



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: JURY DUTY

By Mark Sameth

IN THIS ISSUE

<u>The Rabbi's Column</u>	1
<u>President's Message</u>	2
<u>Calling All Singers</u>	3
<u>Welcoming Ronni Metzger</u>	4
<u>An Evening with Hugo Perez</u>	5
<u>Rosh Chodesh</u>	6
<u>Note from the Principal</u>	8
<u>PCS Progressive Dinner</u>	10
<u>Committee Chairs</u>	10
<u>Under One Roof</u>	11
<u>June Yahrzeits</u>	12
<u>Contributions</u>	13
<u>Ask The Rabbi</u>	15
<u>High Holy Days Information</u>	18
<u>Calendar</u>	20
<u>Torah Study Schedule</u>	21
<u>Save The Dates</u>	23

I remember many years ago, around this time of year, when I was living in New York City and looking forward to the better weather and easier pace of summer, I got called for jury duty. There was no escaping it, and so I dutifully went down to Court Street and sat on the bench with the other prospective jurors, like some character out of an old Arlo Guthrie song.

Seated next to me was a young Chassidic man (he looked more like a boy), who with his wisp of a beard seemed barely old enough to serve. I remember that he spent the (many) hours waiting to be called writing in a little black and white composition book, the sort of book some of us may have used in elementary school. Seeing that I was reading a Jewish book he struck up a conversation with me, and I got to ask him what he was writing so diligently in his book over all those many hours.

Well, he told me, it was Elul (the month before Rosh Hashanna) and his Rebbe had given him instructions to review the entire preceding year, day by day, and to see if there was anyone he might have inadvertently offended, anyone he needed to reach out to in order to make amends.

I was struck by the seriousness with which he approached this task. There was nothing perfunctory about this at all. Whatever the theological differences between us (and they were not small), I was envious of the seriousness of his spiritual practice, and the earnestness with which he approached the goal of being a better person in the coming year.

I'm not suggesting that any of us go to these lengths this coming summer. But I will go so far as to suggest – when we are sitting in the backyard after work in the still-lit summer evening, or if we are blessed to get away for vacation, or at least for a walk through the Rockefeller Preserve – that we allow ourselves at least a few moments for reflection on how life is unfolding for us, and if there might not be some realignment of priorities that would deepen our sense of connectedness to family, to community, and to the world in the coming year.

Happy Summer!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've been reading and exploring many different issues in recent weeks and I'd like to devote this month's column to 2 issues that are completely unrelated to each other, but have recently been in the news.

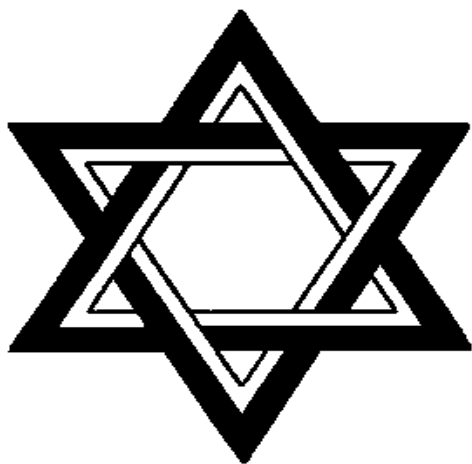
The first is Jewish secularism which merited a lengthy article in a recent issue of *The Jewish Week*. Studies of this phenomenon have found that almost 4 out of every 10 self-identified Jews surveyed reported themselves to be non-religious. These studies, by various scholars, cover a wide range of thought and attitudes and are causing concern among many in the Jewish community. In any event, the conclusion various writers have come to is that their beliefs or lack of belief do not present a problem to them, that they are comfortable in their own skins and find no need to be self-conscious. This represents a major change since 1990 when only 20% of the American Jewish population described themselves as non-religious, and most of them felt guilty or at least defensive about it. This same

trend towards secularism is occurring throughout all of America, though the proportion of Jews is significantly higher than with other religions.

Now why do I mention this? One of the points the article in *The Jewish Week* made is that there is a difference between secular Jews and Jewish secularism. Quoting David Biale, author of "Not in the Heavens: The Tradition of Jewish Secular Thought," we learn that Jewish secularism is "the rejection of traditional Jewish belief and practice and the construction of alternative beliefs and practices that are still grounded in categories from the Jewish tradition." Secular Jews on the other hand "construct their secular identities without any reference to the Jewish tradition." This distinction suggests that we need to consider ways to reach out to the former to join our community, to enliven our dialogue. I know we already have some in our midst and more would certainly be welcome.

The second issue I want to mention is the killing of Osama Bin Laden. Like many other Americans, I believe President Obama did the right thing, in the right way, and I feel a sense of gratitude and relief that this enemy of our country is no longer here to threaten us. At the same time I do not rejoice or feel vindicated by this act. Part of me is concerned that this may become a justification for continuing wars we should no longer be fighting, and part of me is also concerned about the millions of people who are angry about what we did. The context is totally different, but I am reminded of King David's reaction when he learns of the death of his enemy and potential murderer, Saul. He did not rejoice; rather he wept, rent his clothes and fasted. Bin Laden certainly wasn't Saul, but David's reaction is intensely human—a life has been taken, and in many parts of the world people are grieving.

- Peter Schaffer



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

The PCS High Holy Day Choir needs you! If you love to sing and would like to help make the holidays even more beautiful, now is the time to join us.

Rosh HaShana begins Wednesday, September 28, and, yes, the holidays are a bit "late" this year but they'll still be here before you know it!

If you are interested, please e-mail Lisa Lipkin at musical@optonline.net or call her at 941-0468.



PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Officers

President: Peter Schaffer
Vice President: Jerry Neuburger
Vice President: Lisa Lipkin
Secretary: Michael Safranek
Treasurer: Oren Cohen

Evan Kingsley
ekingsley@shalompcs.com

Karen La Porta
klaporta@shalomPCS.com

Michael Pfeffer
mpfeffer@shalompcs.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalompcs.com

Board of Trustees

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

April Lasher Sanders
alasher@shalompcs.com

Michael Safranek
msafranek@shalomPCS.com

Oren Cohen
ocohen@shalomPCS.com

Richard Levine
info@shalomPCS.com

Peter Schaffer
pschaffer@shalomPCS.com

Ken Fuiirst
kfuiirst@shalomPCS.com

Lisa Lipkin
llipkin@shalomPCS.com

Kiersten Zweibaum
kzweibaum@shalompcs.com

Gary Greenwald
ggreenwald@shalompcs.com

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Rabbi Mark Sameth
rabbi@shalompcs.com

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschultz@shalompcs.com

To contact PCS: Phone (914) 769-2672; Fax (914) 769-1795; Website: www.shalomPCS.com
Marcy Gray, Synagogue Administrator: (914) 769-2672; mgray@shalomPCS.com
Michal Solomon, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; msolomon@shalomPCS.com
Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; Accounts@shalomPCS.com

PCS WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL RONNI METZGER



Ronni Metzger was appointed principal of the PCS Hebrew School in 2011, only the second person to hold that position since the founding of the Hebrew School in 1997. As a Hebrew School teacher in Westchester for fifteen years, Ronni has taught every grade from first (alef) through seventh (zayin) and knows the Westchester Jewish community very well.

Ronni started her career in Jewish Education when she was a senior at college. (She had just come back from a semester studying in Israel.) She was asked to teach the children of Jewish professors on Sunday mornings. "It was quite challenging but very rewarding," Ronni says. "Both the students and I learned a lot and had a lot of fun!" After moving to Westchester, Ronni attended a two-year teacher certification program with WAHS (Westchester Association of Hebrew Schools).

Ronni is also an attorney, and, needless to say, an inveterate learner. She cites classes taken at the Jewish Theological Seminary, which included a course in rare books; Genesis; and "Love in the Bible" as amongst her cherished learning experiences.

Since she first started teaching, Ronni's goal was to imbue the love of Judaism to her students. She says: "As a teacher, I see it as my job to help educate our children and give them the tools they need to exemplify Jewish values and advocate for Jewish causes. It has always been my belief that each student is an ambassador for Judaism wherever life takes him or her. Teaching has become a love affair with me. I fall in love with my students and am fascinated to watch as they grow into the kind and caring people that they become. I have yet to be disappointed!"

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

AN EVENING WITH HUGO PEREZ



Pleasantville Community Synagogue welcomed Hugo Perez, producer and film director, on Thursday, April 28. In a very special presentation, Mr. Perez shared his documentary film, "Neither Memory Nor Magic," about the Hungarian poet, Miklos Radnoti. Radnoti, who perished in the Holocaust, continued to write poetry even when he knew he was not going to survive a three-month forced march from Serbia to Hungary. He left behind "...a remarkable body of work documenting his life in the increasingly dark years of 1938-1944." Radnoti's poetry and story are well known within Hungary; Mr. Perez's beautifully made film brings the story to American audiences. Radnoti's poetry takes center stage in the film, exquisitely narrated by Patricia Clarkson.

Mr. Perez was also able to visit Fanni, Radnoti's 95-year-old widow, who allowed him a rare glimpse of the apartment she shared with Radnoti. Fanni and Miklos had a strong and happy

relationship; their love story, like Radnoti's poetry, survived his death.

Despite the difficult subject, the evening was fulfilling and enjoyable. It drew about twenty participants from both PCS and the greater community. The Adult Ed Committee wishes to thank Cristina Martinez, who brought Mr. Perez to PCS and helped advertise the event. The opportunity to view the film together with its director gave the evening an added depth. Mr. Perez recounted the journey that brought him, a Cuban-American, to film a documentary about Radnoti. Participants were also provided with additional materials contrasting different translations of Radnoti's poetry.

Those wishing to read Radnoti's poetry in the translation of Zsuzsanna Ozsvath and Frederick Turner, used in the film, can find it in the collection "Foamy Sky," through the public library or at Amazon.com. Additional information about the film can be found at www.m30afilms.com.



ROSH CHODESH



Eileen Jagoda, Hannah Greene, Sarah Tauber, Isabel Kopstein, Rhea Wolfthal, Estelle Kersh



The Shabbat Candles - with Sarah, Estelle, Eileen, Isabel

On Friday, May 6th, in the spirit of honoring the gift of Rosh Chodesh, a group of PCS members celebrated our second Annual Traditional Intergenerational Women-led Service and Family Shabbat dinner.

As we followed the service led by Dr. Sarah Tauber, Cantor Isabel Kopstein, and Hannah Greene, we all responded, prayed, and danced together. Cantor Kopstein selected a lovely poem and special Amidah to recognize the Divine Feminine, and Sarah said a special prayer in honor of those who celebrated their birthdays during the month of May. We enjoyed Sarah's explanation of the celebration of Rosh Chodesh as a special time for Jewish women to rest from their usual monthly duties.

The service was followed by a family Shabbat dinner decorated in seasonal bright yellow and green, and accented by Lilly Levine's handmade centerpieces of flower arrangements. The menu was catered and we served the delicious ziti, salads, and rolls, along with wine, beverages, dessert, tea and coffee.

Dinner conversation was sparked by 8-year-old Sydney Hirsch's question, "If you had a superpower what would it be and how would you use it?" Laurie Hirsch expressed a desire for superpower energy to accomplish all the things that needed to get done for family, work, and home. Sydney voiced her love for animals and wished she could have superpower to talk to them, and hear what they want - which she thought is probably "more food." Estelle Kersh wanted superpower to effect global communications in a way for all people everywhere to get to know and touch each other.

The conversation and get-together was lively and interesting, and a good time was had by all! Kudos to Estelle for publicity, planning, coordination, and to Eileen, Rhea and Cris for their help with set-up and clean-up.

THANKS TO ESTELLE KERSH FOR HER HELP
WITH COVERING THIS EVENT!



Sarah explains Rosh Chodesh



The women who led the service prayers
Sarah, Hannah, Isabel



Our PCS service leaders on the Bimah
Isabel, Hannah, Sarah



Cantor Isabel Kopstein reads Poem for Women



Table set for Challah Blessing



Eileen preparing the ziti



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that this is going to be my last newsletter message. These fourteen years have been a very exciting journey for me personally as well as for the school. Many of my dreams for the school have been realized. We created a Jewish experience for the children that goes beyond learning. We have learned together, celebrated the holidays together, participated in tzedakah projects, performed, danced, sang and much more.

All of the wonderful programs and events would not have happened without the help of many parents and other volunteers, and of course the talented and dedicated staff. To all the teachers that worked with me at PCS through all these years, thank you so much for sharing this journey with me and for leaving your mark on the school and in the lives of the children you touched. A special thanks to Rabbi Mark who has been my partner right from the beginning - Todah Rabba!

I would like to wish Ronni Metzger, the new principal, good luck and much success for the coming years. I'm sure the school will continue to grow and flourish under her guidance.

I tried to thank as many of you as I could throughout the year. Please forgive me if I forgot to mention anyone. In this end-of-year newsletter I would like to thank a few of you that I have not yet mentioned:

- To Michael Safranek and the Education Committee,
- To the class parents, Susan Friedman, Vikki Simon, Helen Harrison, Emma Reisman, Jennifer Yamuder, Lisa Pfeffer, without whose help many of the class and school events could not have happened,
- To Barbara Doctor, Gale Silverberg and Marcy Gray for helping with the smooth running of the Hebrew School,
- And last but not least, thanks again to Rabbi Mark, Liza Tchernichovski, Karen Stamatis, Isabel Kopstein, Jennifer Chervin, Leonard Lowy and Darcy Spitzer, who worked so hard to make every day of learning rewarding and enjoyable.

In Hebrew there is a traditional saying to congratulate ourselves, and others, when completing an important task together. *Chazak, chazak venitchazek* - Let's go from strength to strength.

I wish all students and parents a wonderful summer, I shall never forget you!

Shalom,
Michal Solomon

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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.

PAINTING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Guided by Eve-Marie Elkin Schaffer, LCAT,
LMSW

Painting from the Inside Out uses paint as a catalyst for growth and exploration....encouraging adults and children to express spontaneously, without judgment or concern for outcome.

The paintbrush is a tool; whether it is a color a dot, an outline or an image, a gesture appears from within. Spontaneity is awakened for exploration and play.

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

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



Hola, ¿habla español? ¿No? ¡Qué pena!

SPANISH LESSONS

Brush up on your Spanish:

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

Native Spanish speaker with an MA in
Language Teaching.

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



STRATEGIC ADVISORS FOR NON-PROFITS

**THE
WHELAN
GROUP**

PLANNING, FUND RAISING BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Evan Kingsley
Vice President and
Senior Consultant

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

PCS PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The annual PCS Progressive Dinner is a relished event that for many years has given us the opportunity to learn more about our fellow congregants, to visit their homes, and to share delicious meals prepared with utmost care and joy by the various hosts and hostesses- to say nothing of the lavish dessert tables at the end of the evening with the dessert host family.

This year was no exception. On May 14 we started at the beautifully manicured lawn of Jackie and Steven Zucker. The tent protected us from the ominous drizzle. After that we all made our way in small groups to the homes of Leyla Nakisbendi and Mike Mayers, Marlo and Eric Klein, Karen and Jeff Neuberger, Emma and David Reisman and Jane Sandback. The night was completed with pot-luck dessert graciously hosted by Gilda and Marc Borenstein, with piano music played by the host and by Richard Martinez.

It was a wonderful evening and we want to thank all the hosts, Sue Furst for organizing the event and the participants that brought plenty of good cheer. See you next year!



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

Phil Paris
pparis@shalomPCS.com

Building Committee

Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Michael Safranek
msafranek@shalomPCS.com

Finance

Oren Cohen
ocohen@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Furst
kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Jerry Neuberger
jneuberger@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Lisa Lipkin
llipkin@shalomPCS.com

Membership Inreach

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com

Membership Outreach

April Lasher-Sanders
alasher@shalomPCS.com

Laurie Hirsch Schulz

lhirschschulz@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

UNDER ONE ROOF



Under One Roof is a group of concerned Jews and Muslims from PCS and the Upper Westchester Muslim Society who have come together to provide secular assistance to the local and global community. We are intent on proving that people of vastly different religious, political and cultural backgrounds can transcend their differences and offer aid and comfort to those in most need. We have already conducted a highly successful food drive to benefit the Katonah Community Center, a food pantry for the poor, and Hope's Door, the local women's shelter, and will be holding a dinner between PCS and the UWMS in October, 2011, where we will join our communities in another charitable venture while we enjoy each other's company and food!

This is an opportunity to listen to the better angels in our heads and work with a group of remarkable people to truly make a difference in not only our beneficiary's lives but our own as we learn to build something special between communities that are seemingly irreparably apart. If you cannot spare the time to participate, I hope you can make a donation commensurate with your ability and interest in promoting the efforts of people who are uniformly, and wrongly, portrayed as being incapable of working together for anything other than their mutual destruction. If you can make a donation, please make checks payable to PCS and be sure to include Under One Roof in the memo portion so it can be properly credited.

If you are interested in helping or need more information, please contact Michael Gold at Michaelgold@aol.com.

JUNE-AUGUST 2011 YAHRZEITS

Geraldine Schaffer, Mother of Peter Schaffer	June 1
Paul Gottfried, Father of Ali Serebin	June 1
Yetta Frishman, Grandmother of Barbara Goldberg	June 2
Joel Goldwin, Father of Harriet Cohen	June 2
Irving Stikes, Father of Judith Schmidt	June 5
Henry Herman, Father of Diana Benattar	June 7
Julius Schiller, Father of Randy Schiller-Faust	June 7
Alfred Markowitz, Father of David Markowitz	June 8
Chaim Benattar, Father of David Benattar	June 9
Anne Sacks, Mother of Jeffrey Sacks	June 11
Julius Berzin, Father of Jodie Rossi	June 11
Stanley Bring, Father of Mitchell Bring	June 13
Stanley Wallace, Father of Joseph Wallace	June 19
Ludwig Strauss, Father of Richard Strauss	June 21
Emanuel Teitel, Father of Merrie Teitel-Greene	June 23
Joseph Wolfthal, Father of Philip Wolfthal	June 24
Michael Yampolsky, Brother of Steven Yampolsky	June 28

Meyer Spector, Uncle of Malcolm Netburn	July 1,
Rose Netburn, Mother of Malcolm Netburn	July 1
Anna Fuchs, Mother of Audrey Lenoff	July 3
Ettie Greenberg, Mother of Cora Greenberg	July 4
Max Yampolsky, Father of Steven Yampolsky	July 10
Alvin Sigal, Father of Melanie Gordin	July 12
Sondra Stern, Mother of Linda Stern	July 13
Margaret Schneider, Grandmother of Lisa Lipkin	July 17
Marcus Schwartz, Father of Nancy Mayers	July 18
Hilda Loren, Grandmother of Heather Sabatier	July 19
Nathan Cohen, Father of Hirsh Cohen	July 19
William Landau, Father of Pamela Landau-Connolly	July 21
Mildred Weiner, Mother of Shelley Weiner	July 26
Jerry Chazen, Father of Eileen Jagoda	July 29

Florence Herz, Mother of Irene Herz	August 1
Samuel Snyder, Father of Barbara Goldberg	August 2
Janet Rosenthal, Mother of Lisa Levinson	August 6,
Emanuel Jacobs, Stepfather of Barbara Altman Bruno	August 7
Joseph Bucheister, Father of Arie Bucheister and Anne Mass	August 7
Philip Rosen, Father of Estelle Rosen-Kersh	August 10
George Ross, Father of Anne Ross Tetenman	August 11
Morris Etkin, Grandfather of Rhea Wolfthal	August 11
Frances Blank, Mother of Suzanne Sadler	August 12,
Edith Silberger, Mother of Monte Silberger	August 12
Nathan Lipkin, Father of Lisa Lipkin	August 13
Samuel Frishman, Grandfather of Barbara Goldberg	August 17
Rosaline Lasher, Mother of April Lasher and Grandmother of Miriam Coates	August 21
Michael Weill, Husband of Janice Sandbank	August 24
Gloria Bring, Mother of Mitchell Bring	August 24
Richard Bezark, Father of Robin Bezark	August 25
Jean Friedman, Mother of Marty Friedman	August 31



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 HAS STARTED ACCEPTING 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.

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 BERNARD GORDON

KIDDUSH FUND

CLAIRE AND OREN COHEN IN HONOR OF ILANA'S
BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

EILEEN JAGODA IN HONOR OF HER GRANDDAUGHTER
NAOMI JAGODA'S GRADUATION

GENERAL FUND

STEVEN SILBERBLATT IN MEMORY OF RUDY SICHEL

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

HEBREW SCHOOL PARENTS

UNDER ONE ROOF: A JEWISH-MUSLIM RELIEF EFFORT - FOOD DRIVE FOR KATONAH COMMUNITY CENTER AND HOPE'S DOOR

MULTIPLE DONORS

ASK THE RABBI: Chabad, bin Laden, Kosher Fish, and more...

Rabbi Mark met with the 6th grade class last month for a session of Ask the Rabbi. Once again, the children were amazing! Here are some excerpts from that exchange.

Danny Bring: So what's the deal with Chabad/Lubavitch? My dad says that they took out an ad in *The Jewish Week* where they called their late Rabbi God!

Rabbi Mark: It's true that a group of Chabad Jews took an ad out over Passover calling their late Rebbe the "Moshiach" (the Messiah) and "Adoneinu" (Our Master, or Our Lord). Others have gone so far as to declare him "Boreinu" (Our Creator) and "Eloheinu" (Our God). Personally, I wish the leaders of Chabad (an ultra-Orthodox group) would make a formal statement that their followers should stop saying these things. These are not Jewish beliefs.

Eliana Johnston: I notice that the Jewish calendar seems to have sad holidays followed by happy holidays. For instance, Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) is followed by Simchat Torah (Joy of Torah). Yom HaShoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is followed by Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day). Do you think there's a connection between the two?

Rabbi Mark: You are so observant! Yes, Eliana, I have noticed that too. We know that the modern holidays of Yom HaShoa and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut were placed on the calendar in that order for a reason. But I believe the older holidays were ordered that way on purpose, too. What do I mean? Well, life is a series of sad times and happy times, difficult moments and celebrations. But how we tell our story is up to us. Do we say that sad times always follow happy times, or do we say that happy times will surely follow sad times? Jews always look at difficulties as real, but as moving us toward greater understanding, compassion, and love. And so our calendar is ordered from sad to happy to reflect that belief. We always look to how we can help make the world better; and we always believe that it can be.

Isaiah Fleischer: Why is Rosh Hashanna in the middle of the year?

Rabbi Mark: That's the perfect question to follow Eliana's! I think it's another way Jews find meaning in the calendar. The first month is in the spring – Nissan – and the New Year is in the fall – Tishrei. Jews believe that there are many new years, including one for the trees (called Tu B'Shevat). It's our way of saying that any day could be the start of a new year for each of us. Every day is filled with infinite possibility.

Jeremy Stone: Do you think President Obama was right not to show the picture of Osama bin Laden?

Rabbi Mark: Yes, as a rabbi I'm glad the President made that decision. In Judaism, it is considered a desecration to display a person that way. It doesn't matter what they've done. The human image is still an image of God, and so we are right not to dishonor it, even as we do not honor the person – meaning bin Laden. No matter what terrible things other people do, we are all still responsible for our own actions, still responsible for acting in accord with our own values. By not displaying a picture of bin Laden after death, we declared that we are better than that; above doing that.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Gabe Welch: *Why do you think people become terrorists?*

Rabbi Mark: I wish I knew, Gabe. I don't think there's one reason. I think part of it is that they're angry people. Look, we all get angry. You would not want to have seen me when I got a flat tire a few weeks ago! Yes, even rabbis get angry. But not everyone who gets angry is proud of it, and it doesn't mean that the person is an angry person. Terrorists are angry people who are proud of being angry. Another reason is that they have not thought through how else they could get what they want. Gandhi got what he wanted for his people; Martin Luther King got what he wanted for his people. But they did so peacefully.

David Solodukhin: *Why do you think Muslims don't like Jews?*

Rabbi Mark: Well, first of all not all Muslims dislike Jews. I have Muslim friends. I think it's true that people tend to be suspicious of people they don't know. And it doesn't help when there are lines in scripture – whether it's the Jewish Torah, the Christian New Testament, or the Muslim Koran – that say bad things about other people (and they all do!) So we have to be willing to say this is the part of my religion I think God wants me to follow, and this is the part of my religion that was either for another time, or maybe got written down wrong!

Alyssa Kerper: *Why are some Israelis not religious?*

Rabbi Mark: Thanks, Alyssa. It's true. You know, when I went to Israel for the first time I expected that all the Jews there would be very religious. I thought they'd probably not even be walking on the street, just sort of floating a few inches above the sidewalk, as if they were angels. I thought they'd all be praying every day, and talking about Torah. I was surprised to learn that wasn't true. I think the problem in Israel is that religion has gotten mixed up with politics, and so now the Ultra-Orthodox have a lot of political power, and that makes some non-Ultra-Orthodox want to have nothing to do with religion. It's sad. In America, we actually have more religious choices as Jews. There are American Ultra-Orthodox Jews, but most American Jews are Reform, Conservative, or Reconstructionist, or belong to synagogues like ours which welcome everyone, but are religiously progressive.

Doug Crocitto: *Why don't Jews eat pig?*

Rabbi Mark: Right. There are some laws in the Torah that have to do with diet. No one knows why pig is off the list. It doesn't seem to make sense. Some people believe that putting restrictions on our diet is the Torah's way of training us not to be omnivores – training us away from being people who are willing to eat everything. The ideal diet in the Torah is what Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden (fruits and vegetables). So maybe God wants us all to one day go back to being vegetarians.

Matt Perlmutter: *Why do Jews not eat meat and dairy?*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Rabbi Mark: OK. That one is easier to answer. A long time ago there were people who liked to eat a special dish. They would take a baby goat – a kid – and they would boil it in its mother’s milk. It must have tasted really good, because it was a very famous dish! Anyway, the ancient Israelites thought it was very mean. It was bad enough to eat the baby goat, but to use its mother’s milk was just cruel. The Torah does not allow us to eat that dish, and the rabbis made a further rule about not ever eating milk and meat together – so we can be sure we’re not eating a dish of cruelty.

Gordon Ward: Why are fish kosher only if they have fins and scales?

Rabbi Mark: OK! And now we’re back to the rules that don’t seem to make sense! Some of the rabbis believe there are secret reasons for the rules that seem to make no sense. Other rabbis thought those rules were there just to cultivate obedience – to teach us to follow the rules without understanding them first. I tend to think that there were secret reasons for these sorts of rules. OK, so now you’ve asked me about fish with fins and scales. Is there any question – any question at all – that you have not asked me yet?!

Lee Greenwald: Yes. What’s your favorite color?

Rabbi Mark: You’re right, you have not asked that one yet! OK, I guess my favorite colors right now would be green and brown, because they remind me of nature. I say “right now” because I may change my mind. And I said “colors” even though you asked me for a color. So I’ve given you a very Jewish answer!

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, CONTINUED

Todah Rabba to:

- Grandpa Mikey for coming and talking to kitot Aleph and Bet (1st & 2nd grades) about tzedakah.
- to Emma Reisman for the wonderful photographs of the end of year school events . These photographs ended up in a beautiful book presented to me, a book I shall always treasure, and to Marcy Gray and Vikki Simon who helped to put it together,
- to Vikki Simon for coordination and helping with the PCS childrens’ choir,
- to Susan Friedman for coordination the Gimmel Shabbaton,
- to Helen Harrison for coordinating and helping with kitah Zayin graduation and moving up ceremonies,
- to Barrie Kerper for the donation of the wonderful books given as gifts to the teachers and staff courtesy of Random House,
- to Scott Richman, Heddi Sperling and Maya Richman for leading our students in Israeli dancing,
- to Ruth Bachner for making a presentation to kitah Vav telling about her Holocaust survival experiences, and to Seth Rutman for initiating and coordinating her visit,
- and to all the mothers who helped with the ice cream sundae party at the last day of school celebrations.

On behalf of the teachers and myself I would like to thank all the different classes and parents for the individual and class presents and good wishes you have so kindly showered upon us. Todah Rabbah!

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).



Dear PCS Family:

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

Following is a form to indicate your interest and mail/email/fax (769-1795) it to the synagogue office as soon as possible so that we may begin scheduling the honors that require it.

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

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

Celebratory Group Aliyot: We will be calling to the bimah lay leaders and volunteers for celebratory group aliyot on the first day of Rosh Hashana. All current members - men and women - who would customarily be eligible for an aliyah are welcome to participate. These are not scheduled in advance.

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

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

I'shalom,
Rabbi Mark



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

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

The High Holiday calendar for 5772 is as follows:

Erev Rosh HaShana	Wednesday, September 28, 7-9pm - JCC
Rosh HaShana Day I	Thursday, September 29, 9am-1:30pm – JCC
Erev Rosh HaShana II	Thursday, September 29, 8pm
Rosh HaShana Day II	Friday, September 30, 9am-1:30pm - JCC
Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre	Friday, October 7, 6:30-9pm – JCC (no honors)
Yom Kippur/Yizkor	Saturday, October 8, 9am-1:30pm - JCC
Yom Kippur	Saturday, October 8, 5-8pm - JCC

First Member Adult _____

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

Second Member Adult _____

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

Teen Ashrei Participation

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

Thank you for your help. Please mail, fax, or email this form to the synagogue office at:

Pleasantville Community Synagogue, High Holiday Committee

PO Box 148

Pleasantville, NY 10570

Phone: 914-769-2672 Fax: 914-769-1795

Email: mgray@shalomPCS.com

May 2011 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>★ Yom HaShoah 12th day of the Omer Yom HaShoah Service, 4 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>13th day of the Omer</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Jewish Meditation, 7:30am 14th day of the Omer</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 15th day of the Omer</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Iyyar 16th day of the Omer</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Friday Night Service 7:15pm with Birthday Blessings Rosh Chodesh-led service followed by Shabbat Dinner 17th day of the Omer 7:39pm-7:57pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>18th day of the Omer Parashat Emor 9:10pm-9:11pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>19th day of the Omer Hebrew School Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Program</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Yoga class at PCS, 7:15 pm ★ Yom HaZikaron 20th day of the Omer</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Jewish Meditation, 7:30am ★ Yom HaAtzma'ut 21st day of the Omer Hebrew School Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Program</p>	<p>11</p> <p>22nd day of the Omer Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30pm High Holiday Committee Meeting 7:30pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>23rd day of the Omer</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Friday Night Service 7:15pm with PCS House Band and Gimmell Shabbaton 24th day of the Omer 7:46pm-8:04pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Morning Meditation 9 am Shabbat Morning Service 10 am 25th day of the Omer Parashat Behar 9:17pm-9:18pm - Havdalah (72 min) PCS Progressive Dinner</p>
<p>15</p> <p>26th day of the Omer</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Yoga class at PCS, 7:15 pm 27th day of the Omer</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Jewish Meditation, 7:30am 28th day of the Omer</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Healing and Meditation Service at PCS, 7 pm * 29th day of the Omer</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Last day of Hebrew School for 7th grade 30th day of the Omer Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Friday Night Service 7:15pm 31st day of the Omer 7:53pm-8:11pm - Candle lighting Zayin Graduation</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Morning Meditation 9 am Family Education 10 am Torah Study 12:15 pm 32nd day of the Omer Parashat Bechukotai 9:24pm-9:25pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>33rd day of the Omer Lag B'Omer Community Picnic Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parent Group at PCS - 7pm-8:30pm [Share the joys and challenges of parenting through</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Yoga class at PCS, 7:15 pm 34th day of the Omer</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Parents' Support Group, 7 pm Last day of Hebrew School for 1st and 2nd grades 35th day of the Omer</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Last day of Hebrew School for 4th and 5th grades 36th day of the Omer</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Last day of Hebrew School for 3rd and 6th grades 37th day of the Omer</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Friday Night Service 7:15pm 38th day of the Omer 7:59pm-8:17pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Morning Meditation 9 am Shabbat Morning Service 10 am 39th day of the Omer Parashat Bamidbar 9:30pm-9:31pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>40th day of the Omer</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Yoga class at PCS, 7:15 pm 41st day of the Omer</p>	<p>31</p> <p>42nd day of the Omer</p>	<p>1</p> <p>★ Yom Yerushalayim 43rd day of the Omer</p>	<p>2</p> <p>44th day of the Omer</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Friday Night Service 7:15pm Rosh Chodesh Sivan 45th day of the Omer 8:04pm-8:22pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Morning Meditation 9 am Shabbat Morning Service 10 am Parashat Nasso 46th day of the Omer 9:35pm-9:36pm - Havdalah (72 min)</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.

TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE, CONT.

TORAH READINGS Between Jan.1 and Oct.1, 2011

Note	Date	Parsha	Book	Verses	TOPIC	QUOTES	HAFTORAH
f	30	Kedoshim	Lev.	19:1-19:37	The human road to holiness	Do not favor the poor or honor the great. (19:15)	Amos 9:7 - 9:15
	May 7	Emor	Lev.	21:1-22:16	Contamination of the Kohens	-----	Ezekiel 44:15 - 44:31
	14	Behar	Lev.	25:1-25:38	The Sabbatical / Jubilee Year	Proclaim freedom throughout the land. (25:10)	Jeremiah 32:6 - 32:27
	21	Bechukotai	Lev.	26:3-27:15	Rewards and Punishments	I have broken your yoke and led you erect. (26:13)	Jer. 16:19 - 17:14
	28	Bamidbar	Num.	1:1-1:54	Census	Take a census...by number of the names. (1:2)	Hosea 2:1 - 2:22
	June 4	Nasso	Num.	4:21-5:10	Duties of the Levites. Restitution	Pay full value...and add to it its fifth. (5:7)	Judges 13:2 - 13:25
	11	Beha'alotcha	Num.	8:1-9:14	The Levites. The Passover	There shall be one law for stranger and native alike. (9:14)	Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7
	18	Sh'lach	Num.	13:1-14:7	The spies	It flows with milk and honey.(13:27) ...we felt like grasshoppers. (13:33)	Joshua 2:1 - 2:24
	25	Korach	Num.	16:1-17:15	Rebellion in the desert	...the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them. (16:32)	I Sam. 11:14 - 12:22
	July 2	Chukat	Num.	19:1-20:13	The red cow The striking of the rock	...you will not bring this people to the Land... (20:12)	Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24
	9	Balak	Num.	22:2-22:38	The parable of the she-donkey	Am I not your ass you have ridden all your life? (22:30)	Micah 5:6 - 6:8
	16	Pinchas	Num.	25:10-26:51	Census	-----	I Kings 18:46 - 19:21
	23	Matot	Num.	30:2-31:54	Vows. The taking of Midian	A thousand from a tribe, a thousand from a tribe. (31:4)	Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3
	30	Masei	Num.	33:1-33:49	Summary of the Wanderings	-----	Jeremiah 2:4 - 28; 3:4
	Aug. 6	Devarim	Deu.	1:1-2:1	Moses begins his memoir	I cannot carry you alone. (1:9)	Isaiah 1:1 - 1:27
	13	Vaetchanan	Deu.	3:23-5:18	The Ten Commandments	Add nothing and take nothing away. (4:2)	Isaiah 40:1 - 40:26
	20	Eikev	Deu.	7:12-9:3	Hashem is the Provider	...man does not live by bread alone... (8:3)	Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3

TORAH READINGS Between Jan.1 and Oct.1, 2011

Note	Date	Parsha	Book	Verses	TOPIC	QUOTES	HAFTORAH
	27	Re'eh	Deu.	11:26-12:28	Laws for after the crossing	...you shall obliterate their names... (12:3)	Isaiah 54:11 - 55:5
	Sept. 3	Shovtim	Deu.	16:18-18:5	Judges. The king of Israel	He shall not have too many horses (17:16), ...wives...silver and gold (17:17)	Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12
	10	Ki Teitzei	Deu.	21:10-23:7	Of marriages, sons, property.	You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. (22:10)	Isaiah 54:1 - 54:10
	17	Ki Tavo	Deu.	26:1-27:10	The new commitment	Of whole stones shall you build the altar. (27:6)	Isaiah 60:1 - 60:22
	24	Nitzavim	Deu.	29:9-30:14	The renewal of the Covenant	What is secret is Hashem's, what is known is ours.(29:28)	Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9
	Oct. 1	Hazinu	Deu.	32:1-32:52	The Song of Moses	I shall render vengence upon My enemies and upon those who hate Me I shall bring retribution (32:41)	Hosea 14:2-10 Micah 7:18-20 Joel 2:15-27
Notes: P Passover. Bnei Mitzvahs: a.Abbe Fuiirst b.Robert Levine c. The Dosters d.Benjamin Yampolsky e.Sophie Epstein f.Ilana Cohen							

WJCS JEWISH SPIRITUAL HEALING CENTER

Kumi Ori: Awaken Through Chant, Walking Meditation, Writing, and Nature with Rabbi Pamela Waxman

Just hours before we complete our yearly pilgrimage to Sinai, we will practice walking meditation, taking those final steps mindfully and deliberately, praying for revelation and for guidance, for truth and clarity of vision on Shavuot and beyond. This session will combine chanting, walking meditation, writing exercises, and text study. Please note: we will be outside for some of this session, encountering and contemplating our relationship with the natural world.

Sunday, June 5, 10 AM - 12 Noon

Preceded by a mindfulness meditation circle led by Ruth Rosenblum, 9:15-9:45 AM

\$20 suggested donation

Rabbi Jonathan Slater is Co-Director of Programs with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. He is the author of **Mindful Jewish Living: Compassionate Practice** and an instructor in meditation at the JCC of Manhattan.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, 761-0600 x-148, rosenblum@wjcs.com

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

Programming made possible with support from
UJA Federation of NY

KOL RINAH

WESTCHESTER'S JEWISH COMMUNITY CHORUS

PRESENTS ITS

10th Anniversary Spring Concert

conducted by Benjamin Gruder

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011

7:00 PM

ROSENTHAL JCC OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

600 BEAR RIDGE ROAD, PLEASANTVILLE, NY

TO ORDER TICKETS, CONTACT
WWW.KOLRINAHCHORUS.ORG OR
KOLRINAHCHORUS@OPTONLINE.NET

OR WENDY SEGAL
(914) 243-9059

GENERAL ADMISSION \$17

STUDENTS, SENIORS,

JCC MEMBERS \$12

(\$2 DISCOUNT IN ADVANCE)

CALL OR EMAIL FOR GROUP RATES

KOL RINAH IS THE CHOIR-IN-RESIDENCE AT THE ROSENTHAL JCC OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

WWW.KOLRINAHCHORUS.ORG

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, June 5: Israel Day Parade

Sunday, June 12: Congregational Meeting at PCS, 7 pm

Friday, June 24: Joint service with Temple Shaaray Tefila (at TST)

commemorating the 5th anniversary of the ordeal of Gilad Shalit

Saturday, September 24 – Selichot with Rabbi Mark, at PCS, 10 pm

Wednesday, September 28 – Erev Rosh Hashana

Thursday and Friday, September 29 and 30 – Rosh Hashana

Thursday, September 29 – Tashlich with Malcolm Netburn, at Nannahagan Park, 2 pm

Friday, October 7 – Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 8 – Yom Kippur

