



VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 5

WWW.SHALOMPCS.COM

JANUARY 2017

The Rabbi's Column:

Three Jewish Models of Tikkun Olam: Prophet, Sage, Peacemaker

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan



There's no doubt we've had a tumultuous year and are just starting to grapple with deep divisions in our nation. The good news is that it has led a lot of people to want to make a difference in the world.

As Jews, we have 4,000 years of wisdom and models for how to make the world better, what we call "Tikkun Olam."

(<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/tikkun-olam-repairing-the-world/>)

I think in particular of three Jewish paths or models for making a difference. There is the prophet's way to fight for social justice, the sage's way of finding common ground, and the peacemaker's way of being the change we want to see.

The prophetic voice in Judaism begins in the Torah, with the radical demand that we are all responsible to care for the weak in society and to welcome and love the stranger. It starts with Moses' message to Pharaoh to free the slaves and "let my people go," and continues with the later prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah, who chastised the people for their failure to live up to those divine imperatives. The prophet's way has motivated Jews to be involved with social justice movements throughout history and today. When times get tough, this way calls us to redouble our dedication to Tikkun Olam through *tzedakah*, social activism and political engagement.

When Jews lost sovereignty and were scattered in the diaspora, another way of

seeking change took hold: the sage's way. The sages and rabbis had to find a way to keep the Jewish dream alive in defeat and dispersion, even when plagued by persecution. The sage's way supported our people in generations much more difficult than our own. From Hillel and Shammai through the generations, the sage's emphasis was not on grand gestures and bold statements, but on the morality, ethics and rituals of everyday life.

Embodied in the wisdom of the Talmud, the sage's way is to find the common denominator in all arguments, to seek compromise, to decide by majority vote but respect minority outlooks. I have often recounted the story of how I used to drive home from work in Texas and see a weekly demonstration on one side of the highway, with a counter-demonstration on the other. I often thought to myself that the Talmudic position would be to stand on the highway median and try to help both sides see what they had in common, so we could actually make some progress.

Finding holiness in everyday life, caring for one's own community while respecting others, and keeping the dreams of a better future alive through spiritual practice, are all hallmarks of the sage's way.

I sense that we have a great need for more people to pursue the sage's way today. Today there is a rush to instant opinions, and we tend to inhabit our own "echo chambers" of news and social commentary, so that just listening to other opinions becomes viewed as a betrayal. After our election showed deep divisions in our society, at least some of us have to reach out and hear those of other viewpoints.

This leads me to consider the peacemaker's way. This is primarily a modern Jewish path, because once our people gained greater strength, sovereignty and equality in the world, we had the strength to risk for peace. Besides great peacemakers like Yitzchak Rabin or Shimon Peres, I think of contemporary role models like Yehuda Stolov, director of the Interfaith Encounter Association (<http://interfaith-encounter.org/>) in Israel, that regularly brings together 8,500 Jews, Christians and Muslims for dialogue groups, or Rabbi Michael Melchior (<http://www.rabbi-michaelmelchior.org/welcome>), an Orthodox rabbi and pioneer in interfaith and intra-faith dialogue. Len and Libby Traubman, of San Mateo, California (<http://traubman.igc.org/global.htm>), my dialogue mentors, taught me the way of "Shema," of listening to others with an open heart and hearing their stories. I recently watched Steve Apkon's documentary film, *Disturbing the Peace*, about Combatants for Peace (<http://cfpeace.org/>), a group of former warriors who have set out to practice non-violence together.

The peacemaker's way is to embody the qualities that we want to see in our world. This path invites us to reach out and form relationships with neighbors and community members of many backgrounds and beliefs. It often involves creativity, art and even ritual and spirituality as paths to transforming the world. Rather than expecting change from the top down, the peacemaker embraces "citizen diplomacy" and reminds us that **we are all creating our community, our country and our world every single day** by our own interactions with others.

In the last few weeks I experienced the following events in our local community: volunteering with our community and people of many faiths to help underprivileged and developmentally challenged young people at the JCCA Cottage School, participating in the AJC Diversity Breakfast with people of many races, ethnicities and religions to celebrate our community and outstanding volunteers, attending an interfaith study session led by a Jewish rabbinic school professor at the local Muslim

Society (and then enjoying a friendly dinner with people of different faiths), and attending our wonderful SNAP service made possible by the dedication of PCS member Vivian Chang Freiheit, with several of our young people volunteering to help others with special needs. Each time, I looked around and thought, "What a blessing to be here. This is America. We are making this happen today."

Although we are drawn by temperament and outlook to one path or the other, I hope all of us have various opportunities to explore and experience each of these three paths to Tikkun Olam. It is up to us (*Alenu*), not to anyone else to do it for us. Whatever our style of activism in the world, the main thing is to reach out to others: both others who think like us and others who see the world differently. Almost daily, I recall Reb Zalman's phrase, "The only way we can get it together is together."

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy secular New Year, and many blessings to work together for making a positive difference in our world.



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Galit Sperling, Principal

In December, we celebrated Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, in Hebrew School. Students prepared by learning about the history of the Maccabees and the rededication of the second Temple. On Sunday, December 18, all of our first through sixth graders convened at the Atria Senior Center in Briarcliff Manor, where they sang traditional Hanukkah songs in Hebrew and English, including "*Maoz Tzur*" ("Rock of Ages"), "*Mi Yimalel*" ("Who Can Retell"), "Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah," "*Ner Li*" ("My Candle") and, of course, dreidel songs! It was wonderful and touching to be able to sing along with the senior residents there, who were thrilled to be with our children.

We then returned to PCS for a Hanukkah play, a fun retelling of the holiday story, performed by all of our students. Students made their own props, and all worked together to make the play come alive. Our seventh grade B'nei Mitzvah class enjoyed a parent-child workshop with Rabbi Julie, discussing the deeper meaning of Hanukkah and making holiday gifts for the homeless. We finished off celebrations together with dreidel playing, latkes and *sufganiot* (jelly doughnuts!). Students brought in *tzedakah* with which to play dreidel, and we are grateful to be able to donate to charity in the new year.

Thank you to Vivian Chang Freiheit for accompanying our students so beautifully at the Atria, Caleb Freiheit for filming, Adam Brown for taking wonderful pictures and our fabulous teachers and community of parents and students! We hope all of our congregants and families had a very happy Hanukkah, and send our wishes for a happy and healthy 2017.

See you in the new year!

Upcoming Hebrew School Dates:

Sunday, January 1: No Classes (Winter Break)

Thursday, January 5: Hebrew School classes resume

Sunday, January 8: B'nei Mitzvah Class Parent-Child Workshop with Rabbi Julie - Putting on Tefillin

Sunday, January 15 (MLK Weekend): No Classes

Friday evening, February 3: Kitah Daled (4th grade) Shabbaton

Saturday evening, February 4: Kitah Hey (5th grade) Havdalah Service





Working on art projects for Hanukkah





Ethan warming up the crowd before the Hanukkah play





Participating in the Hanukkah play



Everyone had fun at the Hebrew School Hanukkah party!

Tots and Teens Update...

On Thursday, December 22, some of our youth group members gathered to snack on *sufganiyot* and engage in an open and constructive discussion on the current political climate. The discussion was modeled on the framework of *machloket l'shem shamayim*, or "conflict for the sake of heaven," which is a mode of discussion employed by rabbinic Judaism. We talked about how the campaign and the election has impacted our teens, their friends and their classmates, about the various sources of news, the role of social media in politics and the crisis in Aleppo, as well as several other topics that interested them. Rabbi Julie was present to provide us with spiritual guidance as we discussed what can be contentious issues and to help us understand what is happening in the Middle East. Robin Berman joined the discussion as an active member of PCS, a seasoned educator and an individual with a formidable knowledge of politics. As I aspire to make this a social justice-focused group, I hope everyone left our conversation feeling more empowered to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others, in whatever way is best for them!

There are many more youth group and Menchkin (babies to age 8) events planned for 2017!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At PCS, we received a Hanukkah gift! Our new *amud* (Torah table) has finally arrived! It was not necessarily the miracle of Hanukkah that brought us this gift, but it was perhaps the spirit of Hanukkah. The lights of Hanukkah are within all of us, illuminating our soul and our spirit, and guiding us in the performance of good deeds. The arrival of the new *amud* is the culmination of a multitude of good deeds, beginning with a donation by David and Shelley Sheinkopf to commemorate their many years of membership (as founding members) as they retired to North Carolina. Board member Gregory Cohen, along with his wife, Harriet, generously donated the significant balance to make the purchase possible. But none of this would have come to fruition without the countless hours Evan Kingsley devoted to design meetings and negotiations as well as a financial donation of his own.



Another PCS congregant who has brought the light from within to share with the community is Vivian Chang Freiheit. We are so lucky to have Vivian leading a Friday afternoon Shabbat experience for our preschoolers, Musical Shabbatots. The first class will be Friday, January 6, at 1:30 pm; make sure to bring your friends! Also, through Vivian, our SNAP services (Special Needs at Pleasantville) have grown and expanded. Please join us at our next SNAP service on Friday, January 20.

As we light the Hanukkah candles, we recognize how the light overtakes the darkness. Just as the candles lit inside the house illuminate the outside, the light from inside us helps us understand basic human decency and recognize oppression and suffering when we see it. At the Prime Time Shabbat on Friday, January 6, at 8 pm, we will have the opportunity to learn how to help those most vulnerable. The PCS Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee is sponsoring this Shabbat and has invited Mary Refling of the Westchester Refugee Task Force as speaker, along with guests from the Upper Westchester Muslim Society. Please join us as we hear about refugee resettlement in our area and how we can help.

As I light the Hanukkah candles with my own family, I am thankful for my PCS family. For it is the light that resides in all of us that makes us a unique community.

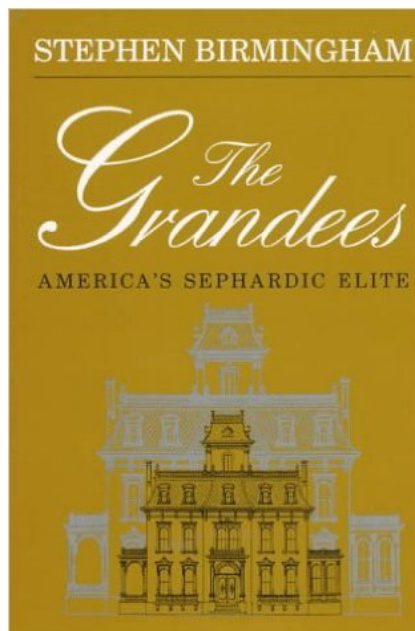
Happy Hanukkah!

- Amy Gutenplan

From the PCS Bookworm... Eileen Jagoda

***The Grandees:
The Story of America's Sephardic Elite***

by Stephen Birmingham



In the 17th century there was a small group of American Jews who had long considered themselves an elite, the nobility of Jewry with the longest, richest, and most romantic history: the Sephardim.

They traced their history back to the arrival of what some called "the Jewish Mayflower" in 1654 and even further back to medieval Spain and Portugal. After the Sephardim were firmly established in the New World, a new migration of Jews from Germany began around 1840; these Jews are prominently featured in another of Mr. Birmingham's books, *Our Crowd*. The Sephardim considered themselves superior to these new "upstarts" even though they consisted of people like the Kuhns, Loebes, Schiffs, Guggenheims and others who achieved such importance in commerce and banking.

Earlier generations of Sephardim in America were astonishingly prolific. It was not uncommon for families to consist of 15 or 20 children. It was also common for families to intermarry with their second and third cousins.

The Spanish-Portuguese part of their collective past is of enduring importance to the Sephardim of America, as those first arrivals were of the Spanish-Portuguese nobility, people of substance who owned property.

Now, for a brief history refresher course:

When the Moors conquered the Iberian Peninsula, at the beginning of the 8th century, they were the bearers of the great Islamic culture that flourished in cities such as Alexandria and Damascus. These Arabs brought with them advanced knowledge of algebra, chemistry and architecture, and as the Moors gained wealth and power, they bore the Jews upward with them.

By the 11th century the Jewish stamp was firmly on the land and the next few centuries represented a kind of Golden Age for Jews. The official language of the Court and of diplomacy was Latin. However, the upper-class Jews preferred Castilian, while the lower classes spoke Ladino, a Judeo-Spanish written in Hebrew characters. During this golden period, the Jews enjoyed many privileges, including the right to bear arms.

The big question is, "Why did it all end?" What caused three centuries of tranquility to come crashing down with such bloodshed and tragedy that it was prolonged well into the 18th century? Firstly, Moorish power was on the wane, and the Pope, especially Pope Innocent III, introduced the yellow badge, which all Jews had to wear. He declared Jews were different and must be acknowledged as such. Sound familiar? This yellow badge became the greatest insult to the Jews. Many Jews converted (became "conversos") but some in the Imperial court felt they were "false" Christians. A "secret" Jew - one who by all outward appearances was a devout Christian but who continued to observe Jewish practices in secret - was called a Marrano ("pig" in Spanish).

To conclude, [the PCS Bookworm](#) would like to point out the many Sephardic names still in the Jewish community today, some with roots going back three centuries: Levy, Franks, Seixas, Salomon, Moses, Goodman, Nathan. These names over the centuries have blended with Ashkenazi names and are almost always hyphenated, such as: Raphael-Levy, Moses-Franks, Isaacs-Hendricks and Cardozo-Nathan, to mention just a few.

Stephen Birmingham has written almost exclusively about wealthy American families, with a focus on ethnicity. In addition to his "Jewish trilogy," which also includes The Rest of Us, Birmingham has written non-fiction works about African-Americans (Certain People), Irish-Americans (Real Lace) and the Anglo-Dutch (America's Secret Aristocracy), as well as several novels.

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In our February issue, [the PCS Bookworm](#), Eileen Jagoda, will review two slim volumes:

- *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life by Harold S. Kushner*
- *Why Be Jewish? by Edgar M. Bronfman*

Building Community through the PCS Directory



Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Joyful Judaism

Dear PCS Members,

We had so much positive feedback regarding the printing of the first PCS directory last year that we're getting ready to print an updated one for 2017.

If there are any changes/corrections you'd like to see from last year's

directory, please send them to me as soon as possible -even if you have previously communicated this information to me!

The PCS directory will include members' names, **children's names and ages through high school (which we did not do last year)**, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, home and cell numbers. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT SOME PART OF YOUR CONTACT INFO SUCH AS A CHILD'S NAME, MAILING ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER INCLUDED, please contact the PCS office.**

If we do not hear back from you by January 18, we will be very happy to include your contact info in the 2017 PCS Directory.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

L'shalom,

Marcy Gray, PCS Administrator
mgray@shalompcs.com

And if you're interested in a year's worth of advertising in the 2017 Directory at a very low rate, please see below and contact the PCS office ASAP.

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

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

## **Advertising in the PCS Directory 2017**

### **Ad deadline, specifications and costs**

#### **Deadline:**

February 1, 2017

#### **Specifications:**

Ads will be published in one size only: a FULL page, approximately 5" X 8".  
The entire ad, both text and artwork, should be provided camera-ready in GIF, JPEG or TIFF format only.

#### **Cost:**

For an inside full page ad: \$125  
For inside the front or back cover: \$175  
For back cover: \$250

Reserve your space as soon as possible by contacting  
Marcy Gray in the PCS office:  
[mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto:mgray@shalompcs.com), 914-769-2672.

*Please join us for a very special*  
**Prime-Time  
Tikkun Olam  
Shabbat**  
**Friday night, January 6, 8 pm**

**Hosted by the  
PCS Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee**

Our guest speaker, **Mary Refling of the Westchester Refugee Task Force**, will speak about refugee resettlement in our area, and we will be joined by members of the Upper Westchester Muslim Society.

*With musical accompaniment by Brian Gelfand.*  
**All are welcome!**



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

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# MUSICAL SHABBATOTS at Pleasantville Community Synagogue

PCS congregant and musician/teacher extraordinaire,  
Vivian Chang Freiheit, will lead a lively interactive  
session of musical activities, followed by Shabbat  
blessings and a snack of challah and  
grape juice with Rabbi Julie.

You don't have to be a PCS member...

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**THE FIRST CLASS IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 6!**



**When?**

**The first Friday of every month, January to June**

**Time? 1:30 to 2:15 pm**

**Cost? The full season is \$60**

For more info or to RSVP, call the PCS office at 914-769-2672 or e-mail

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*Come to PCS to see a screening of*  
**"Cupcakes"**

**Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 pm**

*"... a charming comedy... a sweet and unabashedly nostalgic  
evocation of a [different] time."*

*In Tel Aviv, six friends, who are appalled by the Israeli entry in a  
Eurovision-style competition, record their own song on a mobile  
phone, then are shocked to learn their recording is selected as  
Israel's entry for next year's competition.*

Click [here](#) for more about "Cupcakes"  
including the trailer.

Featuring music written by **Babydaddy** from **SCISSOR SISTERS**

**"INFECTIOUS  
AND ENJOYABLE"**  
JERUSALEM POST

**"EXCELLENT"**  
EMPIRE ONLINE

ANAT WAXMAN KEREN BERGER OFER SHECHTER EFRAT DOR Yael BAR ZOHAR DANA IVGY EDOUARD BAER

# CUPCAKES

A film by **EYTAN FOX**



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF **YOSHI & JAGGER** AND **THE BUBBLE**

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Part of a series of Israeli films, sponsored by PCS Adult Education.  
**Have any ideas, questions or suggestions?**  
Contact [Barbara Doctor](#) or [Marcy Gray](#) in the PCS office.

*Refreshments will be served.*

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*Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community  
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a joyous spiritual and cultural home.*

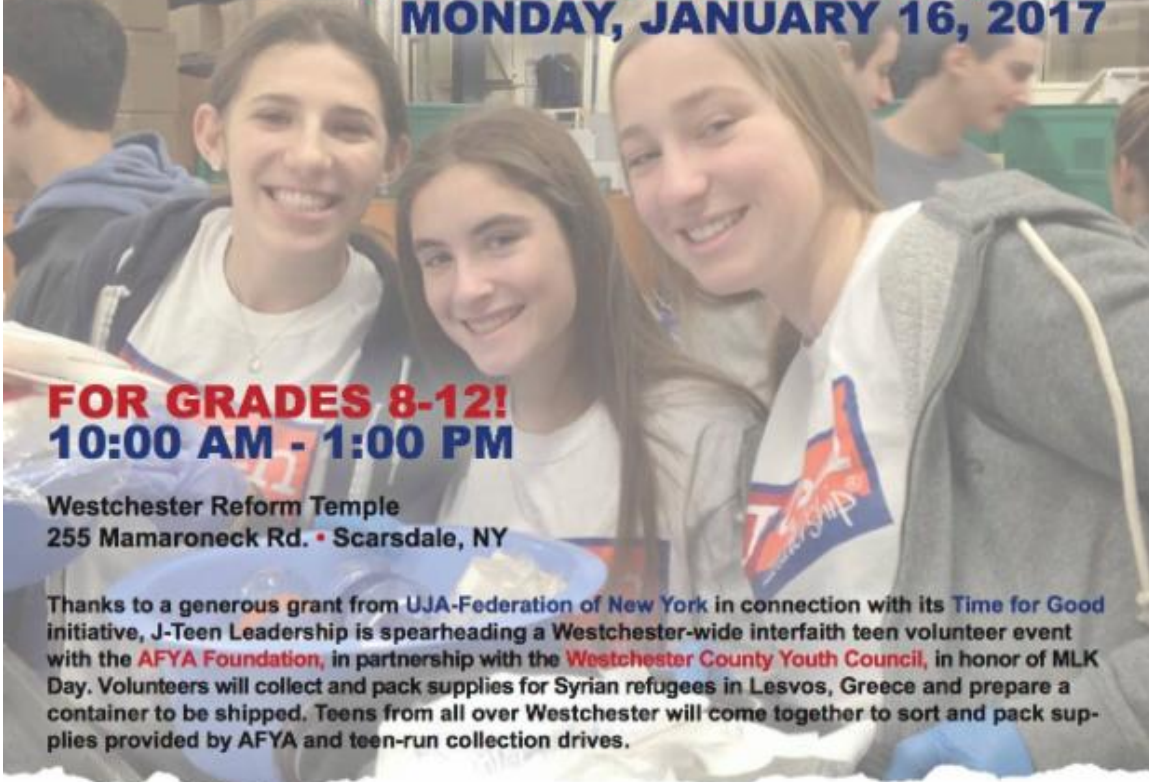
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**MLK DAY OF SERVICE  
WITH THE AFYA FOUNDATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017**



**FOR GRADES 8-12!  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Westchester Reform Temple  
255 Mamaroneck Rd. • Scarsdale, NY

Thanks to a generous grant from UJA-Federation of New York in connection with its Time for Good initiative, J-Teen Leadership is spearheading a Westchester-wide interfaith teen volunteer event with the AFYA Foundation, in partnership with the Westchester County Youth Council, in honor of MLK Day. Volunteers will collect and pack supplies for Syrian refugees in Lesvos, Greece and prepare a container to be shipped. Teens from all over Westchester will come together to sort and pack supplies provided by AFYA and teen-run collection drives.

**NO FEE TO ATTEND!  
REGISTER AT: [bit.ly/jteenmlkday](http://bit.ly/jteenmlkday)**

Buses will be available from Northern and Southern Westchester



701 Westchester Avenue Suite 203E • White Plains, NY 10604 • 914-328-8788 • [www.jteenleadership.org](http://www.jteenleadership.org)

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**Join us at PCS for another joyful  
SNAP service - and pizza dinner!\* - and great  
music with Brian Gelfand  
Friday night, Jan.20, 6:30 pm  
All are welcome!**



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

Join us **Friday night, January 20** for a joyful "SNAP" dinner and service - *Special Needs at Pleasantville*. Doors open at 6:30 pm for a fun pizza dinner followed by a short service.



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

For more info or to RSVP, call the PCS office at 769-2672, or email Vivian Chang Freiheit, [vivianpiano@yahoo.com](mailto:vivianpiano@yahoo.com).

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

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SAVE THE DATE!

PCS Progressive Dinner

Saturday - January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm

*Delicious Hors D'oeuvres  
Dinner at Members' Homes  
Fabulous Dessert Reception*

Volunteer as a Host

or

Come as a Guest

(couvert for guests - \$20)

Plan to have an exciting evening progressing from one home to the next. Meet new people, have fun and enjoy great food in a relaxed, warm atmosphere.

We all start together at the same home for appetizers. We then draw names for dinner assignments and proceed to our host homes for the entrée. At the end of the evening we gather together once again for dessert at another member's home.

Look for your Paperless Post invite:

Want to Host or have questions? Call or e-mail:

Marlo 914-238-0082

pcsprogressivedinner15@gmail.com

***GOT LITTLE  
ONES?***

***Then come and check out  
what's going on at PCS!***



**Join our "Menchkins" - from babies to 8 - and have an *awesome* time learning about *Joyful Judaism* with other families in the area.**

**\* Musical Shabbatots class, 1:30 pm - 2:15 pm, the first Friday of every month.**

**\* Tot Shabbat musical services once a month on Friday, often followed by a festive dinner.**

**\* Home-based holiday celebrations with food, fun and crafts.**

**\* "Growing Jewish Naturally" - a special ongoing UJA grant-provided program with great activities focusing on nature, food and sustainable living.**

**\* *And so much more!***

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***Joyful Judaism!***

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219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY

# Rekindling Shabbat at PCS

IN JANUARY...

On Friday, January 6, please join us for a very special Prime Time Shabbat service at 8 pm hosted by the PCS Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee. That evening Mary Refling, head of the Westchester Refugee Task Force, will speak about efforts in Westchester to aid refugees. We will also be joined by members of the Upper Westchester Muslim Society. An Oneg Shabbat will follow services. For more information, click [here](#).



On Saturday, January 7, please join us for Shabbat morning services at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon.

On Friday, January 13, Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at 7:30 pm and will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

On Saturday, January 14, Benny Rakower will become a Bar Mitzvah. Services begin at 9:30 am and will be followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon. The Reb Zalman class will not be meeting that day.

On Friday, January 20, beginning at 6:30 pm, PCS will host a SNAP (Special Needs at Pleasantville) pizza dinner, followed by a short Kabbalat Shabbat service with great music by Brian Gelfand. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Saturday, January 21, is the date for our January Family Education Shabbat. Services begin at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon.

On Friday evening, January 27, we will celebrate Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat at Kabbalat Shabbat services beginning at 7:30 pm. An Oneg Shabbat will follow. On Saturday, January 28, please join us for Shabbat morning services at 10 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch at noon.

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## Shabbat Treats: Services Optional!

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

**Appetizers: Jewish Meditation**

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

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

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

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

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

**General Fund/Fair Share**

Cristina Altieri-Martinez  
Erica Murkofsky and Michael Rhodes  
Ellen Morgenstern and Alexander Ouzounis  
Deborah Spanierman

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Amy and Bruce Gutenplan, in honor of Amy's beloved father, Stanton Gotterer  
Vivian Chang Freiheit and Mark Freiheit  
Dara Meyers-Kingsley and Evan Kingsley, in memory of Stanton Gotterer

**SNAP (Special Needs at Pleasantville) Fund**

Vivian Chang Freiheit and Mark Freiheit  
Mia Simon

**Shabbat Dinners and Kiddush Fund**

Roberta Korus  
Rhea Wolfthal  
Mia Simon  
Avital Woods  
Lori and Jerry Neuburger  
Barbara and Don Stern  
Joanna Rizoulis and Seth Rutman  
Rabbi Julie and Avraham Danan

**Ed Sperling Fund**

Rhea Wolfthal, in memory of her beloved uncle, Samuel Tessler, and in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her beloved father, Max Gitelson  
Patrice and Stephen Jampol  
Jill Brooke and Gary Goldstein

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## JANUARY YAHRZEITS

|                                              |            |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Jay Polansky, father of Debra Schor          | January 3  |
| Max Gitelson, father of Rhea Wolfthal        | January 8  |
| Michael Fineman, nephew of Roberta Berman    | January 8  |
| Joyce Goldman, mother of Dorian Goldman      | January 10 |
| Frederick Berman, father of Roberta Berman   | January 11 |
| Nathan Blackman, father of Jonathan Blackman | January 11 |
| Julie Chazen, mother of Eileen Jagoda        | January 11 |
| Fanny Goldman, grandmother of Dorian Goldman | January 12 |
| Samuel Weiner, father of Shelley Weiner      | January 14 |
| Alexander Gordon, father of Bernard Gordon   | January 15 |
| Marvin Levine, father of Richard Levine      | January 16 |
| Odon Vesei, father of Ann Vesei              | January 19 |
| Ruth Kloogman, mother of Helen Kloogman      | January 21 |
| Philip Wolfthal, husband of Rhea Wolfthal    | January 24 |
| Betty Greene, mother of George Teitel-Greene | January 24 |
| Regina Fisher, grandmother of Dorian Goldman | January 25 |

*To All PCS Members:*

*If you or another member suffer personal tragedy or loss or are otherwise in need of help, please immediately contact Rabbi Julie at (914) 769-2672 or [Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com), or to our Caring (Chesed) Committee Chair, Susan Friedman at (917) 846-3038, or [SFriedman@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:SFriedman@ShalomPCS.com).*



The PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board is a beautiful and symbolic place to honor your loved ones while helping to support your synagogue. The anniversary of their passing

will be commemorated with a light by their name plate. You will find the appropriate form for purchasing a memorial name plate by clicking [here](#).

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## Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

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

### **PCS officers and trustees:**

#### **Officers**

President: Amy Gutenplan

Secretary: Laurie Hirsch Schulz

Treasurer: Jonathan Goodman

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Vice President: Richard Solomon

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

#### ***To contact PCS:***

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

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

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

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

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Pleasantville Community Synagogue Newsletter  
January 2017      3 Tevet - 4 Sh'vat 5777