



 THE RABBI'S COLUMN: ESTHER, EASTER, ISHTAR

By Mark Sameth

Have you ever wondered at how similarly sounding the name "Esther" (heroine of the Purim story) and the holiday "Easter" are? Although in meaning the two holidays are worlds apart, they share an etymological root.

According to the Book of Esther (2:7) the Jewish Queen's Hebrew name had been Hadassah, meaning myrtle. She took the non-Jewish name Esther to better fit in to Persian society. (Which makes Madonna's taking the name Esther to better fit into the Jewish world sort of ironic.) But where did the name Esther come from?

The name Esther seems to have come from the name of the Babylonian god Ishtar, just as the name Mordechai was based on the name of the Persian god Marduk. You can hardly think of two more quintessentially Jewish names, and yet they are drawn from the names of pagan gods!

Purim is one the great holidays for kids (plan to be at the synagogue on Wednesday night March 7 for our Megillah Readings, Silly Songs, and Costume Parade). But like everything else Jewish, it's also meant for grown-ups (plan to be with us at Vintage on Saturday night March 17 for an evening of comedy and a completely new original Purim Shpiel by our own Jeff Turkel).

The themes around which the story of the holiday pivots – persecution and survival, hiddenness and revelation – are common Jewish themes. But those themes have a different resonance in each generation. Jews are – according to recent polls – the most respected religious group in America, and it's hard to imagine another place and time in which we have been as secure. Meanwhile the chaos in Syria, saber-rattling (and worse) from Iran, and the unhappy turn of events in Egypt make Israel's place in the Middle East look only more precarious than ever. Jews in America seem preoccupied almost not at all about how Jewish identity will play a role in the future. Meanwhile, the recently hot ultra-Orthodox/secular culture-clash in Israel is making the question of what it means to be a Jew in Israel a topic of daily debate.

But finally, Purim, this most political of holidays – a story of court intrigue - has resonance well beyond the political. Who, at the end of the day, are we? What, at the end of the day, are we here to reveal to one another? And – assuming the answers to those questions to be: our best nature and our desire for a more peaceful and compassionate world - what, at the end of the day, are we waiting for?

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the Rabbi's absence during the last two weeks in February, I volunteered to give the d'var Torah. Besides the pleasure of studying the parshas Mishpatim and Terumah, it gave me the opportunity to reflect on what these teachings mean to me personally, why I study Torah, and how I integrate what I read into my personal world view. What I came away with is the obvious fact that my readings are both idiosyncratic and eclectic, which would probably be the same for most of you if you went through the exercise. But even more, I realized again how misleading it is to take the words literally. To impose them unmitigated by our modern understanding often leads to absurd conclusions. If you are literal minded, you can stop reading right here; you won't like where I'm going.

For Mishpatim, I went back to the Code of Hammurabi and compared some of the rules of conduct there with what is set down in the Torah. The rabbis see distinctions that appear less dramatic to me; I believe we carried the Babylonian culture with us as we journeyed to Egypt and beyond and simply adjusted some of the rules to fit our changed circumstances. For example, I am not sure that we ever practiced the *lex talionis*—an eye for an eye, a

tooth for a tooth—in our everyday life, even though it is clearly spelled out here. Rather, I think it became a way to limit punishments, to keep consequences proportionate to the offense. The phrases must be seen as metaphors for a relationship between offense and punishment. I doubt if we ever wandered through the desert putting out eyes or pulling teeth. What we did give the world, that never existed in the Code of Hammurabi or anywhere else, was the idea of one God. The creation of a monotheistic belief system was our singular contribution, a contribution that has shaped history.

But God, as we read in these chapters, is filled with human contradictions. God is jealous and God is compassionate; God is forgiving and God will curse unto the third or fourth generation the children of parents who bow down to other gods or images. That's pretty stiff punishment – hardly compassionate. So what is really being said; what did I take away from this? My understanding came from a later passage that warned the Israelites to be aware of bowing down to the gods of their defeated enemies. It is a warning against superstitious belief, assuming "their" gods deserted them and have looked favorably on our people. We have a

tendency to see any situation as somehow being connected to cause and effect. We tend to forget the earlier situation (i.e. the escape from Egypt, the giving of the commandments) and substitute the more recent one (i.e. a victory over one of our enemies, as the latest example of God's favor), substituting a more visible God for the one who is unknowable.

In a more general sense what I have come away with is an appreciation for the difficult, for the struggle and for the fact that the Torah is at once a teaching and a mystery, that ultimately we don't know how or why things happen. We are counseled to have faith, to believe, but we are also endowed with the ability to distinguish between the apparent and the hidden. This is my journey, to stop and wonder, to go back and reread. My questions actually became my answers. In this season of political sound bites and oversimplifications, of the gross misuse of biblical teachings, I am gratified by the opportunity I had to deepen my understanding.

- 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

February brought with it a Tu B'shvat celebration enjoyed by all. The students all enjoyed tasting and snacking on the "7 species" of fruit in honor of the Holiday of the Trees. The younger grades watched the movie classic, The Lorax. (The good old Dr. Seuss version.) We discussed why trees are so important and that we must be aware of our environment, recycle and reuse! The older grades were treated to a paper bag puppet show about trees and their importance to all creatures, large and small. The puppet show was written and directed by Hazan Isabel and performed by the Hey class.

The Hey class also held a lovely Havdallah service, for which they had been preparing for the past month. Each student designed their own spice box, braided their own candle and created a ceramic plate to hold all of the symbols of this beautiful ceremony. The students had not only studied the prayers for the service, but wrote their own Havdallah legends! When the three stars came out on Saturday night, February 11, 2012, we lowered the light, creating a magical and intimate mood for the Hey class and their families (it was standing room only)! The students conducted the service and each one read their legend. Then, as part of our Bal Tashchit (do not waste) unit, the students had been asked to take objects that would have been discarded and recycle it into something creative. Each creation was presented to the group. Each design was more inventive than the next. We finished the evening with a light collation of fresh and dried fruit in keeping with the theme of Tu B'shvat. A wonderful evening was had by all!

It is hard to believe that when we get back from break it will be March with Purim right around the corner.

- Ronni Metzger, Education Director



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Sunday, March 18, 5-7 pm: Kids' Movie and Pizza Night - Childcare included! - combined with Parents' Social Night out. Leave the kids happily at PCS and dine together locally!

Monday, March 19, 7:15-9 pm: Yoga with Susan Safranek.

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30-9 pm: "Battle Lines: Schisms in Jewish History" with Dr. Sarah Tauber.

Wednesday, March 21, 7:30-9 pm: "The History of the Jews of China" with Rabbi Mark Sameth.

Thursday, March 22, 6:15-7:30 pm:

Hebrew School Open House/Wine and Cheese Reception with Educational Director Ronni Metzger and Rabbi Mark. Take the opportunity to sit in on a portion of Rabbi Mark's "God" class with seventh graders. Find out why PCS Hebrew school is known as "the Hebrew School your kids will love!"

Friday, March 23, 7:15- 9:30 pm:

Services featuring a lively Shabbaton with the 1st and 2nd-grade classes followed by a festive Shabbat dinner. Eat, sing and enjoy!

Saturday, March 24, 9 am - Noon: Jewish Meditation led by Rabbi Mark followed by PCS's special warm and engaging Shabbat services.

For more details and information, visit www.shalompcs.com, e-mail mgray@shalompcs.com or call 769-2672.

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Ask the Rabbi: Rabbis and Torahs, Dinosaurs and Menorahs

On February 12 Rabbi Mark had a chance to visit the Alef/Bet Class for a morning of Ask the Rabbi. Here are some excerpts from that discussion.

Jordan Galin: Does a rabbi have to be a man?

Rabbi Mark: No, women are rabbis, too. In fact many of the rabbis who taught me to be a rabbi were women.

Max Cohen: How does someone become a rabbi?

Rabbi Mark: Well, after pre-school and elementary school, and middle school, high school and college, someone who wants to be a rabbi goes to a rabbi-school called a "seminary." I went to a seminary, and I studied to be a rabbi there for five years.

Jordan Galin: How many of the first Torahs were made?

Rabbi Mark: The first Torah was copied by hand, and then there were two Torahs. And then those Torahs were copied and there were four Torahs. And so today there are thousands of Torahs all over the world. When your mommies and daddies want to make a copy of something from the computer, they push a button and it comes out of the printer, right? But the Torah has to be copied – every single letter – by hand!

Max Cohen: Do you use a feather pen to write a Torah? Does the rabbi write the Torah? Who does?

Rabbi Mark: Yes, you do use a feather pen – called a quill – to write a Torah. The person who writes the Torah is called a "sofer" or "scribe."

Molly Galin: How long is the Torah? How long does it take to write a Torah?

Rabbi Mark: Well, if we opened the Torah up and started to unroll it, it would go all the way around this room, and then all the way around again, and then all the way around again! It is very long. It takes a whole year for a sofer to write a Torah by hand.

Max Cohen: How many words are there in the Torah? How many letters?

Rabbi Mark: I think about 300,000 letters.

Max: Look it up!

Rabbi: I will, Max; and I'll put the answer in the newsletter. [The correct answer is 304,805 letters and 79,847 words.]

Noah Marlow: What year was the first Torah made? Who made it?

Rabbi Mark: The first Torah scroll we know about for sure was made by Ezra the Scribe about 2,500 years ago. He read it to everyone in Jerusalem. But there are stories about Moses receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai that go back even further than that!

Jack Klinger: Is there only one kind of Torah?

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ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

Rabbi Mark: Well, the words are all the same. But there are small Torahs and tall Torahs; Torahs that were made by the Jews in China, and Torahs that were made by the Jews in Italy. So they're all the same, and they're all different – just like Jews.

Jack: Do you have to read the entire Torah portion at your Bar Mitzvah?

Morah Jennifer: I had them all in the sanctuary recently.

Rabbi Mark: Ah, you have a wonderful teacher! And Jack, the answer is that you will read about three or four lines at your Bar Mitzvah, not the whole portion. And I promise you: When the day comes, you'll be ready!

Noah Marlow: Was God Jewish?

Rabbi Mark: No, Noah, God is not Jewish; God is not a man, God is not a woman. God is the God of every boy, girl, man, woman, animal and plant; everything!

Molly Galin: What does a rabbi do?

Rabbi Mark: A rabbi teaches, and leads prayers, and helps people celebrate – like when a baby is born, and when they have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and when they get married - and helps them when they have problems, and at the end of their lives, too.

Jake: You were the rabbi at my mom's wedding.

Rabbi Mark: Yes, I was! What a happy day!

Miranda Miller: Where does a rabbi live? When is the rabbi's birthday?

Rabbi Mark: Rabbis live in houses or apartments like everyone else. My family and I live in a small house in Hastings. My birthday is on Ta'anit Esther - that's the day just before Purim!

Noah Marlow: Who was rabbi here before you?

Rabbi Mark: There actually was no rabbi here before me. I am the first rabbi of the synagogue. I've been the rabbi here since before you were born! I started here in 1997, one year before I became a full-fledged rabbi.

Jake Tetenman: How old is the Jewish religion?

Rabbi Mark: The first Jews were Abraham and Sarah, and they lived almost 4,000 years ago, and that's when the Jewish religion began. That's a very long time ago!

Jake: What's the oldest religion?

Rabbi Mark: Well, believe it or not Judaism is the oldest of the world's major religions that is still practiced today.

Jake: What is the oldest religion?

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ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

Rabbi Mark: Well, before there were modern human beings there was a group of almost-humans called the Neanderthals, and they actually had a kind of religion. They decorated themselves with red color for their ceremonies.

Jake: Wow! So religion is older than people! I can't believe the Neanderthals had religion when they weren't even fully human!

Noah Marlow: What year did Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt? How old would Moses be if he were alive today?

Rabbi Mark: Well, we don't know for sure but we think that Moses may have led the Israelites out of Egypt 40 years before he died about 3,300 years ago. And the Torah tells us that Moses lived to be 120 years old. So how much is 3,300 and 120?

Noah: 3,420.

Rabbi Mark: You're very good at math, Noah! Moses would be 3,420 years old if he were alive today.

Jake Tetenman: What's the oldest synagogue?

Max Cohen: Look it up!

Rabbi Mark: The oldest synagogues are more than 2,000 years old, in Egypt, Greece, and Israel. They had tile floors, and a niche in the wall to hold the Torah where the glass doors of our Ark are.

Noah Marlow: When did the dinosaurs stop living?

Rabbi Mark: About 65 million years ago. But did you know that there are actually some still some on earth?

Jake Tetenman: Yes, crocodiles and alligators.

Max Cohen: And birds.

Rabbi Mark: You're right! And sturgeon, too. So there are air, land, and sea creatures from the time of the dinosaurs that are still with us today.

Molly Galin: Are all menorahs silver?

Rabbi Mark: Silver menorahs are beautiful! But menorahs can be made out of anything: in our home we have menorahs made out of brass, clay, and wood.

Molly: How big are they? Are they all different?

Rabbi Mark: They can be any size. We have some very small ones from when our kids were small, and a very large one that friends gave my wife and me when we got married.

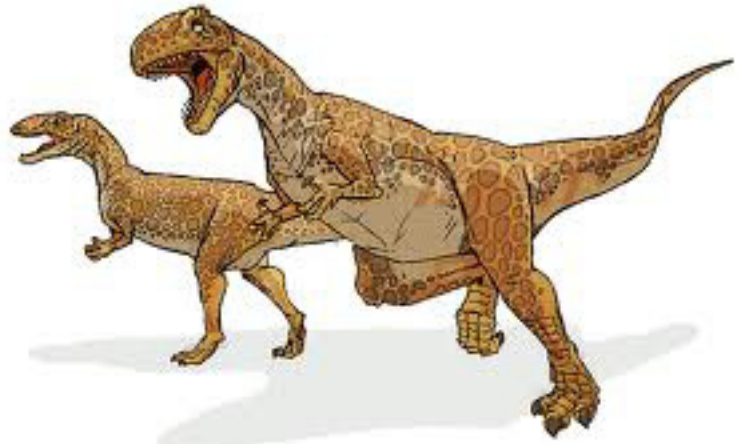
Rabbi Mark: OK, thank you all for your great questions! If you have any more, just slip a note under my door anytime!

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ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

A note from Molly slipped under the door: "When was the first Jewish flag made?"

Rabbi Mark: Each of the 12 tribes of Israel had their own special flag called a "degel." The Jewish flag you see today – the Israeli flag with the Jewish Star called a "Magen David" - was made in 1948, soon after Israel became a country again after 2,000 years. Thanks for your question!





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B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECTS

Jack Dollinger

For my Mitzvah project, I volunteered with the Ardsley Baseball Association every Sunday for ten weeks. This is my second year working with teenagers with special needs as they learn to play baseball. I usually acted as the pitcher in the game. I had a lot of fun when one of the players hit the ball because they were just so pleased when they got on base. I also had a lot of fun doing this volunteer work because the players all talked so much when they got on base. I will certainly do this volunteer work again because my dad is one of the league's coaches, so it also us time to hang out together. My sixteen old brother, Eric, is a player on one of the teams too and we get to play together. This was a great way to share my love of baseball!



Matthew Orlander

For my B'nei Mitzvah Project I did community service at "Pets Alive Westchester." "Pets Alive" is a non-kill and non-profit animal shelter. The shelter's address is 100 Warehouse Lane South in Elmsford, NY. the shelter's website is www.petsalivewest.org. The shelter's phone number is (914) 592-7334. My assignment was to care for all the animals there, although I am a "cat person" so I mainly worked with the cats. At the shelter the cats are kept in rooms but not cages. I was trying to make the cats more used to human interactions so they could become more adoptable. I pet the cats, played with them, fed them and helped them. I saw I was making progress, because I saw some of the cats I worked with getting adopted. Personally, I felt proud of myself and happy for the cats. Also, I began to build relationships with the cats. I myself have two cats at home as my pets, but to me it felt like I had a hundred cats as pets. I felt bad that most of the cats were abandoned and looking for good, loving homes, so I wanted to make their time at the shelter a wonderful experience for them. At my time at the shelter there were some cats that had diabiliites or medical issues such as HIV or having one eye. But to me it didn't matter; I loved and cared for all the cats equally. I started my service at the shelter on December 31, 2011 and finished my service in late February. (Even though I met my requirement for service time, I still hope to put in more and more time in the future). I did 10 hours of service at the shelter. Overall I learned that giving your time to others really pays off and that it is nice to put time and effort in something you are passionate about. To me this is the best animal shelter on the planet!!! When you see all the animals there looking for homes, you just want to adopt them all. I enjoy(ed) working here and I hope you will consider putting some time in to volunteer here or adopt a "friend."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECTS, CONTINUED

Isaiah Fleischer

For my community service I chose to do something that would have a long-term effect. Teaching kids how to garden and become more eco-friendly was my answer. I helped out during the Bedford Hills Garden Club's meetings, and helped Nurse Branch, who runs The Garden Club, on weekends. Together, Nurse Branch and I made my elementary school more beautiful. We are also working on getting a garden set up at the Middle School. I taught the kids that they could mulch leaves, compost kitchen scraps, and how to grow various plants. The kids I taught went home to their parents and siblings, and told them what they had learned. Then the parents and siblings told other people, expanding the web of knowledge. I brought smiles to kids' faces, which in turn, brought one to mine. I think my community service was not a service, but an opportunity. An opportunity for me and the kids I helped.





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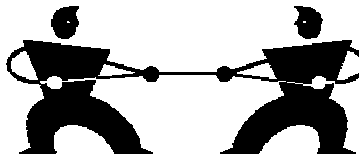
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Battle Lines:

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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.

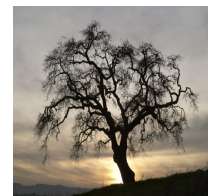
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MARCH 2012 YAHRZEITS

Ida Cohen, Mother of Hirsh Cohen	March 3
Ruth Weiner, Mother of Steven Weiner	March 4
Sidney Dulberg, Grandfather of Lisa Lipkin	March 4
Ervin Golod, Father of Gaby Golod Greenwald	March 7
Sarah Havazelet, Mother of Tali Havazelet	March 10
Anthony Pistone, Father of Lillian Levine	March 10
Barney Etkin, Uncle of Rhea Wolfthal	March 12
Charlie Lubelsky, Father of Janice Sandbank	March 12
Roselle Snyder, Mother of Barbara Goldberg	March 13
Pearl Sheinkopf, Mother of David Sheinkopf	March 15
David Friedman, Father of Marty Friedman	March 15
Morris Fuchs, Father of Audrey Lenoff	March 18
Marion Rosenberg, Mother of Jonathan Rosenberg	March 20
Norman Levinson, Father of Joel Levinson	March 20
Harold Altman, Father of Barbara Altman Bruno	March 21
Charles Sandbank, Husband of Janice Sandbank	March 22
Martin Neuburger, Father of Jerry Neuburger	March 25
Arthur Zucker, Father of Steven Zucker	March 27
Herman Spiegel, Father of Robert Spiegel	March 31
Elizabeth Wehrle, Mother of Douglas Wehrle	March 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 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:**

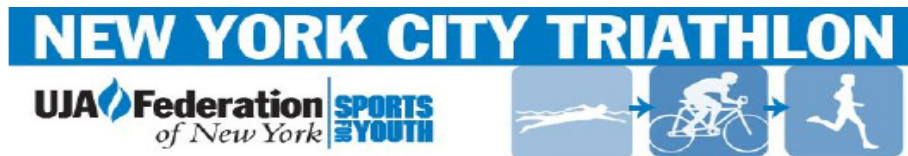
Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to Judy Chinitz at judyhope@optonline.net or cristina@lightbodymusic.com.

*** 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 \$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

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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
lhirschsulz@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

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

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REMINDER!!!!

ISRAEL DAY PARADE
JUNE 3, 2012

BE THERE!!!!



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

JAN AND BERNIE GORDON

GENERAL FUND

CARREN KLEINMAN AND GERALD KAUFMAN

KIDDUSH FUND

HOLLY AND JEFF DOLLINGER, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR SON, JACK, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH

BETH AND ROBERT MANNERS, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR DAUGHTER, SARAH, BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

ANDREA AND JAY ORLANDER, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR SON, MATTHEW, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

RHEA WOLFTHAL, IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER, SYD GITELSON

UNDER ONE ROOF

THANKS TO THE MULTIPLE DONORS

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).

March 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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," 7:30 pm	29 Hebrew High School, 4:45-6pm B'nei Mitzvah Committee meeting, 7:30 pm	1	2 Shabbat Across America 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)
4 Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm Introduction to Judaism, 11:30am-1pm BBYO meeting, 12:30 pm	5 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	6 B'nei Mitzvah committee meeting, 7:30 pm	7 Purim celebration with Megillah reading, 6 pm  Erev Purim	8 Purim	9 Shushan Purim 5:38pm-5:56pm - Candle lighting	10 Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Ki Tisa Bat Mitzvah - Sarah Manners 7:09pm-7:10pm - Havdalah (72 min)
11 Introduction to Judaism, 11:30 am - 1 pm Executive meeting, 7:30 pm	12 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	13 Mandatory meeting for 5th grade parents, 7:30 pm	14 Hebrew High School, 4:45-6pm Social Action Committee meeting, 7 pm	15	16 Children's Service PCS House Band 6:45pm-7:03pm - Candle lighting	17 Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Purim Shpiel! Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Bar Mitzvah - Matthew Orlander 8:16pm-8:17pm - ...
18 Kids' pizza and movie night at PCS, 5-7 pm. PALOOZA WEEK BEGINS! Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm	19 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	20 Prof. Sarah Tauber presents second in a 3-part series: "Great Schisms in Jewish History"	21 The History of the Jews of China with Rabbi Mark, 7:30 pm Hebrew High School, 4:45-6pm	22 Hebrew School wine and cheese Open House, 6:15-7:30 pm	23 Kita Aleph-Bet Shabbaton Shabbat Dinner 6:53pm-7:11pm - Candle lighting	24 Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Vayikra Bar Mitzvah - Isaiah Fleischer Rosh Chodesh Nisan 8:24pm-8:25pm - ...
25 Jewish camps presentation at PCS, 11:30-1 Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parent Group at PCS - 7pm *	26 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	27	28	29	30 Tot Shabbat Birthday blessings PCS House Band 7:00pm-7:18pm - Candle lighting	31 Morning Meditation, 9 am Family Education Shabbat 10 am Parashat Tzav Kita Vav Shabbaton 8:31pm-8:32pm - 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)

For Kumi Ori programs only, please contact Ruth Rosenblum
rosenblum@wjcs.com or 761-0600 x148, for further information.

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


TEMPLE ISRAEL OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
AND AJC WESTCHESTER PRESENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012, 4:00 PM
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
31 GLENGARY ROAD, CROTON ON HUDSON

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THE THREAT TO CIVILIZATION



Jews are facing threats much greater than military threats in the battlefield or terror threats in urban centers. They are facing the possible destruction of the idea that there should be a nation state of the Jewish people.

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Mark Your Calendar Now – Exciting Council Events To Come!

Annual County-Wide Yom HaShoa (Holocaust) Commemoration

Thursday, April 19 - 10 AM – 12 PM,

Held at the Jacob Burn Film Center, Pleasantville, Co-Sponsored by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center

Annual Israeli Film and Art Night at the Jacob Burns Jewish Film Festival

Thursday, April 26 7:00 PM

Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville

Annual Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards And Westchester Jewish Council 36th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 16 7:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Harrison

Honoring 18 volunteers from among the Westchester Jewish Council's member organizations

Sunday, June 3-Celebrate Israel Day Parade

11 AM – 4 PM, Join us in coordinating in a Westchester-Wide delegation

All Synagogues and Organizations joining us will be able to march with your delegation and banner

**Looking for more exciting things to do in Jewish Westchester?
Check out our web-site www.wjcouncil.org and click on calendar
to view what's happening seven days a week**

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)

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**NOW ISRAEL- The Israel Action Committees of Northern Westchester Are Proud to
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An Interfaith Dialogue with Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York

**With a talk on the topic: UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL
Basic Facts, Complicated Situations**

Israel is regularly in the news. However, too often the basic facts about this nation are not sufficiently discussed, making the complex relationship of Israel and her neighbors even more difficult to understand. Join us for an evening with Israel's Consul General to hear directly about Israel and the Middle East. This should be an especially timely talk because of the "Arab Spring" and heightened concerns about Iran.

Ido Aharoni officially assumed the post of Consul General of Israel in New York in February 2011. As Consul General, he represents the State of Israel to communities throughout the tri-state areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

~~~~~  
WHEN: Wednesday March 21st at 7:30 PM (doors open at 7:00)

WHERE: Bedford Presbyterian Church, Village Green, Bedford, NY  
~~~~~

Admission is free, but reservations are requested.

For further information contact:

Bedford Presbyterian Church- 234-3672 or info@bedfordpreschurch.org

– or –

Dennis Monasebian: ADEE18FAM@aol.com

SAVE THE DATE:



Friday night, March 2: Shabbat Across America Service and Dinner (RSVP required for dinner)

Wednesday night, March 7, 6 pm: PCS Family Purim Megillah Reading, Silly Songs, and Costume Parade

Saturday night, March 17: PCS Purim Shpiel Fundraiser at Vintage, White Plains

Sunday March 18 – Saturday March 24: PCS Palooza Open House Week (see schedule for daily events)

Saturday, March 31: Family Education Shabbat and Vov Shabbaton