



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Webster defines "community" as, "A body of people living in one place or district and considered as a whole; a group with common interests or origins; fellowship, being alike in some way."

The love, care, devotion, dedication and loyalty of our particular very special community that is PCS, is demonstrated so well in three very special upcoming events. These are the PCS Progressive Dinner on February 1, PCS' Palooza Week in mid-March, as well as the Purim Spiel on March 22.

Camaraderie, similarities, diversity, warmth and sincerity, are the backdrop and underpinnings of the Progressive Dinner (starting out in one home for appetizers, moving to another host for dinner, and finally everyone reconvening at another home for dessert).

PCS Palooza Week is a week's compilation of events, ranging from films, to yoga, to lectures, to music, etc., with a diverse variety of aggregate events and

activities geared for the entire family. Somewhere in the week's schedule and plans there is literally something for everyone. Take a look and pick an activity.

While the aforementioned qualities are the backdrop as well for the Purim Spiel, this PCS centerpiece event has become our annual signature evening with respect to a night of food, comedy, a show and dancing. Thanks to so many of our own dedicated people who comprise the Purim Spiel Committee, this event gets bigger, better, more elaborate, enjoyable and elegant every single year.

If you've attended any of these three events in the past you know exactly what I'm describing and how special each of them is. If you haven't experienced them, I would encourage you to attend for a most enjoyable night out with fellow members of the community.

- Jerry Neuburger



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

December was a short month in the Hebrew School, due to winter recess and a snow-storm! Currently, our 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders (Kitah Alef, Bet & Gimel) are learning the building blocks of the Hebrew language, and what it means to be a mensch. The 4th graders are putting Hebrew sentences together and are mastering Around the World! Kitah Hey (5th graders) and Kitah Vav (6th graders) are deep into preparations for their Havdallah service and Shabbaton, respectively. Kitah Zayin (7th graders) are inching closer and closer to their B'nei Mitzvah dates, and are learning about Jewish heroes, the Holocaust, and the State of Israel.

We look forward to seeing you at the exciting upcoming events in January!

Important January Dates:

- Thursday, January 2nd: Hebrew School classes resume
- Sunday, January 5th: Kitah Hey (5th grade) special pottery project in preparation for Havdallah service
- Sunday, January 19th: No Classes (MLK Weekend)
- Saturday evening, January 25th: Kitah Hey (5th grade) Havdallah service
- Sunday, January 26th: Kitah Gimel & Kitah Daled (3rd & 4th grade) pottery projects
- Friday evening, January 31st: Kitah Alef/Bet (1st/2nd grade) Shabbaton service
- Saturday morning, February 1st: Kitah Vav (6th grade) Shabbaton service, as well as a Family Education Shabbat, all are invited to attend!

- Galit Sperling, Hebrew School Principal



Seventh graders acting silly as they enjoy pizza during their weekly Thursday night study

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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.



Third graders Maren and Ava share challah and grape juice as they celebrate Shabbat with their class



Music teacher Lisa and 5th/6th grade teacher Bin lead the students in song in the PCS sanctuary



Morah Karen teaches the fifth grade the Havdallah prayers in preparation for their special ceremony on January 25th



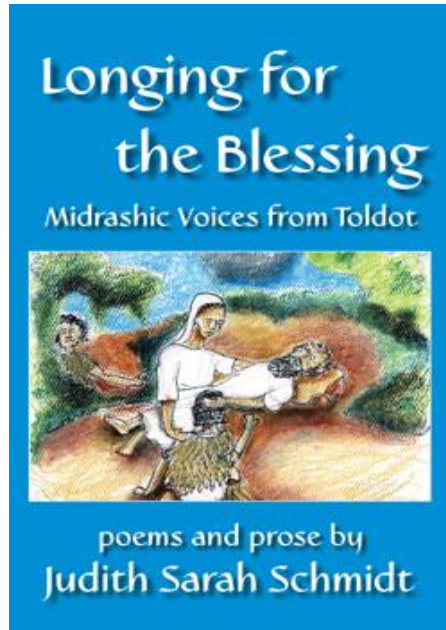
Fifth grader Maya decorates her Havdallah spice box

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“Longing for the Blessing ...”

PCS is proud to announce the recent publication of “Longing for the Blessing: Midrashic Voices from Toldot” by PCS member, author, poet and speaker, **Judith Schmidt**.

In honor of Ed Sperling, Judith has made the **book available for purchase at PCS for \$18.00**, with all proceeds going to the **Ed Sperling Fund**. If interested, please contact Marcy Gray at PCS, mgray@shalompcs.com, 769-2672, or fill out and send in the form below.



“To enter Judith Sarah Schmidt's stunningly profound and beautiful *Longing for the Blessing*, her reflections on the section of the Torah called Toldot, is to become intimate with words of Torah, dream images, the collected insights of over a thousand years of religious commentary, contemporary psychology and literature and personal memories. Through these words and images you enter into the soul of Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Esau, as well as of her great-grandfather Judah, and of Judith herself. Through these images you deeply understand and love them, their faith, their prayers, their struggles and triumphs. In their light, you see your own.”

— Rabbi Rachel Cowan, co-founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality

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If paying by credit card, please mail this form to PCS, email to Accounts@shalomPCS.com, fax to 914-769-1795 or call Barbara Doctor at (914) 747-3017 to provide your credit card information.
Please make your purchase by check if at all possible.

A Birth in the PCS Community



PCS sends its love and congratulations to Lorena Molina on the birth of her son, Christopher Leonel Salazar! Christopher was born on December 18, 2013 at 8:06 am. At 4 pounds, Christopher was in a hurry to be born and so came a bit earlier than expected, but he and Lorena are doing well, getting bigger every day (the baby, not Lorena!). Gianni is a proud big brother but will have to wait another 3-4 weeks before his little brother is able to come home.





Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Yahrzeit Memorial Board

The PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board will be a beautiful and symbolic place to honor your loved ones. The anniversary of their passing will be commemorated with a light by their nameplate.

Please provide the following information and payment (\$360) for each plate. If you need assistance with the Hebrew date, you can find date conversions at www.hebcal.com, or contact Marcy Gray at 769-2672, mgray@shalompcs.com. If there is no Hebrew name, the name in English will be centered at the top. Delivery of nameplates will take 4-6 weeks. *Please print very neatly.*

Name in English: _____ Name in Hebrew: _____

English date of passing: _____ Hebrew date of passing: _____

Requested by: _____ Relationship to person being honored: _____

Phone Number/E-mail address: _____

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<input type="checkbox"/> Bill my credit card
Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____ Circle One: VISA MasterCard Name as it Appears on card: _____ Phone number in case verification is needed: _____ Your Signature _____ Amount to charge: _____ Print Name _____
Mail checks to: PCS, P.O. Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570. If paying by credit card , please mail this form to PCS, email to Accounts@shalomPCS.com , fax it to (914) 769-1795, or call Barbara Doctor at (914) 747-3017 to provide your credit card information. Please make your donation by check if at all possible.

SAVE THE DATE!

PCSP Progressive Dinner
Saturday - February 1 at 6:15pm

*Delicious Hors D'oeuvres
Dinner at Members' Homes
Fabulous Dessert Reception*

Volunteer as a Host

or

Come as a Guest

(couvert for guests - \$20)

Plan to have an exciting evening progressing from one home to the next. Meet new people, have fun and enjoy great food in a relaxed, warm atmosphere.

We all start together at the same home for appetizers. We then draw names for dinner assignments and proceed to our host homes for the entrée. At the end of the evening we gather together once again for dessert at another member's home.

Look for invitation coming in the mail

Want to Host or have questions? Call or e-mail:

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Looking for a meaningful mitzvah project to share with your child?

For two years, Isaiah Schrader and his parents, Howard and Nancy, have been helping to conduct Friday night services at the Atria Senior Living center in Ossining, a profoundly rewarding experience for everyone concerned.

If you would like more information about this, please contact Marcy Gray in the PCS office or Nancy and Howard directly at ngutman@gmail.com.

Global Jewish Connections

Rosenthal JCC + Shoham, Israel



We invite 7th & 8th graders to join us in partnership with teens from our sister city of Shoham, Israel!

- Meet one Sunday a month, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., for fun activities that foster learning about Israel and Jewish interconnectedness
- Connect on social media to build new relationships
- Host our Israeli partners here at the end of March
- Stay with our friends in Shoham at the end of August

Space is limited to 10 participants, and all applicants must interview. Year-long commitment is required.

For more information, contact Yoav Cohen at (914) 741-0333 or Shaliach@rosenthaljcc.org or Jennifer Pergament at (914) 741-0333 or JPergament@rosenthaljcc.org.

\$180/year (includes meetings with dinner) plus airfare*

* Program and partial subsidy of airfare is made possible by a grant from UJA-Federation of New York, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Rosenthal JCC, and contributions from generous donors.

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For more information contact:

Adam Benmoise, Executive Director

adam@naaleh.org or 212-229-2700

www.naaleh.org

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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

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Hola, ¿habla español? ¿No? ¡Qué pena!

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JANUARY 2014 YAHR ZEITS

Kenneth Wolf, Father of Michael Wolf	January 6
Louis Etkin, Uncle of Rhea Wolfthal	January 7
Helen Arenwald, Mother of Elaine Barella	January 7
Aaron Netburn, Father of Malcolm Netburn	January 9
Joel Serebin, Father of Ben Serebin	January 9
Celia Lubelsky, Mother of Janice Sandbank	January 10
Stuart Kleinman, Father of Jennifer Taboh	January 12
Syd Gitelson, Mother of Rhea Wolfthal	January 13
Leslie Ogrin, Father of Mara Cohen	January 13
Marion Gaines, Mother of Jonathan Church	January 13
Manya Shapiro, Mother of Tammy Neustein	January 14
Rose Schwartz, Mother of Nancy Mayers	January 20
Patricia Fineman, Sister of Roberta Berman	January 20
Eleanor Blackman, Mother of Jonathan Blackman	January 23
Charles Fisher, Grandfather of Dorian Goldman	January 25
Annette Sheft, Mother of Janice Gambino	January 25
Ruth Dollinger, Mother of Jeffrey Dollinger	January 27
Belle Karmen, Grandmother of Abbe Karmen	January 31



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 organizations.

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@lightbodymusic.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 \$125 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.



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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

Barbara Doctor
bdoctor670@gmail.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling
edsperling@gmail.com

Building Committee

Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum
info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Spiritual Life

Peter Schaffer
pschaffer@shalomPCS.com

Finance

April Lasher Sanders
alasher@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

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kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Karen Neuburger
info@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

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.com

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.

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ED SPERLING FUND

RHEA WOLFTHAL, IN MEMORY OF HER BELOVED FATHER, MAX
GITELSON

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June. Articles and photos should be submitted by the 24th 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



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Building Fund

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

General Fund/Fair Share

Helps to finance 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.

Hebrew School 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.

Yahrzeit Memorial Board Nameplate (\$360)

A nameplate with the name and date of departed loved ones will be lit in their honor on the anniversary of their passing. Please contact the office for appropriate form.

Name and fund selected: _____

Donation in honor/memory of (please specify which): _____

Donor contact information (if not a PCS member): _____

Name and address of third party for acknowledgement of your donation if applicable:


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Your Signature _____	Amount to charge: _____
Print Name	

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).

January 2014 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	3 Candle lighting 4:21 pm	4 9:00am Lay-led morning meditation with Mindy Stoller; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Bo 5:51 pm Havdalah
5	6	7	8	9	10 Candle lighting 4:27 pm	11 9:00am Lay-led morning meditation with Peter Schaffer; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Beshalach 5:58 pm Havdalah
12 Pre- and post-adoption group, 6 pm, at PCS. schwarzruffm@jccany.org.	13	14	15	16 Tu B'Shvat  New Year for Trees 15th of Sh'vat 5774	17 Candle lighting 4:35 pm	18 9:00am Lay-led morning meditation with Peter Schaffer; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Yitro 6:06 pm Havdalah
19 Executive Committee meeting	20	21	22	23 Ask the Rabbi with Kita Dalet PCS Board meeting	24 Candle lighting 4:43 pm	25 9:00am Lay-led Morning Meditation with Toby LaMarche; Shabbat Service 9:30 am 7:00pm Kita Hey Havdallah Service Parashat Mishpatim
26	27 Paloza Committee meeting	28	29	30	31 5:45pm Pajama Shabbat and Dinner Alef-Bet Shabbaton Rosh Chodesh Adar I Candle lighting 4:52 pm	1 9:00am Lay-led Morning Meditation, with Toby LaMarche; Family Education Shabbat Service 10 am Progressive Dinner Kita Vav Shabbaton Parashat Terumah

Note: Times and dates of events may change after the newsletter has come out. To get the latest information on any