an upcoming spring 2015 Kiddush date now. Thank you for helping to maintain a special PJC tradition!

Available Kiddush Dates:

April 4
May 16, 23, 30
June 6, 13

The PJC thanks the following congregants for hosting a Kiddush last month:

February 7	Dan Mailick & Lydia Read in memory of the first Yahrzeit of Lydia's mother, Ardis Read
February 14	Ellie Einzig in memory of the Yahrzeit of her mother, Charlotte Zipser
February 21	David Haft & Jacqueline Schachter in honor of Jacqueline's birthday
February 28	Iris Kasten in honor of her 65 th birthday and in recognition of the dedicated rabbinic search committee

SOUP KITCHEN

Thank you to the Collens, Driesen, Glickman-Korenstein, Goldenberg, Levine, Radvany, Rubock-Hersh, Singer and Yelsey families for providing a hearty and healthy dinner to the Soup Kitchen on February 3rd, 2015. Special thanks to Jacqueline Schachter and David Haft for making two food donations last month.

The PJC will be cooking and serving for the Community Services Associates Soup Kitchen next on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015.

The menu for March 3rd is as follows (enough for 10 people):

- Value pack of raw chicken boneless breast
- One box of instant mashed potatoes
- Salad
- Brownies

If you would like to participate:

- ◆ Contact Adam Lauzar at home 654-9486, cell phone 914-419-1252 or email at adamnkate86@gmail.com
- ◆ Cook or purchase the menu items for 10 adults
- ◆ Drop the food off at Adam's house (81 Vaughn Avenue, New Rochelle, 10801) as early as Sunday, March 1st, and no later than NOON on Tuesday, March 3rd.
- ◆ If you would like to serve at the Soup Kitchen, let Adam know and be there at 4:50pm on Tuesday, March 3rd. The address is 115 Sharpe Boulevard, Mt. Vernon, NY (Sanford to Fifth Avenue; right on Fifth. Church is at the corner of Fifth and Sharpe).

Please note that the Learning Center's Hei class will be serving in the soup kitchen one final time in May, 2015.

The Pelham Jewish Center Remembers ... March Yahrzeits

- | | |
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| <p>3/1 Harry Barback, father of Spencer Barback
William Hyman Klein, father of Rhonda Singer
Dora Minkin Pine, mother of Richard Pine
Richard Weisman, son of Harold & Sally Weisman</p> <p>3/3 Beatrice Kelber, mother of Hildy Martin</p> <p>3/4 Leon Evan, father of Frederica Sigel
Klara Nenner, grandmother of Jacqueline Hopper</p> <p>3/7 Abraham Covell, founding member of Pelham Jewish Center
Jacqueline Obstgarten, grandmother of Shayna Klopott</p> <p>3/8 Gloria Penrose, mother of Diane Cohen</p> <p>3/9 Hyman Serebransky, father of Joel Serebransky
Pauline Stampfer, mother of Morris Stampfer</p> <p>3/10 Birdie Forer, grandmother of Jill Goldenberg
Helene Kushnick, mother of Daniel Kushnick
Ruth Patt Silverman, mother of Doris-Patt Smith</p> | <p>3/11 Ella Lenney, mother-in-law of Leah Lenney</p> <p>3/15 Samuel Cohen, father of Larry Cohen</p> <p>3/16 Joseph Schwartz, father of Doreen Jacobs</p> <p>3/17 Dina Kromberg, friend of Meryl Druckerman
Aaron Perkis, father of Daniel Perkis</p> <p>3/19 Rabbi Theodore Stampfer, father of Morris Stampfer</p> <p>3/20 Anne Turok, sister of Leonard Cooper</p> <p>3/22 Emma Kamins, mother of Vivian Brown</p> <p>3/23 David Levine, brother of Mark Levine</p> <p>3/24 Shelley Ehrlich, mother of Amy Ehrlich</p> <p>3/26 Henry Jaffe, father of Marshall Jaffe</p> <p>3/28 Felicia Brewer, friend of Pelham Jewish Center</p> <p>3/29 Joseph Field, father of Anne Field</p> <p>3/30 Charlotte Binger, mother of Leah Lenney
Marion Spinner, mother of Annie Borofsky</p> <p>3/31 Joe Olensky, father of Evelyn Trachten</p> |
|--|--|

Tributes Made to The PJC In Honor of ...

Make tributes online ... go to www.thepjc.org and click **DONATE** in the top right corner!

- Ted & Vivian Brown, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz
- Ted & Vivian Brown, in memory of Marshall Jaffe's mother Ruth Jaffe
- Steve & Hildy Martin, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz
- Steve & Hildy Martin, in memory of Marshall Jaffe's mother Ruth Jaffe
- Sandra & Bob Goldman, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz
- Sandra & Bob Goldman, in honor of Marshall Jaffe's mother Ruth Jaffe
- Dan Mailick & Lydia Read, in memory of Lydia's mother Ardis Read
- Mindell & Stanley Patchen, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz
- The Ryan Family, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz

Tributes Made to The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Meryl & Marty Druckerman, in gratitude of Dr. John Leonard, for his guidance and attention while Marty was in the hospital, condolences to the Jaffe family on the death of Marshall's mother, Mazel Tov to Gloria & Sheldon Horowitz on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, and THANK YOU to all of their PJC family members for the well wishes sent to Marty for a speedy recovery.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AdarI 10 1	AdarI 11 2	AdarI 12 3 LC Purim Celebration 4:00pm Soup Kitchen 4:50pm	AdarI 13 4 Purim Ma'ariv Services, Kid's Costume Parade, followed by Megillah Reading 6:45pm	AdarI 14 5	AdarI 15 6 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30pm	AdarI 16 7 Shabbat Services 9:30am Junior Congregation 10:30am Torah Time 11:00am
AdarI 17 8 PJC Purim Carnival 2:00pm to 4:00pm	AdarI 18 9	AdarI 19 10 Hassidut with Rabbi Schuck 4:00pm Hassidut with Rabbi Schuck 7:30pm	AdarI 20 11 Board Meeting 8:00pm	AdarI 21 12 Intro to Talmud with Zach Sitkin 7:30pm	AdarI 22 13 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30pm	AdarI 23 14 Shabbat Services 9:30am
AdarI 24 15	AdarI 25 16	AdarI 26 17 Hassidut with Rabbi Schuck 4:00pm Hassidut with Rabbi Schuck 7:30pm	AdarI 27 18	AdarI 28 19	AdarI 29 20 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30pm Community Shabbat Dinner 7:00pm	Nisan 1 21 Shabbat Services 9:30am
Nisan 2 22 Sunday Morning Lecture with Gloria Horowitz - The Literature of Israel 10:00am	Nisan 3 23	Nisan 4 24 Hassidut with Rabbi Schuck 4:00pm Hassidut with Rabbi Schuck 7:30pm	Nisan 5 25	Nisan 6 26	Nisan 7 27 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30pm	Nisan 8 28 Birthday Shabbat Shabbat Services 9:30am Junior Congregation 10:30am Torah Time 11:00am Women's Group 1:00pm
Nisan 9 29	Nisan 10 30	Nisan 11 31	Nisan 12 1	Nisan 13 2	Nisan 14 3	Nisan 15 4

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