



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: A MARATHON OF PRAYER

By Mark Sameth

IN THIS ISSUE

<u>The Rabbi's Column</u>	1
<u>President's Message</u>	2
<u>B'nei Mitzvah Project</u>	2
<u>Our New Hebrew School Principal</u>	3
<u>Tashlich: The Casting of Sins</u>	4
<u>Simchat Torah Honorees</u>	6
<u>High Holy Days at PCS</u>	11
<u>High Holy Days Schedule</u>	14
<u>Yarzeit Memorial Board</u>	15
<u>September Yarzheits</u>	18
<u>Jewish Music and Arts Festival</u>	19
<u>Contributions</u>	23
<u>Calendar</u>	25
<u>Save the Dates</u>	26

I did the math.

Over Rosh Hashanna and Yom Kippur there will be 22 hours of prayer at the JCC - almost 24 hours if you count the Tashlich service at Nannahagan Pond. That's a lot of prayer!

Although some of us find prayer very comforting, many of us, if not most of us, find prayer very difficult, even alienating. And I'm not talking here about our fluency with Hebrew. I'm talking about the imagery, the assumptions, the beliefs.... that kind of stuff.

So I want to address that together this year, to see if we can make prayer more meaningful. Part of the problem, I think, is that the High Holiday prayer book is so full of prayers from the medieval era. Don't get me wrong. Many of them are quite beautiful. But they also present an image of God that is increasingly difficult to relate to today: God as King, God as Father, God as Judge.

In Kabbalah, in the Jewish mystical tradition, God is spoken of quite differently: as Endlessness (Ayn Sof) and as Presence (Shekhinah). And in the

Torah God is spoken of in the feminine: As Goddess (Eloah) and even as God of My Breasts (El Shaddai). Now there's a conversation starter!

So over the holidays this year I want to have a conversation. I want to talk about prayer, and to explore together how, if at all, we might reclaim this central part of Jewish life in a way that is authentically meaningful to us today. I believe we can.

At each of our services I'll be looking with you at a different prayer, and we'll be unpacking those prayers to see what they might have to teach us about where we've come from spiritually, and where we might find sources of comfort in the year ahead.

The buzz word these days is "disruption." Politics, business, media, climate, you name it; everything is going through disruption. Is there any place we can ground ourselves? Anywhere we can go to center ourselves? I'm hoping for some pleasant surprises for us all.

Wishing you and your loved ones, our community, and the whole world a year of health, happiness, and peace.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we approach the High Holidays, traditionally a time of the year when many of our thoughts turn to the fragility and precarious nature of life, we often think of maybe a meaningful aliyah or some other service to Hashem, our shul or community.

For me, my aliyah has always been and continues to be just being a member of this shul and this extraordinary community.

It has been an honor and a privilege to share a vision with so many others at PCS, of successfully growing our community in the ensuing years, while continuing to be an inclusive house of peace, faith, prayer, study, kindness and social awareness, in concert with our sense of Jewish history and heritage.

One of Judaism's greatest strengths is

that with our ever more transient and pressurized lives, it is very comforting and reassuring to have at least one aspect of our lives that is stable, continuous and unchanging, no matter what else transpires.

With Rabbi Mark and all of us working together, I very much look forward to the strategic opportunities, growth and maturation that lay ahead, and are an inherent part of any organization – religious or otherwise.

May our entire community enjoy a good and sweet New Year. May these Yamim Noraim bring only good health, happiness, contentment as well as much success and prosperity for all.

Most importantly, may this New Year bring what we so need – peace.

Shana Tova and may everyone be inscribed and sealed in the book of life for a wonderful and sweet new year ahead.

– Jerry Neuburger



B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECT

By Adam Neuburger

For my mitzvah project, I helped disabled kids play baseball at the Miracle League of Westchester. Miracle League is a great way to help kids who cannot do many things that we are fortunate enough to be able to do, like play baseball. When you help the kids play, you can see that they are expressing their own form of joy even if you cannot see it just by their reactions to playing the game. My job as a buddy at Miracle League was to help a kid play his or her position and to bat and run. Many of the kids were in wheelchairs and could not run. Once the kid got a hit, I would help the kid run around the bases and get a home run. In the field, along with helping the kid play the position, you have to protect the kid. Some kids participating at Miracle League do not have the ability to field a ground ball or throw the ball all the way to first base. If a kid hits the ball hard, you have to go in front of your player and make sure he or she does not get hit. Miracle League is a great thing to do and it makes me realize how fortunate I am to be able to do things that these kids cannot.



MEET OUR NEW HEBREW SCHOOL PRINCIPAL!



Galit Sperling has been an educator in Pleasantville for ten years. She has taught B'nei Mitzvah students at both Pleasantville Community Synagogue and Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff. Galit also currently serves as the Director of Education at Little Village Playhouse, the educational theater wing of Arc Stages. At LVP, she teaches classes, directs productions, and runs a successful theater camp for children aged 5-18.

Galit studied Theater and Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU / Tisch School of the Arts. She is passionate about Judaism and education, and she is excited to take on the role of Principal of the Hebrew School at PCS. She is proud to have been one of the very first Torah readers at the synagogue's opening 16 years ago! She looks forward to being a part of the synagogue's growth and to helping enrich the community and the education of its children!

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.

TASHLICH ...

THE CASTING OF SINS



On the first day of Rosh HaShana, following services and a Kiddush Luncheon

THURSDAY, September 5, 2013

At approximately 2 pm

NANNAHAGEN POND AND SANCTUARY

Pleasantville, New York

Join our community in one of our most beautiful, joyous, sacred, and oldest traditions as we hear the call of the shofar, cast bread and sins into the running waters, and sing both Hebrew and English songs on themes of remembrance, redemption, and sanctification.

This is a wonderful event for every age. Help create deep memories for your children. Celebrate the season with new friends as we get to know each other better.

Bring something sweet to share.

CAST AWAY FROM YOURSELVES ALL YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS, AND CREATE WITHIN YOURSELVES A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT.

-- Ezekiel 18:31

Directions from services at the JCC: Make a left out of parking lot onto Bear Ridge Road. Go to end and turn left onto Broadway (Route 141). Take first left at light onto Lake Street. Go to parking on right $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up the street. Walk to Nannahagen Pond just past the pool.

Open House

Sunday, Sept. 8, 10:30 a.m.



Joyful Judaism!

With families from 20 towns, villages, and cities across Westchester.
"A Hebrew School Your Kids Can Love!"
You've read about us in *The New York Times*.
Come see what the excitement is all about.

Celebrating 16 Years ~ Fair Share dues means anyone can belong
Rabbi Mark Sameth ~ Galit Sperling, Hebrew School Principal
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville ~ 914.769.2672 ~ info@shalomPCS.com ~
www.shalomPCS.com

High Holiday tickets available on a limited basis

Our Simchat Torah Honorees

Each year PCS honors two members of the community with the aliyah of reading the very last lines from the Torah, and then the very first lines from the Torah, as we begin the cycle all over again.

This year the community will be honoring Ofri and David Felder. Ofri is the co-chair of our Israel Action Committee, and has brought years of wonderful programming and events to the community in that capacity. She is also part of our PCS Torah Readers' Circle – you can hear her “lein” from the Torah throughout the year at PCS. David was the chair of our PCS Adult Education Committee for quite a number of years, and has worked to attract both members and non-members to our community through intellectually stimulating programs, and a safe environment in which to wrestle with important issues.

We hope you'll join us both for the evening service on Thursday, September 26, and then again at the morning service on Friday September 27 (the Felders will be reading from the Torah at the morning service, which begins at 8 am and ends by 10:30 am).

Mazel tov to David Felder, our “Chattan Torah” (final reader for the year).

Mazel tov to Ofri Felder, our “Kallat Bereshit” (first reader for the year).

Ofri Felder: an Israeli-American at PCS

At times I have tried to conjure up in my mind an image of the port of Jaffa as my grandmother must have seen it in 1923, when she first arrived in Palestine. Born at the turn of the century, she was 23 years old, a Hebrew teacher from Mir, Poland. My grandmother was a Zionist, but she came to Palestine in search of love. Her boyfriend, Benjamin, had emigrated before her, and she was expecting to reunite with him at the Jaffa port. But life threw her a curveball. After days on the turbulent waters, she was greeted at the port by a tall and lanky stranger. Benjamin eluded her, having left the difficult struggles of Palestine for the “Golden Medina,” America. The stranger was my grandfather, Benjamin’s partner, who offered her work on their farm.

I know all of this because of the stories my grandmother told me. As a teenager growing up on a kibbutz in the Jezreel Valley, I used to visit my grandmother every Sabbath. It was in her small room that I discovered the pleasures of listening, and the manner in which one can transcend the limitations of one’s own experience by connecting with the narratives of others. The most rewarding aspects of my work as a school counselor today come when I am listening, and when the stories I am told are real and authentic. Like the stories my grandmother told me, these stories have their share of pain, sacrifice, humor, and love. They are big stories hidden in the flow of ordinary life.

My grandmother told me many stories, but the most dramatic had to do with my grandfather, who I knew as a black and white photo of a handsome stranger with deep set eyes and a connected brow. My grandfather was killed by Arab snipers who opened fire on a Jewish civilian bus carrying him home after a day of work in Jerusalem. The year was 1936. When the gunmen opened fire, he leaned over to protect the young boy sitting next to him and had two bullets lodged in his back. His violent death opened up a wound that has not yet healed.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

I grew up in the newly formed state of Israel, and knew from an early age that Zionism comes with a price. To this day, my mother travels to Israel every year on Memorial Day to visit her brother's grave. A playwright, novelist, lyricist and educator, he was killed in the 1956 Sinai War. Unlike Memorial Day in the United States, which seems to be the trigger for yet another sale, in Israel Memorial Day precedes Independence Day, and begins with a long, haunting siren. All activity (including highway traffic) stops, as Israelis stand for a minute in silence, head bowed, and pay their respect to the dead.

I consider myself a survivor of two wars: In 1967, age 10, I crouched in a ditch surrounded by sacks of sand in a makeshift bomb shelter which my father dug in our backyard; in 1973, during the Yom Kippur war, I spent several weeks on a cot in a bomb shelter sleeping next to a hundred other people, both old and young. I have many stories from that war, but it taught me that the veil of civility is thin, and that "normal" life as we know it can be shattered in an instant. Mostly, there is a place in my heart that still grieves the loss of life, as many classmates and friends lost a brother, a father, or a son.

But my childhood in Israel is also filled with happy memories. I especially loved the kibbutz, and the quirky, idealistic, wonderful people who inhabited it. It was a warm and safe place to grow up. As a child I would run wild on the big lawn next to the main dining hall each evening chasing friends who chased me, secure in the knowledge that all the adults eating dinner inside would look after me if I skinned my knee. As a teenager, I loved the ritual of Shavuot, when we would go on wagons pulled by tractors to the field and dance Israeli folk dances to harvest songs surrounded by bales of hay. Today it sounds corny, I know. But back then the skies were pristine blue; the spring lyrics made you jump and twirl; and there was the excitement of a potential crush on one of the kibbutz boys, who showed off their sculpted biceps, tanned from hard labor in the fields.

All of this is to say that my connection to Judaism is different than that of many of my American Jewish friends. I grew up with a Judaism that was filtered through a secular, socialist, Zionist lens. And although the term Zionist is today considered a "dirty word" in some corners of the world, it was a positive and powerful ideology.

Zionism also gave me the gift of Hebrew, an ancient, beautiful language. In Israel, the Bible is introduced in its unabridged, unadulterated form the moment one learns to read in elementary school. It is incredibly ambitious – imagine teaching Shakespeare to kids in first grade. But to this day I remember the thrill of learning "Beresheit bara," the opening lines of the book of Genesis. Phrases like "Tohu-vavohu," and "Choshech al pnei tehom" are still with me after all those years. Like my grandmother's stories, the Bible connected me to expansive, adult narratives. But it also taught me that language is poetry, philosophy, history, knowledge. Although I was young, I could intuitively sense there was wonder in the stories of creation, the opportunity to connect with something bigger than myself.

Later on I lived with my family in Thailand and then moved to New York, where I went to the Orthodox Yeshiva Ramaz. At 15 I went back to the kibbutz, attended a regional high school, and worked in the children's homes, the pear orchards, and the cotton fields. I served two years in the Israeli Army, and was stationed in Sharm el Sheikh, at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula (now Egypt). There I met an officer on reserve duty named David, and fell in love. When David and I came here 32 years ago, I studied American History at Columbia University. I taught at an alternative high school in the South Bronx and in Harlem. The past 15 years I have been a school counselor in the Mahopac Central School District.

My life has introduced me to narratives different than my own: In Thailand, Buddhist monks who came around in their orange robes, barefoot, in the early dawn to have their bowls filled with rice; in the South Bronx, African-American and Hispanic youth neglected in American ghettos who – ironically – considered me a typical representative of white America. In more recent years, the realization that a Palestinian narrative runs parallel to mine, filled with its own stories of loss and sacrifice, has seeped in. It is disturbing to realize that the Jewish return to our historic homeland has propelled the Palestinian people into a familiar trajectory of exile, diaspora, and a longing for home.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

David and I joined PCS when we were looking for a Hebrew School for our daughter, Maya, who is now in college. Given our background, it was at first difficult for me to envision myself at a synagogue. However, we found a group of like-minded congregants at PCS, people who are engaged with their Judaism as an open-ended exploration rather than a set dogma. Because our background is not religious, this allows us to feel at home. Both David and I enjoy Rabbi Mark's leadership of the service. Besides being a masterful storyteller and a great listener, he is able to make the Torah reading meaningful in surprising, relevant and humor-filled ways. Rabbi Mark is extremely skillful at weaving connections, between old and new, traditional and non-traditional; and he brings everyone into the service in a warm, affirming, and inclusive manner. When I can make it, I especially like the Friday night service, as I am familiar with many of the melodies and the music sends me home to my language and my past.

Together with Seth Rutman, I have been co-chair of the Israel Action Committee. Seth and I share an interest in introducing congregants, especially those who have not been to Israel, to the country beyond the news headlines. I am interested in bringing Israeli culture to PCS: film, literature, and music. I am looking forward to new projects this year as well as our annual support of Israel Independence Day at the Hebrew School. In addition to my role in the Israel Action Committee, I am a member of the Torah Readers group at PCS. PCS gives me the opportunity to continue to engage with my own Jewish story in an open and accepting place, and to learn from and dialogue with fellow congregants.

Postscript: When my grandmother was 80, she came to the United States to visit us and contacted Benjamin, her old boyfriend from Mir. He was already legally blind at the time, and had moved from Brooklyn to Miami, and so once again she did not get to see him. But I still remember her excitement before she made the phone call. She locked herself in one of the bedrooms, and I stood outside, waiting. When an hour later she finally opened the door, she told me Benjamin had asked who was calling, and she said, "Roiske." Benjamin asked, "Roiske who?" My grandmother was not taken aback. "As if he didn't know..." she told me.

David Felder: Becoming my Jewish Self

My grandfather was born a Jew in Poland and left because Poland was not a good place for the Jews. My father was born a Jew in Germany and left because his parents were killed, and Germany was a terrible place for the Jews. I was born a Jew in Israel and my kids were born in the United States. And this wandering is in itself so typically Jewish.

In a life full of choices, we are all denied the most fundamental and meaningful choice of all: when, where and to whom we are born. We come into the world at a place and time not of our choosing. We come as members of a tribe, a sect, a family, a religion, a country. We inherit a place in society with no effort of our own, for no fault, for no merit.

We then grow up within our society. We learn about our uniqueness and our greatness. Slaves or masters, poor or rich we are always better than those "others" who are not like us.

It was certainly an accident of history to bring me, David, into the world in 1951 in a country not yet three years into its independence – a son of a Holocaust survivor from Berlin and an Israeli-born mother, whose parents immigrated to Palestine from Lithuania.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

David Felder, Continued

Israel, 1951: A country of a little more than one million people. Society traumatized by the Holocaust and the War of Independence, barely standing on its feet. The food rationing system hardly provided enough food for the family, and yet there was a sense of optimism for having survived all the above.

I was born a Jew: I shared blame for the death of Jesus, I was a conspirator for the control of the world in the spirit of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, I was an unwelcome invader of Islamic lands. I was one day old with criminal charges against me, already deeply resented by most of the world.

Just like the rest of my Israeli-born generation, we were perceived, at least by our parents, to be Jews of a different kind. We were not the Jews who were driven into slaughterhouses without resisting. We were not the oppressed. We were not a discriminated minority, like Jews everywhere else in the world. We were the "New Jews," the proud, the independent, the strong and the free. Or so we believed ourselves to be.

In 1967, just before the end of the school year, a war erupts. I was 16 years old then. We dug a trench at the back of our house and spent nights taking cover, listening to the sounds of guns and aircraft from across the border into Jordan, just a few miles away. My father was with us. He paid the price in 1948, when he was severely injured during the battle on the route to Jerusalem. Having lost part of his leg, he was relieved from further military duties. He carried his scars with permanent sadness and hopeless resignation. The war was relatively short. The military victory was quickly followed by a sense of euphoria. Israel was victorious and expanded into new territories. Little did we understand then that the State of Israel as we knew it would be irrevocably changed.

In two more years, I turned 18 and had to join the military as required by law. For me and my friends, there was only one acceptable course – to volunteer for the best, most difficult combat units. I found myself training as a paratrooper. It was not the real me over there. I was not exceptionally athletic or strong, and the things that we had to do were way beyond my physical abilities. But still I did them all, to prove to myself and the others that I could. It was mind over body. As time went by, I found myself in infantry officer's school, and then an officer with soldiers under my command. Within a relatively short time the next war came upon us. It was 1973, and I was no longer sitting with my family in the trench at the back of our house. To be honest, I was lucky in that war. Miraculously, I was not in the most dangerous places, and was spared the most complicated situations. You need so much luck in life and more so in war.

But still, war is a horrifying state of affairs and the battlefield is a sheer nightmare. The stench of the sulfur and the dust and the decomposing bodies will stay with me forever. The headless body and the head with no body will be imprinted in my memory until I die. There is no repressing these sights and no perfume will ever take away the smell of death. I experienced fear for the first time in my life. It was humiliating. If I could in some way translate the smell and the fear into video games, nobody would ever play war. Need I add that 10% of my class at officer's school died during the war? We were 22 years old then.

I agreed to serve one final year as a combat intelligence officer at the paratroopers brigade. I already knew that military life was not for me, but felt compelled to give some more of my time for what I considered to be the public good following a traumatic war. By the end of the year, I would have completed five years in the military, and had already been promoted to the rank of Captain. I felt that change was on the way, and that my future would be as a fighter for peace, which requires no less courage than fighting a war.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

I was born Israeli but had not chosen this identity; I was born a Jew without consenting in advance. There I was, searching for a purpose, for a reason, for an explanation. God came at that time into the daily debate of the Israeli public. I had not heard much of Him before. I was raised a secular Jew in a country built by seculars who rebelled against the old Jewish life and establishment. All my friends were secular. The talk in the country was about a perceived covenant between God and Israel, and the idea that as part of this covenant, the occupied territories conquered in 1967, including the West Bank, were given to us by Him. The argument was new to me and my friends. My home was situated three miles away from a large Arab village on the other side of the 1967 border line, and I never knew that their homes were promised to me. Nor did I have much interest in this argument. But the populist and nationalistic sentiments sweeping the country were overwhelming and largely unstoppable. People were intoxicated with messianic notions of divine promises being fulfilled. And just a very few of those celebrating victory had been with me at the gates of Alexandria, where I dug my head into the sand in fear that the next bomb will explode over my head, and that the horrible stench will stay with me forever.

In the prevailing climate, what aspects of God could be discussed? Justice was of no interest, Love was given solely to the Jews, Compassion was out of the equation; it seemed the main purpose of God was to supervise a division of real estate and to make sure that his Chosen People got what they want. This debate was not about security or safe borders or a possible coexistence. It did not use terms that I was accustomed to. It was a discussion about religion, about the nature of God, about being selected by Him as his Chosen People and consequently being qualified to settle in the Promised Land with no consideration of anything else.

And what kind of a Jew did all of the above make of me? What place did I have in this territorial Judaism? What if I did not believe myself to be "Chosen"? With very few exceptions, my entire extended family of my grandparents' generation was wiped out in the concentration camps of Europe. It pains me to consider in what way those lost were God's "Chosen People." Searching for an answer, I turned to philosophy, and found that many philosophers have dealt with the question, but none have come up with a satisfying explanation.

With the war over, I started my journey. I graduated Tel Aviv University, married a like-minded wonderful woman, joined a political movement that represented my views, and finally decided to come to New York and continue my studies in a graduate school.

My life took a turn. I was watching Israel from afar. My children were born and raised here, the center of my life shifted, my parents died, old friends slowly faded away, a new identity formed, a new circle of friends and a new me.

Still, home is not only where you live. It is the roots that anchored your past, the music that you listened to, the food that you liked, the nature you observed, the smell of the air and the family that you left behind.

And I miss all the above. I miss it, although the Israel that I left no longer exists. It turned into a different place. Like my aging friends, the country has changed. I long for the past which is no longer there. I am bitter that it did not develop into what I wanted it to be, and I am hopeful that one day it will.

And what about God? I am not sure that I have an answer. But I was fortunate to discover that the prevailing religious interpretation in Israel is just one of many. That it is acceptable to believe that God has no preference for the ultra-orthodox; that He does not side with the real estate divisions of Jewish settlers. I learned that Judaism is our shared history, and a culture developed over generations. That it is not the domain of anybody, and no single group can claim to exclusively speak in its name. I learned that I can come into my synagogue, PCS, and question God without fearing excommunication. I learned that I can be my own Jewish self, and that by doing so I do not turn my back on our collective suffering, that I still hold dear the memory of all my lost family members, who were murdered for being Jews without ever having chosen to be born such.

HIGH HOLY DAYS 2013

Dear PCS Family:

In our continuing effort to honor the many member families who participate in our vibrant community, we endeavor to call to the bimah representatives of as many families as possible to participate in our High Holiday services. Though it may seem early, planning for the coming Yamim Noraim requires much advance preparation.

Please see the form on the following page and mail/email/fax (769-1795) it to the synagogue office as soon as possible so that we may begin scheduling the honors that require it.

Individual Honors: English reading and Torah honors (holding, lifting or dressing the scrolls) are scheduled in advance of services. Please enter the name of each adult in your family with appropriate preferences. In consideration of your family's own High Holiday practices, you are also invited to enter a preferred day and time.

Teen Participation: We invite all of our teens - including those who celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvah this past year and those who will be celebrating in the coming year - to lead the community in the chanting of Ashrei during the Torah service on the first day of Rosh HaShana. It would be appreciated if those of you whose children will be participating in Ashrei would confirm this honor on the form as well.

Celebratory Group Aliyot: We will be calling to the bimah lay leaders and volunteers for celebratory group aliyot on the first day of Rosh HaShana, including all those students who recently became a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. All current members - men and women - who would customarily be eligible for an aliyah are welcome to participate. These are not scheduled in advance.

Torah Reading Honors: Reading from the Torah will be scheduled separately.

Thank you for your help during this important time in the spiritual life of our community.

I'shalom,

Rabbi Mark



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Please indicate below your interest in honors participation for the coming High Holidays. **Note that this is not a commitment or assignment;** you are simply indicating interest in being contacted for scheduling. Thank you.

The High Holiday calendar for 2013/5774 is as follows:

Erev Rosh HaShana	Wednesday, September 4, 7-9 pm - JCC
Rosh HaShana Day I	Thursday, September 5, 9 am-1:30 pm - JCC
Rosh HaShana Day II	Friday, September 6, 9 am-1:30 pm - JCC
Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre	Friday, September 13, 6:30-9 pm - JCC
Yom Kippur/Yizkor	Saturday, September 14, 9 am-1:30 pm - JCC
Yom Kippur	Saturday, September 14, 4:30-7:45 pm - JCC

First Member Adult _____

- I would be interested in an English reading honor.
- I would be interested in a non-reading Torah honor.
- I am unable to participate this year, but contact me for next year.
- I would like to participate on _____

Second Member Adult _____

- I would be interested in an English reading honor.
- I would be interested in a non-reading Torah honor.
- I am unable to participate this year, but contact me for next year.
- I would like to participate on _____

Teen Ashrei Participation

- I would like my child _____ to participate in the group Ashrei honor.

Please mail, fax, or email this form to the synagogue office at:

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
PCS High Holiday Committee
PO Box 148
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Phone: 914-769-2672 **Fax:** 914-769-1795 **Email:** mgray@shalompcs.com



**MORE THAN 25 YEARS
EXPERIENCE IN:**

- **INDIVIDUAL, GROUP AND FAMILY PSYCHOTHERAPY**
- **PLAY THERAPY**
- **COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY**
- **EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY**
- **PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS**
- **PARENT TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**SPECIALIZING IN THE TREATMENT OF:
ANXIETY, OCD, DEPRESSION, ADHD,
OPPOSITIONAL DEFIANT DISORDER, LOW
SELF ESTEEM, SOCIAL SKILLS
DEFICITS, ADJUSTMENT TO DIVORCE/
TRANSITIONS, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES,
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, RELATIONSHIP
DIFFICULTIES**

**Maya Benattar, MA, MT-BC, LCAT
Music Therapist**

Growth & Wellness Thru Music

Specializing in:

- Children with special needs
- Women with anxiety, depression, stress, or pain
- Music-based stress management and wellness workshops



**mayabenattar.com / 914.330.9545
maya.benattar@gmail.com**

The Best of Old World Elegance, Rural Beauty and Modern Amenities

Located in a country setting, the newly renovated clubhouse features a stunning ballroom windowed throughout, with panoramic views of a spectacular golf course and surrounding hills.



*Parties of all sizes welcome
One affair per day
Kosher catering available*



SALEM GOLF CLUB

18 Bloomer Road, North Salem NY 10560 914*669*5485 www.salemgolfclub.org

Redefining the Country Club Experience.

limited memberships
banquets
private parties
bar/bat mitzvahs
weddings



WWW.BRYNWOODCLUB.COM
914.273.9300 | ARMONK, NY



High Holiday Service Schedule 5774

Selichot	Saturday, August 31	10pm	PCS*
Erev Rosh HaShana	Wednesday, September 4	7-9pm	JCC
Rosh HaShana Day I	Thursday, September 5	9am-1:30pm	JCC
Tashlich at Nannahagen Park	Thursday, September 5	2pm	*
Rosh HaShana Day II	Friday, September 6	9am-1:30pm	JCC
Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre	Friday, September 13	6:30-9pm	JCC
Yom Kippur	Saturday, September 14	9am-1:30 pm; 4:30-7:45 pm	JCC
Yizkor	Saturday, September 14	Noon	JCC
Children's services	Rosh HaShana Days 1 & II	11:30am-12:30pm	JCC
2 Groups: K-3 & 4-6	Yom Kippur	11:30am-12:30pm	JCC

We encourage families to hear the blowing of the shofar and Ashrei in the sanctuary before the sermon, which begins at approximately 11:30 am. The shofar will also be blown in the classes.

Babysitting is provided during all the services at the Rosenthal JCC for children pre-K through 2nd grade. All children must be signed in and out and will otherwise not be allowed to leave the babysitting room.

***Please note that all Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur services will be held at the Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester, 600 Bear Ridge Road in Pleasantville except where otherwise noted.**



New date for dedication of
Pleasantville Community Synagogue's
Yahrzeit Memorial Board

Dedication

Sunday, September 29, 2013
25 Tishrei 5774, 1 p.m.

Dear PCS Member,

The date for the PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board's dedication is now **Sunday, September 29, 2013, at 1 p.m.**

If you would like to dedicate a nameplate in honor of a loved one who has passed away, please look on the home page of our web site, www.shalompcs.com and click on the indicated link for the form or contact Marcy Gray at the office at 769-2672 or at mgray@shalompcs.com.

The nameplates will include:

Name in Hebrew (centered)

Name in English (centered)

English date of passing (bottom left)

Hebrew date (in English letters) of passing (bottom right)

If there is no Hebrew name, the plate will simply have the name in English, centered at the top.

This board and its nameplates will be a beautiful and symbolic place to honor your loved ones. The anniversary of their passing will be commemorated with a light by their nameplate. The cost for each plate is \$360, and delivery takes 4-6 weeks.

We hope you will join us for the dedication **at 1 p.m., Sunday, September 29, 2013**, of this very special addition to our PCS community.

B'shalom,

Peter Schaffer
Chairman, PCS Spiritual Life Committee





The Fountainhead

**FINE DINING
ATTENTION TO DETAIL
SUPERIOR SERVICE**

To arrange a visit with our event planner, please contact us at
914-235-4400
or by email at
info@fountainheadcaterers.com



PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Officers

President: Jerry Neuburger
Vice President: April Lasher Sanders
Vice President: Kiersten Zweibaum
Vice President: Laurie Hirsch Schulz
Secretary: Michael Safranek

Board of Trustees

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Mark Freiheit
info@shalompcs.com

Gary Greenwald
ggreenwald@shalompcs.com

Amy Gutenplan
agutenplan@shalompcs.com

Richard Levine
info@shalomPCS.com

Sheila Major
info@shalompcs.com

Leyla Nakisbendi
info@shalompcs.com

Karen Neuburger
kneuburger@shalompcs.com

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalompcs.com

Michael Safranek
msafranek@shalomPCS.com

April Lasher Sanders
alasher@shalompcs.com

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschoultz@shalompcs.com

Richard Solomon
info@shalompcs.com

Kiersten Zweibaum
kzweibaum@shalompcs.com

Rabbi Mark Sameth
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

PAINTING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

**Guided by Eve-Marie Elkin Schaffer,
LCAT, LMSW**

Painting from the Inside Out uses paint as a catalyst for growth and exploration... encouraging adults and children to express spontaneously, without judgment or concern for outcome. The paintbrush is a tool; whether it is a color a dot, an outline or an image, a gesture appears from within. Spontaneity is awakened for exploration and play.

**No training is involved. No skills required;
just the desire to experience a sense of
freedom and joy.**

**More info: www.evemarieelkin.com
eveelkin@yahoo.com, 914 909 6292**



Hola, ¿habla español? ¿No? ¡Qué pena!

SPANISH LESSONS

Brush up on your Spanish:

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

Native Spanish speaker with an MA in
Language Teaching.

Call Cristina A. Martinez at 914-739-7457, or
email: inspanish@optonline.net



New Star Nutritional Consulting



Judith Chinitz,
MS, MS, CNC
Certified Nutritional Consultant
NYS Certified, Special Education



Specializing in Nutritional Treatment for Chronic Immune Diseases:
Autism, ADHD and other developmental disorders,
Allergy, Celiac, Colitis, Crohn's, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and more...

Please visit my website for details and testimonials

Phone/Fax: 914-244-3646 judyhope@optonline.net
www.newstarnutrition.com

**THE
WHELAN
GROUP**

**STRATEGIC
ADVISORS FOR
NON-PROFITS**

**PLANNING,
FUND RAISING
BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

**Evan Kingsley
Vice President and
Senior Consultant**

**483 Tenth Avenue, Suite 530
New York, NY 10018
(212) 727 7332**

www.whelanguard.com

Hilda Needleman, Mother of Karen La Porta	September 7
Sondra Korus, Mother of Roberta Korus	September 7
Raoul Kloogman, Father of Helen Kloogman	September 8
Elaine Schwartz, Sister of Janice Sandbank	September 9
Donald LePatner, Father of Gilda Borenstein	September 11
Samuel Lipkin, Grandfather of Lisa Lipkin	September 11
Robert Greene, Father of George Teitel-Greene	September 12
Anne Silverman, Mother of Janet Silverman	September 13
Alan Rabinowitz, Father of Audrey Rabinowitz	September 15
Mildred Strauss, Mother of Fredric Strauss	September 16
Jerrold Silberger, Father of Monte Silberger	September 18
Melvin Lessner, Father of Jan Gordon	September 20
Morris Berenbaum, Uncle of Helen Harrison	September 23
David Silverberg, Father of Galia Silverberg	September 25
Dyna Gordon, Mother of Bernard Gordon	September 27
Sandy Karmen, Mother of Abbe Karmen	September 27
Mitch Rosenberg, Father of Joan Krasne	September 28
Nathan Bergenfeld, Father of Andrea Orlander	September 29



To All PCS Members:

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

NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADS!

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

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

*** Deadlines:**

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

*** Ad Specifications:**

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

*** Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin published in July and August) is \$125 for 1/4 page. Note: Checks preferred. Can be mailed to Pleasantville Community Synagogue, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 with "newsletter ad" in the memo section. To pay by credit card, please call the synagogue office at 914-769-2672.

July 28: At the Kensico Dam Plaza for the Westchester Jewish Music & Arts Festival

We had a great time and the opportunity to introduce PCS to many visitors. Thanks, Cris, Leyla, Laurie, Pamela, Ofri, Marcy, and all the kids who also helped!



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 6, 4:00 PM AT PCS

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, PCS will be hosting a dramatic reading of “Yom Kippur,” a play by Meri Wallace. Loosely autobiographical, the play focuses on two young couples who have made aliyah (immigrated to Israel), and whose lives change forever when their adopted country is suddenly attacked by Egypt and Syria on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.

A question-and-answer session with Meri Wallace and additional guests will follow the presentation.

Below: October 7, 1973. Egyptian forces crossing the Suez Canal



Joan Reidy

NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

654 Columbus Avenue
Thornwood, NY 10594
Bus: 914 769-3584
Cell: 914 260-5540
Fax: 914 769-2302
joan.reidy@randrealty.com
www.joanreidy.randrealty.com
www.joanreidy.com

 An Independently Owned and Operated Franchisee of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC.



King David Memorial Chapel, Inc.



Generations of lasting service to
the Jewish Community

- Family Owned and Operated
- Handicapped Accessibility
- Graveside Services
- Monuments
- Preneed and Prepaid Planning
- Fully Accommodating Facilities

288 East Main Street - Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
914-241-7100 ▪ www.kingdavidmemorials.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

Estelle Kersh
eaststar18@optonline.net

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling
edsperling@gmail.com

Building Committee

Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum
info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Spiritual Life

Peter Schaffer
pschaffer@shalomPCS.com

Finance

Oren Cohen
ocohen@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Furst
kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Karen Neuburger
info@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

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.com

EAST MEETS WEST FLOWERS

provides personalized floral design services

whether for business or pleasure, add a touch of luxury with a distinctive Asian Fusion custom floral arrangement

JAN L. GORDON
EAST MEETS WEST FLOWERS
PLEASANTVILLE, NY

914 769 1151

EASTWESTFLOWERS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.EASTMEETSWESTFLOWERS.COM



Okinawa Goju Ryu Karate

Original, traditional karate in the heart of Pleasantville

72 Memorial Plaza
(Behind the Post Office)

2 Free Classes or
2 Months for \$100 and a Free Gi

Visit Us Today

Kokoro Dojo
teaches Okinawa
Goju Ryu (or hard
and soft style) ...

their



... introduces a true
karate experience
to beginners and
helps advanced
students to refine
technique.

Kids

Teens

Adults

Contact us: Chuck Nuccio sensei 914-497-2905
Or email: gojuryu@kokorokenkyukai.com

Glass Onion

ORIGINALS

HANDCRAFTS • JEWELRY • ARTWORKS • ANTIQUES

Matthew Jaros

4 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570

tel 914-741-6294
fax 914-741-6295



CAMP NA'ALEH



⇒ The perfect camp for PCS families! ⇐

Sports - Swimming - Arts & Crafts - Trips - Tikkun Olam -
Israel Education - Conversational Hebrew - Shabbat -
Kibbutz Values - Leadership Training

Now enrolling campers ages 8-16 (currently in grades 3-9)
Half summer and full summer (7 weeks) programs
Plus shorter session options for first time campers



PCS Families receive \$100 if you mention this ad!
First time camper incentives & scholarships are available

For more information contact:
Adam Benmoise, Executive Director
adam@naaleh.org or 212-229-2700
www.naaleh.org

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.

FAIR SHARE/GENERAL FUND

SUSAN AND RICHARD EISENBERG
RHEA WOLFTHAL
IRENE HERZ
KAREN SANDERS AND PETER VOLGYES
JANET SILVERMAN, IN HONOR OF THE YAHRZEITS OF ANNIE
AND ABRAHAM SILVERMAN
EMANUEL HERZ, IN MEMORY OF HIS BELOVED WIFE,
FLORENCE
CARREN KLEINMAN AND GERRY KAUFMAN
OFRI AND DAVID FELDER
ALBERTA AND HENRY HOFFMAN
ANNE ROSENBLATT, IN THANKS FOR BEING GIVEN AN ALIYA
AND IN HONOR OF CANTOR ISABEL KOPSTEIN
JONATHAN GAINES
AMY AND BRUCE GUTENPLAN
MARLO AND ERIC KLEIN
EMMA AND DAVE REISMAN

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IRENE HERZ
OFRI AND DAVID FELDER
JANICE AND TONY GAMBINO
EMMA AND DAVE REISMAN
CATHY JAROSZ AND MICHAEL CLARK

KIDDUSH FUND

LUCILLE MURRAY IN HONOR OF HER GRANDSON, ISAAC
REISMAN, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH
IRENE HERZ
EILEEN JAGODA
ALI AND BEN SEREBIN
PAMELA BLUM

ED SPERLING FUND

KAREN AND JEFF NEUBURGER
CARREN KLEINMAN AND GERRY KAUFMAN

HEBREW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

KATIE NG ROSS, ON BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH, AS PART OF
HER MITZVAH PROJECT, TO "ENABLE OTHER CHILDREN TO
HAVE THE SAME WARM AND NURTURING EXPERIENCE THAT
[KATIE] ENJOYED WHILE AT THE PCS HEBREW SCHOOL."

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June. Articles and photos should be submitted by the 24th of the month. They can be e-mailed to Judith Chinitz, Editor, at judyhope@optonline.net or dropped off at the newsletter box in the Synagogue office.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue * 219 Bedford Road * Pleasantville, NY 10570
phone (914) 769 - 2672 fax (914) 769 - 1795



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Building Fund

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

General Fund/Fair Share

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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

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

Yahrzeit Memorial Board Nameplate (\$360)

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

Name and fund selected: _____

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

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

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

Check enclosed payable to *Pleasantville Community Synagogue*

Bill my credit card

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____

Circle One: VISA MasterCard

Name as it Appears on card: _____ -

Phone number in case verification is needed:

Your Signature _____ Amount to charge: _____

Print Name

PLEASE NOTE: To help our bookkeeper, please issue separate checks for dues or other special events. All donations

September 2013 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 7:06pm - Candle lighting Erev Rosh Hashana	5 Rosh Hashana 5774	6 Rosh Hashana II Candle lighting, 7:03 pm	7 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Adam Neuburger, 9:30 am 8:31 pm Havdalah
8 9:00am First day of Hebrew School! 10:30am Open House for prospective members Executive Committee meeting	9	10	11	12 PCS Board meeting, 7:30 pm	13 Erev Yom Kippur Candle lighting, 6:51 pm	14 Yom Kippur 8:19 pm Havdalah
15 9:00am Put up PCS Sukkah	16	17 7:30pm B'nei Mitzvah committee meeting	18 6:43pm - Candle lighting Erev Sukkot	19 Sukkot I	20 Sukkot II Candle lighting 6:53 pm	21 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Norman Simon, 9:30 am Sukkot III (CH"M) 8:07 pm Havdalah
22 Sukkot IV (CH"M)	23 Sukkot V (CH"M)	24 Sukkot VI (CH"M)	25 6:31pm - Candle lighting Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba)	26 Shmini Atzeret	27 Simchat Torah Candle lighting 6:27 pm	28 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Tova Teitel-Greene, 9:30 am Parashat Bereshit 7:56 pm Havdalah
29 1:00pm Yahrzeit Board Dedication 1:30pm Take down PCS Sukkah Pre- and post-adoption group, 6 pm, at PCS. schwarzruffm@jccany.org.	30	1	2	3 7:30pm 7th grade parents' meeting	4 Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Candle lighting 6:15 pm	5 9:00am Morning Meditation; Family Education Shabbat Service 10 am Parashat Noach 7:44 pm Havdalah

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.

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, August 31 – Selichot with Rabbi Mark, at PCS, 10 pm



Wednesday, September 4 - Erev Rosh HaShana

Thursday and Friday, September 5 and 6 - Rosh HaShana

Thursday, September 5 – Tashlich with Malcolm Netburn, at Nannahagan Park, 2 pm

***Sunday, September 8 – 1st day of Hebrew School;
Open House, 10:30 am***

Friday, September 13 - Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

Saturday, September 14 - Yom Kippur/Yizkor

Sunday, September 15 – Put up the PCS Sukkah, 9 am

Thursday, September 19 - Sukkot services, 8 am

Friday, September 20 - Sukkot services, 8 am

Thursday, September 26 - Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor services, 8 am

Thursday, September 26: Simchat Torah services and celebration, 6 pm

Friday, September 27 - Simchat Torah services, 8 am

***Sunday, September 29 – Dedication ceremony for PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board, 1 pm
Take down the PCS Sukkah, after ceremony***