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VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 8

WWW.SHALOMPCS.COM

APRIL 2017

Special features in this issue:

- [Passover FAQs](#)
 - [Rabbi Julie's Top Seder Ideas!](#) (including [Rabbi Julie's Best Seder Ideas for YOUNG Kids](#))
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The Rabbi's Column:

How Do We Bridge Our Divides?

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan



My first Yom Kippur at PCS I gave a sermon about "The Jewish Way to Disagree" (the full sermon is available on our website: <http://www.shalompcs.com/our-rabbi.html>). In recent months, that topic has seemed more relevant than ever, so I would like to recall some of the Torah that I shared that day and how it might apply to our developing circumstances.

Jewish tradition, as embodied in the magnum opus of the Sages, the Babylonian Talmud, emphasizes that arguments can be healthy. As Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson points out, there are 5,000 arguments in Talmud, but only fifty are resolved. My Talmud teacher, Rabbi Daniel Siegel (not to be confused with our recent scholar-in-residence, Mitzvah Man Danny Siegel), has pointed

out that virtually every page of the 2,711 pages in the Talmud is full of disagreements among the Sages. But the object of these disagreements is not to win the argument, but rather to refine the questions, reveal the divine will and help us to live better lives.

The Talmud tells us that both the school of Hillel and the school of Shammai taught "the words of the living God." These two schools engaged in the highest kind of a dispute, "for the sake of heaven," undertaken for the good of the community and in a spirit of respect. But Hillel's views were usually followed, not because they were more correct but because they were kind, modest, studied what the other side had to teach, and even mentioned their rulings first.

Our contentious political process has brought out a lot of disagreements that are not always respectful. Even when I read social media posts by people I *agree* with, I am often disappointed because people use crass language, engage in ad hominem attacks or pass along information without knowing or considering the source or stopping to check if it's accurate. We can see the errors of the "other" side but often ignore parallel faults in those with whom we agree. The challenge is to speak up and to act for our values, principles and goals without vilifying those with different opinions. And of course, to be able to listen to others with respect, as the main watchword of our faith is "*Shema Yisrael...Listen, Israel.*"

Another common hazard of our times is jumping to conclusions. In the age of social media, there is pressure to formulate and share opinions even before facts are known. The recent arrest of an Israeli teen (with dual American citizenship) for allegedly making most of the threatening calls to JCC's over past weeks has been both a relief and a distress. It's quite upsetting to think that a Jew would do such things to other Jews, and the added layer is that future acts of anti-Semitism may be discounted.

But before the arrest, not a few Jewish leaders made the assumption that these threats were perpetrated by right-wing extremists emboldened by the recent elections. Although I personally did not speculate who was behind the JCC threats, I did sign and share a clergy statement against anti-Semitism and intolerance. Anti-Semitism and racism are real problems, and religious leaders should take a leading role in speak out against them. The place where the statement jumped to conclusions was this: "In the polarized atmosphere that now pervades our country, we are not surprised such threats have arrived in Westchester. It was only a matter of time." That assumed that the JCC threats emanated from our own country and were a result of our political polarization (and while neither political party was mentioned, it's understandable that some people read this statement as blaming theirs). So even when we speak out against intolerance and polarization, we have to be humble and careful lest we contribute to the very problem we are trying to solve!

In January I wrote about three models of Tikkun Olam: the prophet, the sage and the peacemaker. In the prophet mode, the main objective is to speak up for justice, and seeing other points of view is less important. As Jews, we know that silence in the face of oppression is sinful and, as Elie Weisel pointed out, can only embolden the oppressor. In the sage and peacemaker paradigms, it is equally important to hear and honor different points of views. It's difficult but important to strive for the right balance of these approaches, and sometimes we are bound to err. But we can certainly start by judging with caution, refraining from name-calling and checking the source and reliability of information before we share.

Explore More on the Subject of Bridging Divide

The 9th of Adar Project (<http://www.9adar.org/>) is sponsored by Pardes Institute in Jerusalem with the aim of encouraging us to disagree "for the sake of heaven," to know the power of our words and to put a priority on listening to different points of view. They encourage us to "break the echo chamber" by reading media and opinions from different points of view:

<http://www.9adar.org/breaktheechochamber/>.

We need more dialogue and interaction among Americans of different viewpoints and walks of life. Listen to AJC Radio with Scott Richman interviewing Pastor Carl Sherman of the Dallas, Texas, area, and Rabbi Gordon Tucker of White Plains as they embark on a bridge-building dialogue, using religion as a basis for healing: <https://soundcloud.com/scott-richman-2/ajc-live-building-bridges-of-understanding-across-the-nation>.

Finally, don't just take my word for it. Here are what some other rabbis of different denominations say about this timely issue of disagreeing in a civil way:

<https://www.momentmag.com/ask-rabbis-balance-civility-disapproval-others-politics/>



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Galit Sperling, Principal

The festive holiday of Purim was great fun at PCS this year! Our Hebrew School students dressed up in costume, participated in the Megillah reading and enjoyed the eem Purim play, written by Shira Danan. Hamantaschen and pizza were enjoyed by all, and

mishloach manot (traditional gift baskets) were put together and generously given to friends.

In the three short weeks between Purim and Passover, our students busily prepared for their upcoming Model Passover Seders on April 2 (first through fourth grades) and April 6 (fifth through seventh grades). In addition to holidays and mitzvot, they are also continuing their learning in Hebrew reading and comprehension, Jewish and Israeli history, the Torah portion, and Shabbat service prayers and blessings. Kitah Hey (fifth grade) class will lead the congregation on April 1 in the Saturday morning service, and Kitah Aleph-Gimmel (first through third grade) class in the Friday evening service on April 28.

A fun event for Hebrew School, as well as prospective Hebrew School families, is coming up on Sunday, May 21 -- Hebrew School Open House & Ice Cream Party! Please spread the word to friends and neighbors who may be interested in joining PCS and experiencing our wonderful Hebrew School!

Upcoming Hebrew School Dates:

Saturday, April 1: Kitah Hey (fifth grade) Shabbaton

Sunday, April 2: Model Passover Seder for Kitahs Aleph - Daled (first through fourth grades) and parents

Thursday, April 6: Model Passover Seder for Kitahs Hey - B'nei Mitzvah (fifth through seventh grades) and parents

Sunday, April 9: Sunday, April 16: No Hebrew School Classes (Passover)

Tuesday, April 25: Holocaust Remembrance Day Congregational Ceremony

Friday evening, April 28: Kitah Aleph - Gimmel (first through third grade) Shabbaton

Naomi Gordin's Mitzvah Project

My service project connects to the second half of my parshah, the kosher laws. I bought food that is kosher for Passover and contributed to the PCS Passover food drive. Then I packaged the food into household portions to be distributed through Project Ezra. I then participated in the DOROT Passover package delivery and assembled a package to be delivered to an older adult. When I delivered the package, I was able to visit with the senior and hear their experiences.



A PCS Purim

On Sunday, March 12, many members of the PCS community came out to read the Megillah and to hear it read, to applaud our teens in a hilarious Purim play by that famous humor writer Shira Danan, to eat pizza and hamantaschen but mostly to have FUN, as you can see below.











Passover FAQs

Four Frequently Asked Questions on How to Observe Passover

1. What is Passover?

Passover or *Pesach* is a week-long biblical Festival of Freedom held every spring (eight (8) days in Conservative/Orthodox diaspora practice). The first and last day(s) of the festival are known as Yom Tov and are similar to Shabbat as days of rest. Passover begins with one or two Seders, meals with symbolic foods in which we retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Seder text is found in the Haggadah, of which there are countless versions, some downloadable! In 2017, the first night Seder is Monday, April 10, and the Second Seder is Tuesday, April 11.

2. Which foods are passed up during Passover?

On Passover, we abstain from eating *chametz* or leavened foods ("Ch" as in "Bach" or "Challah"). *Chametz* is simply defined as one of five grains: wheat, rye, barley, oats or spelt, once moistened and beginning to ferment. That means no regular bread, cakes, crackers, cereals, pasta, cookies, or even grain-based alcoholic drinks or vinegars during Passover. Traditional cooks came up with many ingenious substitutes to provide plenty of holiday delicacies. Many from Ashkenazic (Northern and Eastern European) background also abstain from corn, rice and legumes (*kitniyot*) during Passover, although these are not expressly forbidden, and in fact many are adopting the Sephardic practice today and including them.

3. How does one prepare for Passover?

Chametz should be removed from the home during the holiday. A thorough "spring cleaning" is the first step to removing stray crumbs. Traditionally observant Jews "kasher" the kitchen and use special holiday dishes. It is a memorable ritual to search for crumbs of *chametz* on the eve of the holiday and burn them in the morning (instructions can be found in most haggadahs). Since we should not even own *chametz* foods over Passover and may not be able to give them all away, it is also an old tradition to symbolically "sell" any remaining *chametz* for the duration of the festival.

To sell your chametz through PCS, contact Rabbi Danan, rabbi@shalompcs.com, and she will include you in the sale. The food should be sealed away in a closed area for the duration of the holiday.

4. Why is Matzah different from all other breads?

Matzah is made of flour mixed with water and cooked at a very high temperature within 18 minutes, before it can become leavened. It can be regular or whole wheat (higher fiber). Gluten-free matzah made with oats is now available for those who cannot consume gluten. Make sure that Matzah purchased says, "Kosher for Passover," because some varieties are made for year-round use and not for following holiday laws.



Rabbi Julie's Top Seder Ideas!

Get a **good Haggadah!** The best source for Haggadahs is

<http://www.haggadahsrus.com/>.

[My faves: *A Different Night*, *A Night to Remember* and *Joyous Haggadah* for young kids.]

You can make your own Haggadah with online tools: <http://www.haggadot.com/>.

Here are great easy "beginner" Haggadahs you can download and print:

<http://www.jewbelong.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/JewBelongHaggadah-1.pdf>

http://jewishfederation.org/images/uploads/holiday_images/39497.pdf

<http://www.barrylou.com/books/TellingTheStoryInside.pdf>

Invite each family or individual who comes to your seder to bring a Passover food to share AND to "produce" one part of the Seder ritual (a poem, leading a song, discussion, dramatics, etc.).

Rabbi Arthur Waskow's **Freedom plate**: Invite everyone to bring an object that reminds them of freedom. Share at a point during Seder; you can also invite to your seder someone with a freedom story.

During the "Karpas" (dipping the vegetable in salt water), serve a lot of vegetables and dips, even the salad, gefilte fish and hard-boiled eggs. That way people aren't feeling "starving," and you can relax and enjoy the Passover Story without rushing. No matzah until later!

Ask the Four Questions in as many languages as you can (see book at <http://www.haggadahsrus.com/>). ALSO, the Four Questions are just supposed to be ideas to get you started! Everyone should be asking questions and discussing throughout the Seder. Noam Zion suggests that you **give a (kosher for Passover) candy to every person who asks a good question!** "Hive mind" your answers together.

Rabbi Daniel Landes: Have the traditional foods ready and **everyone assembles their own Seder Plate** (for a vegetarian "shankbone," use a roasted red beet). Rabbi Lev Baesh: Put out other foods: fruits, nuts, vegetables. Let people **invent creative seder symbols** to add to the Seder plates (e.g., there is an orange for inclusiveness, olive for Mideast peace). Make different kinds of Haroset from around the world (can find online). Make a Miriam's (water) cup: <http://www.miriamscup.com/>.

Everyone helps to **fill Elijah's cup while sharing** something they are thankful for this year and something that they hope or pray for this year. We start our Seder this way.

Bring in **modern readings about contemporary human rights issues**, for example:

<http://www.rac.org/holiday-guides-passover>

<https://ajws.org/who-we-are/resources/holiday-resources/passover/global-justice-haggadah/>

Don't just read! Learn Real Seder songs: <http://www.sidduraudio.com/pesach.html>
plus Parody Songs:

<http://templealiyah.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Fun-Seder-Songs.pdf>

<http://www.templerodefshalom.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sedersongs2012-all.pdf>

Card Games for Passover: <http://www.thekitchensf.org/swag/seder-haggadah-game> (\$39)
or http://www.joyofstorytelling.com/products_passover.htm (\$20)



Rabbi Julie's Best Seder Ideas for YOUNG Kids:

Get the kids involved in cleaning and **making foods for the Seder** and the week of Passover. You can find many crafts and recipes by searching in Pinterest. You can even just make place cards, a seder plate with muffin papers glued to a plate, decorate pillow cases with fabric pens or decorate a cup for Elijah or Miriam. The night before the Seder, hide and search for chametz, and burn the chametz together (instructions in most Haggadahs).

For very young kids or Seder beginners, consider a short seder like this:

<https://www.30minut seder.com/>

Do the first part of the Seder (after the opening rituals but before dinner) while seated comfortably **in the living room**. If you want to be creative, you and the kids can drape it to look like a desert tent and kids can sit on cushions, etc.

Pile the kids' table (or make a play area) chock full of Passover story books, stickers, coloring books (if you color on holiday), appropriate toys, etc. These are readily available online or in Jewish gift shops. Some of our most popular have been: inflatable matzah ball, matzah balls you can juggle, sticker books, finger puppets of the four questions, small Egypt-themed toys. **Passover "Lingo" Bingo Game:**

<http://www.behrmanhouse.com/sites/default/files/posts/downloads/sederlingocards.pdf>

(Use small pieces of matzah for the markers, give prizes).

Besides hiding the afikoman, you can **hide cutouts of Passover symbols**, so that all the kids can find something. Or hide clues that lead the group to where the afikoman is, like a treasure hunt.

Have a **prize treasure chest** of dollar-store items so that there are ample treats for winning games, finding the afikoman, etc.

Provide some costumes and have **the kids create a skit** while you are reading the longer parts of the Haggadah, then come in to perform.

"**Plagues Bags**" You can buy these from Haggadahs-R-Us or just make your own by assembling plastic frogs, bugs, bubble wrap for "boils," Styrofoam hail, etc.

For kids with **special needs**, try the Gateways Haggadah:
<http://www.behrmanhouse.com/store/product-sku/929>

Hand in Hand - Learning to Live Together

"We are all tattooed in our cradles with the beliefs of our tribe; the record may seem superficial, but it is indelible."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

"You've got to be taught before it's too late/Before you are six or seven or eight/To hate all the people your relatives hate..."

- Oscar Hammerstein II

There is a plague sweeping the world today; it is the plague of unthinking prejudice, of hating the stranger and assigning to him our deepest fears. And we, as Jews, are not immune to its influence. For many of us, it is part of our heritage, the lessons we learned from our parents and loved ones. Lessons we learned very early on and which are imprinted deeply in our collective psyches. If we are to overcome this evil, if we are to emerge from the cocoon of tribalism, then we must create new ways first to learn together, and then to be together as neighbors and friends. I'm especially interested in one organization, Hand in Hand, that exists in six different locations throughout Israel and is working toward real inclusion.

Hand in Hand brings together thousands of Jews and Arabs in their schools and communities. They are dedicated to proving on a daily basis that Arabs and Jews can learn together and create together. They represent a way forward that is a model for us in the U.S. and communities around the world to open our minds and hearts to people we were taught to look on as enemies. The children in Hand in Hand schools learn in two languages, Hebrew and Arabic; they celebrate each other's holidays and they become models for others to follow. In many ways the children are teaching their parents who are attracted to the idea of integration but have never experienced it in such a close and intimate setting.

The Hand in Hand schools now have classes from Kindergarten through twelfth

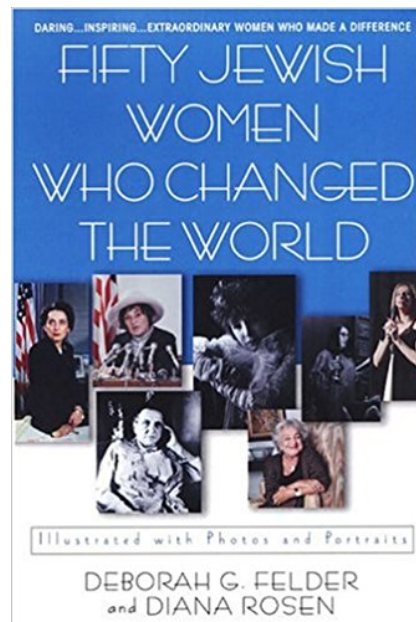
grade. Not all the children have the advantage of this deep immersion, but those that do report a new and enlightened way of seeing the world. For them, the idea of the other, the stranger, fades into the past as they move on to universities and adult work life. As more such schools are established, they will not only attract more students - there are hundreds presently waiting to enroll - they will have an impact on the entire educational community in Israel and eventually on the political community as well. To me they represent *hatikvah* - the hope.

--Peter Schaffer

From the PCS Bookworm... Eileen Jagoda

Fifty Jewish Women Who Changed the World

by Deborah G. Felder and Diana Rosen



This treasure trove of fabulous women quite fascinated the **Bookworm**. Here, we will highlight just three:

Golda Meir (1898-1978).

"I don't know what forms the practice of Judaism will assume in the future or how Jews, in Israel and elsewhere, will express their Jewishness 1000 years hence. But I do know that Israel is not just some small, beleaguered country in which 3,000,000 people are trying hard to survive; Israel is a Jewish state that has come into existence as the result of the longing, the faith and the determination of an ancient people."

That quote neatly sums up Golda's life. No one worked harder for the Jewish people than she

did. Her family emigrated to the US in 1906, settling in Milwaukee. She and her sisters helped their mother in the family's grocery store. A brilliant student, Golda finished high school in two years and then went on to teachers' college. Shortly after she began teaching, she became interested in politics and joined the Labor Zionist Party. After her marriage to Morris Meyerson, she persuaded him to immigrate to the then British-ruled Palestine.

In Tel Aviv, Golda began teaching English, and the rest is history. Beginning with a job with the Histadrut (Labor Federation), she rose in politics and state affairs until she became quite indispensable. However, the strain on their marriage and two children was more than Meyer could bear, and the couple separated. When David Ben-Gurion appointed her to be minister of foreign affairs, she felt quite fulfilled. She also served as Secretary of the Labor Party and of course eventually Prime Minister. We will all always admire and revere Golda Meir!

Bella Abzug (1920-1998)

Who among us does not instantly recognize Bella, she of the outrageous hats! Bella had a thoroughly normal Hebrew education growing up in the Bronx. She was an excellent student and became quite impassioned about the law. With her scholarship to Columbia Law School, she became the first woman to be editor of the Columbia Law Review.

Bella practiced law for 25 years specializing in civil rights, civil liberties, labor law and tenant rights. Her most famous case was her representation on appeal of Willie McGee, a black man charged with the rape of a white woman. Although she lost the case, it certainly put Bella on the front page! During the period of the HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee), she was one of only a handful of attorneys who fought against the committee's effort to blacklist people. She was also a founder of the Womens' Strike for Peace, which later became instrumental in the movement protesting the Vietnam War.

Bella enjoyed a long and happy marriage and had two children. Her most famous campaign quote is: "A woman's place is in the House - the House of Representatives!" Bella represented New York's 19th District in Congress from 1971-73.

Sarah Bernhardt 1844-1923

Sarah Bernhardt was one of France's greatest actresses. She endured many vile, anti-Semitic insults hurled at her during performances; even after her death, when the Germans occupied Paris during World War II, they desecrated a statue memorializing her. Sarah Bernhardt was the first theatrical superstar and, during her lifetime, she became a cultural icon.

Sarah Bernhardt was born Rosine Bernard. Her mother was a seamstress of Dutch descent and something of a courtesan. Surely Sarah's background as a great tragedienne had its roots in her colorful childhood! Her mother capitalized upon her charm, voice and good looks to attract wealthy patrons to her salon. Sarah was educated in convents because that was considered an advantage in catching a husband of high standing; remember, this was the 19th Century! During the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), Bernhardt refused to abandon besieged Paris and opened a hospital in the Odeon. She grew from strength to strength, and her successes earned her a return to the Comedie Française, where she had a very high standing.

Mark Twain once remarked about Ms. Bernhardt: "There are five kinds of actresses: bad actresses, fair actresses, good actresses, great actresses, and then there is Sarah Bernhardt!!" Sigmund Freud was reported to be wildly in love with her and kept her portrait in his office for years. A devoted French patriot, Sarah was a supporter of humanitarian causes and stood firmly against the 1894 conviction of the Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus, sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island for treason. There are many reasons why Sarah is called "the Divine Sarah."

Deborah G. Felder has worked as a writer, editor, and educator; her main interests in these areas have been children's literature and women's studies. She was formerly an editor at Scholastic Publishing Company and has taught courses in women's biography and twentieth-

century women's history.

Diana Rosen is the author of 13 books, a facilitator for freewrite classes, a coach and editor for other writers and a prolific contributor to various websites on food, beverage and lifestyle topics.

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In our May issue, **the PCS Bookworm**, Eileen Jagoda, will review *The Jews of Harlem* by Jeffrey S. Gurock.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue Invites you
to Celebrate the 80s at our Annual Fundraiser

80s

Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 7 pm



Captain Lawrence
Brewing Company
444 Saw Mill River Road,
Elmsford

Beer, Wine, Dinner
and Dancing
Live Music & Entertainment
by White Wedding!
Dress: 80s Chic*

* Prize for best dressed - Group
themes welcome!



**Please join us to have a GREAT time while
supporting PCS at our Annual Fundraiser Party on
April 29!**

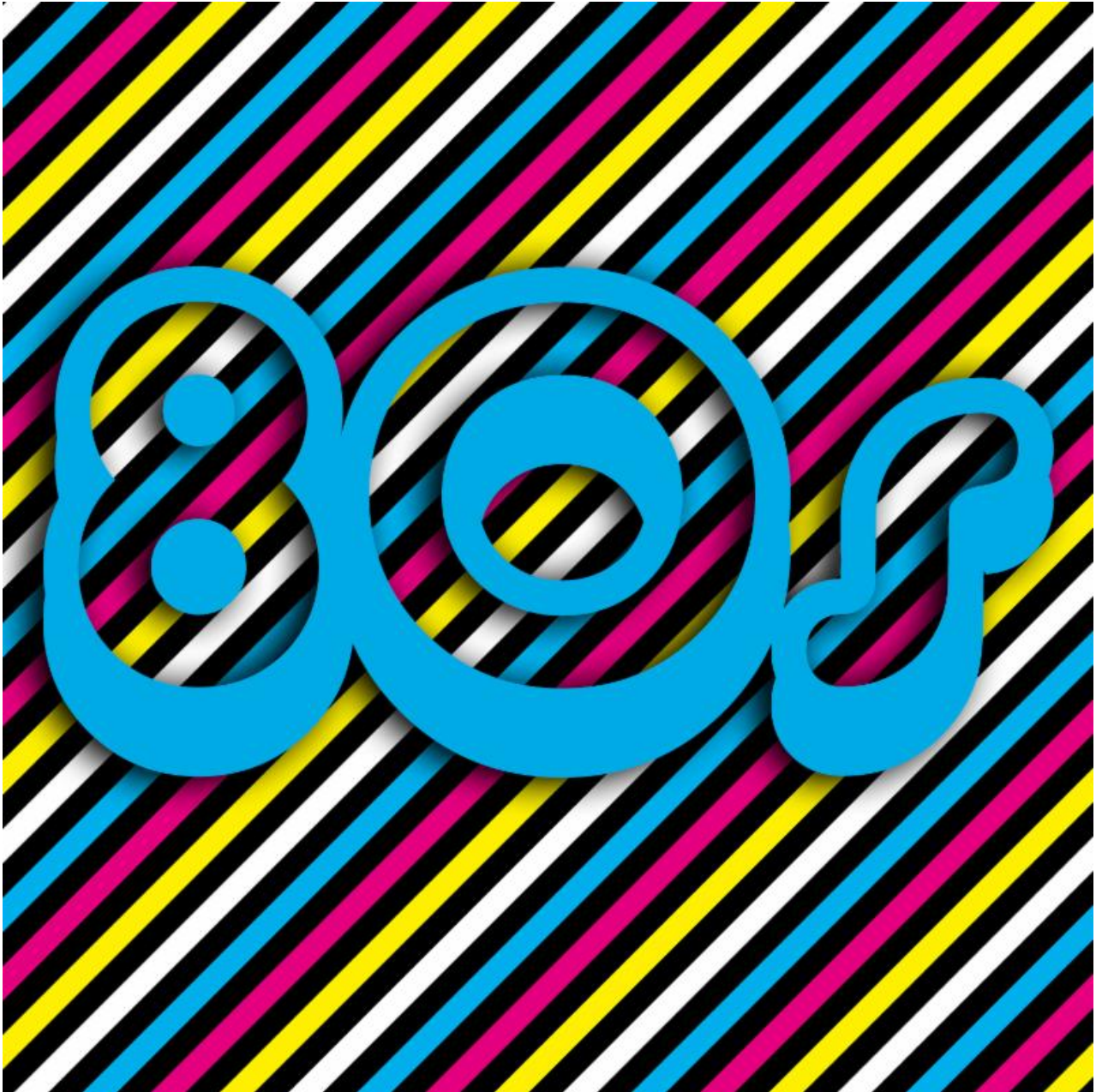
**Once a year we come together as a group for an evening of laughter,
kibitzing and libation.**

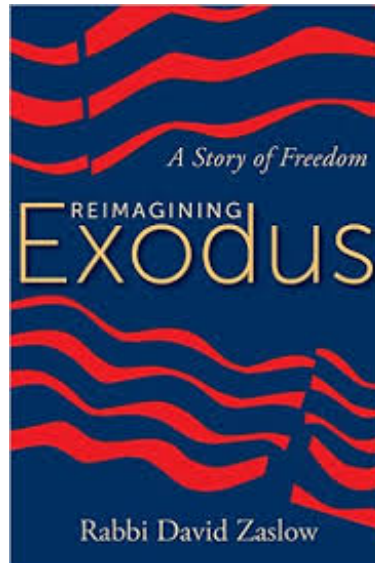
We're simply not a community without you!

**Please tell us you're coming by visiting
fundraiser.shalompcs.com**

or by contacting Marcy Gray, 769-2672, mgray@shalompcs.com.

If you cannot make it to the event but would still like to support PCS during our annual fundraiser, please do so by either contacting Marcy or clicking on the link above to the event's web site.





Reimagining Exodus: A Story of Freedom

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 - 8:45 pm

"In every generation, a person should see him/herself as one who personally went out of Egypt."

--The Haggadah

The story of the Exodus has inspired people since the time of the Pharaohs to the modern Civil Rights movement. It is also seen as a deep spiritual guide to our own life's journey.

Rabbi Julie's friend, Rabbi David Zaslow of Ashland, Oregon, has just published a book, *Reimagining Exodus: A Story of Freedom*, which will serve as our guide for this evening's discussion. His book was written for people of different religions in mind -- particularly Christians as well as Jews -- so please consider inviting someone of another faith tradition who would like to learn and discuss with us.

RSVP as soon as possible and we will make sure that you have a copy of (\$14 per book). You don't need to read it ahead of time, but if you would enjoy doing so, then

pick up your copy in advance from the rabbi. Click [here](#) for the Amazon link to

Reimagining Exodus or contact the PCS office for more details.

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*Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community  
with people of diverse traditions and backgrounds who want to share  
a joyous spiritual and cultural home.*

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For parking info, please visit www.shalompcs.com/directionsandparking.

During services and other events, parking spots at synagogue are priority

for disabled and elderly visitors.

Please join us for another very special
Prime Time Shabbat!
Friday night, April 7, 8 pm

**Rabbi David Evan Markus joins Rabbi Julie
for a special pre-Passover Shabbat**



Shabbat HaGadol, the "Great Shabbat" before Passover, is a time of spiritual preparation for the holiday. How do we make Jewish spiritual life worthy of that calling? What is the flame we keep alive in our hearts, and how does it relate to the meaning of Passover? Rabbi Markus, co-chair of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, will provide beautiful music and teachings to enhance our service. A delightful Oneg Shabbat will follow.

Invite a friend to experience the beauty of Prime Time Shabbat at PCS!

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community
with people of diverse traditions and backgrounds
who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home.

Joyful Judaism!

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
www.ShalomPCS.com ~ (914) 769-2672 ~ info@shalomPCS.com
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY

*In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, please come hear
PCS congregant, Peter Volgyes, give a memorial talk
on his personal experiences:*

"My Two Families in the Hungarian Holocaust"

Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 pm



"I shall favor those that I shall favor,
And I shall be merciful to those I choose for mercy"

Shamos/Exodus 33:19

~ ~ ~
Pleasantville Community Synagogue
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY
www.shalompcs.com ~ 914-769-2672 ~ info@shalompcs.com

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"For the dead and the living,
we must bear witness."

- Elie Wiesel

Yom HaShoah
**Holocaust Remembrance
Day Service**

Tuesday, April 25, 7 pm

at

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
*Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come
to this most important ceremony.*

~ ~ ~

***5th, 6th and 7th Grade B'nei Mitzvah students will receive
credit for service attendance.***

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
www.ShalomPCS.com ~ (914) 769-2672 ~ info@shalomPCS.com
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community with people of diverse traditions and backgrounds who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home.

Please join us for another
Tot Shabbat and *Mishpacha*
(Family!) Dinner and Service!

Friday night, April 28

5:30 pm: **Israel-themed Tot Shabbat service**

6 pm: **Shabbat dinner for all***

6:45 pm: **Family-friendly service for all,**
led by 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders

7:30 pm: **Oneg Shabbat with dessert**



*To help offset the cost of the dinner, there is a suggested donation of \$18/adult, \$9/child, free/5 and under.

Click [here](#) for easy on-line payment and to RSVP!

Or copy and paste:

<https://pcs-tot-shabbat-and-family-shabbat-dinner-9585.cheddarup.com>

Or e-mail Marcy Gray to RSVP at mgray@shalompcs.com
or call 769-2672.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
is a welcoming Jewish community with people of diverse traditions and
backgrounds who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home.

Joyful Judaism!

Visit www.ShalomPCS.com
(914) 769-2672, info@shalomPCS.com
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY



Join us at Jean Jacques Café Patisserie
468 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, New York

Tuesday, May 9, 7:30-9 PM

"The Conversation: Why and How to Talk to Loved Ones About End of Life Choices," with Heidi Weiss, L.M.S.W., M.H.A., from Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), and Rabbi Fredda Cohen, Rabbi/Chaplain at White Plains Hospital.

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30-9 PM

"Afterlife Journey of the Soul in Jewish Mysticism," with Simcha Raphael, Ph.D., Author and Founder of the DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training.

Wednesday, June 7, 7:30-9 PM

"Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Jewish Funerals but Never Dared to Ask," with Stephanie Garry, Chief Administrative Officer, and Manager Darren Picht, LFD, of Plaza Jewish Community Chapel.

Pre-Registration is Required.

To register visit: <http://bit.do/deathanddessert>

Cost \$18 per person per evening, includes dessert, coffee, educational material.

Hosted by Pleasantville Community Synagogue, with funding by UJA Federation of New York and Plaza Jewish Community Chapel. In partnership with Congregation B'nai Israel, Temple Shaaray Tefila and Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester.



Rekindling Shabbat at PCS

IN APRIL...

On Friday evening, April 7, please join us at 8 pm for a very special pre-Passover Prime Time Shabbat and spiritual preparation for the holiday featuring our guest, Rabbi David Evan Markus. There will be beautiful music

during the service as well as teachings about the holiday, and a delightful Oneg Shabbat will follow. For more information, click [here](#).

On Saturday morning, April 8, please join us for Shabbat morning services at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon. At 12:30, please join us for an experiential, interactive class on the teachings of Reb Zalman Schacter-Shalomi, Rabbi Julie's teacher of blessed memory.

On Friday evening, April 14, instead of regular services, PCS will host a Social Justice Themed Mini Dessert Seder beginning at 7:30 pm.

On Saturday morning, April 15, the Shabbat of Passover, please join us for Shabbat morning services at 10 am, followed by a kosher-for-Passover Kiddush lunch at noon and Rabbi Julie's Reb Zalman class at 12:30.

On Friday evening, April 21, Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at the special early hour of 6 pm, with participation by Naomi Gordin and her family in honor of her Bat Mitzvah. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.

On Saturday morning, April 22, please join Naomi Gordin and her family as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah, with services beginning at 9:30 am. This will be followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon and the Reb Zalman class at 12:30.

On Friday evening, April 28, Kabbalat Shabbat services there will be an Israel-theme Tot Shabbat service beginning at 5:30 pm, followed at 6 pm by a Shabbat dinner for all ages. A Kabbalat Shabbat service will begin at 6:45 pm, led by our first, second and third graders. This will be followed by a dessert Oneg Shabbat. For more information, click [here](#).

Saturday morning, April 29, is a Family Education Shabbat, with services beginning at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon (and then the Reb Zalman class, of course).

~*~

...and celebrating Passover!

During Passover, please also join us for one or both of these week day services:

- On Tuesday, April 11, the first full day of Passover, beginning at 10:30 am (to give you a little extra time to sleep off the Manischewitz), followed by a Passover lunch sponsored by Rabbi Julie
- On Monday, April 17, the seventh day of Passover, beginning at 10 am and including a Yizkor service

And you can be a minyannaire! Because there are members of our community who need to say Kaddish, it is a big mitzvah to help make a minyan any time, and especially for these weekday services. Let us know we can count on you by signing up



CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Pleasantville Community Synagogue by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. For information on making donations to PCS, including online donations, please click [here](#).

General Fund

Sandra Serebin in honor of the occasion of her granddaughter Sabrina's birthday.

SNAP (Special Needs at Pleasantville)

Hedi and Ed Sperling

Mia Simon

Kiddush Fund

Andrea and Bobeck Shayegani in honor of the occasion of their son, Max, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Jennifer and Brooke Liddle in honor of the occasion of their children's naming ceremony at PCS

APRIL YAHRZEITS

| | |
|--|----------|
| Elizabeth Wehrle, mother of Douglas Wehrle | April 4 |
| Emily Borenstein, mother of Marc Borenstein | April 8 |
| Irving Goldman, father of Dorian Goldman | April 9 |
| Louis Goldman, grandfather of Dorian Goldman | April 10 |
| George Johnston, father of Bradley Johnston | April 11 |
| Hyman Karmen, grandfather of Abbe Karmen | April 11 |
| Blanche Stiker, mother of Judith Schmidt | April 17 |
| Fredric Weiss, husband of Miriam Seiler | April 23 |
| Mildred Goodman, mother of Jonathan Goodman | April 23 |
| Morris Borenstein, father of Marc Borenstein | April 24 |
| Charles Hilton, father of Rabbi Julie Danan | April 27 |

To all PCS members:

If you or another member suffer personal tragedy or loss or are otherwise in need of help, please immediately contact Rabbi Julie at (914) 769-2672 or Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com, or to our Caring (Chesed) Committee Chair, Susan Friedman at (917) 846-3038, or SFriedman@ShalomPCS.com.



The PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board is a beautiful and symbolic place to honor your loved ones while helping to support your synagogue. The anniversary of their passing will be commemorated with a light by their name plate. You will find the appropriate form for purchasing a memorial name plate by clicking [here](#).

Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community connecting people of diverse traditions and backgrounds who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home.

PCS officers and trustees:

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Treasurer: Jonathan Goodman
Vice President: Roberta Korus
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lnakisbendi@ShalomPCS.com

Gregory Cohen
mailto:gcohen@ShalomPCS.com

Karen Neuburger
kneuburger@ShalomPCS.com

Jonathan Goodman
jgoodman@ShalomPCS.com

Lisa Nicotra
lnicotra@ShalomPCS.com

Amy Gutenplan
agutenplan@ShalomPCS.com

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschulz@ShalomPCS.com

Roberta Korus
rkorus@ShalomPCS.com

Ben Serebin
bserebin@ShalomPCS.com

Richard Levine
rlevine@ShalomPCS.com

Richard Solomon
info@ShalomPCS.com

Sheila Major
info@ShalomPCS.com

Rabbi Julie Danan
rabbi@ShalomPCS.com

To contact PCS:

Phone: (914) 769-2672; Fax: (914) 769-1795; Website: www.ShalomPCS.com

Marcy Gray, Synagogue Administrator: (914) 769-2672; mgray@ShalomPCS.com

Galit Sperling, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; principal@ShalomPCS.com

Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; Accounts@ShalomPCS.com

Julia McCarthy, Youth Leader, youthdirector@shalompcs.com



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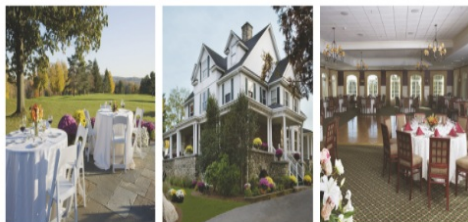
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Introducing to Briarcliff the new owner of Zokkoz Salon, Jilian Sherman. Ever since she discovered Aveda a few years ago, she has tried to live by their mission. The combination of her love for hair and making people's true beauty come out with Aveda's products has proven to give her the ability to deliver healthy, sexy hair that is safe for her guests as well as the environment. Her next quest is to share her knowledge and passion with her staff at Zokkoz. Briarcliff has been so friendly and has made her feel so welcomed. She would like to pass that feeling on to you. Please come in and mention this ad and save 40% off your first appointment and we guarantee you'll love the results!!!

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For the full PCS calendar for April 2017, please click [here](#).



Pleasantville Community Synagogue Newsletter
April 2017 5 Nisan - 4 Iyyar 5777