



## THE RABBI'S COLUMN: *HINENI*—HERE I AM

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan

*Editor's Note: The following sermon was delivered by Rabbi Julie on Erev Rosh Hashanah 2015.*

A proud young mother sees off her son to school on the first day. "Be a good boy, my *bubeleh!* Be careful and think of mommy, *tatteleh!* Come right home on the bus, *yingeleh!* Mommy loves you very much, my *ziseleh!*"

At the end of the day, she's waiting for the bus and sweeps him into her arms. "And what did my *bubeleh ziseleh* learn on his first day at school?"

"Well, Mommy, I learned that my real name is Steve."

Knowing our name and asserting our own identity are important parts of growing up. Sometimes we take attendance in Hebrew school, hear our name called, and respond, "*Hineni*," "Here I am," "I am present."

Hebrew words and phrases fascinate me. Unlike English, where the beauty comes from having such a large choice of words to describe what we mean, in Hebrew the power comes from all the centuries of texts and associations with each word. Also, Hebrew is an economical language, and you can often fit a phrase into one word. So, *hineni*; in one word, we mean: Here I am, present, focused, ready to help.

The first question which God asks Adam in the Garden of Eden, is "Ayeka? Where are you?" We have been answering this ever since. On a spiritual level, every child of Adam is asked daily, "Where are you in your life?" Jewish tradition gives us the word to answer: *Hineni*.

In the dramatic story of the binding and near sacrifice of Isaac, which we read on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the word *hineni* is repeated three times: first, when God calls to Abraham and commands him to bring Isaac as a sacrifice; then, when Isaac turns to his father; and finally, when an angel calls from heaven and tells Abraham not to sacrifice his son, for he and all his descendants will be blessed because of his unswerving faith in God. To each address, Abraham answers: "*Hineni*—here I am."

As the Biblical narrative progresses, fathers call to sons, who answer, "*Hineni*," and there are many incidents of God calling people by name: Jacob, Moses at the burning bush, Samuel, and Isaiah. When God calls, there is really only one answer: "*Hineni*, here I am."

But *hineni* goes far beyond the Bible. Kabbalists gave us the idea of a *kavanah*, a sacred intention said before doing a ritual. Classically, this begins with the word, "*Hineni*," behold, look, I am fully present, doing a seemingly simple deed with awareness of its cosmic implications.

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Tomorrow after the Torah service, our Cantor will lead us in *Musaf* of Rosh Hashanah, the most powerful and magnificent prayer service of the year. This profound prayer, with its majestic melodies, intersperses the primal cries of the shofar with great themes of God's sovereignty, memory, and the call to action. During *Musaf* tomorrow, I will also share brief meditations from Reb Zalman to guide us in hearing the shofar. *Musaf* also includes the deepest *piyu*, (prayer-poem) in Jewish history, *Unetaneh Tokef*, with its stark depiction of the human condition, which Professor Sarah Tauber and I will discuss with you on the second morning of Rosh Hashanah.

*Musaf* is like the Grand Canyon of Jewish prayers; it's that awesome, and there she is, our Cantor, charged by the community to lead us to the bottom and back to the top. (Kind of makes you want to stay for *Musaf* tomorrow, I know!)

So how can the *Hazzanit* even dare open her mouth for *Musaf* of Rosh Hashanah? She begins by chanting a personal prayer, a prayer before the prayer, a prayer expressing her humility and awe at this spiritual opportunity. Her pre-prayer for *Musaf* is "**Hineni**," here I am, here I stand. This is who I am and whether or not I feel worthy, my self is what I have to offer. I'm bringing my all, so please help me, God.

So *Hineni* says, "I am present. I am here, ready to answer the call. Like Moses, I realize that where I stand is holy ground. I am here, I bring my whole self to my task, whether it seems small or impossibly large."

This year, my first at PCS, I hope that we can take the word **Hineni** as our motto.

**Hineni.** First, be present for your own soul. This Season of Renewal, take some time to consider how you care for your inner life through Shabbat, prayer, meditation, time in nature, and so on. I hope that I will always model self-care, because you can't show up and help others if you are exhausted and burnt out. Keeping days of rest and renewal is a **requirement** of our religion. I am here as a teacher, guide, and rabbinic pastor to help you to be present for yourself and your family first and foremost. From there I ask your presence in our PCS community.

**Hineni; Here I am.** I have moved across the country to be here, not because I needed a job, but because I am ready to grow and to serve and guide a dynamic community that has developed a vision and is likewise ready to grow, inwardly and outwardly. I sought a community that shares my values of welcome, inclusion, and meaningful, joyful worship, meditation, and study. That's why I have moved to Pleasantville, close to our synagogue, and strive to be present for you. (Not continuously—no rabbi can be on duty 24/7 and still be present to herself and her family—but to be accessible and welcoming.)

We are in a time of transition, as I wrote in my last newsletter column, and during times of transition we may experience sadness over endings and temporary uncertainty about the future. Transitions lead some people to draw back, to disengage. Instead, I ask you to make the commitment of **Hineni**, of being here. Over the past month I have already met well over 100 people, and over and over have heard how much this community means to you, how easy it was to become involved, how joyful and welcoming and unpretentious.

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Too much of synagogue work today is getting people to show up. I've even taken a class on "marketing as a mitzvah." We are competing with so many attractions in the secular world. Consider the wonderful experiences that you have had when you have showed up for PCS, the energy and excitement of being together in community, of experiencing special times with the congregation. If you have those warm feelings towards the congregation, or you are new and attracted to our community spirit, I invite you to decide this Rosh Hashanah how you will say your **Hineni**. What is your unique contribution? It could be playing music, working with kids, teaching a class, or leading a *Tikkun Olam* project.

Our Vision Committee found this year that one of our top goals for the future is to be there for one another in times of emergency. Sometimes people are reluctant to visit the sick or to visit mourners, because they are worried about saying the "right thing." There are no magic words to say, but you are speaking volumes by just being present, giving a hug, or just sitting there for a while. In fact, when someone is in mourning, our tradition tells us not to say anything until the mourner opens the conversation. The emphasis is all on presence—**Hineni**, I'm here. Your president, Amy Gutenplan, and I are seeking members for a new Caring Community Committee, to help us develop ways to make sure that people who are in a crisis have what they need, be it visitors, help at home, or chicken soup. You might say, "We do those things anyway," but if we want to grow, we have to make sure that every member, old or new, has someone showing up for them. From there, we need to be present for the broader community by renewing our *Tikkun Olam* activities.

Then there is showing up for services. (You knew I would get to that.) Tradition tells us that just because a *minyan*, ten people, show up to pray, we feel God's presence more directly, and we can sanctify God's name in a way that we cannot accomplish as individuals. Kabbalah takes it deeper and teaches us that the *Shechinah*, the Divine Presence in every soul, can be felt many times more strongly when souls gather together. As a rabbi, I feel the energy shift in the room the second that the tenth person walks in. I also feel the energy multiplied so dramatically when many *more* people show up.

One of the most important Hineni commitments for each PCS member is to show up at Shabbat services, not just b'nei mitzvot or special events, but regular, ordinary, extraordinary Shabbats. That is when visitors often check us out, on ordinary Friday nights, and the amount of participation that they see or don't see is often their only impression of our community. Your commitment to be a regular participant in our joyful prayer experiences this year will help our community grow and thrive.

We accepted the Torah at Sinai and made a covenant with God, not as lone individuals, but as a community. "Don't cut yourself off from the community," said our sages. I used to tell my college students about my attendance policy in words attributed to Woody Allen: 90 percent of success is showing up. There is so much in our tradition about the value of showing up, of being there. I remember that once a family member was having a very hard time, and a sibling traveled hours to just show up unannounced at her door. I think of a couple of evenings last year—evenings when I would rather have stayed home—but I just showed up for the African-American community or the Arab-American community in my town during a crisis so that they would know that a Jewish rabbi cared. I think of when someone in my own family went through health issues or bereavement, and people showed up for us so generously.

In the age of virtual interactions, being present is the biggest present you can give.

As we begin the New Year, in the call of the Shofar, let us hear the first Jewish question: *Ayeka?* Where are you? Where are you this moment, this year, in your inner life, your personal mission in the world, and in your commitment to our congregational community?

And let each of us respond, in our hearts and by our actions: **Hineni—Here I am.**

# HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



by Galit Sperling, Principal

The year has started off wonderfully at the PCS Hebrew School! Students welcomed in the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) with apples and honey, shofar blowing, and introductions to their new teachers and the exciting curriculum in store for them this year.

We are thrilled to have a fantastic teaching staff this year: For first/second grades (Kitah Aleph/Bet), we welcome Morah Phyllis Ticker! For third grade (Kitah Gimmel), Morah Tamar Drucker will be teaching on Thursday afternoons. Morah Jennifer Chervin will be teaching Kitah Gimmel on Sunday mornings, as well as our fourth grade class (Kitah Daled) both Sundays and Thursdays. The fifth and sixth grade classes (Kitah Hey and Kitah Vav) will be taught by Morah Karen Stamatis (Sundays and Thursdays), Morah Jamie Cotel (Thursdays) and Morah Laurel Romero (Sundays). Our seventh graders (Kitah Zayin) will learn with Rabbi Julie on Sundays, and with Moreh Isaac Brooks on Thursday evenings.

We are grateful to have fabulous teen assistants (madrichim) for the PCS Hebrew School this year as well. Thank you to Tova Greene, Deborah Johnston, Katie Ross, Sophia Rutman, and Michelle Siegel for acting as teen leaders and role models for our students in the Hebrew School!

The PCS Sukkah was put up on September 27, and students from the Hebrew School made decorations to be hung inside. We are having a great time celebrating Sukkot and look forward to celebrating the joyous holiday of Simchat Torah this month, as we usher in the fall season!

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## **Important Upcoming Hebrew School Events:**

**Monday evening, October 5:** Simchat Torah Celebration, and Consecration with a Sweetness of Torah Celebration for our newest Hebrew School students (first and second graders)

**Sunday, October 11:** No classes (Columbus Day weekend; teacher *Kallah*)

**Sunday, October 25:** Israeli soldiers visit the Hebrew School, courtesy of Tzahal Shalom!

**Friday evening, October 30:** Kitah Aleph/Bet Shabbaton

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Students enjoying apples and honey, and blowing the shofar!



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Students making decorations  
for the PCS Sukkah



# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Editor's Note: This piece was adapted from the address PCS President Amy Gutenplan delivered at Kol Nidre 2015.*

As a child, I always loved how the holidays coincided with the start of the school year. To me, they both represented the opportunity for a new beginning. The beginning of a new school year was the perfect occasion to start again, fresh. The arrival of the holidays found me in shul, sitting quietly and thinking about how I could be a better person in the New Year. I could decide: Who do I want to be this year?

And now, who do I want to be as a member of PCS? Those of you who purchased the all-access holiday pass, heard Rabbi Danan's Erev Rosh Hashanah sermon, "*Hineni—Here I Am.*" (See page 1 of this issue.) Being present physically, emotionally, and spiritually. That's who I decided to be this year—one who is present in our community. Someone who is committed to the future of PCS.



I invite you join me in taking responsibility for the future of Pleasantville Community Synagogue. Because we are a community, and we all need to participate.

We have so many people in our community who have spent countless hours, whether in synagogue or volunteering their time. We need all of those people; we need all of those commitments. But to grow and to thrive, we need community volunteers for additional committees and to plan events. Whatever time you have available or whatever your skills and interests, we will find a role for you.

You have heard Rabbi Danan speak about the joy of having a full sanctuary on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. The spiritual energy created is transformative. We cannot sustain our community without the doers and the *daveners*, yet none of it is sustainable without the financial commitment of all of us.

We each have different financial circumstances, and every contribution is important and valued. But in the past, we have relied on the generosity of a handful of families to make up for shortfalls in our budget. That is an unsustainable model. Not only is it unsustainable, it is irresponsible, and it needs to change. Each of us needs to take responsibility for the financial support of PCS.

Think about your financial contribution last year. I challenge each of you to increase your contribution to PCS this year.

Part of the increase is necessary simply to balance the budget; keep the lights on and maintain current programming. With additional funds, we can do wonderful things. Wouldn't it be great to have the funds for a beautification project—gardens, flowers, plantings? The outside of our building should reflect the warm, welcoming community that is inside the building. We could also increase our youth programming. After B'nei Mitzvah, many of our kids lose interest. One way to keep them involved in synagogue life, and connected to the Jewish world, is to offer them meaningful programs. How great would it be to bring speakers to PCS to educate us about current events, Israel, culture? These are just some the projects that will allow us to grow and become a more vibrant PCS.

But I need each and every one of you to join me in taking responsibility for the financial well-being of this community. We are a community and, as a community, we can all share in the creation of a wonderful future for PCS.

—Amy Gutenplan

# On Aging and Dying: Some Personal Reflections

I have observed that any mention of our approaching end of life, specifically our inevitable death, is a taboo in almost all conversations to which I am party, even among those of us who are nearing that end. In my own family we never spoke the word “death,” opting for euphemisms like “passed on” instead. There was an irrational fear that the mere mention of death somehow acted like a curse or a harbinger of that inevitability dropping in on us unexpectedly. In recent years, especially after I turned 70, I began to think about it more often and to speak of it openly. There are now a few friends with whom I can discuss this, but for the most part it still remains a closed subject. Because I think that we actually burden ourselves unnecessarily by holding in our fear, and that we limit the possibilities of what we can still do in our later years, I have chosen to begin writing about my own journey in a series of essays that I am sharing in this space. It is my hope that this will lead to a real sharing among any of us interested in pursuing this subject, both in the context of Jewish thought and as other spiritual teachers have written about it.

Here is some background on my personal connection to the subject. My mother died at 89 after suffering a series of strokes more than three years earlier. She had written a living will specifying that she did not wish to be kept alive with artificial aids, but my father could not let her go, so he kept her alive and at home, first with extraordinary care, and later with a feeding tube. She was barely conscious for most of the time, and comatose for many months before her death, saddled with a strong heart that kept beating. He, on the other hand, remained vital both physically and mentally for all but the last of his 96 years—an enviable exit, though one riddled with the fear of which he could not speak. From this background, I emerged with a determination that I would face and plan for my own demise, feeling the fear that arises in me and allowing it to pass through me. And this is an important lesson that I have learned about any fear: It arises without warning, but it also leaves if I do not suppress it. The act of suppression locks it in and makes it worse.

One of the ways I have chosen to deal with the fear of death is to volunteer in a hospice environment, sometimes in a private home and sometimes in a facility. When I tell people about this work, I get one of two responses: “Why would you want to be close to death?”, or “Wow! Isn’t that courageous?” The truth is that I do it for “selfish” reasons. People who are dying are my teachers; they allow me to witness something deeply personal and essential about themselves, the core of our human frailty. Even in their pain and confusion, they speak about the truth of their lives, unvarnished. And from this I am also able to understand something essential about my own life, and that essence is that death is a part of life. It is not life or death, but life and death. The “and” is the key, the key to the door of a fulfilling end and a good death. It is particularly appropriate that I am writing this the day before Yom Kippur, when we recite the prayer *Unataneh Tokef*—Who shall live and who shall die?

This is only a brief introduction, and I recognize that my words may be upsetting or confusing to some of you. It is not an easy subject to write about, but I am open to hearing your thoughts and to continuing a dialogue.

— Peter Schaffer



## HIGH HOLIDAY THANK YOU'S

To the High Holiday Committee, Richard [Solomon], and to all who participated, helped out, planned, worked, read, etc.:

Compliments for a job well done.

We could not have accomplished what we did without YOU! Each and every one of you! Congratulations.

Special thanks to Malcolm Netburn, who made my job so much easier.

And most of all, welcome greetings to our new Rabbi Julie and her family as we welcome them to our synagogue and to Pleasantville. With the hard work and endless collaborative preparation of Rabbi Julie and Cantor Abbe, I feel that these holidays and services turned out to be outstanding.

All good wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy and successful year.

— *David E. Sheinkopf*

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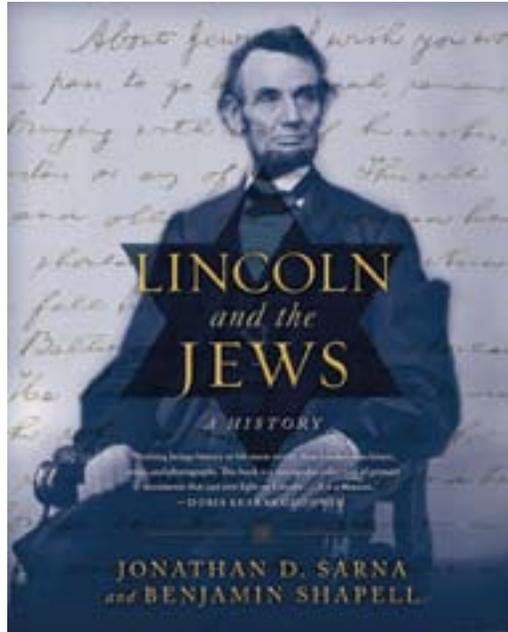
There were many people who helped with the holiday food set-up and service. Thank you to: Eileen Jagoda, Jodie and Hanna Rossi, Estelle Rosen Kersh, Margaret and Jake Coleman, Nancy Mayers, Tanya Nadas, Emma Reisman, Susan Scherer, Lori Neuburger, Lucy, Olivia and Noah Soloman, Dylan Marcus, Matthea Schor, Kyra Schulz, and Fred Strauss. I couldn't have done this without you!

— *Robin Berman*

## TODAH RABAH TO ALL!

## ***Lincoln and the Jews: A History***

by Jonathan D. Sarna and Benjamin Shapell



Over the summer, [the PCS Bookworm](#) was fortunate enough to see a wonderful exhibit at the New York Historical Society entitled “Lincoln and the Jews: A History.” That is also the title of the book reviewed here this month. *Lincoln and the Jews: A History* is by historians Jonathan D. Sarna and Benjamin Shapell.

In 1858, when Abraham Lincoln emerged onto the national stage, Jews made up less than one half of one percent of the American population. Many Americans of that time did not know any Jew personally, yet Lincoln did, and these relationships stood out amid stereotyping and anti-Semitism of mid-19th century America. The bonds Lincoln formed with Jewish individuals during his lifetime, and the interventions he made as president on behalf of all Jews, reflected his deepest values and helped promote Jewish equality in the United States.

Many Jews were appointed to various posts by Lincoln. About 50 Jews served as quartermasters during the Civil War. On one remarkable occasion, Lincoln appointed an assistant quartermaster precisely because he was a Jew. This individual was Cheme Moise Levy, the son-in-law of Rabbi Morris Raphall of New York’s Congregation B’nai Jeshurun. One other last fascinating item I learned was that Judah P. Benjamin, senator from Louisiana and a member of the cabinet of the Confederacy, was the first Jew to appear on any American currency, albeit on the \$2 bill of the Confederate States of America. Before the Civil War, Benjamin was also the first Jew to be considered for nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

This wonderful book is chock full of interesting facts about Jews during one of our country’s most turbulent times.

*Lincoln and the Jews* is available at your local library or from the NY Historical Society.

## ***After Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur...***



## ***The Fun Continues!***

***There is something for everyone at PCS:***

**Friday evening, October 2**

**SHABBAT in the SUKKAH\*: An Alternative Shabbat Experience**

**5:30 pm: PJ Shabbat for the little ones in the Sukkah**

**6:15 pm: Appetizers in the Sukkah**

Instead of formal services, celebrate Shabbat in the Sukkah with some wine, cheese, and noshes.

Rabbi Julie will lead us in Shabbat blessings, songs, and a story.

**Saturday, October 3**

**9:30 am: Meditation in the Sukkah\***

**10 am: Family Education SHABBAT OF SUKKOT  
with kiddush in the Sukkah\***

**Sunday, October 4**

**1:30 -3:30 pm: Open House in the Sukkah at Rabbi Julie's home in Pleasantville. All are welcome.**

For the address and to RSVP, contact the office.

**Monday, October 5**

**10 am to noon: Yom Tov service, Shemini Atzeret, including the Yizkor memorial service. Kiddush in the Sukkah\***

*and then...*

**6:30 pm to 8 pm: Simchat Torah Extravaganza!**

**Sunday, October 11**

**9 am: Come help take down the Sukkah!**

*\*In case of rain, our Sukkot kiddushim and celebrations will move inside.*

*Please join us for a very special*

# Pajama Shabbat in the Sukkah!

**Friday night, October 2, 5:30 pm**  
**Followed at 6:15 pm with**  
**appetizers in the Sukkah**  
**for all ages!\***

*There will be no formal Friday night service.*



You've read about us in *The New York Times*.

You've heard about us from friends and neighbors.

**Pleasantville Community Synagogue...** with members from 20 towns, villages, and cities all across Westchester.

# Joyful Judaism!

**\*In case of rain, our celebration will be held inside.**

~ ~ ~

**Pleasantville Community Synagogue ~ 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY**  
**(914) 769-2672 ~ [info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com) ~ [www.shalompcs.com](http://www.shalompcs.com)**

# ***SIMCHAT TORAH EXTRAVAGANZA!\****



***Monday evening, October 5,  
6:30 pm - 8 pm***

- ~ We finish the Torah readings for the year and begin again.***
- ~ Consecration/Sweetness of Torah for our newest Hebrew School students***
  - ~ Flags and goodies for the kids!***
  - ~ Music and dancing with the Torah!***
  - ~ Refreshments will be served.***

***Come experience the joy of Torah!***

***\*This is Rabbi Julie's favorite holiday so she hopes EVERYONE will come to celebrate!***

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**HELP TAKE DOWN THE PCS SUKKAH!  
Sunday, October 11 at 9 am.**

**Come do a mitzvah and have fun!  
All are welcome.**

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*Come to PCS to celebrate the fall and*

# **ROSH CHODESH!**

**Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 pm**

at Pleasantville Community Synagogue

*Come learn about the transition from holiday to workday.  
PCS congregant and author Dr. Judith Schmidt will help teach us how  
to bring the spiritual into our everyday lives.*

*Come meditate, pray, snack (of course)  
and share what new journeys we plan to take in 5776.*



To RSVP or for more information,  
call Marcy Gray at PCS at 769-2672 or  
e-mail Robin Berman at [awake.robin@gmail.com](mailto:awake.robin@gmail.com).

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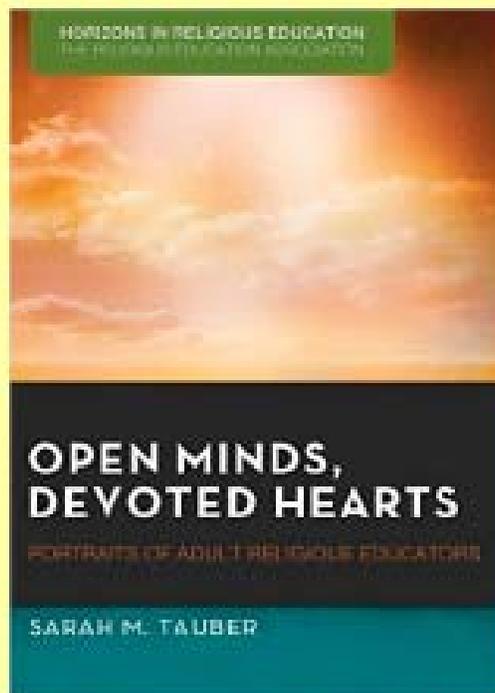
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Celebrating 18 Years ~ Fair Share Dues means anyone can belong  
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Join us for a very special evening at PCS with

# Prof. Sarah Tauber

who will read from and discuss her new book,

## "Open Minds, Devoted Hearts: Portraits of Adult Religious Educators" Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 pm



PCS congregant and Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Sarah Tauber has garnered an enthusiastic following and *an evening with her is not to be missed.*

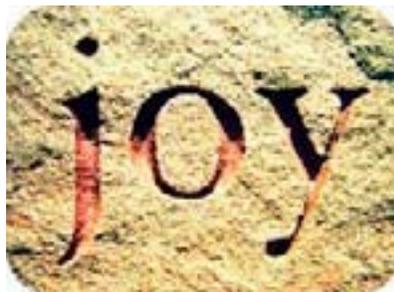
Copies of Professor Tauber's book will be available for purchase.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, e-mail Marcy Gray at [mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto:mgray@shalompcs.com) or call PCS at 914-769-2672.

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***"Taste and See" (from Psalm 34)  
at PCS with Rabbi Julie***

**Nourish Yourself at PCS Every Shabbat Morning**  
***Come just for the "course" you like or stay all morning to enjoy the whole feast!***

**9-9:30 am: Nourish Your Spirit**  
*Spiritual Teachings & Meditation led by Rabbi Julie Danan*

**9:30 am-Noon: Nourish Your Heart and Soul**  
*A Lively and Contemplative Shabbat Service and Torah Reading*

**Noon: Nourish Your Body**  
*Socialize with friends at our delicious Kiddush*

**12:30 pm-1:15 pm: Nourish Your Mind (and heart and soul, too!)**  
*Interactive Torah Study with Rabbi Julie Danan*



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[www.shalompcs.com](http://www.shalompcs.com)

# ***Brown bag it with Rabbi Julie!***



Rabbi Julie is making herself available to all PCS congregants - and prospective congregants - as much as possible! Here are some of the many options to meet with Rabbi Julie, get to know her and, perhaps more important, give her the opportunity to get to know YOU...

## **Thursdays: "The Rabbi is In"**

**Open office hours: 11 am -2 pm**  
**Drop by to shmooze, have coffee, or brown bag lunch AT NOON with Rabbi Julie (food brought to PCS must be dairy/parve).**

***Also on Thursdays,  
drop by during Hebrew school hours!***

## **Wednesdays:**

**Can't come during the day?**

**Wednesday evenings, Rabbi Julie will be available to meet and get to know you in small gatherings, 7 pm to 8ish.**

**RSVPs needed for evening appointments.  
Call the PCS office at 914-769-2672.**

**To set up a private meeting at other times,  
e-mail [rabbi@shalompcs.com](mailto:rabbi@shalompcs.com).**

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## **ON THE HORIZON AT PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE...**

For Rosh Chodesh Kislev in November, the **Rosh Chodesh Group** will meet on **Wednesday, November 11, from 7:30 pm to 9 pm**. There will be more information about this event in our November issue, but whatever the focus of the celebration, participants will pray, study, share, chat, and nosh.

For more information, please contact Committee Chair Robin Berman at [awake.robin@gmail.com](mailto:awake.robin@gmail.com).

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In our November issue, **the PCS Bookworm**, Eileen Jagoda, will review the historical novel, ***The Day of Atonement* by David Liss**.

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The **PCS Newsletter** would love to publish **photos taken in Israel** that include you and your family, from either past or current travels. Please send as an attachment via email to:

Roberta Korus - [robertakorus@gmail.com](mailto:robertakorus@gmail.com)



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## CONTRIBUTIONS

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**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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### **General Fund/Fair Share**

Richard Levine

Eileen Jagoda

Audrey Lenoff

Emma and Dave Reisman

Hedi Sperling, in memory of her beloved mother, Blima Weiss

Dara Meyers-Kingsley and Evan Kingsley, in memory of Elizabeth Greene

Susan and Malcolm Netburn

### **Wish List Donations**

Deb Spanierman for Shabbat flowers

Robin Henry and Jonathan Goodman for Hebrew School supplies

Kiersten and Jay Zweibaum for Hebrew School supplies

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# OCTOBER YAHRZEITS

|                                                |            |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Alan Klein, brother of Eric Klein              | October 2  |
| Morris Berenbaum, uncle of Helen Harrison      | October 2  |
| Sandy Karmen, mother of Abbe Karmen            | October 6  |
| Dyna Gordon, mother of Bernard Gordon          | October 6  |
| Mitch Rosenberg, father of Joan Krasne         | October 7  |
| Rebecca Tessler, grandmother of Richard Lapine | October 9  |
| Hinda Berenbaum, grandmother of Helen Harrison | October 14 |
| Edythe Rosenberg, mother of Joan Krasne        | October 15 |
| Rhoda Scherer, mother of Susan Scherer         | October 16 |
| Florence Fuchs, sister of Audrey Lenoff        | October 17 |
| Arnold Reisman, father of David Reisman        | October 17 |
| Henry Elkin, father of Eve-Marie Schaffer      | October 17 |
| Ruth Goldberg, mother of Eric Goldberg         | October 18 |
| Rose Dulberg, grandmother of Lisa Lipkin       | October 18 |
| Esther Levine, mother of Susan Netburn         | October 19 |
| Gladys Kleinman, mother of Carren Kleinman     | October 21 |
| Irving Goodman, father of Jonathan Goodman     | October 21 |
| Irwin Rutman, father of Seth Rutman            | October 23 |
| Leo Sheinkopf, father of David Sheinkopf       | October 30 |

**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 Julie at (914) 769-2672, or email her at [rabbi@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:rabbi@ShalomPCS.com).**





Pleasantville Community Synagogue

## Yahrzeit Memorial Board

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 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](http://www.hebcal.com), or contact Marcy Gray at 769-2672, [mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed payable to *Pleasantville Community Synagogue*

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Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

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Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**If paying by credit card**, please mail this form to PCS, email to [Accounts@shalomPCS.com](mailto: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.**



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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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## **THE PCS 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 by emailing them to [mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto:mgray@shalompcs.com).

### **\* Ad Specifications:**

Ads will be published in one size only: one-quarter page, which is approximately 3½ x 4¾ inches. The entire ad (both text and artwork) should be provided by the advertiser in GIF, JPEG, PDF or TIFF format ONLY. Please proofread your ad before sending.

### **\* Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin is published in July and August) is \$125 for ¼ page. **Note:** Checks preferred; please mail checks 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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## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

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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 Roberta Korus, Editor, at [robertakorus@gmail.com](mailto:robertakorus@gmail.com), 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 Mission Statement

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

## PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

### Officers

President: Amy Gutenplan  
Secretary: Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
Treasurer: Mark Freiheit  
Vice President: Kiersten Zweibaum  
Vice President: Richard Solomon

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Eric Klein  
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Karen Neuburger  
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April Lasher Sanders  
[avivalasher@optonline.net](mailto:avivalasher@optonline.net)

### Board of Trustees

Cristina Altieri-Martinez  
[cmartinez@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:cmartinez@ShalomPCS.com)

Roberta Korus  
[robertakorus@gmail.com](mailto:robertakorus@gmail.com)

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Rabbi Julie Danan  
[rabbi@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:rabbi@ShalomPCS.com)

## 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](mailto:bdoctor670@gmail.com)

### B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling  
[edsperling@gmail.com](mailto:edsperling@gmail.com)

### Building

Richard Levine  
[rlevine@shalomPCS.com](mailto:rlevine@shalomPCS.com)

### Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum  
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### Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez  
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### Spiritual Life

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[pschaffer@shalomPCS.com](mailto:pschaffer@shalomPCS.com)

### Finance

April Lasher Sanders  
[alasher@shalomPCS.com](mailto:alasher@shalomPCS.com)

### Fundraising

Kenneth Fuirst  
[kfuirst@shalomPCS.com](mailto:kfuirst@shalomPCS.com)

### High Holidays

Richard Solomon  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Human Resources

Karen Neuburger  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
[lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com](mailto:lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com)

### Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi  
[leyla@shalomPCS.com](mailto:leyla@shalomPCS.com)

### Israel Action

Ofri Felder  
[ofelder@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ofelder@shalomPCS.com)

Seth Rutman

[srutman@shalomPCS.com](mailto:srutman@shalomPCS.com)

### Rosh Chodesh

Robin Berman  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold  
[mgold@shalomPCS.com](mailto:mgold@shalomPCS.com)

### Youth

Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

To contact PCS: Phone (914) 769-2672; Fax (914) 769-1795; Website: [www.ShalomPCS.com](http://www.ShalomPCS.com)

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

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

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



# TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5776

## October 2015 - PCS Calendar

| Sunday                                                                                                                               | Monday                                                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                                                                      | Wednesday                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                                                          | Friday                                                                                                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:00am Help put up the Sukkah!<br/>6:27pm - Candle lighting</p> <p>Hebrew School ...</p>                         | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>10:00am Sukkot services<br/>7:15pm Yoga at PCS<br/>☀ Sukkot I</p> <p>PCS office closed</p>                                                 | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>7:54pm - Havdalah<br/>☀ Sukkot II</p> <p>PCS office closed</p>                                                           | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>6:30pm "Pizza in the Hut" - Teens and families with Rabbi Julie in the Sukkah<br/>☀ Sukkot III (CH"M)</p> | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00pm Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi in the Sukkah, weather permitting<br/>☀ Sukkot IV (CH"M)</p> <p>...</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>5:30pm PJ Shabbat in the Sukkah, weather permitting<br/>6:15pm Appetizers in the Sukkah, weather permitting.<br/>No formal service tonight</p> <p>...</p> | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00am Morning meditation. 10 am Family Education Shabbat of Sukkot service. Kiddush in the Sukkah, weather permitting<br/>7:47pm - Havdalah</p> |
| <p><b>4</b></p> <p>1:30pm Open House Sukkah at Rabbi Danan's home<br/>6:15pm - Candle lighting<br/>☀ Sukkot VII (Hebena Baba)***</p> | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>10:00am Yom Tov service, including Yizkor.<br/>6:30pm Simchat Torah celebration!<br/>☀ Shmini Atzeret-Eighth Day of Assembly</p> <p>...</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:30pm Religious Practices Committee meeting<br/>7:42pm - Havdalah<br/>☀ Simchat Torah - Day of Celebrating the Torah</p> | <p><b>7</b></p>                                                                                                               | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Hebrew School</p>                                                                                              | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:07pm - Candle lighting<br/>7:15pm Services</p>                                                                                                          | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation;<br/>Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Marcus,<br/>7:36pm - Havdalah Parashat Parashat**</p>             |
| <p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:00am Help take down the Sukkah!<br/>No Hebrew School</p>                                                       | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:15pm Yoga at PCS</p>                                                                                                                     | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>☀ Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - The new Hebrew month of Cheshvan</p>                                                           | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>7:30pm Rosh Chodesh event<br/>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan ☀</p>                                                 | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Hebrew School</p>                                                                                             | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>5:56pm - Candle lighting<br/>7:15pm Services</p>                                                                                                         | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation;<br/>Shabbat morning service, 9:30<br/>7:25pm - Havdalah Parashat Noach</p>                                           |
| <p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting</p> <p>Hebrew School</p>                                                      | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:15pm Yoga at PCS</p>                                                                                                                     | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>7:30pm Board Meeting</p>                                                                                                 | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>7:30pm Sarah Tauber book reading and discussion</p>                                                       | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Hebrew School</p> <p>...</p>                                                                                  | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>5:46pm - Candle lighting<br/>7:15pm Services</p>                                                                                                         | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation;<br/>Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Noah Solomon, 9:30 am<br/>7:14pm - Havdalah Parashat</p> <p>...</p>     |
| <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Hebrew School</p>                                                                                                | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>7:15pm Yoga at PCS</p>                                                                                                                     | <p><b>27</b></p>                                                                                                                             | <p><b>28</b></p>                                                                                                              | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Hebrew School</p>                                                                                             | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>5:36pm - Candle lighting<br/>7:15pm Services<br/><br/>Alef-Bet Shabbaton<br/>Shabbat Dinner</p>                                                          | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00am Morning meditation,<br/>Shabbat morning service, 9:30<br/>7:05pm - Havdalah Parashat Vayera</p>                                          |

**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](http://www.ShalomPCS.com). Calendars for future months are also on the website.

