



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: ADAPTABILITY

By Mark Sameth

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In the Tractate of the Talmud known as Brachot (Blessings), there is an extended exchange of ideas between the rabbis on the subject of prayer: the efficacy of prayer versus good deeds; the issue of prayer in the face of evil, etc.

But one statement jumps off the page. It was a statement uttered by Rabbi Elazar, so unexpected that one wonders how it was permitted to be included. Rabbi Elazar said: "Since the day on which the Bet Hamikdash (the Temple) was destroyed, the gates of prayer have been closed."

That's as radically unexpected a statement for a rabbi of the time to have made as can be expected. What Elazar was saying, in effect, was: It's over. There's no hope, and there's no place to go for hope! With Escher-like circularity Rabbi Elazar painted the ultimate picture of hopelessness: the Temple, the only place in which prayer is heard, is gone; ergo there is no place to go to pray for the restoration of the only place in which prayer is heard. Catch-22.

Of course the Jews didn't accept this as the final word. Synagogues sprouted in Israel, Babylonia, North Africa, Spain, France, Italy, India, China, Northern Europe, the West Indies, and America. The Jews proved themselves to be – amongst many other things – adaptable.

Circumstances had changed, radically and unhappily so. But the question always was: and so now what?

The world is changing again, in many beneficial ways, and in ways that are not so beneficial. And again the question is: and so now what? There's no easy answer to that question, but it's helpful to remember that we're more resilient and more adaptable than we may know. It's also helpful to remember that we all do better when we pay attention to the basics: getting enough sleep, exercise, and eating healthily; staying connected with friends; making time for a hobby; meditating, doing yoga, reading for pleasure; remembering who we essentially are, and honoring that, not isolating ourselves. All of this can allow us to feel more centered and balanced and grounded in a time of change.

If you've been away from the synagogue, I invite you to connect again. Come to a dinner; to a class; to a meditation sit or to a yoga stretch; to a committee meeting; to a service. Call and make an appointment. It would be good to connect!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During these last weeks I underwent hip replacement surgery which has left me with a lot of time to think and read as I healed. Some of my thinking revolved around my own mortality and how aging has rendered me unable to do certain things for myself, and so I've become dependent on others, especially my wife. This is a valuable lesson we all learn at some point in our lives - that we are not islands of independence, but rather part of a whole social fabric, interdependent and communal. Being hospitalized, and then going for therapy afterwards, also made me part of a different community, at least different from what I was used to: a community of healers who have willingly and happily shared their knowledge and wisdom.

So I found myself grateful to a number of people who were committed to helping me but even more to teaching me to help myself. This last piece was the linchpin of my healing process, learning how to care for myself in a very basic way. I am recognizing how many simple things that a child does natu-

rally, I have forgotten and so can begin a retraining process that is enabling me not only to recover but correct the distortions I have inflicted on my body. And as I recognize these distortions I am also aware of the mental and emotional distortions that underlay them. All of this is valuable.

Holding in mind my own distortions I find myself aware of others, especially in this political season when candidates not only fail to recognize them in themselves but go to the opposite extreme of making a virtue out of them. There is a reflexive return to emotional safety, the limbic brain, and very convoluted attempts to rationalize the need for a security we needed as children, but should surely have outgrown by adulthood. Part of me is unsurprised by the way politicians behave; it has often been thus. What I am surprised about is its manifestation in Jewish life. Here I am referring to the story out of Israel about religious extremists who spat on an 8-year-old girl for "immodest" dress and are enforcing gender segregation by insisting women be permitted only in the back of

the bus. This is the limbic brain cloaking its greatest fear, the fear of the sexual attractiveness of women, by imposing restrictions on others because they cannot deal with their own thoughts and fantasies. Condemning this behavior is easy; it violates everything we are taught about Jewish respect for others, and for our obligation to see the beauty in all human beings. As we recite in our service each Saturday morning: "...v'haveta l' reacha chamocha"—to treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated. Why I bring this up is the importance of seeing what is our issue, what we are uncomfortable or unhappy about, rather than to project this onto the other. Rabbi Dov Linzer made this point in a recent op ed in The New York Times on the subject of the attack on the little girl by pointing out that the Talmud clearly places "the responsibility for controlling men's licentious thoughts about women squarely on the men." This is the takeaway from this incident, a takeaway I wish would be universally recognized.

- Peter Schaffer

Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a transdenominational, inclusive community, a spiritual home deeply rooted in Torah (study), Avodah (prayer), and Gemilut Chasadim (deeds of loving-kindness). We seek to facilitate lifelong spiritual growth by engaging each member wherever that member may be on life's journey, embracing all generations. We encourage Tikkun Middot (repair of the self) and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) through Jewish education for all ages, social action, Ahavat Yisrael (love of Israel), and a commitment to the understanding and fulfillment of mitzvot. We are a highly participatory community which relies on the commitment of time and energy from all members and which aspires to become an integral part of each member's life and their family's lives.



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

January has been a very Shabbat-centered month! Dalet, Hey and Vav classes all had a wonderful time measuring, mixing, kneading and braiding challah which they took home to bake! Many thanks to the parents who came to help. The Dalet class did an awesome job in leading the Friday night service, as they joined the Rabbi on the bema for their Shabbaton! We ended the month with the Hey class Shabbaton. It was a beautiful morning enjoyed by all. Yasher Koach to the students and their teachers for a job well done. Their hard work certainly paid off, it was another proud moment for all.

The Hey class has also been busy preparing for their upcoming Havdallah Service next month. They have been working on their spice boxes and will be crafting their own Havdallah plate which will be used in the service. The Hey class has also been very busy creating their own Havdallah midrashim (legends). I thought it would be nice to share a few with you!

- Ronni Metzger, Education Director

It Happened When They Saw the Third Star

by Isaac Gordin

Once upon a time there were seventeen candles. Their names were: Billy, Bob, Joe, Rob, Bruce, Wayne, Ella, Julia, Lisa, Naomi, Zoe, Melanie, Douglas, Ruth, Martin, Tucker and Isaac. They were all running home in different directions for havdallah. All of them saw two stars in the sky, but not each other. Five seconds later they all crashed into each other and formed into one candle and they all saw one more star in the sky and celebrated Havdallah together.

The Spice Box

by Lily Rosenbaum

Once there was a Jewish family who celebrated havdallah every Saturday. The daughter's name was Leah, her father's name was Jordan. Her mother's name was Rebecca and her grandfather was named Eliot. Every Saturday evening Leah's grandfather put out a magnificent spice box. Leah always asked, "Why is it so important?" The grandfather always answered: "When the time comes." Leah was convinced that something was in it. So, one day after school she opened the box and there stood...nothing! Well, nothing special. Only cloves of spice. She asked her grandfather why there was nothing in it. All he said was: "Generations." Suddenly Leah realized why it was so important, and one word came to her mind: FAMILY!

The Magic Spice Box

by Michelle Siegel

One day a girl barely the size of your thumb (actually, a fairy) said: "I will make the biggest spice box in the world! It will be so fun. It will take a while to make it. I will need friends to help." Then she added, "But I have no friends. I am so lonely. It is hard to make things all by myself. I might have more sophisticated things, but still it is lonely," said the fairy, whose name was Black Rose. A few days later she dreamt of three candles that became a braid, a braid as perfect as the one in her own hair. Afterwards, every Saturday evening the three braided candle turned back into people and they became Black Rose's best friends. (By the way, her new friends knew each others' friends who knew other friends and they all made a spice box out of fairy wood and cloves.)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Jew-Saving Event

by Jared Rosen

Once upon a time a family braided candles and went to spice box land to visit their cousins. It was havdallah time. The papa candle invented a Time machine. The two families went back in time to the Holocaust. The six million Jews were still alive. The cousins opened the train door and let ninety Jews free. Next they got the tormented Jews and brought them back to their time to celebrate havdallah.

Going Back in Time

by Jordan Sabatier

One day there was an 11-year-old boy named Cletis who loved to ask questions. The one question Cletis loved to ask was what "havdallah" really was. Every Saturday he would ask that question and was never told an answer. One day he went into a closet and got sucked into a time machine. He ended up in Jerusalem. It was on a Saturday. A nice family, the Smiths, came and brought him to synagogue. It was a special day and toward the evening they made havdallah. After the service he finally got his answer about what havdallah was. Then he got sucked back into the portal. He was back home safe and sound. From then on he never asked a question about havdallah on a Saturday.

The Magic of Havdallah

by Rosa Hahn

Every Havdallah a little girl named Hannah took out her parents' spice box that they had left for her when they put her up for adoption. When Hannah took out her spice box she hoped her parents would come back for her. Hannah had a best friend at the orphanage. Her name was Sophie. At Havdallah Sophie and Hannah sat by the window after everyone else went to sleep. One night Sophie and Hannah saw a young man and woman about forty years old coming down the street towards the orphanage. Hannah and Sophie sprinted down the stairs toward the front door. As Hannah opened the door she saw the couple with big smiles on their faces. When they came in the door, they asked for the person in charge. The second they said that Sophie ran up the stairs to Madam Natile's room (she was the person in charge). Madam Natile talked to the couple. As the couple came downstairs they told Hannah that they were her birth parents and they said they were coming back for her! The couple said they were going to take Sophie too! This is truly a Havdallah Magic!

Jerry The Spice Box

by Jodi Zizmor

One day Rachel went to Hebrew School and made a spice box out of clay. She took a toothpick and wrote "JERRY." After it dried, she took it home and waited two days to use it on Saturday night. Her mom was making dinner with spices. Rachel realized that Jerry didn't have any spices! "Mom, can I use some extra spices?" she asked. "Of course," her mom answered. Rachel took lots of spices and put them in Jerry. Jerry seemed to smile and say, "Happy Havdallah!"

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The Magic Soccer Ball

by Jenna Pfeffer

There once was a soccer player named Mia Haimowitz. Every Saturday evening Mia celebrated Havdallah. Mia had a magic soccer ball, and every Saturday night she would open up the magic soccer ball. Inside the ball had candles, matches, a spice box, a bottle of wine and everything else Mia needed for Havdallah. Mia would close up the ball and play soccer with her whole team using this magic soccer ball. It was also a very lucky soccer ball. Mia scored many goals when she used the ball. She always won her games with her magic soccer ball. Nothing bad ever happened when Mia used the magic soccer ball.

The Little Bottle of Wine

by Hannah Klein

Once upon a time there was a little bottle of wine. He lived the normal life of a bottle of wine. Every Havdallah the little bottle of wine was reopened and its wine was poured into a glass. One day the little bottle of wine was thinking to itself. It thought, "Why does the glass steal my wine week after week? Soon I won't have any wine left!" Then the little bottle of wine thought, "Why don't I run away? The glass wouldn't be able to steal my wine any more!" The little bottle of wine finally made up his mind and decided to leave the next morning. So, the next morning when it woke up, it hopped off its shelf and hopped out the front door. It kept on going until it reached a river. The little bottle thought its only chance of getting across was to swim, so it jumped into the river. Unfortunately there was a strong current which carried the bottle all the way down the river. Eventually the current died down and a little girl found it. She brought it home and showed it to her mother. She said, "Mommy, mommy, look what I found!" The mother looked at it and said, "Great, sweetie, we can use the wine for our Havdallah service!" And so the little bottle of wine lived the rest of its days with the little girl and her family.

The Little Cheese

by Jacob Freihet

Once upon a time in California there lived a little cheese. The little cheese had lots of food friends. Unfortunately his friends kept getting eaten! So, he made a plan. He took his friends Noodles and String Beans. They all walked over to the window and tied the string beans together and all the food climbed out the window. They were saved! The reason why they had to go so quickly was because the havdallah candle was tipping and it was going to start a fire.

Classroom updates:

Kitah Hey: The students of Kitah Hey are furiously preparing for their Shabbaton and their upcoming Havdallah Service. They are learning the many texts and new tunes, while engaging in extra Judaic literary and art projects such as decorating their own besamim boxes and writing Havdallah legends. They will partake in the (first time ever) pottery project of creating a plate for their Havdallah Service.

Kitah Vav: Kitah Vav has been working hard in their Yesh Lanu Llama book. Their increased reading fluidity is evidence of their good work. The students are creating their own mezuzah by writing the text of the Shema in calligraphy according to Torah script. They are then decorating the outside of the mezuzah "box." Several students have taken on the challenge of writing the entire Shema in a large scale mezuzah to be displayed on our walls.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 17, 7-10 p.m.

for Pleasantville Community Synagogue's

PURIM SHPIEL 2012!

at Vintage

171 Main Street,

White Plains, NY



With comedienne
Jessica Kirson

**Join us for cocktails, supper, auctions and a new
PURIM SHPIEL by Jeffrey Turkel
to benefit PCS and build community
*one joke at a time!***

For more information call PCS at 769-2672 or e-mail info@shalompcs.com.

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Ronni Metzger, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; principal@shalompcs.com

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

Pleasantville Community Synagogue participates in
Shabbat Across America!



Friday, March 2, 2012
Services 6:30-7:15 pm
Traditional Hot Kosher Dinner Follows
(vegetarian entrees available on request)

At the **Pleasantville Cottage School** dining room at the JCCA facility,
1075 Broadway in Pleasantville (see our web site www.shalompcs.com for directions)

**Join in as the Pleasantville Community Synagogue joyfully celebrates
Shabbat along with thousands of Jews across the nation.**

Adults \$20 • Children 6-13 \$8

RSVP to the synagogue office by February 22:

Call 914-769-2672, e-mail info@shalompcs.com, send or fax the form below.

Co-chaired by Sharon Friedman and Ed Sperling

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA – Friday night, March 2

DEADLINE February 22

FAMILY NAME(S): _____

PLEASE NOTE NUMBER OF: Adults ___ **Children 6-13** ___ **Children under 6** ___
Number of vegetarian entrees _____

___ Check enclosed, payable to PCS, noting SAA in the memo line

Clip this payment form and mail to PCS, Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570

___ Bill my credit card (credit card payments may be mailed as above or faxed to
the synagogue at 914-769-1795)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: ___/___

Circle One: VISA MasterCard

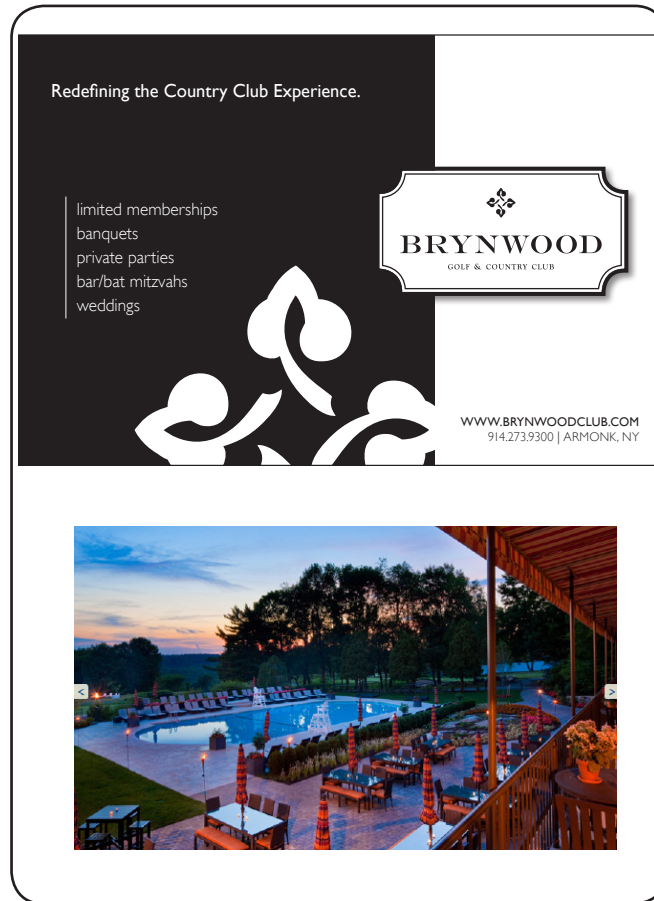
Name as it appears on card _____

Billing Address _____

Your Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name _____

Amount to charge \$ _____



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Shabbat Across America!!!

Do you want to help out and be part of a great and fun nationwide event?

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is participating in Shabbat Across America, and its co-chairs, Sharon Friedman and Ed Sperling, need a little bit of your time and help!

Please contact Sharon Friedman at SharonJF18@aol.com or call her at (914) 769-9521.

You'll be glad you did!



B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECT

David Solodukhin

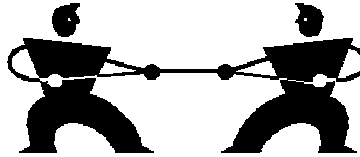
For my Bar Mitzvah community service I participated in on-going initiative organized by The Saw Mill River Coalition, a non-profit environmental organization located in Yonkers. The mission of this organization is "to help people revitalize, protect and enjoy the Saw Mill River. This includes working on improving water quality, encouraging sustainable land use, restoring habitat and wildlife, promoting recreational opportunities, and raising awareness of the river's history and significance."

The project that I took part in was "Free-a-Tree Vine Cutting." The goal is to free local habitats of the Saw Mill River banks from the fast growing invasive vines (e.g. porcelain berry and Oriental bittersweet) that threaten them by strangling trees and blocking the sun from trees and small plants. As a result, wildlife is affected as well in terms of diminishing food sources and nesting areas. To prevent the negative effects of the vines Saw Mill River Coalition and other local government groups organize volunteers who help to cut pesky vines. The volunteers meet once a month for 3-hours sessions. I joined two sessions in October and November and plan to attend another one in March. First time our group was cutting the vines on the banks of the river around the bushes and trees and then removing debris. We also marked the place where big vines were cut by tying red yarn at the ground level around sticking end of the vine. In November we were digging roots of these vines from the places that were previously marked by red yarn. Since it was after several rains the ground was soft and wet and it was relatively easy to pull roots out. My father came up with an idea to tie bended tree branches to tree trunks with small pieces of already cut vines to prevent wet branches from breaking. The lady that organized the event was very excited with the idea, saying that we actually converted something that was originally damaging to the environment to something helpful. Despite the hard physical labor that this activity involved, it felt good working outside with my parents understanding that my hard work is not for nothing, but to better the conditions of the local environment. For more

information or to donate your time please go to

<http://www.sawmillrivercoalition.org/whats-happening/free-a-tree-vine-cutting/>.





Battle Lines:

Great Schisms in Jewish History

A lecture and discussion series by Dr. Sarah Tauber, Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Are we heading for a break between a conservative theocracy in Israel and a diaspora Jewry dedicated to liberal democracy, as a recent article in The Jewish Daily Forward states? This series will put great schisms in Jewish history in perspective. It will excite those of us interested in a deeper understanding of Jewish history as well as contemporary Jewish life.

Lecture Date and time	The Schism	Historical Time Frame
Tuesday Feb 28, 7:30 PM	Upstarts vs. Elites: Second Temple Era Collapse	1 st century BCE
Tuesday March 20, 7:30 PM	Hasids vs. Mitnageds: Eastern Europe Explodes	18th century
Tuesday May 1, 7:30 PM	Secular Rebels vs. Orthodox Traditionalists: the Jews Take on Power Politics	20 th century

Many of us enjoyed Dr. Tauber's lecture series on "Visions of Modern Israel" last year and have been waiting to hear her again. We invite the PCS community as well as anyone interested to join us for this lively educational series and discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue, 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Contact: Ofri Felder ofelder@optonline.net

Co-sponsored by PCS Adult Education Committee and Israel Action Committee

A good heart means well-balanced control in all areas of one's conduct. Respectful speaking and listening is essential, particularly when we all engage in heated discussions about Israel. After all, we are all limbs of the same body. The Rabbis and Cantors of Westchester County issued the following Civility Statement, urging us all to remember proper conduct.

- Seth Rutman, Chair, PCS Israel Action Committee

The undersigned Rabbis and Cantors of Westchester County,

members of the Westchester Board of Rabbis and Kol Hazzanim: Westchester's Community of Cantors, are deeply concerned about what we perceive as a growing social problem. We Americans, including Jewish Americans, have often lost our sense of civility in public discourse, which at times leads to demonizing those who disagree with a particular point of view. Such attacks preclude reasonable discussion of complex and pressing issues and polarize society.

The Jewish community reflects this degradation, most often as it pertains to our discourse about Israel. We recognize that Jews hold passionate feelings about Israel with which we are all inextricably bound. However, we believe that it is unacceptable to engage in vitriol against those people with whom one does not agree. May our love for Israel unite us rather than divide us.

A Jewish saying states, "*Derech Eretz Kadmah L'Torah*," proper conduct precedes the Torah. This teaches us that if we hope to appreciate the rest of our tradition's most noble values, we must begin with *Derech Eretz* - good and proper conduct. Respectful speaking and listening - an integral part of good conduct - is essential, even in the midst of a heated argument.

Our tradition establishes respectful speech as absolutely essential by reminding us of the disputes, in Talmudic times, of two opposing schools of thought: Hillel and Shammai. They and their disciples argued brilliantly, and fought passionately, for their respective points of view. But their words were never vicious, or filled with hate.

We call upon the community to always engage in mutual respect. We know, at times, we will have widely differing opinions. But we pledge to emulate the disputes of Hillel and Shammai. Such discussions will be considered virtuous even in the Heavenly Court. In the year ahead, let us resolve to strengthen our commitment to speak of all matters and to one another with kindness, compassion, fairness and respect.

Rabbis: Jaymee Alpert, Cong. Kneses Tifereth Israel; Morris Barzilai, Sinai Free Synagogue, Mt. Vernon; Jonathan E. Blake, Westchester Reform Temple; Sandy Bogen, Jewish Home Lifecare/Sarah Neuman Center; Alfredo Borodowski, Cong. Sulam Yaakov; Andrew Bossov; WJCS; Seth Braunstein, Carmel Academy; Lester Bronstein, Bet Am Shalom; Aaron Brusso, Bet Torah, Mt Kisco; Marcus Burstein, Union for Reform Judaism; Andrew Davids, Beit Rabban Day School; Joshua M. Davidson, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester; Billy Dreskin, Woodlands Community Temple; Jeremy Fine, Beth El Synagogue Center; Carla Freedman, Jewish Family Cong., South Salem; Aubrey L. Glazer, JCC of Harrison; Michael Goldman, Temple Israel Center; Aaron Goldscheider, Mt. Kisco Hebrew Cong.; Howard J. Goldsmith, Cong. Emanu-El of Westchester; Jennifer O. Goldsmith, Rye; Andy Gordon, Scarsdale Synagogue-Temples Tremont and Emanu-El; David Greenberg, Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester; Shmuel Greenberg, Young Israel of White Plains; Daniel Gropper, Community Synagogue of Rye; Eytan Hammerman, Temple Beth Shalom of Mahopac; Shoshana Hantman, Halutsim Hebrew School, Robert A. Harris, Jewish Theological Seminary; David Holtz, Temple Beth Abraham; Mitchell M. Hurvitz, Temple Shalom of Greater Greenwich; Jennifer A. Jaech, Temple Israel of Northern Westchester; Paul Joseph, Kehilat Chaverim; Steve Kane, Cong. Sons of Israel-Briarcliff Manor; Molly Karp, Temple Israel of New Rochelle; Barry A. Kenter, Greenburgh Hebrew Center; Stephen A. Klein, Scarsdale Synagogue-Temples Tremont and Emanuel; Douglas E. Krantz, Cong. B'nai Yisrael of Armonk; Shira Leibowitz, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester; Seth M. Limmer, Cong. B'nai Yisrael of Armonk; Chaim Marder, Hebrew Institute of White Plains; Shira Milgrom, Cong. Kol Ami, White Plains; Loren Monosov, Westchester Jewish Center; Jonathan Morgenstern, Young Israel of Scarsdale; Mara Nathan, Larchmont Temple; Jason Nevarez, Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester; Beth Nichols, Temple Israel of New Rochelle; Lee S. Paskind, First Hebrew Cong. of Peekskill; Harry Pell, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester; Ely Rosenzweig, Cong. Anshe Shalom; Halina Rubinstein, Irvington; David Saiger, Temple Shalom of Greater Greenwich; Mark Sameth, Pleasantville Community Synagogue; Arnold D. Samlan, Jewish Education Project; David Schuck, Pelham Jewish Center; Fred Schwalb, Hebrew Cong. of Somers; Daniel Schweber, Shaarei Tikvah-Scarsdale; Jeffrey Segelman, Westchester Jewish Center; Dina Shargel, Temple Israel Center; Jeffrey Sirkman, Larchmont Temple; Melvin Sirner, Beth El Synagogue Center; Dan Sklar, Westchester Reform Temple Ned Soltz, Cong. M'vakshé Derekh; Moishe Steigmann, Westchester Jewish Center; Seth Sternstein, Yorktown Jewish Center; Frank A. Tamburello, Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism; Gordon Tucker, Temple Israel Center; Pamela Wax, Westchester Jewish Community Services; Robert Weiner, Temple Beth Am of Yorktown; Scott Weiner, Temple Israel of New Rochelle; Tom Weiner, Cong. Kol Ami White Plains; Amiel Wohl, Temple Israel of New Rochelle; Mara Young, Woodlands Community Temple

Cantors/Hazzanim: Dana Anesi, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester; Uri Aqua, Beth El Synagogue Center; Ellen Arad, New Rochelle; Devorah Avery, Temple Israel of Northern Westchester; Chanin Becker, Scarsdale Synagogue-Temples Tremont and Emanuel; Fredda Cohen, New York Board of Rabbis; Gerald Cohen, Shaarei Tikvah-Scarsdale; Erik Contzius, Temple Israel of New Rochelle; Melanie Cooperman, Community Synagogue of Rye; Ellen Dreskin, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester; Gadi Elon, New Rochelle; Mo Glazman, Cong. Kol Ami; Jamie Gloth, Beth El Synagogue Center; Margot E. B. Goldberg, Temple Beth Abraham; Jonathan Gordon, Woodlands Community Temple; Hayley Kobilinsky, Cong. B'nai Yisrael; Janet Leuchter, Greenburgh Hebrew Center; Rachel Littman, Temple Beth Shalom of Mahopac; Fredda Mendelson, Larchmont Temple; Jacob Mendelson, Temple Israel Center; Jeffrey Shiovitz, Cong. Sons of Israel-Briarcliff Manor; Israel Singer, JCC of Harrison; Alexis Sklar, Cong. Kneses Tifereth Israel; Alan Sokoloff, Westchester Jewish Center; Elizabeth Sternlieb, Sinai Free Synagogue, Mt. Vernon; Meredith Stone, Cong. Emanu-El of Westchester; Rika Timman, Crestwood; Sarah Zemel, New Rochelle.

Produced by

**The Westchester Board of Rabbis, Kol Hazzanim: Westchester's
Community of Cantors and the Westchester Jewish Council.**

In cooperation with UJA-Federation of New York.

For more information, contact the Westchester Jewish Council at info@wjccouncil.org or 914-328-7001 or visit www.wjccouncil.org.

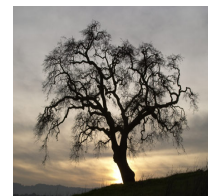
List of signatures compiled as of January 26, 2012.



Synagogues listed for identification purposes only.

FEBRUARY 2012 YAHR ZEITS

Joel Serebin, Father of Ben Serebin	February 1
Aaron Netburn, Father of Malcolm Netburn	February 1
Celia Lubelsky, Mother of Janice Sandbank	February 2
Stuart Kleinman, Father of Jennifer Taboh	February 4
Leslie Ogrin, Father of Mara Cohen	February 5
Marion Gaines, Mother of Jonathan Church	February 5
Syd Gitelson, Mother of Rhea Wolfthal	February 5
Patricia Fineman, Sister of Roberta Berman	February 12
Rose Schwartz, Mother of Nancy Mayers	February 12
Eleanor Blackman, Mother of Jonathan Blackman	February 15
Annette Sheft, Mother of Janice Gambino	February 17
Charles Fisher, Grandfather of Dorian Goldman	February 17
Harold Cande, Father of Nancy Cande	February 19
Diana Gordon, Aunt of Galia Silverberg	February 20
Charles Poskanzer, Father of Judy Poskanzer	February 23
Belle Karmen, Grandmother of Abbe Karmen	February 23
Lillian Cutler, Grandmother of Gaby Golod Greenwald	February 24
Doris Klein, Mother of Eric Klein	February 25
Benjamin Jablow, Son of Andrea and Robert Jablow	February 29
Benjamin Jablow, Brother of Terry Jablow	February 29
Milton Perlmutter, Father of David Perlmutter	February 29



To All PCS Members:

If you or another member suffer personal tragedy or loss or are otherwise in need of help, please immediately call Rabbi Mark at 769-2672, and Michael Gold at 238-9219.

NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADS!

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June, and it is emailed to every member family as well as to prospective members and some Jewish organisations.

If you provide professional or business services in the area, the PCS newsletter might provide some extra, valuable visibility. To arrange for your ad to appear in the newsletter, here's what you need to know:

*** Deadlines:**

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to Judy Chinitz at judyhope@optonline.net or cristina@lightbodemusic.com.

*** Ad Specifications:**

Ads will be published in one size only: one-quarter page, which is approximately 3 1/2 x 4 3/4 inches. The artwork should be provided by the advertiser.

*** Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin published in July and August) is \$100 for 1/4 page. Note: Checks preferred. Can be mailed to Pleasantville Community Synagogue, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 with "newsletter ad" in the memo section. To pay by credit card, please call the synagogue office at 914-769-2672.



Missed the lottery? Didn't get picked?

No problem! You still have a great opportunity to compete in some of New York's most popular and exciting sporting events while helping people in need.

Spots are available for the New York City Triathlon with UJA-Federation's Sports for Youth Team.

Sunday, July 8, 2012

Join the second annual UJA-Federation of New York and Sports for Youth triathlon team in the New York City Triathlon to raise money for UJA-Federation and Sports for Youth. If you join our charity team, you'll commit to raising a minimum of \$2,200, which guarantees you a spot to compete while helping those in need.

Sign up for the New York City Triathlon!!!



PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

All the Committees of The Pleasantville Community Synagogue are eager for your participation and suggestions. If you'd like to get more involved in the life of the PCS community, this is the way to begin! Below are the names of the committees, their chairs, and contact information.

Adult Education

David Felder
info@shalomPCS.com

Emma Reisman
info@shalompcs.com

B'nei Mitzvah
 Eileen Jagoda
ejagoda@shalomPCS.com

Building Committee
 Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum
info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Spiritual Life

Michael Safranek
msafranek@shalomPCS.com

Finance

Oren Cohen
ocohen@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Furst
kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Lisa Lipkin
llipkin@shalomPCS.com

Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com

Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi
Leyla@shalomPCS.com

Israel Action Committee

Ofri Felder
ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth Committee

Evan Kingsley
ekingsley@shalomPCS.com

Mayers & Nakisbendi
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917-328-0163

Michael P. Mayers, DMD Leyla Z. Nakisbendi, DMD
Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry Diplomate
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

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WWW.EASTMEETSWESTFLOWERS.COM



PCS ROSH CHODESH

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Rosh Chodesh Musical Event - Thursday March 22, 2012

Our own Lisa Lipkin will present Music as Prayer:

How music, meditation & prayer come together in Judaism to open your heart & soul.

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.

ED SPERLING FUND

BARBARA ALTMAN BRUNO AND JOSEPH BRUNO

KIDDUSH FUND

RHEA WOLFTHAL, IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND, PHIL

GENERAL FUND

OFRI AND DAVID FELDER

NANCY GUTMAN AND HOWARD SCHRADER, TO REPAIR THE BOILER

GEORGIANA MITCHELL AND MITCHELL BRING

KAREN SANDERS AND PETER VOLGYES, IN MEMORY OF JERRY LENOFF

TOBY LAMARCHE DEUTCHMAN, "IN HONOR OF THE SATURDAY MORNING MEDITATION SESSIONS THAT RABBI MARK CONDUCTS."

SARA KAPLAN AND DAVID PERLMUTTER

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

OFRI AND DAVID FELDER

RHEA WOLFTHAL, IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER, MAX GITELSON

ESTELLE ROSEN-KERSH

DR. CARLA PAGANELLI AND RICHARD SOLOMON

UNDER ONE ROOF

THANKS TO THE MANY, MANY CONTRIBUTORS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE COLLABORATIVE FUND-RAISING DINNER HELD AT THE UPPER WESTCHESTER MUSLIM SOCIETY ON JANUARY 22.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June. Articles and photos should be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be e-mailed to Judith Chinitz, Editor, at judyhope@optonline.net or dropped off at the newsletter box in the Synagogue office.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue * 219 Bedford Road * Pleasantville, NY 10570

phone (914) 769 - 2672

fax (914) 769 - 1795

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

General Fund

Finances any need of the synagogue considered necessary by the Board of Trustees. All unspecified gifts are credited to the General Fund.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Supports various individuals, organizations and/or programs at the discretion of the Rabbi.

Building Fund

To preserve the beauty and functionality of our physical plant, and to build reserves for future expansion.

Hebrew School Emergency Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships to children who would like to attend our Hebrew School and may not currently have the financial resources to do so.

Kiddush Fund

Your donation provides lunch after services on Shabbat morning: salads, bagels and pastry.

SPECIAL FUND: ED SPERLING

Pleasantville Community Synagogue continues to collect funds for Ed. Please keep Ed in your prayers. His Hebrew name is Asher David ben Miriam.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

In honor/
memory of: _____

Fund: _____

Amount: _____


Please send me an acknowledgement of this gift.

Yes

No

PLEASE NOTE: To help our bookkeeper, please issue separate checks for dues or other special events. All donations should be made payable to Pleasantville Community Synagogue (please indicate which fund in the memo section of your check).

February 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Introduction to Judaism, 11:30am-1pm	30 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	31	1	2	3 Children's Service PCS House Band 4:56pm-5:14pm - Candle lighting	4 Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Beshalach Bar Mitzvah - David Solodukhin 6:27pm-6:28pm - Havdalah (72 min)
5 Tu B'Shvat seder? Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm Introduction to Judaism, 11:30am-1pm PCS Executive meeting, 7:30pm	6 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	7	8 Hebrew High School, 4:45-6pm  Tu B'Shvat	9 PCS Board meeting, 7:30 pm	10 5:04pm-5:22pm - Candle lighting	11 Morning Meditation, 9 am Family Education Shabbat, 10 am Kita Hey Havdallah Parashat Yitro 6:36pm-6:37pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...
12 Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm Introduction to Judaism, 11:30am-1pm	13 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	14	15	16	17 Children's Service 5:13pm-5:31pm - Candle lighting	18 Shabbat service, 9 am Parashat Mishpatim 6:44pm-6:45pm - Havdalah (72 min)
19 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	20 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	21	22	23 NO HEBREW SCHOOL Rosh Chodesh Adar	24 5:21pm-5:39pm - Candle lighting	25 Shabbat service, 9 am Parashat Terumah 6:53pm-6:54pm - Havdalah (72 min)
26 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	27 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	28 Prof. Sarah Tauber presents first in a 3-part series: "Great Schisms in Jewish History"	29 Hebrew High School, 4:45-6pm B'nei Mitzvah Committee meeting, 7:30 pm	1	2 Shabbat Across America Children's Service PCS House Band Birthday blessings 5:30pm-5:48pm - Candle lighting	3 Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Tetzaveh Bar Mitzvah - Jack Dollinger 7:01pm-7:02pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...

Note: Times and dates of events may change after the newsletter has come out. To get the latest information on any possible changes, please check the calendar on our website: www.ShalomPCS.com. Future months are also on the website.

WJCS JEWISH HEALING CENTER

(SELECTED PROGRAMS)

This spring join us for either a
Spiritual Support Group, a Spiritual Journeying Group, or a Kumi Ori: Contemplative
Sunday program

Spiritual Support Groups

The Empty Place: For those Mourning the Death of a Spouse (6 sessions, begins Wed. Feb. 15)

Forgive Yourself (2 sessions, begins Thursday Feb. 16 - daytime)

Divorce Workshop (Wed. Feb. 29)

Who/What are You Angry At? For Caregivers (2 sessions, begins Wed. March 28 - daytime)

The Empty Seat at the Seder Table: For All Those Who are Bereaved (Wed. March 28)

After the Death of a Child: A Workshop for Parents (Monday, April 30)

When a Get is Not Enough: For Separated and Divorcing Individuals (5 sessions, begins Wed. May 9)

Spiritual Journeying Groups

A Chants Encounter (4 monthly sessions, begins Monday, Feb. 6)

Meditation and Middot: A Mussar Group (4 monthly sessions, begins Monday, February 13)

Writing Our Lives: A Spiritual Memoir Group (4 monthly sessions, begins Monday, February 27- daytime)

Ritual-Craft: Sanctifying the Thresholds of our Lives (2 sessions, begins Monday, March 5)

Explore Your Authentic Self through Art (3 sessions, begins Thursday, March 29 - daytime)

Kumi Ori: Contemplative Sundays

An Introduction to Integrated Kabbalistic Healing (Feb. 5)

Meditation and Yoga for Purim (March 4)

Moving through Fear to Freedom: A Contemplative Preparation for Pesach (April 1)

Meditation and Study for Shavuot (May 20)

Go to: <http://www.wjcs.com/clientuploads/HC-20121.pdf> for the full brochure,
or contact Rabbi Wax to have one snailmailed or sent electronically.

To register, or for further information, contact:

Rabbi Pamela Wax

Spiritual Care Coordinator

Westchester Jewish Community Services

845 North Broadway

North White Plains, NY 10603

914-761-0600 x149

fax 914-949-6778

www.wjcs.com

Made possible, in part, with funds from UJA Federation of NY

Mazel Tov to our Gala Honorees !

Tobi & Hon. Martin Rogowsky and Joyce & Fred Claar

There is still time to sign up to attend and/or support our 36th Anniversary celebration

Saturday, February 11, 7:15 PM

Westchester Jewish Center, 147 Palmer Avenue, Mamaroneck

And Save Sunday June 3

for the annual Celebrate Israel Parade in NYC!

All congregations are invited to march with the Westchester Cluster group.

Contact Donna at Donna@jccouncil.org for details

For more information call the Westchester Jewish Council (914) 328-7001

info@wjcouncil.org visit us at www.wjcouncil.org

(Formerly the Westchester Jewish Conference)

A proud beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York

Hola, ¿habla español? ¿No? ¡Qué pena!

SPANISH LESSONS

Brush up on your Spanish:

- if you're traveling
- to have a conversation
- to prepare for your school or college exams

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email: inspanish@optonline.net



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REMINDER!!!!

ISRAEL DAY PARADE

JUNE 3, 2012

BE THERE!!!!



SAVE THE DATE:



Saturday, February 11: Family Education Shabbat

Tuesday, February 28: Great Schisms in Jewish History (1st in 3 part series)

Friday, March 2: Shabbat Across America Service and Dinner

Wednesday, March 7: Megillah Reading and Family Purim Celebration

Saturday March 17: Fourth Annual Purim Shpiel Comedy Fundraiser

March 18 - 24: PCS Palooza Week