



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: (RE) TREAT YOURSELF

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Think of it as a 26 hour retreat. There's no charge, you can bring the kids, it's all happening in your own backyard, and you'll leave enlightened and refreshed.

Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12 join me in welcoming PCS High Holiday Cantor Abbe Lyons who will lead us through an uplifting, interactive, Shabbat-Before-Passover experience featuring old and new melodies, meditation, "kirtan" style chanting, and a pot-luck vegetarian dinner.

Don't like to sing? Cantor Abbe has something special in store for you, too. The Torah portion for April 13 is the same one we read again every year on Yom Kippur. Cantor Abbe will be leading us through a close reading of that important Torah portion (all study with English translation), and from our personal gleanings we will create a collaborative work of spoken "performance art" which our PCS members – adults, teens, and middle-schoolers - will perform at the High Holiday services this fall. Cantor Abbe calls it "Speak-Chorus." Here's how she describes it:

"What do you get when you mix poetry, flash mob, Bible, midrash and a little singing thrown in for good? Speak-Chorus Torah is a collaborative creative process leading to an amazing

presentation that draws in all who listen, a communal sacred sound sculpture of story, poetry, and melody of voices. Through meditation, experiential study, song, poetry and discussion during this weekend, we will begin to unpack, explore, and connect to the original Torah text on Yom Kippur. Consider continuing this exploration and being part of the group which will present our SpeakChorus Torah midrash during the morning Torah service on Yom Kippur. You don't have to be a writer, scholar, singer or public speaker to be a holy Midrash Teller."

Here's the lineup at PCS: Friday 7:15 pm Service; 8:30 pm Oneg Shabbat Refreshment Hour, followed by SpeakChorus Torah session #1. Saturday 9-9:30 am Meditation; 9:30-10 am Contemplative Chanting; 10 am Family Education Shabbat (including SpeakChorus discussion); Noon Kiddush luncheon and SpeakChorus Torah study session #2. Saturday 6-8:00 pm Vegetarian potluck dinner followed by Kirtan, Singalong and Havdalah – have fun learning new melodies.

To see "Speak-Chorus" in action, go to Cantor Abbe's website www.abbelyons.com/teach.html.

I hope you'll join us!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

At this special time of the year, as we celebrate Passover, I always enjoy reviewing the significance of this wonderful holiday and its particularly unique nuances. Since childhood, I always thought that the best, most direct and meaningful explanation of Pesach came from the legendary Rebbe Menachem Schneerson, of blessed memory (1902-1994).

Some key excerpts of what Pesach's special meaning was to the Rebbe are as follows:

"As we celebrate Passover each year, we recall again that great event at the dawn of our history. Our people were liberated from Egyptian bondage in order to receive the Torah as free men and women. Commenting on the verse, 'And these days shall be remembered and done,' our sages teach us that as those days are remembered, they are spiritually reenacted. The divine benevolence that brought miracles in the past is reawakened by our act of recollection.

"Passover is the 'Festival of our Liberation.' It celebrates a historic event: the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. However, our sages teach us that in every generation, and on each and every day, we must see ourselves as though we have just been liberated from Egypt. Freedom requires constant guarding. Each day and every environment carries its own equivalent of Egypt.

"We celebrate our physical liberation together with our spiritual freedom. Indeed, there cannot be one without the other; there can be no real freedom without accepting the precepts of Torah guiding daily life. The story of Pesach is the story of the special divine providence which alone determines the fate of our people. The story of our enslavement and liberation of which Passover tells us, give ample illustration of this.

"This lesson is emphasized by the three principal symbols of the Seder, concerning which our sages said that unless we explain their significance, we have not observed the Seder fittingly. Using these symbols in their chronological order and in accordance with the Haggadah explanation, we may say: we avoid Maror (bitterness of life) only through Pesach (G-d's special care 'passing over' and saving the Jewish homes even in the midst of the greatest plague), and matzoh – then the very catastrophe and the enemies of the Jewish people will work for the benefit of the Jews, driving them in great haste out of Egypt, the place of darkness, and placing them under the beam of light and holiness.

"One other important thing we must remember. The celebration of the festival of freedom must be connected with the commandment, 'You shall relate it to your children.' The formation and existence of the Jewish home, as of the Jewish

people as a whole, is dependent upon the upbringing of the young generation. Just as we cannot shirk our responsibility toward our children by the excuse that, 'my child is wise and they will find their own way in life, therefore no education is necessary,' so we must not despair by thinking, 'the child is a wicked one so no education will help.' For all children, boys and girls, are 'G-d's children,' and it is our sacred duty to see to it that they all live up to their full potential, and this we can achieve only through a good Jewish education. Then we all will merit the realization of our ardent hopes: in the next year may we be free; in the next year may we be in Jerusalem."

Additionally in April, we get to celebrate with great pride two of our own PCS members being honored. Board Trustee Amy & Bruce Gutenplan will be honored at the April 10th UJA Northern Westchester Dinner for their longtime support and service to UJA and to the Jewish community at large. Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to Amy & Bruce on behalf of Rabbi Mark, the Board and all of us at PCS for this much deserved and long overdue recognition. You bring honor to our shul.

A Zissen Pesach, a wonderful Passover and Chag Sameach to all!

– Jerry Neuburger





HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Galit Sperling, Hebrew School Principal

March was an exciting time at Hebrew School, during which there were several opportunities for families to engage with their children's learning. We started off the month with challah making for the Gimmel (3rd grade), Hey (5th grade) and Vav (6th grade) students, at which parents assisted their children with measuring ingredients, kneading dough, and braiding delicious challot for baking at home. (See all the great photos following!)

We celebrated the holiday of Purim on Sunday, March 16th. Our 1st-4th grade students sang numerous festive songs, led by music teacher Lisa Lipkin. Several members of the Hey (5th grade) class acted out a Purim Shpiel, making the story come alive with their characters and humor. Morah Jamie's fifth and sixth grade classes closed out the day with a presentation of a Purim rap for the Hebrew School students and parents.

On March 23rd, the Daled class (4th graders) celebrated Heritage Day, one of the most meaningful events of the year in Hebrew School. At this gathering, each student brought in a family heirloom and a relative to help them present part of their family's Jewish heritage and story. The presentations were fascinating and very moving. We were honored to have these special guests with us, and to share their stories.

On a personal note, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of the families who donated to the Hebrew School fund at this year's Purim Ball. I am in awe of your kindness and generosity, and I look forward to working with our wonderful teaching staff to continue enriching the Hebrew School programming!

Coming Up in April:

Sunday, April 6th: Model Passover Seder for Kitah Alef/Bet (1st/2nd grades)

Thursday, April 10th: Model Passover Seder for Kitah Gimmel, Daled, Hey & Vav (3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades)

Sunday, April 13th - Sunday, April 20th: No Classes, Passover Break

Thursday, April 24th: Classes Resume

Sunday, April 27th, 1:00 pm: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration

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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.



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WARMEST THANKS TO ADAM BROWN, FOR THESE WONDERFUL PHOTOS!

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PURIM AT PCS!





Warmest thanks to Dale Blum and Leyla Nakisbendi for these photos!

Palooza Week 2014: Something for Everybody!

As always, the 4th Annual PCS Palooza Week offered something for everyone: Hebrew School celebrations, book fairs and author readings, film screenings, a wonderful Pajama Shabbat Dinner and Service featuring our third graders and the PCS House Band, and of course an exuberant Purim Shpiel.

The 2-day book fair was a brand-new event at PCS, and included two marvelous author readings and discussions. Congregant Judith Schmidt read from her beautiful and profoundly moving book, "Longing for the Blessing," and a fascinating discussion among the participants ensued. The second night – a dark and stormy one! - PCS was host to author Andi Rosenthal who mesmerized her audience with her story of how a "Catholic girl grew up to write a very Jewish tale." "The Bookseller's Sonnets" is part historical fiction and part detective story in homage to Andi's father who served as a NY homicide detective. Those of us fortunate enough to make it to these events were indeed blessed, and if you have the chance to hear either of these authors speak, grab it.

The book sale included an eclectic and beautiful collection of Jewish- and Israeli-themed selections chosen with the help of the good people at The Village Bookstore, and with some of the proceeds going back to PCS. Thanks go to Barbara Doctor, chair of PCS Adult Ed and Programming Committee, and her able assistant, Marcy Gray, for putting this together.

"Life in Stills," the second in the 5-part series of Israeli Documentary Films, organized by Israel Action co-chairs, Ofri Felder and Seth Rutman, drew a good-size crowd and a lively debate afterward. Many thanks to Ofri for bringing such a high-quality series to PCS and to *her* able assistant, David Felder, who offered to fill in as translator of the film if the subtitles didn't come on. [The next film in this amazing series is "Orchestra of Exiles," a gripping documentary, shown in honor of Yom HaShoah on April 27, about the formation of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. The screening of this extraordinary film, on Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 pm, will include Lea Cohen, mother of PCS congregant Oren Cohen, who was a member, in 1949, of that historic orchestra.]

On Friday night, PCS hosted one of its joyful PJ Shabbat dinners and services, featuring the Hebrew school 3rd graders and the PCS House Band. Long-time members, prospective members, old friends and new ones, gathered in song and prayer and celebration. Then, to cap off Palooza Week, PCS held its Purim Shpiel, the synagogue's greatest and most fun fundraiser, which was indeed "a little blue" and enormous fun! (See photos on pages 12-16.) Proceeds from this year's Shpiel were targeted toward the Hebrew School, and thanks and kudos and bows go to the Shpiel actors and writer, and the Purim Shpiel committee and its amazing co-chairs, Karen Neuburger and Amy Gutenplan.

If you have any ideas for next year's Palooza Week, send them in! It's never too early to start planning...

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Book Fair



Author/storyteller Andi Rosenthal at right



Author Judith Schmidt, left, listens to reactions to her book.



People browsing through the Book Fair selections

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2014 PCS PURIM BALL: "KIND OF BLUE"! 2014!

The 2014 PCS Purim Ball was a fun-filled evening of cocktails, dinner, comedy and dancing that took place at the Pleasantville Country Club on March 22. More than 80 people attended the gala, and a good time was had by all.

The comedy was kicked off with comments by Lee Rosenbaum, which included a review of books that Rabbi Mark could not get published. Lee had everybody laughing. The comedy continued as Lee was followed by Jeff Turkel's funny as ever Shpiel, "Kind of Blue," starring the PCS Players, Michael Gold, Amy Gutenplan, Dara Kingsley, Rabbi Mark, Dave Rakower, Lee Rosenbaum, Michael Safranek and Jeff Turkel. Meanwhile, the silent auction was a big success, and a separate live auction for the Hebrew school was also very successful. Finally, the dance floor was opened up for dancing and further celebration.

All in all, the event was a lot of fun and raised much-appreciated funds for the benefit of the Hebrew school. Many kudos and thanks go to Purim Shpiel committee co-chairs, Karen Neuburger and Amy Gutenplan, along with the rest of the hard-working committee members, who made this gala event such a great success.



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PURIM SHPIEL, CONTINUED



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PURIM SHPIEL, CONTINUED



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PURIM SHPIEL, CONTINUED



Thank you so much to Emma Reisman for these amazing photos of an amazing night!





**Don't miss the next screening in PCS'
Israel Documentary Film series!**

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 pm:
Orchestra of Exiles



Pleasantville Community Synagogue is very fortunate to have Lea Cohen (above), mother of synagogue member Oren Cohen, join us for this event.

Born Lea Ostrojinsky, Lea was born in Jerusalem in 1928 and had her first solo concert as a violinist in Conservatory Shulamit at age 13. She volunteered for the IDF in 1947 and was recruited as a soloist for the IDF Chamber Orchestra. In 1949, at age 21, she joined the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and was the youngest of six women in the orchestra. She played under Serge Koussevitsky and Leonard Bernstein, and toured the U.S. with the Orchestra in 1951.

Lea will bring her very personal perspective to "Orchestra of Exiles" and will share her memories of that time.

For more information, please call the PCS office at 769-2672 or e-mail Israel Action Committee co-chair Ofri Felder at ofelder@optonline.net.

219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, (914) 769-2672, info@shalomPCS.com
Celebrating 17 Years ~ Fair Share Dues means anyone can belong
Rabbi Mark Sameth ~ Galit Sperling, Principal
For the Top Ten Reasons to Join PCS visit www.ShalomPCS.com

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת אבגדהוזחטיכלמנס

Community Jewish Day School Fair

LEARN ABOUT JEWISH DAY SCHOOL AND YESHIVA OPTIONS AROUND THE TRI-STATE AREA

Sunday, April 6, 2014
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

At Beth El Synagogue Center
1324 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

Participants:

- Abraham Joshua Heschel School (Manhattan, NY)
- Bi-Cultural Day School (Stamford, CT)
- Carmel Academy (Greenwich, CT)
- The Frisch School (Paramus, NJ)
- Ramaz School (Manhattan, NY)
- Rodeph Sholom School (Manhattan, NY)
- Kinneret Day School (Riverdale, NY)
- SAR Academy and High School (Riverdale, NY)
- The Shefa School (Manhattan, NY)
- Solomon Schechter School of Westchester (Hartsdale, NY)
- Solomon Schechter of Manhattan (Manhattan, NY)
- Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park (Yonkers, NY)
- Westchester Day School (Mamaroneck, NY)
- Westchester Hebrew High School (Mamaroneck, NY)
- Westchester Torah Academy (New Rochelle, NY)

For more information, contact Pam Goldstein at Pam@wjcouncil.org or 914.328.7001

עפצקרשת אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפ

אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפ

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The Jewish Week Media Group
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A Very Special PCS Shabbaton...

Friday and Saturday, April 11-12



Join us at Pleasantville Community Synagogue with High Holiday Cantor Abbe Lyons for a special Shabbat-Before-Passover experience of old and new music, prayer, meditation, celebration and food!

"Think of it as a 26-hour retreat. There's no charge, you can bring the kids, it's all happening in your own backyard, and you'll leave enlightened and refreshed."

~ ~ ~

For more details or to RSVP for the Saturday night vegetarian potluck dinner, e-mail mgray@shalompcs.com, visit shalompcs.com or call 769-2672.

~ ~ ~

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, (914) 769-2672, info@shalomPCS.com
Celebrating 17 Years ~ Fair Share Dues means anyone can belong
Rabbi Mark Sameth ~ Galit Sperling, Principal
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Yom HaShoah

**Holocaust Remembrance
Day Service**

Sunday, April 27, 1 p.m.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Featuring special musical remembrances

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“For the dead and the living,  
we *must* bear witness.”

— Elie Wiesel

~~~

5th, 6th and 7th Grade B’nei Mitzvah students will receive
credit for service attendance.

ASK THE RABBI:

The Meaning of Life, Comparative Religion, Neil deGrasse Tyson, and More...

On March 13 Rabbi Mark held a session of "Ask the Rabbi" with our Fifth Grade (Kitah Hay) class. Here's an excerpt from that discussion.

NOAH: How many words are there in the Torah?

RABBI MARK: Let's see. 304,000? Let me get my book. [Gets concordance from office.] I was thinking of how many letters. The number of words is 79,847.

JAKE: How long would the Torah be if we stretched it out?

RABBI MARK: It would stretch all the way around the sanctuary.

MATTEA: What's the meaning of life?

JOSH: 42!

CHARLOTTE: I asked Siri, and she said 42!

RABBI MARK: OK, it seems the consensus is 42.

ETHAN: How does anyone know God is real?

RABBI MARK: OK, class. You have now asked the two big questions: What is the meaning of life? And: How do we know God is real? So let me start here. First of all, the Torah is not a book of science. The rabbis never took the stories literally. The stories in the Torah are...

NOAH: ... sketchy.

RABBI MARK: Yes! They're just sketches, and they're not to be taken as literally true. They're there to teach us lessons. The human being evolved from lower primates. We know that. But the Torah tells us that God created the earth creature, the Adam, as male and female. Why? To teach us that boys and girls are equal. Judaism totally believes in science. Jews have been some of the world's greatest scientists.

MORAH KAREN: Einstein was not "religious," but he believed that God created the universe.

RABBI MARK: That's right. He had a famous saying: "God does not play dice with the universe." What does that mean? It means that Einstein did not believe that the universe is random. By the way, Einstein was asked to be the President of Israel, but he didn't think he would do a very good job at it. No one can do everything, not even an Einstein!

JOSH: Will we have time travel?

RABBI MARK: I'm a rabbi, not a physicist, so I really have no idea. The rabbis certainly believe that from God's perspective the past, present, and future all exist at the same "time" but that's not giving you a scientific answer to your question. And just because God can exist in all time dimensions at once, that doesn't mean that human beings can travel between them. We'll have to see!

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ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

MAIA: Jesus was Jewish, so why do Catholics talk about him? And why don't Jews?

RABBI MARK: Great question. Jews believe that Jesus was a great man. But Roman Catholics and other Christians believe not only was he a great man, but that he was the Messiah, and more than that, that he was the son of God. Jews and Christians have a lot of things in common – "Love your neighbor as yourself," the idea of Sabbath, the Ten Commandments; the stories of Adam and Eve, and Noah – all of those things come from Judaism. But Jews believe that when the Messiah comes there will be world peace, and so far we haven't seen that. And also Jews don't believe we should pray to a human being. So there are differences between our religions, too.

ABBY: Were there other people like Jesus?

RABBI MARK: Another great question! Yes, there were. There was a man named Bar Kochba, who lived about 150 years after Jesus, and there were some Jews who thought that he might be the Messiah. But then he died, too, and the Jews realized then that he wasn't. There was a man named Shabbatai Tzvi, and some Jews believed he was the Messiah, but again he died before bringing world peace. There was even a rabbi in the 1990's some people believed was the Messiah, but he also died and sadly we still have wars. And you know, I also should tell you that not all Jews even believe in the idea of a Messiah; not all Jews believe that one day there will be one person alone who will make the whole world better. Some Jews do, but many Jews believe that there will be a "messianic age" when all people will work together to bring peace.

CHARLOTTE: Does anyone think you're the messiah?

RABBI MARK: Thanks, Charlotte. One thing all Jews agree on is that when the Messiah comes he or she will not leave his or her dirty dishes in the sink. So, no. But thanks for asking!

SYDNEY: This is a comment. I don't believe travelling back in time is possible.

RABBI MARK: You know, I could bring a child from the 1950's into this class right now.

MATTEA: That's you!

NOAH: So I have had this theory since I was five years old.

RABBI MARK: I want to hear your theory.

NOAH: My theory is that there's another Noah, and what I do that other Noah does as well.

RABBI MARK: That's amazing that you thought of that. In German that's called a "dopplenganger." In mystical Judaism, the Kabbalah, the rabbis taught that there is a "you" in this world, and then there's another "you" in the heavenly world - at the same time. So that's amazing that you thought of that, Noah. As the Kabbalists tell it, the idea is that if you do something good in this world, your "double" is automatically doing something good in the heavenly world, which makes God very happy. I'm not sure that that's exactly how it works, but I love the idea!

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ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

NOAH: I also had this thought: What if there were no universe? What would there be?

RABBI MARK: The rabbis call that “ayin,” which means “Nothing,” with a capital “N.” They called the universe (and everything in it, including time) “yesh,” which means “what is.” What exists outside the universe, or before the universe, or after the universe is “ayin.”

BENJAMIN: So what happens when time ends?

RABBI MARK: The rabbis taught that after this universe ends, time ends, too; but then another universe is born, and time begins again. It keeps going forever. That’s why in Judaism God is called the God of the “olamot” – which means God of the “universes” - plural.

ABBY: The TV show “Cosmos” shows that there are bubbles of universes.

RABBI MARK: Yes. From the perspective of us here on earth they exist before or after our universe. But from God’s perspective they all exist at the same time.

KATIE: So you’re saying that Neil deGrasse Tyson thinks the same as the rabbis?

RABBI MARK: Katie’s asking about Neil deGrasse Tyson, the director of the Rose Center/Hayden Planetarium in New York City. He’s the host of the show “Cosmos.” Katie, the rabbis of old totally believed in science! That’s important for you to know. A famous rabbi by the name of Isaac Luria lived 500 years ago in northern Israel, and he taught that if you read the Torah closely enough you’ll find it’s actually saying that God created the universe from a tiny dot of light called the “reishit” which exploded and became everything we see in the universe. He was a great rabbi, and he had a lot of followers, but most people thought he was crazy - until the 1960’s when scientists discovered that he was right. You know what his theory is called today?

CLASS: The Big Bang Theory!

RABBI MARK: That’s right.

MAIA: How do we get our last names?

RABBI MARK: Jewish last names have usually come from one of three places: Our parents (we could be named “so-and-so son or daughter of so-and-so,” for instance Levinson means the son of someone named Levy); our jobs (for instance Schneider means a tailor); or where we or our ancestors were born (Berliner, Londoner, Spanierman, etc.)

ABBY: Welch was originally Welsh.

RABBI MARK: Great example!

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ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

JOSH: Do you believe in telepathy?

RABBI MARK: I knew you were going to ask me that.

MATTEA: My mother's name will not be carried on. Only my father's name.

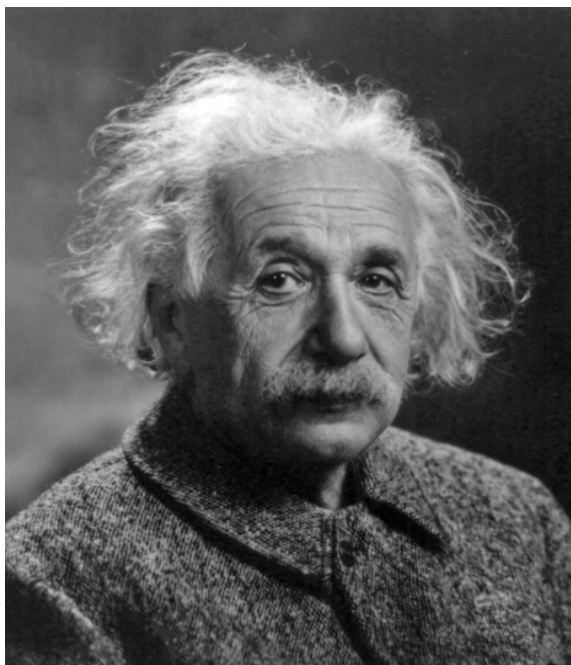
RABBI MARK: Well, you could hyphenate your last name and carry both names on if you wanted to.

CALEB: You know that every few seconds a person is born, a person dies, and a person crosses a border.

RABBI MARK: That's very interesting! Those are not statistics I know, but I'm absolutely sure without even looking it up that every second someone does cross a border. What do I mean?

ABBY: You mean from the past into the present!

RABBI MARK: Very good, Abby. The rabbis taught that every moment is a new creation. Every moment we have the chance to start again. Not just on Rosh Hashanna. That's a good thing to remember, especially when you're having a hard day. We can always start again.



*Long-time members, new members
prospective members, and everyone else!
Please join PCS and Rabbi Mark for another joyful*

Pajama Shabbat!

Part of our week-long Open House Palooza Week

Friday night, April 25

5:45 pm doors open ~ 6:00 pm Pajama Shabbat Service (up to age 6)

6:15 pm Dinner* (all ages) ~ 7:15 pm Family Service featuring our
Hebrew School 4th Graders and the PCS House Band ~

8:30 pm Festive "Oneg Shabbat" Refreshment Hour

**The dinner is free but RSVPs are a must.*



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

You've heard about us from friends & neighbors.

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

Joyful Judaism!

Celebrating 17 Years ~ Fair Share Dues means anyone can belong

Rabbi Mark Sameth, named one of the "36 Most Inspiring Rabbis in America"

by the *Jewish Daily Forward* ~ Galit Sperling, Principal ~

For the Top Ten Reasons to Join PCS visit: www.ShalomPCS.com

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

The Jewish Museum and Marc Chagall: "Love, War and Exile"



Join us at PCS for an exciting visual presentation and discussion with a docent from NYC's Jewish Museum.

Wednesday, April 2, 7 pm

Chagall: Love, War, and Exile, shown for the first time in the U.S., explored a significant but neglected period in the artist's career from the rise of fascism in the 1930s through 1948, years spent in Paris and then in exile to New York.

"A fresh look at Marc Chagall that's riveting." – Howard Halle, Time Out New York

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570
For more information contact Barbara Doctor at
bdoctor670@gmail.com, or call PCS at **769-2672**.

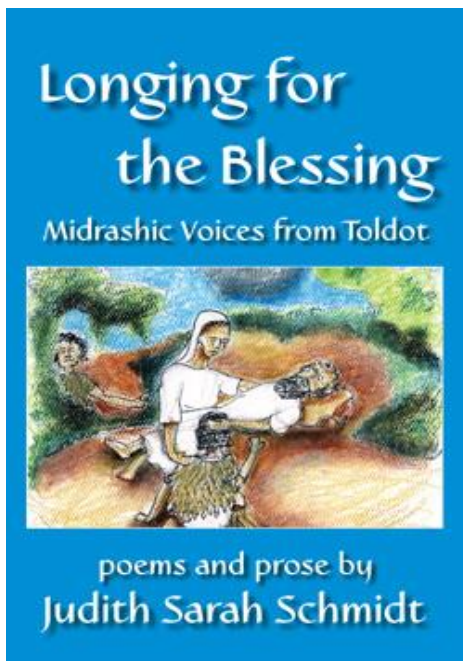
Sponsored by the PCS Adult Education committee

Refreshments will be served.

“Longing for the Blessing ...”

PCS is proud to announce the recent publication of “Longing for the Blessing: Midrashic Voices from Toldot” by PCS member, author, poet and speaker, **Judith Schmidt**.

In honor of Ed Sperling, Judith has made the **book available for purchase at PCS for \$18.00**, with all proceeds going to the **Ed Sperling Fund**. If interested, please contact Marcy Gray at PCS, mgray@shalompcs.com, 769-2672, or fill out and send in the form below.



“To enter Judith Sarah Schmidt's stunningly profound and beautiful *Longing for the Blessing*, her reflections on the section of the Torah called Toldot, is to become intimate with words of Torah, dream images, the collected insights of over a thousand years of religious commentary, contemporary psychology and literature and personal memories. Through these words and images you enter into the soul of Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Esau, as well as of her great-grandfather Judah, and of Judith herself. Through these images you deeply understand and love them, their faith, their prayers, their struggles and triumphs. In their light, you see your own.”

— Rabbi Rachel Cowan, co-founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality

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Can You Do a Mitzvah?

Searching for a Seder...

There are two congregant families that are looking for a first-night seder: One is a family of 7 who cannot have a seder in their home this year and the other is a couple. If you can find room at your table, please contact Marcy Gray, mgray@shalompcs.com, 769-2672. Thank you!

Do you live within walking distance of PCS? The family of Zennor Angove-Cohen, who is becoming a Bat Mitzvah September 20, 2014, is looking for a place to stay for close relatives, a family of four. They are coming in from out of town and need a place to stay within walking distance on Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20. If you think you can help, please be in touch with Zennor's grandmother, Elaine Cohen, at elainec@acohen.com or call her at 914-318-9146. Thank you!

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Israel Documentary Film Series at PCS*

The PCS Israel Action and Adult Education committees invite you to learn about Israel's history, culture, and politics through an informal viewing of five fascinating and thought-provoking documentary films:

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 pm: Amos Oz, *The Nature of Dreams* (2009)

Thursday, March 20, 7:45 pm: *Life in Stills* (2011)

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 pm: *Orchestra of Exiles* (2012)

Thursday, May 1, 7:45 pm: *Inventing our Lives, the Kibbutz Experiment* (2011)

Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 pm: *The Gatekeepers* (2012)

****For more details of each film, please see page 13.***

~

For more information, please e-mail Israel Action Committee co-chair Ofri Felder at ofelder@optonline.net or call the PCS office at 769-2672.

All are welcome to this free series and refreshments will be served.

Advanced registration is recommended.

~

**Pleasantville Community Synagogue ~ 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY
914-769-2672 ~ info@shalompcs.com ~ www.shalompcs.com**



Israel Documentary Film Series at PCS

The PCS Israel Action Committee invites you to join us for an informal viewing of five documentary films exploring Israel's history, culture, and politics:

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 pm: Amos Oz, *The Nature of Dreams* (2009) The birth and coming of age of Amos Oz, one of Israel's greatest writers, parallels those of his country. "This is a journey in the footsteps of Amos Oz, his literary writing and political doctrine. The journey takes us through his memoir, "A Tale of Love and Darkness," through his meetings with readers in Israel and all over the world; his notions about the long and complex relationship between Europe and Jews; and follows him over a period of two years in his efforts to promote the two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." Discussion following the film moderated by PCS member David Felder.

Thursday, March 20, 7:45 pm: *Life in Stills* (2011) The work of photographer Rudi Weissenstein, the "official" photographer for the Declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, forms the backdrop for this tender "love story" between Rudi's 96 year old widow and her grandson, Ben. When the photo shop she had managed for decades in Tel-Aviv is destined for demolition, Miriam Weissenstein joins her grandson and together they embark on a journey to save the shop and Rudi's life work. Touching and humorous, this is an uplifting story that is bound to please.

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 pm: *Orchestra of Exiles* (2012) In honor of Yom HaShoah on April 27, we will be viewing this gripping documentary about the formation of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. When Hitler began firing Jewish musicians in the early 1930s, violinist Bronislow Huberman moved these great musicians to Palestine. "With courage, resourcefulness, and an entourage of allies including Arturo Toscanini and Albert Einstein, Huberman saved nearly 1,000 Jews – and guaranteed the survival of Europe's musical heritage... a timeless tale of a brilliant young man coming of age, and the suspenseful story of how his efforts impacted cultural history."

Thursday, May 1, 7:45 pm: *Inventing our Lives, the Kibbutz Experiment* (2011) The Kibbutz Movement was a central force in the formation of the state of Israel, and May 1 - "International Worker's Day" – was for many years celebrated with great pomp in Israel's Kibbutzim. "With their desire to create a Jewish homeland and build a more just society, the first settlers helped place kibbutzim in the vanguard of Israeli history. In doing so, they became a magnet for all those who shared one thing in common – a powerful urge to invent their own lives." Will the kibbutz movement and its socialist idealism survive a new capitalist reality? You are invited to wear red to this viewing for International Workers' Day or blue-and-white in honor of Israel Independence Day, May 6).

Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 pm: *The Gatekeepers* (2012) Nominated for the Academy Awards in the Best Documentary category and winner of numerous international awards, this film is a must-see for anyone interested in the future of the state of Israel both as an independent Jewish state and as a viable democracy. It includes amazingly candid interviews with six of Israel's heads of the Shin-Bet, Israel's secret service, as they grapple with their successes and failures and reconsider their positions regarding the Palestinian conflict. At once disturbing and affirming, the film raises questions about current Israeli politics. If you missed it in theatres, this is your opportunity to view a must-see film. Discussion following the film moderated by PCS member David Felder.

For more information, please e-mail Israel Action Committee co-chair Ofri Felder at ofelder@optonline.net or call the PCS office at 769-2672.

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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

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Yahrzeit (February 27, 2014)

*I am told by the Jewish calendar today is the day to remember you and say
kaddish.*

to light a candle.

I remember you every day and say kaddish every day.

Four years is but a comma

*When placed after 40 years of a life shared
there is no period with which to end the story*

I am so sad

and hoping there is eternity

*where you are finding the peace and beauty
you sought with such fervor, passion, spirit and love
and even with patience*

to give rise to

*Although I don't know if you had the chance to
recognize what you did.*

And as you said so wisely

*it was in the doing anyway
not in the finishing.*

- Jane Sandbank

APRIL 2014 YAHR ZEITS

Martin Neuburger, Father of Jerry Neuburger	April 2
Arthur Zucker, Father of Steven Zucker	April 4
Elizabeth Wehrle, Mother of Douglas Wehrle	April 8
Herman Spiegel, Father of Robert Spiegel	April 8
Roberta King, Mother of Margaret Coleman	April 9
Emily Borenstein, Mother of Marc Borenstein	April 12
Irving Goldman, Father of Dorian Goldman	April 13
Louis Goldman, Grandfather of Dorian Goldman	April 14
George Johnston, Father of Bradley Johnston	April 15
Hyman Karmen, Grandfather of Abbe Karmen	April 15
Florence Hydecker, Grandmother of Larry Reinhartz	April 16
Blanche Stickers, Mother of Judith Schmidt	April 21
Mildred Goodman, Mother of Jonathan Goodman	April 27
Johanna Rappaport, Mother of Jennifer Yamuder	April 27
Philip Hersh, Father of Karen Sanders	April 27
Morris Borenstein, Father of Marc Borenstein	April 28
Herman Sheft, Father of Janice Gambino	April 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.

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PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Adult Education

Barbara Doctor
bdoctor670@gmail.com

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

April Lasher Sanders
alasher@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
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

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.com

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

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ADINA AND ADAM MCGINLEY, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF AMELIA'S BABY-NAMING CEREMONY AT PCS

A special thank you...

Thank you to Eileen Jagoda for donating a new Kiddush cup to PCS in honor of her granddaughter Eveylyn Jagoda's graduation this May with honors from Columbia University.

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All proceeds from Purim Ball 2014 were targeted this year toward the Hebrew School... Many, many thanks to everyone who donated, contributed, and bid on auction items!

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.

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Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

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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).

April 2014 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 7:15pm Yoga class	1 Rosh Chodesh Nisan	2 7:00pm Chagall presentation at PCS	3 Ask the Rabbi with Kita Vav	4 PCS House Band Candle lighting 7:05 pm	5 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Yakira Sameth, 9:30 am
6 Hebrew school model seder Open House? Executive Committee meeting	7 7:15pm Yoga class	8	9 PCS Board meeting	10 Hebrew school model seder	11 PCS Shabbaton Candle lighting 7:12 pm	12 9:00am Morning Meditation; Family Education Shabbat Service, 10 am PCS Shabbaton
13	14 Erev Pesach Ta'anit Bechorot Fast of the First Born Candle lighting 7:15 pm	15 Pesach I	16 Pesach II 8:47 pm Havdalah	17 Pesach III (CH"M)	18 Children's Service Pesach IV (CH"M) Candle lighting 7:20 pm	19 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Pesach V (CH"M)
20 7:22pm - Candle lighting Pesach VI (CH"M)	21 7:15pm Yoga class Pesach VII	22 8:54pm - Havdalah Pesach VIII	23 7:30pm Israel Documentary Film Night: "Orchestra of Exiles"	24	25 Pajama Shabbat and Dinner Kita Dalet Shabbaton PCS House Band Candle lighting 7:27 pm	26 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Klein, 9:30 am Pesach VI (CH"M)
27 1:00pm Holocaust Memorial Service at PCS Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial	28 7:15pm Yoga class	29 7:30pm Calendaring meeting	30 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	1 7:45pm Israel Documentary Film Night: "Inventing Our Lives: The Kibbutz Experiment"	2 Children's service Candle lighting 7:34 pm	3 9:00am Morning Meditation; Family Education Shabbat Service, 10 am Kita Hey Shabbaton

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.



Happy Spring

SAVE THE DATES:

Wednesday, April 2: Chagall presentation at PCS, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 4: The community is invited to a celebratory Oneg Shabbat Refreshment hour after the 7:15 pm service in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of the Rabbi and Tali's daughter Yakira.

Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12: "Retreat" with High Holiday Cantor Abbe at PCS. See Rabbi's Column for times and activities.

Tuesday April 15 and Wednesday April 16: Passover (Pesach) services at 10:00 am to Noon, both days.

Tuesday April 22: Yizkor (Memorial) Service, during last day of Passover service, 8:00 to 10:00 am.

Wednesday April 23: Israeli Film Night

Friday April 25: Pajama Shabbat Service, Shabbat Dinner, Fourth Grade (Kitah Dalet) Shabbaton Service

Sunday April 27: Holocaust Memorial Service (Yom HaShoa) 1:00 pm

