



THE RABBI'S COLUMN:
SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WRITE THIS COLUMN!

By Mark Sameth

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I'm so sorry! I just didn't have time to write my Rabbi's Column this month. No excuses, I know, but it's just been crazy busy. What with last month's Purim Celebration, Purim Shpiel and Palooza Week, preparing for my lecture on the Jews of China, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, pastoral issues, classes, my weekly Patch blog, daily Twitter feed, an Ask the Rabbi that took longer than I thought it would take to write up (see inside) getting ready for Pesach, and then all those e-mails! – well, I'm sure you don't want to hear about it from your rabbi of all people, but something had to give.

A story in the *New York Times* caught my eye – though I didn't have time to read it through too closely – called, "When Technology Overwhelms It's Time to Get Organized" (Sunday Business, March 18, 2012). The author, David Allen, a productivity consultant, was explaining how all of us are now overwhelmed; all of us feeling that there aren't enough hours in the day; all of us "with too many e-mails, and, given day-to-day urgencies, the back-log keeps growing...And here's a common kicker," Allen wrote, "for those willing to admit it: 'I just can't keep going like this.'"

I thought it was just me! And I love my work!

Allen went on to then give some advice for trying to be productive in "this new and turbulent world," but truth be told, he didn't dig deep into the human side of

this very much (he's a productivity consultant, after all, not a therapist!). But others have been writing about the human toll, how we're losing our humanity, our ability to pay attention, our ability to be present to life as it is unfolding, and to each other.

I meditate every morning. It's the only time I seem to be able to carve out for myself on a daily basis. And I also now have the joy of sitting with a group of people in meditation every Shabbat morning, for at least half an hour, and once a month for an hour. My daily meditation practice and my weekly Shabbat practice make all the difference, and yet I totally understand the lament I hear from others: "I don't have time for that."

Jon Kabat-Zinn writes about that in his book *Full Catastrophe Living*. He talks about the need for us to dedicate ourselves to daily practice (the latest research, Sharon Salzberg reports, is that even ten minutes a day makes a difference). It's true: We feel that we can't "afford" the time; and given how pressed we all are, that's an easy determination to make. But the research shows that – paradoxically – we are all actually more productive when we take time for ourselves to develop a spiritual practice, away from the constant pull on our attention from text messages, tweets, e-mails, and status updates.

Please join us some Saturday morning.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a short story about being a parent. My wife, Eve-Marie, and I spent a week in March visiting three of our children who live in Colorado. Two of them, Miriam and Jonathan, are total outdoors people who have great athletic skill. Jon is a world-class rock climber, who volunteers for search and rescue missions, as does Miriam's boyfriend, Josh. On the day we arrived Josh got a call that one of his close friends was killed in an avalanche in Alaska. Rob was 35 years old and was leading a group through the back country where he was an expert guide.

It was a freak occurrence, as these things generally are, but it happens more often than any one likes to admit. There have been four of these accidents where an avalanche

caused a death since the first of the year. Miriam and Josh were understandably upset and shaken for several days, as the community rallied around the loss of one of their own. For Josh it was doubly difficult because of the close relationship he had with Rob, and because he has experienced the horror of seeing a body mangled by the force of snow and rock on a rescue mission. For Eve-Marie and me it was an occasion to think about what could happen to our son or daughter.

We raised our children with real values. We protected them with all our strength and resources, but eventually they had to go their own way, and that way is very different from what we envisioned or what we did when we were

younger. Jonathan leads climbs up 2700-foot walls in the Black Canyon and Miriam is leaving for Iceland in two weeks to ski the glaciers with Josh. They tell us they know what they're doing, that they take every safety precaution, but the nightmare scenarios still flash through our heads or wake us up with a start in the middle of the night. We can't talk them out of this life choice, nor would we want to, as we also recognize the power of their desires and the joy they get from the successes they have. The advice we gave them since they were young was to follow their hearts, do what they felt was right and to live life to its fullest. That's what they are doing. We, as parents, have to live with it; that's what we taught.

- Peter Schaffer



Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a transdenominational, inclusive community, a spiritual home deeply rooted in Torah (study), Avodah (prayer), and Gemilut Chasadim (deeds of loving-kindness). We seek to facilitate lifelong spiritual growth by engaging each member wherever that member may be on life's journey, embracing all generations. We encourage Tikkun Middot (repair of the self) and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) through Jewish education for all ages, social action, Ahavat Yisrael (love of Israel), and a commitment to the understanding and fulfillment of mitzvot. We are a highly participatory community which relies on the commitment of time and energy from all members and which aspires to become an integral part of each member's life and their family's lives.



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

By Ronni Metzger

March brought with it the merry making of Purim. In addition to noshing on Hamentashen, some classes made groggers, others made masks, and still others, using Hebrew calligraphy, made a beautiful Magilat Esther which was hung in the sanctuary. The school was entertained with a Purimspiel performed by the sixth graders! It was a lot of fun for both the audience as well as the "spielers"!

The Hey class had a lively session with Rabbi Mark, during their "Ask the Rabbi" session. [see page 12]

The Aleph, Bet and Vav classes had their Shabbatonim at the end of the month! The Aleph/Bet Class sang beautifully and enjoyed a Friday Night Shabbat meal. The Vav class led and participated in the Saturday morning service with Musaf led by Tova Teitel-Green and Aydin Mayers! Yasher Koach to all of our daveners!

As part of Palooza Week, two open houses were held for prospective members to come to PCS to meet Rabbi Mark and me, to get a taste of PCS.

In preparation for Passover, the students are reviewing their parts for the Seder, and we can hear the four questions sung throughout the school. As part of special project, the Dalet class rolled out clay, cut and painted beautiful Seder plates, which they can use at their Seders at home. Our model Seders will take place at the end of March, where everyone will have an opportunity to sing and share the story of the Freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

The children in Kitah Vav learned about Midrashim. Midrash is a type of Jewish literature devoted to Bible interpretation. The interpretations began almost 2500 years ago, when many Jews returned to Israel from exile in Babylonia. The word "Midrash" comes from the Hebrew word drash, meaning "to investigate" or "to search." Searching for new meanings in the Torah can be very exciting.

Who Wrestled With Jacob? by Matthew Orlander

Many people don't know who wrestled with Jacob. Some say it was a mortal man, and yet some say it was an angel. Nevertheless, who says it can't be God Himself? God probably wanted to meet Jacob "face to face" because Jacob was a hard-working and clever person. God wanted to test Jacob to see if he was a kind-hearted person. After all, Jacob took the birthright from his brother Esau. Jacob struggled, not only physically, but emotionally as well, with the "man" who he wrestled with. In his heart, Jacob wanted God to forgive him for what he did to his brother. Through the struggle, God felt that Jacob showed overwhelming sympathy for what he did to Esau. God, therefore, blessed Jacob and forgave him. Then God gave him, as a gift, the name Israel to indicate that he was truly blessed. The "man" was God in disguise, who tested Jacob and his heart.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**Why Moses Struck the Rock
by Juliette Harrison**

The Israelites were nagging Moses every day, all day long as they wandered in the desert. Even after God had given them many miracles, they were never satisfied. One day, God asked Moses to talk to the rock in order to produce water for himself and the Israelites. Moses had not had water in many days, so Moses was overwhelmed when God asked him to do this task. The Israelites kept on nagging because they were dying of thirst. Moses got angrier and angrier. However, even though he had enough of their complaints, he kept God's orders. Then an angel, who wanted to trick God, erased Moses' short-term memory. As a result, Moses was confused when he saw the rock. Bewildered, he struck the rock with a stick which was nearby. God was unaware of the trickery caused by the mischievous angel. He thought Moses hit the rock on purpose. As punishment, God told Moses that he would never live in the Promised Land. Later, one of the other angels told God what the angel had done. So, God sent the angel to earth to do mitzvot, good deeds, and learn his lesson.

**Why Did God Put the Snake in the Garden of Eden?
(taken from the perspective of Adam)
by Tova Greene**

Hello, my name is Adam. My companion, a woman named Eve, and I have always wondered why God put the snake in the Garden of Eden. Was it only there to get us into trouble? We eventually found out...

A million years ago, probably more, but I don't want to count, God created the world. It was a world of mighty oceans, playful animals and lush fields filled with flowers. After He was satisfied with the earth, He made me. It was just like materializing out of nowhere. "Adam," God bellowed, "I made you from the dust of the earth. You are the first man ever."

After that, because I'm so awesome, God made me a garden. It was a beautiful garden with running water and awesome huge trees. I named it the Garden of Eden.

I woke up from the experience filled with wonder. Eve was still sleeping on the other side of the garden. She was only created a short time before the fact, so I was getting used to having her around. However, there was something in the garden that wasn't there before. In the middle of the garden there appeared a green thing with legs like mine. It was casually leaning against the biggest tree in the garden. I crept silently toward the creature. It opened its eyes which were slits, black slits. In a growly voice it said, "Oh, you're awake. Want breakfast?" It picked an apple from the tree that it was leaning against. "But that's the Tree of Knowledge." I said. "God told us that we could eat from any tree except that one." "Oh Adam," the creature said. "God won't know. I tried an apple and it was amazing. I ate it, and God never knew!"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS, CONTINUED

“Well if you say so, I guess I’ll try it.” I picked one and took a heaping bite. A curling fire, like pain, exploded in my stomach. Then I blacked out.

I woke up and looked around. I didn’t recognize my surroundings. “Adam,” a voice bellowed. It was God’s voice. “Where am I?” I yelled. “Why am I not in the Garden of Eden?” God replied “You ate the apple when I told you not to. It was a test of loyalty and faith. When I put the snake in the garden, it was a test. You failed with an F. I found out that the snake wanted to rule the world and he made fun of the name of God. I wanted to see what influence he had over others. That is the reason I placed him in the Garden of Eden. I now hope that you have learned your lesson, and will have faith and trust in Me, your one true God.”



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PURIM AT PCS!!!



Rabbi Mark feelin' groovy



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Deepest gratitude to Cris Martinez and Aydin Mayers for the photos!!!

PURIM SHPIEL 5772



(Décor by Repertoire Design Group (Jen Yamuder and Kelly Epstein))

Purim Shpiel 5772 brought 80 contributors together for this fourth annual fundraising event to benefit PCS. Comedienne Jessica Kirson, a silent and live auction, and an original shpiel by the inimitable Jeffrey Turkel made this our most successful (and funniest) event to date.



(Amy Gutenplan, Rabbi Mark Sameth, Michael Safranek)



Rabbi Mark Sameth and Amy Gutenplan



Dara Meyers-Kingsley and Rabbi Mark Sameth



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Ask the Rabbi: Different Kinds of Jews, The Holocaust, Shabbat and more...

On March 18 Rabbi Mark had a chance to engage with the 5th grade class for a session of "Ask the Rabbi." An excerpt from that wide-ranging conversation follows:

Different Kinds of Jews

Katie Ross: What are the different sections of Judaism?

Rabbi Mark: Well, the basic difference is between Orthodox and Liberal. And then amongst the Liberals there are four movements: Reform and Conservative (the two large movements); Reconstructionist and Jewish Renewal (two small movements), but they are all becoming more alike. You can also talk about Jews based on where someone in their family at one time came from. So some Jews identify as Ashkenazi – which means someone in their family came from Germany. Or they may say they're Sephardic – which means someone in their family came from Spain. Or they may say they're Mizrahi – which means someone in their family came from the Middle East; or they might identify as African, North African, Italian, Irish, Indian, or as Chinese Jews. And in each country the Jews developed their own Jewish customs.

Katie Ross: What do they have in common, and in what ways are they different?

Rabbi Mark: Well, all Jews have the same Torah, the Shabbat, the Shema, and believe in one God. We're all one people, and we all share a common culture. What's different? Well, there are different Jewish languages. The Sephardic Jews have Ladino (a mix of Spanish and Hebrew), while Ashkenazi Jews have Yiddish (a mix of German and Hebrew). And there are different foods and, as I said, different customs. For instance, in China it was the custom to hold a red umbrella over the rabbi on the holiday of Simchat Torah. Why? Because red is the color of good luck in China, and the umbrella is a symbol of royalty or honor.

Katie Ross: And what is our synagogue?

Rabbi Mark: Our synagogue is "trans-denominational" which means we're sort of like a "blended family." We're not Orthodox (boys and girls, men and women are all treated exactly the same here). But our community is diverse: made up of Reform Jews, Conservative Jews, Reconstructionist and Renewal Jews; we have Ashkenazi Jews, but also Sephardic, Mizrahi, Italian, Irish, Chinese, Hungarian, African, and a very active family of North African Jews (who even have a holiday called Mamouna that no other Jews celebrate); gay and straight; Jews that grew up with no real Jewish connections to speak of; and of course people who are married to or otherwise related to Jews – they're an important part of our community too!

Jordan Sabatier: What's the hardest part about growing up Orthodox?

Rabbi Mark: That's a great question. But I didn't grow up Orthodox so I wouldn't know.

Mora Karen: Well, I did. And for me it was not being able to draw or play piano on Shabbat.

Rabbi Mark: There you go!

The Rabbi's Shoes

Jacob Freiheit: What shoes does a rabbi wear?

Rabbi Mark: Orthotics! OK, that was a bad joke (although rabbis are on their feet a lot). There are actually no special shoes for a rabbi. On Yom Kippur rabbis don't wear leather shoes, but that's the same rule for everyone on Yom Kippur. Now I actually don't wear leather shoes at all, even on other days. But that's a choice I made as an adult to follow the rule about not harming animals a little more strictly than Judaism says we have to. Jews are allowed to wear leather shoes.

Jewish Names

Jodie Zizmor: Did the people in the Bible have last names?

Rabbi Mark: They sort of did. Someone would be named Yaakov ben Yitzhak, Jacob son of Isaac. And then that's how you later get last names like Isaacson, or Michaelson.

Isaac Gordin: Why do we not name people after people who are still living?

Rabbi Mark: Well, remember I said that Jews have different customs? So that's a custom that Ashkenazi Jews have. Sephardic Jews do name their children after people who are still living. Ashkenazi Jews honor people who have died by naming people after them. Sephardic Jews feel it's OK to honor people that way while they're still alive.

Michelle Siegel: What does the name Blum mean?

Rabbi Mark: The name Blum comes from the German, and it means "flower" (which is where we get the word "bloom" in English).

Rosa Hahn: My Dad said that Napoleon made us take names so that he could put our names in a book and tax us.

Rabbi Mark: That's true! Jews in Europe were not required to take last names until Napoleon made that law. In some countries Jews would be made to pay money if they wanted a nice name (like Blum!) but if they couldn't afford to pay they'd sometimes have to accept names that weren't so nice.

Jared Rosen: What if two people had same name?

Rabbi Mark: Well, then sometimes they'd be known by their town, like Pleasantville Jared. And if there were two Pleasantville Jareds, one might be known as Jared Schneider – Jared the Tailor - or Jared Rosen – Jared who works in the rose field.

The Holocaust

Jenna Pfeffer: What year did the Holocaust start and why?

Rabbi Mark: It's hard to say exactly when it began, because it happened in stages. The Nazis started to make things difficult for the Jews in the early 1930's, but the so-called night of breaking glass - Kristallnacht – didn't happen until 1938. And then it got worse after that. Why did it happen? Well, Adolph Hitler (yimach shemo, which means "may his name be erased") was certainly the leader. But it couldn't have happened unless other people followed him.

Hannah Klein: But what started the Holocaust?

Rabbi Mark: Things had been going badly for the German people. And when things go badly for us, we always have the urge to blame other people. We all do it, don't we? But we have to resist that urge. We all have to take responsibility for our own actions. If there's someone in school you are having a problem with, go and talk with them about it. But if someone says "Let's shun so-and-so" (meaning: Let's exclude this person from our circle of friends, ignore them, or not let them sit at our table at lunch) that's not OK. Some people try to become popular by getting people to act mean toward other people. Watch out for people like that!

Rosa Hahn: Someone said he didn't like Jews because he didn't get into art school and he blamed the Jews for that.

Rabbi Mark: Guys, listen up: This is so important. One person will have a disappointment in life and then they'll get angry and look to hurt other people to take out their angry feelings. But another person will have the same disappointment, and they'll talk about how sad they are, and they'll try to figure out what to do next, but they won't look to hurt other people because of their disappointment. The Torah teaches that we're all responsible for our actions. And we all have disappointments. If I went around this room right now – and I'm not going to do it – but if I went around this room and asked if every one of you here today could tell me about some times in your life that things didn't go well for you, when you were sad or angry or upset. That's true of every person on earth. Find someone to talk with – your parents, your teacher, your rabbi, a school counselor or therapist. There are lots of people who are here to help you. The Torah says that we're actually all here to help each other through hard times, but that we have to take responsibility for our actions.

The End of the World?

Lily Rosenbaum: Why do people think the world will end in 2012?

Rabbi Mark: (Laughing) You're talking about that joke in the Purim Shpiel, right? Lily's dad is one of the actors in – and organizers of - our Purim Shpiel, and there's a joke in this year's shpiel about people who think the world is going to end this year. It's not going to end! Believe me! Last year there was someone who said the world was going to end on May 21, 2011. When it didn't, he then said it was going to end on October 21, 2011. We're still here, right? There are always superstitious people who say these things. If you go online and read old newspapers from the past you'll see that people have always been saying this. But it's just superstition.

Juliet Freedman: Why do people think global warming is happening?

Michelle Siegel: Yes, the icebergs are melting and Florida will one day be half under water.

Rabbi Mark: Yes, global warming is true. No one knows exactly how high the ocean waters will rise because of it, but it's real and it's a problem. OK, so what can we do about it?

Rosa Hahn: Well, what about electric cars?

Rabbi Mark: Great! I agree with Rosa! We can take steps to stop putting so much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. President Obama wants cars to get at least 50 miles to the gallon, and a lot of people agree with him. There are things we can all do to make our "carbon footprint" smaller.

Why Can't We Have Shabbat on a Weekday?

Jordan Sabatier: Why can't we have Shabbat on a weekday, so then we wouldn't have to write in school?

Rabbi Mark: I love it! Actually, the Torah says we're supposed to work six days and have one day – Shabbat – for rest. But Jordan, you're reminding me of a story I heard from a long time ago. Let me tell it to you:

So once upon a time, a long time ago in Europe, a rabbi surprised his congregation. He told them that the next week they would all celebrate Shabbat on Tuesday! The people were uncomfortable, because they knew Tuesday was not Shabbat, but they did what their rabbi told them. So Monday afternoon, everyone stopped working early, cleaned their homes, baked challahs, and cooked a big meal. Monday night they all lit Shabbat candles, had a wonderful Shabbat dinner with their families, and they sang songs until late into the night. Tuesday morning they all went to synagogue, prayed and studied Torah, had another big meal, saw their friends, took a walk in the woods that afternoon, and - since no one worked that Tuesday - they just had a great, great day. But some of them got upset, because they said it was the best Shabbat of their lives – and it didn't feel right to say that because it was Tuesday! And then the rabbi said to them: "OK, from now on we'll go back to having Shabbat at the regular time, from Friday night to Saturday night. But I wanted you to learn something: All of the love and joy and peace you feel on Shabbat, all of the good feeling you have from being with your family, and enjoying each other and nature, and thinking about God and what really matters in life, well that you can actually feel anytime you open your hearts to it, even on a Tuesday!" And they were all happy to go back to their regular Shabbat, but from then on they all looked for - and found - little bits of Shabbat in the other days as well.



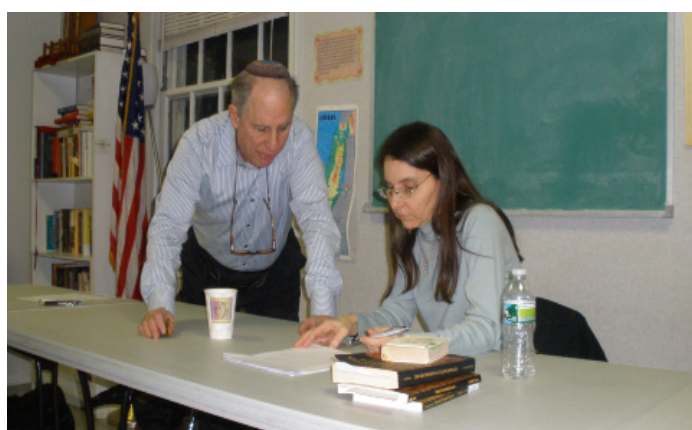
Sarah Tauber's Lecture of Schisms in Jewish History



With Steven Weiner



On Tuesday, February 28, Sarah Tauber delivered the first of a 3 part series on schisms in Jewish history. Seated before about 25 enthusiastic attendees, Dr. Tauber presented a chronology of the second temple period from 538 BCE, when Jews returned from the Babylonian Exile to Judea, to the destruction of that temple in 70 CE. Threading her way through the maze of external obstacles such as the Roman rule and the internal factions, she left us with the question: have we always been schismatic and how does this play out today? At one point during this period there were 24 major groupings of Jewish life. Some such as the Essenes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees are well known to most of us, but there were others such as the peasants and the zealots who either went along with foreign domination or were so violently opposed that they provoked the war that ultimately lead to the Roman decision to rid Jerusalem of our ancestors. On March 20, Dr. Tauber delivered another fascinating lecture on the 18th-century schism between the Hasids and the Mitnageds. Don't miss the third and final lecture in the series on Tuesday, May 1, when Dr. Tauber explores the schism between the Secular Rebels and the Orthodox Traditionalists. What happened - and continues to happen - when Jews took on power politics? For many of us listening to Dr. Tauber, we were faced with the difficult realization of how much we contributed to our own demise, how much of the internal hatred (sinat chinam) that existed then is present now, still coloring our relationship with our fellow Jews.



With Peter Schaffer

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Hola, ¿habla español? ¿No? ¡Qué pena!

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B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECT

Hello, my name is William Clark and for my Bar Mitzvah project I am helping out at my local animal shelter, the SPCA of Westchester. I will be participating in the "click and treat" program where you give a dog a command and if they do it correctly then you click a clicker and throw them a treat. I will also be participating in some of their fundraisers. The last thing I will be doing is helping keep the shelter beautiful by planting, pulling out weeds and putting the woodchips on their dog walking trail. I will also be donating some of the money I get as gifts for my Bar Mitzvah to a charity that helps people in third world countries dig wells to get clean drinking water. The charity is called Charity: Water. For more information about this great charity or to make a donation go to www.charitywater.org.



You are cordially invited to the
36th Annual Meeting

Annual Julian Y. Bernstein
Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony

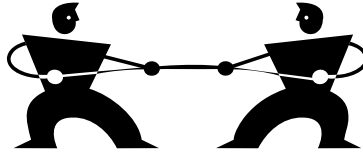
A Memorial Tribute to George Mandel (z"l)

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

7:30pm

Jewish Community Center of Harrison
130 Union Avenue ~ Harrison, NY 10528

ASL interpreting upon request
Kosher Dairy Dessert Reception follows ceremony
914/328-7001 margo@wjcouncil.org <http://www.wjcouncil.org>



Battle Lines:

Great Schisms in Jewish History

A lecture and discussion series by Dr. Sarah Tauber, Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Are we heading for a break between a conservative theocracy in Israel and a diaspora Jewry dedicated to liberal democracy, as a recent article in The Jewish Daily Forward states? This series will put great schisms in Jewish history in perspective. It will excite those of us interested in a deeper understanding of Jewish history as well as contemporary Jewish life.

Lecture Date and time	The Schism	Historical Time Frame
Tuesday Feb 28, 7:30 PM	Upstarts vs. Elites: Second Temple Era Collapse	1 st century BCE
Tuesday March 20, 7:30 PM	Hasids vs. Mitnageds: Eastern Europe Explodes	18th century
Tuesday May 1, 7:30 PM	Secular Rebels vs. Orthodox Traditionalists: the Jews Take on Power Politics	20 th century

Many of us enjoyed Dr. Tauber's lecture series on "Visions of Modern Israel" last year and have been waiting to hear her again. We invite the PCS community as well as anyone interested to join us for this lively educational series and discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue, 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Contact: Ofri Felder ofelder@optonline.net or call 769-2672

Co-sponsored by PCS Adult Education Committee and Israel Action Committee



Roberta King, Mother of Margaret Coleman	April 1
Barbara Landowne, Mother of Anne Landowne	April 5
Irving Goldman, Father of Dorian Goldman	April 5
Louis Goldman, Grandfather of Dorian Goldman	April 6
Dolores Poskanzer, Mother of Judy Poskanzer	April 7
Hyman Karmen, Grandfather of Abbe Karmen	April 7
Blanche Sticks, Mother of Judith Schmidt	April 13
Johanna Rappaport, Mother of Jennifer Yamuder	April 19
Philip Hersh, Father of Karen Sanders	April 19
Mildred Goodman, Mother of Jonathan Goodman	April 19
Morris Borenstein, Father of Marc Borenstein	April 20
Herman Sheft, Father of Janice Gambino	April 21
Mildred Ross, Mother of Anne Ross Tetenman	April 27
Florry Jablow, Mother of Robert Jablow	April 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 Mark at 769-2672, and Michael Gold at 238-9219.

NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADS!

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

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

*** Deadlines:**

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

*** Ad Specifications:**

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

*** Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin published in July and August) is \$100 for 1/4 page. Note: Checks preferred. Can be mailed to Pleasantville Community Synagogue, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 with "newsletter ad" in the memo section. To pay by credit card, please call the synagogue office at 914-769-2672.



You are cordially invited to the
36th Annual Meeting

Annual Julian Y. Bernstein
Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony
Honoring

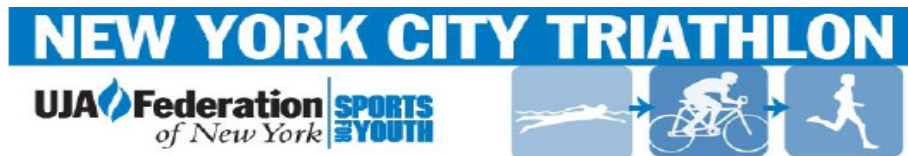
Michael Gold
for his outstanding service to
Pleasantville Community Synagogue

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Missed the lottery? Didn't get picked?

No problem! You still have a great opportunity to compete in some of New York's most popular and exciting sporting events while helping people in need.

Spots are available for the New York City Triathlon with UJA-Federation's Sports for Youth Team.

Sunday, July 8, 2012

Join the second annual UJA-Federation of New York and Sports for Youth triathlon team in the New York City Triathlon to raise money for UJA-Federation and Sports for Youth. If you join our charity team, you'll commit to raising a minimum of \$2,200, which guarantees you a spot to compete while helping those in need.

Sign up for the New York City Triathlon!!!



PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

All the Committees of The Pleasantville Community Synagogue are eager for your participation and suggestions. If you'd like to get more involved in the life of the PCS community, this is the way to begin! Below are the names of the committees, their chairs, and contact information.

Adult Education

David Felder
info@shalomPCS.com

Emma Reisman
info@shalompcs.com

B'nei Mitzvah
 Eileen Jagoda
ejagoda@shalomPCS.com

Building Committee
 Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum
info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Spiritual Life

Michael Safranek
msafranek@shalomPCS.com

Finance

Oren Cohen
ocohen@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Furst
kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Lisa Lipkin
llipkin@shalomPCS.com

Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com

Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi
Leyla@shalomPCS.com

Israel Action Committee

Ofri Felder
ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth Committee

Evan Kingsley
ekingsley@shalomPCS.com

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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



REMINDER!!!!

ISRAEL DAY PARADE

JUNE 3, 2012

BE THERE!!!!



Mayers & Nakisbendi Dental Associates

Dental care for your children
by a specialist!
Excellent care for parents too!

280 Mamaroneck Ave. Suite 201 White Plains, NY 10605
917-328-0163

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



Planning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Sweet 16,
Milestone Birthday or any Event

Come to a Party Showcase at
Lucky Strike
Lanes and Lounge

624-660 W. 42nd Street
New York, New York

Sunday, April 22, 2012
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Meet DJ's, Photographers, Entertainers,
Party Planners and more!

For more information contact
Amy Arcaç (646) 829-0182 or
Lisa Blitzler (732) 208-4029

ADMISSION IS FREE!

CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Pleasantville Community Synagogue by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

ED SPERLING FUND

JAN AND BERNIE GORDON

ANONYMOUS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EILEEN JAGODA

GENERAL FUND

CARREN KLEINMAN AND GERRY KAUFMAN

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

ANNE LANDOWNE AND GEOFFREY STEIN

JANE SANDBANK IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND,
CHARLIE

UNDER ONE ROOF

THANKS TO THE MULTIPLE DONORS

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June. Articles and photos should be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be e-mailed to Judith Chinitz, Editor, at judyhope@optonline.net or dropped off at the newsletter box in the Synagogue office.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue * 219 Bedford Road * Pleasantville, NY 10570

phone (914) 769 - 2672

fax (914) 769 - 1795

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

General Fund

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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

Building Fund

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

Hebrew School Emergency Scholarship Fund

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

Kiddush Fund

Your donation provides lunch after services on Shabbat morning: salads, bagels and pastry.

SPECIAL FUND: ED SPERLING

Pleasantville Community Synagogue continues to collect funds for Ed. Please keep Ed in your prayers. His Hebrew name is Asher David ben Miriam.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

Send acknowledgement to: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

In honor/
memory of: _____

Fund: _____

Amount: _____

Please send me an acknowledgement of this gift.





Yes

No

PLEASE NOTE: To help our bookkeeper, please issue separate checks for dues or other special events. All donations should be made payable to Pleasantville Community Synagogue (please indicate which fund in the memo section of your check).

NISSAN - IYAR 5772

April 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ta'anit Bechorot Fast of the First Born</p>	<p>6</p> <p> Erev Pesach 14th of Nisan 5772 No services at PCS 7:08pm-7:26pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Shabbat service, 10 am Pesach I</p> <p>8:39pm-8:40pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Service, 10 am Pesach II</p> <p>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</p> <p>8:40pm-8:41pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pesach III (CH"M)</p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pesach IV (CH"M)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pesach V (CH"M)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pesach VI (CH"M)</p> <p>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</p> <p>7:14pm-7:32pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pesach VII</p> <p>7:15pm-7:33pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Shabbat service, 9 am Pesach VIII</p> <p>8:46pm-8:47pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</p> <p>Executive meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p> Yom Ha'Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Children's Service PCS House Band</p> <p>7:23pm-7:41pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Shmini Bar Mitzvah - William Clark</p> <p>8:54pm-8:55pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parent Group at PCS - 7pm *</p> <p>Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm</p> <p>Yom HaShoah service at PCS, 4 pm</p> <p>...</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh event</p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p> Yom HaZikron (Israel Memorial Day)</p>	<p>26</p> <p> Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)</p> <p>PCS Board meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Children's Service PCS House Band Birthday blessings</p> <p>7:30pm-7:48pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Meditation, 9 am; Family Ed. Shabbat, 10 am Progressive Dinner! Parashat Tazria-Metzora</p> <p>9:01pm-9:02pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Yom Ha'atzmaut event?</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Prof. Sarah Tauber presents final in a 3-part series: "Great Schisms in Jewish History"</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Calendar meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Children's Service</p> <p>7:38pm-7:56pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim Bar Mitzvah - Benjamin Yamuder</p> <p>9:09pm-9:10pm - ...</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. Future months are also on the website.

WJCS JEWISH HEALING CENTER

(SELECTED PROGRAMS)

This spring join us for either a
Spiritual Support Group, a Spiritual Journeying Group, or a Kumi Ori: Contemplative
Sunday program

Spiritual Support Groups

TAfter the Death of a Child: A Workshop for Parents (Monday, April 30)

When a Get is Not Enough: For Separated and Divorcing Individuals (5 sessions, begins Wed. May 9)

Kumi Ori: Contemplative Sundays

AMoving through Fear to Freedom: A Contemplative Preparation for Pesach (April 1)

Meditation and Study for Shavuot (May 20)

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

Go to: <http://www.wjcs.com/clientuploads/HC-20121.pdf> for the full brochure,
or contact Rabbi Wax to have one snailmailed or sent electronically.

To register, or for further information, contact:

Rabbi Pamela Wax
Spiritual Care Coordinator
Westchester Jewish Community Services
845 North Broadway
North White Plains, NY 10603
914-761-0600 x149
fax 914-949-6778
www.wjcs.com

Made possible, in part, with funds from UJA Federation of NY



Shabbat at the Western Wall is just the start!

Join us for UJA-Federation of New York's

SUMMER FAMILY MISSION TO ISRAEL
MONDAY, AUGUST 20 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012

Bring your family to Israel and see what few tourists see.

- Explore lush, green nature parks and colorful sandstone mountains.
- Reach new heights by climbing the snake path up to Masada, and new depths by taking a dip in the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth.
- Connect with the diverse cultures living in Israel and sample local cuisine.
- Browse the Cardo, a Byzantine street that is now the world's oldest shopping arcade.
- Experience the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's Machaneh Yehudah open air market to enjoy the sites, smells, and tastes!
- Touch biblical history firsthand when you visit:
- Jaffa, the 8,000-year-old city.
- Caesarea, an ancient port city built by Herod the Great.
- Take part in a hands-on archaeological dig at Beit Guvrin with its thousands of underground caves dating back to the time of the Phoenicians.
- Explore the Old City of Jerusalem, including the Davidson Visitor's Center, the Southern Wall Excavations, the Kotel (Western Wall), and the Western Wall Tunnel.
- Touch Jewish history at Israel's museums, including:
- The Israel Museum where you can see the Dead Sea Scrolls and the model of Jerusalem during Temple times.
- The Latrun Armored Corps Memorial and Museum, an open-air exhibit of more than 200 tanks and other armored vehicles that you can climb on and in, some dating back to World War I.
- Yad Vashem, the memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.
- Learn about the humanitarian work of UJA-Federation:
- Visit the Mevasseret Zion Absorption Center where you'll meet Ethiopians newly arrived in Israel.
- Do a mitzvah by hosting IDF Lone Soldiers for Shabbat dinner that have no family in Israel or no family at all.

Whether this is your first time or a rediscovery, there is always something new and wonderful to experience!

For further information or to register, please contact Cindy Cutler at 1.212.836.1140 or cutlerc@ujafedny.org.

Through UJA-Federation, you care for people in need, inspire a passion for Jewish life and learning, and strengthen Jewish communities in New York, in Israel, and around the world.

130 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022 | 1-866-UJA-FED1 | www.ujafedny.org



Mark Your Calendar Now – Exciting Council Events To Come!

Annual County-Wide Yom HaShoa (Holocaust) Commemoration

Thursday, April 19 - 10 AM – 12 PM,

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

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

Thursday, April 26 7:00 PM

Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville

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

Wednesday, May 16 7:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Harrison

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

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

For more information call the Westchester Jewish Council (914) 328-7001

info@wjcouncil.org visit us at www.wjcouncil.org

(Formerly the Westchester Jewish Conference)

A proud beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York

SAVE THE DATE:



Saturday morning, April 7: First Day of Pesach (Passover)/Shabbat Service: 10 am

(please note the time; no communal meditation this morning)

Sunday morning, April 8: Second Day of Pesach (Passover) Service: 10 am (please note time)

Saturday morning, April 14: Eighth Day of Pesach (Passover)/Shabbat Service: Meditation at 9:00 am; Service at 9:30 am

Sunday afternoon, April 22: Yom HaShoa, Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at PCS

Saturday morning, April 28: Family Education Shabbat at 10 am (preceded by hour-long Meditation at 9 am)

Saturday night, April 28: The PCS Progressive Dinner (RSVP's required)