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VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 7

WWW.SHALOMPCS.COM

MARCH 2017

The Rabbi's Column:

Jews and Justice

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan



Many Jews have casually told me, "I'm a bad Jew," because they don't practice a lot of rituals or attend synagogue much. Of course, I'm a rabbi and I like to encourage ritual and spiritual practice! For one thing, it is incredibly good for us. I believe in Achad Ha'Am's saying that "more than Jews have kept Shabbat, the Shabbat has kept us."

Still, there are more fun ways to categorize our type of Jewish involvement. While I was at the Mechon Hadar Rabbinic Intensive seminar in New York City at the end of February, one of the mixer questions in a class on Hassidic text was the classic: "Are you a Purim Jew or a Yom Kippur Jew?" (I would say that the rabbis at that class were about half and half, in case you were wondering. To find out what kind I am, show up on Purim as well as Yom Kippur!)

Rabbi Sid Schwarz, author of *Judaism and Justice*, encourages us to let go of the binary of "committed Jews" vs. "assimilated Jews" (a.k.a. the good Jews vs. the bad Jews). Instead, he writes about "Exodus Jews" and "Sinai Jews." The Exodus Jews are occupied first and foremost with Jewish communal cohesion and survival. The Sinai Jews may appear less traditional, but actually they are committed to the universalistic principles of Jewish justice and social action, represented by Mt. Sinai. What these Sinai Jews need from the Jewish community is ways to connect their instinct for justice with its deep roots in Jewish history and tradition.

Historically, justice has always been central to Judaism, beginning in the Torah. Abraham, the first Hebrew, challenges God when he learns that God plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness and cruelty (to strangers and migrants, according to the Midrash). He tells God that it is not right to destroy the innocent along with the guilty: "Shall not the judge of the all earth do justly?" His speech could be the world's first example of "chutzpah," but I like to think it was the beginning of the Jewish commitment to justice.

The story of the Exodus is the model for many social justice movements throughout the ages. The Hebrew midwives who refused to kill the baby boys at Pharaoh's behest are considered the first people to practice civil disobedience. Moses realizes his true identity as a child of Israel when he goes out and sees the injustice of slavery. Subsequently, he comes before Pharaoh and speaks truth to power, demanding that the Israelites be set free. We are continually commanded to remember the message of the Exodus: every day with the *Mi Chamocha* prayer, every Shabbat in the Kiddush, every year at Passover, and indeed the most repeated mitzvah in the Torah is to know the heart of the *ger* (the stranger/migrant/refugee), because we were strangers in the land of Egypt. And that is only the beginning of texts on justice. Deuteronomy 16:20, tells us, "Justice, justice shall you pursue." The repetition of the word "justice," *tzedek*, emphasizes that we must pursue justice with vigor, and using only just means.

After the Torah, we enter the era of the prophets, whose messages we hear in most of our *haftarot*. The Prophets spoke for God, often on behalf of social justice, speaking up for the poor and weak of society. In my Reform Jewish upbringing, prophetic Judaism was emphasized over ritual. In my confirmation class at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, we memorized verses like this one from the book of Micah: "He has told you, human being, what is good, and what the Eternal requires of you. Only to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

In my upbringing we kind of skimmed from the prophets to the civil rights movement, but in between were two millennia of rabbinic Judaism that also focused on justice. Since Jews lacked political sovereignty, the focus shifted to justice in the Jewish community: *mitzvot* between people, acts of kindness. The Jewish community was always viewed as one that looked after our own with unparalleled care, but also looked outward with *darkei shalom*, paths of peace with the outside world. Maimonides wrote of the famous Eight Rungs of Tzedakah, with the highest rung being to help another person with a loan or gift so that they could become independent and no longer need to accept charity.

In *Judaism and Justice*, Rabbi Schwarz describes the growth of America's highly organized Jewish community, which has blossomed from a vulnerable and insecure minority group to a successful and organized minority group. The American Jewish community is one of the most highly organized in history, with many groups that focus on issues like community relations, religious freedom, immigration, Zionism and the environment. The civil rights movement of the 1950's and '60's characterized the Jewish commitment to social justice and minority rights in America. Much of the groundbreaking civil rights legislation of the era was first drafted around the conference table of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, DC. Julius Rosenwald, the Jewish president of Sears-Roebuck, personally underwrote the development of more than 2,000 schools and 20 colleges serving African-American students in the south. Other Jews were instrumental in the founding of the NAACP, and while Jews made up only about 2%-3% of the U.S. population at the time, it is estimated that half of the Freedom Riders and half the southern civil rights attorneys were Jewish.

In addition to civil rights, Jews were also disproportionately involved in other social justice issues, such as the early U.S. labor movement and feminism. But Sid Schwarz writes in his book about how the organized Jewish community really came of age in the struggle for Soviet Jewry in

the 1960's to the 1980's. Jewish religious expression and teaching were basically illegal in the Soviet Union, and Jews who applied to emigrate to Israel or the West were often refused (called refuseniks) or even imprisoned. American Jews, feeling a terrible burden that we had not succeeded in saving our European brethren during the Holocaust, were determined to save Soviet Jewry. Much of the impetus came from students who had learned activism in the anti-Vietnam War era, and also from the new Jewish self-confidence and assertiveness in the wake of Israel's victory in the Six Day War. The climax of the movement was a Summit Rally with 250,000 participants in Washington, DC, on December 6, 1987, just before a visit by President Mikhael Gorbachev. Soon afterward, the gates of the Soviet Union were opened and some million Jews emigrated in the next decade, many to Israel. The Soviet Jewry struggle was important because American Jews were finally openly asserting our identity, taking political risks and speaking up for a distinctively Jewish cause as a human rights issue. And it was successful.

With the founding of the modern state of Israel, we have come to face new challenges in our work for social justice. Today we have many voices in every American Jewish community championing different viewpoints on Israel. Some focus on advocacy for Israel as a haven for Jews in an often hostile world, while others prioritize the need to face moral dilemmas including religious pluralism and Palestinian rights. I would say that most of us struggle with the need to uphold both priorities.

From the 1980's through today, modern Jewish organizations have emerged that apply Jewish values to universalistic causes, with the American Jewish World Service helping people in developing nations, Mazon feeding the hungry, Hazon working for the environment and healthier food, HIAS working for immigrants and refugees of all races and religions. Many of us are involved in the American Jewish Committee (AJC) that champions both particular and universalistic Jewish causes.

Tzedek, justice, has been a foundational part of Judaism from our earliest roots. May we be blessed as a community and as individuals, to continue to invigorate our work for justice, peace, *tzedakah* and *Tikkun Olam*, healing our world.

[Leslie Mack](http://www.shalompcs.com/tikkun-olam-highlights.html) heads the [PCS Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee](http://www.shalompcs.com/tikkun-olam-highlights.html) that engages in many projects which you can find outlined on our website. Learn more here and find your way to get involved: <http://www.shalompcs.com/tikkun-olam-highlights.html>



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Galit Sperling, Principal

We had quite a snowy February, ironically coinciding with celebrating Tu B'Shvat, the birthday of the trees! As our Hebrew School students watched the snow fall outside, trees in Israel were being planted on their behalf. We enjoyed a Tu B'Shvat celebration in Hebrew

School by planting parsley (which will hopefully sprout in time for our Passover seders!), eating dried fruits and samples of the "seven species" from Israel and singing traditional songs.

Our Hey (Grade 5) class had a lovely Havdalah ceremony event on Saturday, February 4 - see pictures below of their wonderful work! They led a Havdalah service in both Hebrew and English, recited original Havdalah legends and shared recycle projects,

tying in to the Jewish value *Bal Tashchit* - do not destroy. Their creativity, care and leadership was wonderful to be a part of. Mazal tov to this class and their families on this joyous occasion.

With Purim just around the corner, a reminder that the annual Passover Candy Sale and Hebrew School fundraiser is on! Please ask your Hebrew School student for an order form, or visit www.misschocolate.com to purchase Passover treats; be sure to include School Code # 701142 so we are credited with your purchase. Thank you for your support of the PCS Hebrew School!

Upcoming Hebrew School Dates:

Thursday, March 2: Hebrew School classes resume

Sunday, March 5: 10 am Hebrew School Assembly with Guest Speaker Danny Siegel, followed by B'nei Mitzvah Class Parent-Child Workshop from 10:30 am - 11:45 am.

Sunday, March 12: 4-6 pm, Purim Megillah Reading, Teen Play & Congregational Celebration! (No Hebrew School Sunday morning; we will see all of our students at the Purim celebration in the afternoon)

Friday evening, March 31: Shabbat Across Pleasantville at the JCCA/Cottage School

Saturday morning, April 1: Kitah Hey (Grade 5) Shabbaton









Kitah Hey (Grade 5) Havdalah ceremony



Students from Kitah Aleph, Bet and Gimmel (Grades 1, 2 and 3) posing on the Bimah



Planting parsley for Tu B'Shvat and making silly faces

Molly and Jordan Galin's Mitzvah Project

For our Bat Mitzvah project, we chose to volunteer with the Christopher

Barron Live Life Foundation. The Foundation is in honor of our cousin, Christopher, who died of leukemia at age nine. Our aunt created the foundation because Christopher loved comics and enjoyed creating his own comic books and selling them on the front lawn. The Foundation honors his memory by making comics with fifth-grade students in Paterson, NJ, who had lost their art program. Our project is ongoing and began when we asked our aunt if we could help the Christopher Barron Foundation for our Mitzvah project. We went to New Jersey with our mom to meet with our aunt. With the help of Alex, a professional comic book creator, we showed kids how to create a comic strip by writing a storyline, drawing pictures, and then inking the illustrations. At the end of the program, the Foundation publishes all the comics in a book to give to everyone who participates, and each child gets a movie ticket. The kids really enjoyed the creative experience of designing comic books, which made us feel overjoyed and more connected to Christopher. We plan to continue working with the Foundation that honors our cousin and shares his passion by helping others.

We would like you to help us out with this project, if possible, by donating erasers, thin Sharpies, eraser tops, and tracing paper. The school does not have the budget to buy these supplies and relies on the Foundation to provide them. **We have left a marked box at the Pleasantville Community Synagogue where you can drop these supplies.** We have also left a box at our front door for donations. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit its website <http://christopherbarronlivelife.org>. Thank you so much for helping us with this project. We hope you will be inspired by Christopher like we have been.



Max Shayegani's Mitzvah Project

For my Mitzvah project, I have been volunteering in the Bronx at P.O.T.S. P.O.T.S. is an acronym for Part of the Solution. Their mission is to help low-income people find stability and ultimately self-sufficiency by providing a variety of different areas of support. I have been volunteering in the food pantry. I have set and bused tables in the dining room and unpacked and organized food supplies in the storage area. I chose to volunteer at P.O.T.S because they don't just serve food to people who can't afford their own but they also have a

barbershop, a legal clinic, and provide work assistance to people so that they can become more independent. I like volunteering at P.O.T.S because they do many different things to help people improve their lives.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the PCS Community,

Traditionally, we think of the synagogue as a place to attend services and educate our children. Many of us attend services a couple of times of year: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the occasional Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbos service. We think of the synagogue as a place to educate our children and to celebrate life events and yet, the synagogue is increasingly becoming a place that we go to seek out community. This community is different from our work community and different from our secular school community. We seek each other out to share common values and common practices as well as to share differing viewpoints and differing experiences. We at PCS have a strong traditional community, and yet, we have progressively moved to a more social, more experiential community.



Recently, approximately 50 congregants met in each other's homes for our Progressive Dinner. We all gathered at the Zucker home for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, then moved on to dinner in other congregants' homes. We finished the evening with the Cohens, continuing conversations and enjoying desserts and, apparently, Oren's extensive scotch and whisky collection.

We continued to gather outside PCS. Thanks to a grant from UJA-Federation, our Growing Jewish Naturally young childhood group met in the Serebin home. The children learned about Tu B'Shvat while making tasty treats.

We have so many events coming up, so many opportunities to gather with fellow congregants, socialize, have a meal, and perhaps even learn a little. I invite all of you to join us! And invite a friend. They don't even need to be a member! Here is just an example; look for flyers and emails for more information.

- Hamantashen baking in my home on Wednesday, March 1

- Musical Shabbatots with Vivian Chang Freiheit will be meeting on Friday, March 3, as well as the first Friday of every month.
- Our Scholar-In-Residence, Danny Siegel, will be us Friday night, Saturday and Sunday mornings, March 3- 5, to share his teachings on how we, individually, can repair the world.
- The next Growing Jewish Naturally event will be Sugaring Sunday at Teatown on March 5.
- Purim, on Sunday, March 12, 4-6 pm, will feature the Megillah reading as well a Purim shpiel, written by Shira Danan, performed by our teens and directed by Galit Sperling. Please come in costume and be prepared to stomp your feet and make noise!
- Every week, join Rabbi Julie for a lunch-and-learn on Thursdays and after services on Saturdays for lunch and the teachings of Reb Zalman.

Join us as we eat, as we celebrate, as we learn and as we share experiences together. And bring a friend!

- Amy Gutenplan

Intimacy in Today's Political Climate

We live in a fractured world today. The political divide seems greater than ever before, and conversations between opposing groups have become nearly impossible. I am deeply involved in one side of the debate having joined a movement called "Indivisible" which is dedicated to opposing the Trump agenda through actions such as: making phone calls, attending meetings, calling our representatives, gathering in groups of like-minded individuals and planning overt actions. In the meetings I've attended the atmosphere is electric with anger and fear, especially on the part of vulnerable minorities, and the idea of cooperating or participating with the president's supporters or programs is anathema. And I am part of this scene and fighting for what I believe in.

But there is an awareness in me that something beyond anger and the actions taken in that state of fury and resentment is needed. Some kind of healing has to take place. This does not mean that I agree with the other's point of view or they with mine; rather it means that I allow a space to exist where listening can take place. Even more than listening I need to honor our differences, to see the others as fellow human beings who care as much as I do. I have a concern about the safety of undocumented neighbors; they have a concern about our safety from terrorism. I am concerned primarily with rights; they are concerned primarily with laws. I believe in literal truth; they see this as limiting or biased. I know from experience that I am not going to change anyone's mind; perhaps they will not even acknowledge my point of view. But this is not about the content of our beliefs. It isn't about right or wrong. It is about creating an intimacy that transcends differences.

I wish I could say truthfully that I always practice this-I don't. I find myself getting reactive and wanting to argue, to prove something, to justify myself. Every time I fall into this trap I wind up regretting what I did. We all know this syndrome; we've all done something similar. The trick is to hold a belief, to feel the rightness in us, a sense of coherence, and then have the conversation where we simply listen and acknowledge what we hear. When we remain in this space,

when we allow ourselves to hear deeply what someone is trying to tell us, an argument doesn't become toxic.

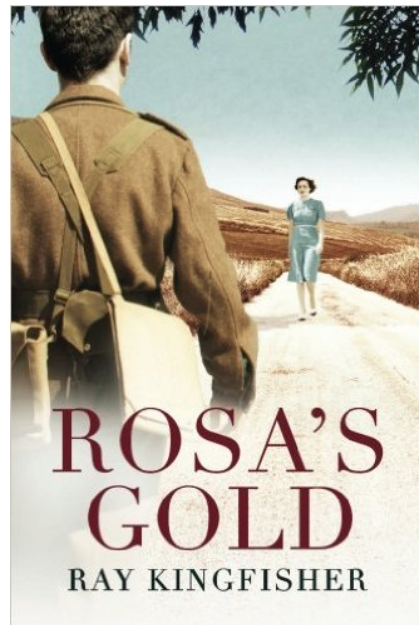
My reason for writing this is to imprint more deeply in myself what I aspire to be and to do. If anyone else has that same desire, it's all to the good. Thanks for listening.

--Peter Schaffer

From the PCS Bookworm... Eileen Jagoda

Rosa's Gold

by Ray Kingfisher



When Nicole Sutton has to move to a new town, where she knows not a soul, her whole world is turned upside down. In the creepy, dusty cellar of the house into which she moves, she makes a startling discovery. In an old, scuffed briefcase, she finds a diary and jewelry. The diary turns out to be that of John Charles MacDonald, a soldier in the British army during WWII. He reveals how his family fights for survival during the darkest days of the war. This wonderful saga has it all: hidden gold, the tragedies of war, displacement, concentration camp horrors and other adventures that will grab you by the throat and won't let go!

Ray Kingfisher is the author of seven other works. Rosa's Gold is the second in what will ultimately be Kingfisher's "Holocaust Echoes" trilogy.

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In our April issue, **the PCS Bookworm**, Eileen Jagoda, will review of *Fifty Jewish Women Who Changed the World* by Deborah Felder and Diana Rosen.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Joyful Judaism



Come celebrate!

ROSH CHODESH*
with BAKED GOODS!
March 1, 7:30 pm

Make hamantashen at the home of
PCS President Amy Gutenplan.

All are welcome.



**To RSVP and to get address
call Marcy Gray at PCS at
914-769-2672 or
e-mail Robin Berman at**

awake.robin@gmail.com.

**Why do we celebrate the new moon every month?
The Jewish nation is often compared to the moon.
Throughout history our light has waxed and waned but
even in the darkest times it has never been
extinguished. This is one reason why, when the head of
the new moon - the Rosh Chodesh - appears for the
first time in the night sky, we celebrate.
Come join us!*

Pleasantville Community Synagogue

219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY

(914) 769-2672, info@shalomPCS.com

www.ShalomPCS.com

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Joyful Judaism

***Please join us at PCS for a very special
weekend program
with
Danny Siegel***

March 3-5, 2017

*One of the world's greatest experts and lecturers on philanthropy
and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world)*



Friday, March 3

***Friday night, EARLY 6:30 pm service followed by
a PRIME-TIME catered dinner, 7:30 pm:****

"The Mitzvahs of the Rich and Famous"

What can Bruce Springsteen, Steven Spielberg, David Copperfield, Ben & Jerry, and the late Paul Newman and Liz Taylor teach us about the Mitzvah of fixing the world that we don't know?

Saturday, March 4

***Saturday morning service, 10 am, Kiddush lunch at 12 followed by
discussion at 12:30 pm:***

Shabbat after Shul

"Authentic Jewish Values for Ourselves, Our Families, and Our Communities"

Discovering values we often do not think of as Jewish from unusual Jewish texts we were never taught like: *So You Fell Asleep During Services - Do You Still Count For a Minyan?*

Sunday, March 5

Hebrew School Assembly, 10 am:

"There's No Such Thing as a Small Mitzvah"

How children, even very young kids, can impact the lives of others in BIG ways

Bat and Bar Mitzvah parents and students, 10:30-11:30 am:

"The Revolution: How Bat and Bar Mitzvah people (and their parents) have changed millions of lives for the better"

And how you, too, can do the same.

All are welcome to this very special program.

***RSVPs are a must for the dinner.
To help offset the cost of the dinner suggested
donations are \$18/adult.
Any donations gladly accepted.
Click [here](#) to donate on-line, or go to [https://pcs-
special-guest-for-the-weekend.cheddarup.com](https://pcs-special-guest-for-the-weekend.cheddarup.com).**

*For more information or to RSVP,
contact Marcy Gray in the PCS office,
mgray@shalompcs.com, 914-769-2672.*

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

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www.shalompcs.com ~ 914-769-2672 ~ info@shalompcs.com

Growing Jewish Naturally



Sugaring Sunday at Teatown *For young families with kids ages 0 to 8*

Meet us at **Teatown Lake Reservation**

Sunday, March 5th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

1600 Spring Valley Rd #1, Ossining NY 10562

**Led by the staff at Teatown Lake Reservation, coordinated by youth director
Julia McCarthy**

**Come learn about the significance of trees in Judaism as we learn how to tap,
collect, boil, and bottle maple syrup from the staff at Teatown Lake
Reservation.**

Free of charge!

RSVP needed: info@shalompcs.com or call PCS office at 769-2672.

***There is a 15 person limit, so register you and your families as soon as possible!**

"Growing Jewish Naturally" is funded by a grant from UJA Federation



SAVE THE DATE!



FAMILY YOGA
Sunday | March 5
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Create a new family tradition! Participate in Family Yoga at Camp. Celebrate family heritage and tradition while exploring basic yoga poses with an emphasis on supporting each other. No experience necessary. Kristy Cohen, camp parent and certified in both kids yoga and Hatha style instruction, will teach the class.

**\$10/family, Space Limited,
Please bring your own mats
and wear comfortable clothing
R.S.V.P. by March 2**

**HAMANTASCHEN
HAPPENING!**

Thursday | March 9 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Bring your aspiring bakers to learn and practice basic baking skills and expand their palates by cooking and tasting hamantaschen and more. The bakers have the chance to mix, pour, cut, stir, measure and roll. Just in time for Purim!

**Ages: 4-9 years old, \$25/child,
Minimum: 8 children
Maximum: 12 children
R.S.V.P. by March 2**



SPRING S'MORES AND SONG

Sunday | March 26
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Join us at camp to celebrate Spring, play games, make s'mores and sing around the campfire. See old friends and make new ones.

**Families welcome! No charge.
R.S.V.P. by March 19
Space Limited.**

Young Judaea Sprout Westchester
500 Yorktown Road (Route 129), Croton-On-Hudson | sproutwestchester@youngjudaea.org

THE BOOK OF **PURIM**

***Continuing ADULT EDUCATION
on Wednesdays at PCS with Rabbi Julie:***

"Purim and the New Anti-Semitism"

Wednesday, March 8, 7:30 pm.

Purim is a fun holiday, but it has also been called *the holiday of anti-Semitism* because it celebrates our first national escape from genocide. In an age of

renewed hatred directed at minorities, including
Jews, what positive messages can we learn from
Purim?

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*Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish  
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want to share  
a joyous spiritual and cultural home.*

Visit [www.ShalomPCS.com](http://www.ShalomPCS.com) ~ (914) 769-2672 ~ [info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)  
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570

For parking info, please visit [www.shalompcs.com/directionsandparking](http://www.shalompcs.com/directionsandparking).  
During services and other events, parking spots at synagogue are priority for disabled and elderly  
visitors.

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*All are welcome!*  
*"SNAP" PIZZA DINNER AND SHABBAT SERVICE*  
*FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017*

The logo for Pleasantville Community Synagogue is displayed within an orange rectangular box. The text "Pleasantville Community Synagogue" is written in a white, serif font, and "Joyful Judaism" is written below it in a smaller, white, serif font.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue  
Joyful Judaism

***Join us at PCS for another joyful  
"SNAP" service  
and pizza dinner!  
Friday, March 10, 6:30 pm.***

*Are you looking to welcome Shabbat and the Jewish holidays with your child, but not sure where to begin? Is your child a unique learner who thrives in more intimate, personalized environments?*



**Doors open at 6:30 pm for a fun pizza dinner followed by a short Shabbat service featuring great music with guitarist Jason Breslin as well as the PCS House Band.**

***EVERYONE is welcome:*** all ages, levels of ability and literacy, anyone and everyone looking for a very welcoming, joyful and inclusive Shabbat experience.

**For more information or to RSVP, please e-mail Marcy Gray at [mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto:mgray@shalompcs.com), call the PCS office at 769-2672, or email Vivian Chang Freiheit, [vivianpiano@yahoo.com](mailto:vivianpiano@yahoo.com).**

*To help offset the cost of SNAP programs, donations of any kind are greatly appreciated!*

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***It's Purim!***  
**Come to PCS to Celebrate!**

# **Sunday afternoon, March 12**

## **4 pm - 6 pm**

### **4 pm - 5ish: Megillah Reading and Community Party for everyone!**

*Plus*

Rabbi Julie does stand-up comedy (*oh, yes, she does!*) and a teen Purim play - written by Professional Comedy Writer Shira Danan and directed by PCS' own Galit Sperling - will be performed.

### **5 pm-6ish: Pizza and drinks and of course hamantashen for everybody.**

**COME IN COSTUME!**

*And BRING YOUR FRIENDS!*



*All RSVPs appreciated as are any donations  
to help offset costs.*

**Purim tzedakah collection will be for Masbia,  
a Jewish soup kitchen that feeds all people and  
has supported immigrants in New York City.**

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



Building peace and coexistence between Jewish & Arab citizens of Israel

Eve-Marie and Peter Schaffer
cordially invite you to a reception
and presentation to support

Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel

**Meet Hand in Hand leaders and parents from Israel
Noa Yammer and Mohamad Marzouk**

Mohamad and Noa are senior staff leaders at Hand in Hand, and Mohamad is also a parent of children attending one of our integrated schools. They are eloquent spokespersons for Hand in Hand and its mission of building peace and partnership between Arabs and Jews in Israel.

**Monday, March 13, 2017
7 PM - 9 PM**

At the home of Eve-Marie and Peter Schaffer

45 Rosehill Ave., Tarrytown, NY 10591

Please RSVP by March 6 to Lee@handinhandk12.org

In the context of the ongoing conflict between Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, Hand in Hand has created a growing and viable model for integrated education and shared society for Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. Now with over 1550 Jewish and Arab students attending its six schools and over 6,000 adult participants in joint community programs, Hand in Hand is making an impact on ever-larger segments of Israeli society.

For more information, please visit www.handinhandk12.org



Project Ezra

PCS will once again be collecting Passover food for Project Ezra, an organization that provides services to the frail elderly on the Lower East Side.

In many cases, this food is the only source of Passover food for Ezra's Elderly.

The following list comprises a Passover package. You can contribute any or all of them. Please pay close attention to the **FOODS IN BOLD** that are most often missing from the packages. Project Ezra would appreciate your paying extra attention to obtaining them:

- 2 BOXES MATZO
- 1 CAN OR JAR OF SOUP (low sodium if possible)
- 1 JAR BORSCHT
- 1 JAR OR CAN OF GEFILTE FISH
- JAM OR JELLY
- 1 DESSERT ITEM (CAKE, COOKIES, MACAROONS, ETC.)
- 1 BOX MATZO FARFEL**
- 2 CANS OF TUNA, SALMON OR SARDINES**
- 1 BOTTLE GRAPE JUICE**

**1 BOTTLE VEGETABLE OIL
INSTANT COFFEE OR TEA
1 SMALL JAR OF HONEY
2 CANNED FRUIT
2 CANNED VEGETABLES
DRIED FRUIT OR NUTS (or anything special you want to add)**

All food must be current, marked **KOSHER FOR PASSOVER** (e.g., UP) and 2017. The kosher sign only is not acceptable for Passover use. **Items must be brought to PCS by noon on Friday, March 24** and placed in the boxes in the last row of pews that are marked for this purpose.

If you are interested in helping to pack the food at Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff, please come to CSI on Sunday, March 26 at 11 am. If you can help make deliveries to Project Ezra recipients on Sunday, April, 2, on the Lower East Side please e-mail Dalia Abott at daliakabott@gmail.com.

Thank you for responding generously!



*Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a proud community sponsor of the Westchester Jewish Film Festival
March 16 to April 2
Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville*

Join the AJC and PCS for the [2017 Westchester Jewish Film Festival](#)! We are pleased to partner on the largest annual Jewish event in the region,

taking place at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville.

This year's Festival will feature 38 extraordinary films which celebrate the Jewish experience around the world. [Full Program Guide](#).

The AJC is particularly pleased to highlight five special programs which feature high-level AJC speakers for post-screening discussions. [More details on these films](#).

[Purchase Tickets!](#)

Allianz-AJC Third Generation Initiative

In Affiliation with Germany Close Up



Berlin

June 16-25, 2017

Now in their eighth year of groundbreaking cooperation, AJC and Allianz SE, in cooperation with Germany Close Up, will bring young American Jewish professionals on an annual study trip to Germany along with German peers working at Allianz.

Together, this unique group will explore German-Jewish history, including corporate history during World War II, and will meet with top-level government representatives, business leaders, scholars, and leaders of Germany's Jewish community.

We anticipate that this trip will inspire, as it has in past years, an important conversation between the American Jewish and German participants about the political and personal legacy of the Holocaust and Never Again.

Join us for this unique week-plus-Shabbat experience which will focus on the German past and present and challenges and opportunities in the German-Jewish relationship today and in the future. Participants will be encouraged to become active participants in the ongoing German-Jewish relationship.

Cost: \$600 (includes international travel, hotel, and most meals on the ground in Germany)

Eligibility: Must be between 25 and 40-years-old

For more information and how to apply: Please see instructions below

Deadline: March 17, 2017

Before You Go

Become articulate and informed:

- Participate in two briefing calls
- Receive an in-depth briefing packet with background articles and materials
- Join an online group to share information and thoughts with other participants and trip leaders

While in Germany

Serve as an AJC ambassador:

- Experience modern Germany
- Meet with leading German politicians, parliamentarians and staff
- Join discussions with German, Israeli and U.S. diplomats
- Interact with Germany's Jewish community
- Engage with Allianz colleagues; make contacts in the German business sector
- Explore Berlin, one of the most dynamic cities in Europe

Returning Home

Engage your community:

- Present your experiences locally
- Submit pieces to local papers and write online
- Participate in future AJC international engagement work with German journalists, military officers and diplomats
- Join a prestigious alumni network



www.allianz.com



www.ajc.org/access



www.germanycloseup.de

Berlin

The deadline to submit the application is March 17, 2017.

Applications should be emailed to office@germanycloseup.de

In addition to the form below, applications should include:

A resume

One letter of reference (AJC external)

A short essay of approximately 500 words explaining your interest in the trip

Information on any previous involvement with ACCESS and/or AJC and your familiarity with Germany

Personal Information:

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

GENDER

BIRTH DATE

PLACE OF BIRTH

CITIZENSHIP(S)

PASSPORT NUMBER

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

CELL PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Professional Information:

ACADEMIC DEGREE (S)

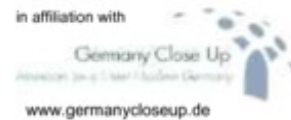
PROFESSION

COMPANY

TITLE (AT YOUR COMPANY)

SIGNATURE

DATE



For a PDF of this application form, please click [here](#).

Pleasantville Community Synagogue participates in

Shabbat Across ... Pleasantville!



Friday, March 31, 2017

Services 6:30-7:15 pm

Hot Delicious Kosher Dinner Follows

At the Pleasantville Cottage School dining room at the JCCA facility,

1075 Broadway in Pleasantville (visit www.shalompcs.com for directions).

Join in as the Pleasantville Community
Synagogue joyfully celebrates Shabbat along

with young adults from the JCCA Campus and
Community programs.

Adults \$20 ■ Children 6-13 \$10 ■ 5 and under are free

If you want to RSVP and pay on-line, click [here](#), or go to:

<https://shabbat-across-pville-2017.cheddarup.com>

It's so easy!

Or RSVP by March 27 by calling PCS at 769-2672, e-mailing
mgray@shalompcs.com, sending or faxing in the form on the other side.

Co-chaired by Roberta Korus and Ed Sperling

SHABBAT ACROSS PLEASANTVILLE

Friday night, March 31

DEADLINE to RSVP: March 27

FAMILY NAME(S):

PLEASE NOTE NUMBER OF:

Adults____ **Children 6-13**____ **Children 5 and under**_____

Vegetarian entrees _____

____ **Check enclosed, payable to PCS**

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 \$ _____

FOR PDF COPY OF THIS FORM, CLICK [HERE](#).

Rekindling Shabbat at PCS

IN MARCH...

On Friday evening, March 3,
please join us for a very special **Scholar-in-Residence**
Shabbat dinner and service, featuring our special guest,
Danny Siegel. The evening begins with dinner at 6:30 pm
(RSVP now!), followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service at
7:15 pm, including Danny's observations on "Mitzvahs
of the Rich and Famous." An Oneg Shabbat will follow.
For more information, click [here](#).

On Saturday morning, March 4, please join us for
Shabbat morning services at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon. At
12:30 pm, Danny Siegel will speak on
"Authentic Jewish Values for Ourselves, Our Families, and Our
Communities."

On Sunday morning, March 5, Danny Siegel will continue his teachings at PCS
with a 10 am Hebrew School assembly, followed by a special Parent-Child
Workshop at 10:30-11:45 am for B'nei Mitzvah students and their parents.



On Friday evening, March 10, PCS will host a SNAP (Special Needs at Pleasantville) pizza dinner and service beginning at 6:30 pm. All are welcome! For more information, click [here](#).

On Saturday morning, March 11, please join Molly and Jordan Galin and their family as the sisters become B'not Mitzvah, with services beginning at 9:30 am. This will be followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon.

On Friday evening, March 17, Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at 7:30 pm, followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

On Saturday morning, March 18, services will begin at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon.

On Friday evening, March 24, Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at 7:30 pm, followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

On Saturday, March 25, please join Max Shayegani and his family as Max becomes a Bar Mitzvah. Services will begin at 9:30 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon.

Friday evening, March 31, is Shabbat Across Pleasantville, which will take place at the Pleasantville Cottage School on the JCCA's Pleasantville campus. The PCS community and young adults from the JCCA Campus and Community programs will celebrate Shabbat together, beginning with services at 6:30 pm, followed by a delicious, hot, traditional Shabbat dinner and lots of singing. **RSVPs are a must!** For more information, click [here](#).



Shabbat Treats: Services Optional!

Shabbat at PCS is a time to nourish your soul. *Whether or not you come for the "main course" (Shabbat services),* you are invited to join us weekly for spiritual "appetizers" and "dessert."

Appetizers: Jewish Meditation

Want a sweet and simple way to add some contemplation to your life? **Join our Jewish meditation group every Shabbat (Saturday) morning at PCS at 9:15 am.** We begin with a *niggun* (melody) or chant, then a short spiritual teaching and silent meditation, followed by sharing. You can stay for services or go on your way, refreshed! (When there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, meditation starts at 9 am and concludes at 9:25 am).

Dessert: "The Teachings of Reb Zalman" with Rabbi Julie

After services (whether you attended or not), **join us at noon for a yummy Kiddush lunch and schmoozing, followed from about 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm by an experiential, interactive class on the teachings of Reb Zalman Schacter-Shalomi,** Rabbi Julie's teacher of blessed memory. Reb Zalman was a world religious figure and the founder of the Jewish Renewal Movement, a dynamic movement of spiritual Renaissance in the Jewish world. If you are interested, you may wish to

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

General Fund/Fair Share

Joanna Rizoulis and Seth Rutman
Sandra Serebin, in honor of Ben Serebin's birthday
Jeff Rachlin
Ken Furst
Peter Schaffer
Mike Rhodes
Oren Cohen
Evan Kingsley
Jerry Neuburger
Eric Klein
Michael Safranek
Jeff Neuburger
Bruce Gutenplan
Bernie Gordon

Taxi Fund

Rhea Wolfthal

Ed Sperling Fund

Rhea Wolfthal, in memory of her beloved uncle, Louis Etkin and her beloved mother, Syd Gitelson

MARCH YAHRZEITS

Benjamin Jablow, son of Andrea and Robert Jablow, and brother of Terry Jablow	March 4
Ida Cohen, mother of Hirsh Cohen	March 7
Joan Fixler, mother of Karen Fixler	March 14
Barney Etkin, uncle of Rhea Wolfthal	March 16
Charles Lubelsky, father of Janice Sandbank	March 16
Lester Mayers, husband of Nancy Mayers and father of Michael Mayers	March 17
Morris Fuchs, father of Audrey Lenoff	March 22
Harold Altman, father of Barbara Altman Bruno	March 25
Charlie Sandbank, husband of Janice Sandbank	March 26

Hank Mayers, grandfather of Michael Mayers
Martin Neuburger, father of Jerry Neuburger
Arthur Zucker, father of Steven Zucker

March 27
March 29
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 contact Rabbi Julie at (914) 769-2672 or Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com, or to our Caring (Chesed) Committee Chair, Susan Friedman at (917) 846-3038, or SFriedman@ShalomPCS.com.



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

Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

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

PCS officers and trustees:

Officers

President: Amy Gutenplan
Secretary: Laurie Hirsch Schulz
Treasurer: Jonathan Goodman
Vice President: Roberta Korus
Vice President: Richard Solomon

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Richard Solomon
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Sheila Major
info@ShalomPCS.com

Rabbi Julie Danan
rabbi@ShalomPCS.com

To contact PCS:

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

Marcy Gray, Synagogue Administrator: (914) 769-2672; mgray@ShalomPCS.com
Galit Sperling, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; principal@ShalomPCS.com
Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; Accounts@ShalomPCS.com
Julia McCarthy, Youth Leader, youthdirector@shalompcs.com.

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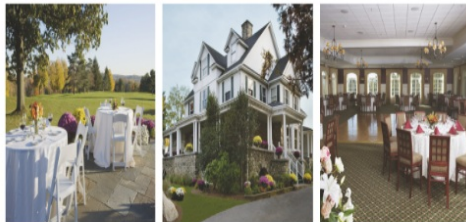


Introducing to Briarcliff the new owner of Zokkoz Salon, Jillian Sherman. Ever since she discovered Aveda a few years ago, she has tried to live by their mission. The combination of her love for hair and making people's true beauty come out with Aveda's products has proven to give her the ability to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



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



Pleasantville Community Synagogue Newsletter
March 2017 3 Adar - 4 Nisan 5777