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From Our Rabbi: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan

This summer newsletter covers June–August, so now is a great time for me to look back over my first 10 months in Pleasantville, and to start to look ahead to the future. When I started serving PCS last August, I was warmly welcomed to this caring and joyful community. But I could see that the congregation had also been through a difficult transition, and together with our president and board, I made it my top priority to build and strengthen our community.

When I first got here there were a number of Shabbats where only a handful of people showed up to daven. So despite the conventional wisdom not to change anything right away, we launched the PCS Shabbat Renaissance, including a range of enhanced Friday night experiences (from Mishpachah/Family Shabbat to Prime Time Shabbats with special guests). Thanks to Vivian Chang Freiheit and our PCS music committee and band, we have beautiful music every Friday night and also at all B'nei Mitzvah services. We also built up our Saturday morning experience, which still includes meditation, as well as a later start time and a rabbi-guided Torah study after lunch. Even the Onegs and Kiddushes have upgraded! Now more people come, and the joy is multiplied. On those quieter weekends (such as secular holidays) our “Who Wants to be a Minyanaire” sign up helps to insure a minyan. On other days, members are also exploring their spirituality through our Rosh Chodesh Group and Spiritual Direction with Rabbi David Evan Markus.

The visioning process that began the year before I came to PCS identified areas that members want to see emphasized, including adult education, member support and programs for teens. To respond to those congregational priorities, our Adult Education Committee, led by Barbara Doctor, has started First Wednesday (and sometimes Third Wednesday, too) Adult Education evenings, Steve Weiner is forming our Caring/Chesed Committee to assist our members in need and we have received a mini grant from the UJA-Federation Westchester Jewish Leadership Initiative to hold “listening tours” among our teens in June as we plan our new teen program for next year. We have also expanded activities for the youngest PCS members, adding our Shabbat music classes with Vivian

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Chang Freiheit, enhanced Tot Shabbats and “Growing Jewish Naturally,” a series of outdoor and organic food programs for young families that will start in the fall and is funded by a grant we received from UJA Federation.

On top of all that, our social programs have flourished this year, including the enjoyable Progressive Dinner, the Texas Bar{BQ} Mitzvah fundraiser and fun holiday events like our community Hanukkah and Purim parties. Avraham and I have enjoyed hosting members for our Sukkot Open House and December 25 Chinese Shabbat Dinner. I love interacting with the delightful and insightful kids in our Hebrew School and seeing the creative activities that Galit and our teachers provide for them. Working with the B’nei Mitzvah students, I feel grateful that we have an outstanding tutor, Ed Sperling, who helps the kids prepare and feel very confident. I feel so blessed by the outstanding lay leadership of our president, Amy Gutenplan, and our board and committee chairs, as well as the incredible professional support from our administrator, Marcy Gray.

All in all, I feel like PCS truly fulfills its description of Joyful Judaism! And also at times when we are personally sad or struggling, we are there to support one another at PCS. My personal motto each time I come to PCS is about Kedushah/Holiness: “Holy, holy holy: I am so grateful to be coming to a holy place to do holy things together with holy people.”

As my first year here draws to a close, I have met so many of you. Sometimes it has been for a major life event and sometimes just for a cup of coffee. But I know that I still haven’t met everyone or gotten to speak with everyone in depth, and I’m committed to doing so! Everyone is invited to drop by for a brown-bag lunch most Thursdays at noon, come by my open office hours on Thursdays from 1–3 pm or make an appointment at another time of your convenience.

My mentor, Rabbi Terry Bookman, explained to me that the first nine months at a new congregation are focused on building relationships and getting to know the community. That continues, but as a rabbi completes their first year, the new task is to develop a vision for the congregation’s future over the next several years. Our PCS Vision Committee, chaired by Laurie Hirsch Shulz, already launched that process before I even arrived, clarifying the synagogue’s mission, values and desired programming. I now want to build on that work by helping us to fully envision what PCS will look and feel like in the coming years, and what steps it will take to get us there. I hope to work with our president and board, and ultimately our entire congregation, in presenting that vision as we go into the next Jewish New Year, and then realizing it together in the years to come. But meanwhile, I also just enjoy every day that I’m working in our wonderful community: Pleasantville Community Synagogue—Joyful Judaism!

It's been a VERY busy year...



Come Celebrate...

Shavuot AND

the Official Installation of Rabbi Julie!

Sunday morning service,

June 12, 10 am to noon.

Congregational potluck dairy

Kiddush lunch to follow.

To donate, please click [here](#)

or visit <https://celebrating-first-year.cheddarup.com>.

For more info about the weekend celebration, please see the following page.

Questions and/or to RSVP:

Robin, awake.robin@gmail.com or Leyla, leylaz@optonline.net



Celebrating Shavuot and Rabbi Julie's First Year!

Cantor Abbe will take part in the festivities from Friday to Sunday.

Friday night services, June 10: 7:30 pm

Saturday evening, the Eve of Shavuot, June 11, 8 pm–10 pm:

SpeakChorus Torah returns to PCS!

A unique study session for Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Led by Cantor Abbe Lyons and Rabbi Julie Danan

Blintzes will be served.

*Celebrate Shavuot and be part of creating another amazing PCS SpeakChorus Torah script, which will be part of our Yom Kippur services. Explore old and new insights on the Haftarah from Isaiah through experiential study, song, poetry and discussion. Your words will become woven into a collaborative midrash, a sacred sound sculpture of story, poetry and melody of voices. **You don't have to be a writer, scholar, singer or public speaker to be a holy Midrash Teller.***

Sunday morning service for Shavuot, June 12, 10 am to noon

Begins with a guided meditation and will be followed by a delicious potluck dairy Kiddush lunch prepared by congregants.

In honor of Rabbi Julie and the harvest festival of Shavuot, feel free to bring in potted outdoor plants and flowers for decoration on the bimah that can be planted outside after the celebration!

Children are MOST welcome and can participate in the joyful service.

Questions or to RSVP:

Robin, awake.robin@gmail.com or Leyla, leylaz@optonline.net

HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



by Galit Sperling, Principal

We had a wonderful year in Hebrew School at PCS!

Thank you to all Hebrew School parents for your support this year, and stay tuned for exciting things ahead! Keep an eye on your email in June for news about the plans for next year. We will be piloting a new model for Kitah Gimmel and Kitah Daled, as well as continuing to enrich our curriculum for all of our students!

In May, we commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Ha'Shoah), Israel Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron), and Israeli Independence Day (Yom Ha'Atzmaut). Students participated in the PCS Holocaust remembrance service with Rabbi Julie in early May, including a touching candle-lighting ceremony as we vowed never to forget the atrocities of the Holocaust, and a commemoration of the lives of the victims and heroes.

For Yom Ha'Atzmaut, our students celebrated Israel's 68th birthday with falafel, Israeli dancing, a drum circle (thanks, Aydin Mayers!), arts and crafts projects and, of course, birthday cake! See the pictures on the following pages from our Yom Ha'Atzmaut festivities, including a picture of our youngest students creating their own map of Israel!

The end of the year came all too quickly, and with it our promotion ceremony for our seventh grade (Kitah Zayin) B'nei Mitzvah class. Each student was celebrated for embodying a Jewish value in our community and given a framed certificate to recognize their accomplishments in Hebrew School. We look forward to this class (as well as our current high schoolers!) starting a fabulous high school program with Rabbi Julie next year. Please make sure to attend the upcoming Listening Tour stops to share your thoughts on the exciting future ahead.

Before we wrap up the year, we have to thank our community for helping our Hebrew School grow and flourish each year. Thank you Rabbi Julie for your wisdom, leadership and *ruach* (spirit)! Thank you to Kiersten Zweibaum, our Hebrew School liaison, and all of our Hebrew School parents and students! Finally, we have an incredibly caring and knowledgeable staff of teachers, whom we thank for their work this year: Phyllis Ticker (Aleph/Bet), Tamar Drucker (Gimmel), Jennifer Chervin (Gimmel & Daled), Jamie Cotel (Hey & Vav), Laurel Romero (Hey & Vav), Karen Stamatis (Hey & Vav), Isaac Brooks (B'nei Mitzvah) and Rabbi Julie (B'nei Mitzvah).

We wish you a fantastic summer, and we will see you in the fall!



Recently, Rabbi Julie met with Kitah Vav (Sixth Grade) for an Ask the Rabbi session. Says Rabbi Julie, "I'm looking forward to teaching these students and their parents during many special B'nei Mitzvah family education programs next year!"

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Celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) by...



Drawing a map of Israel



Making Israeli salad



Eating falafel



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Crafting chamsas



Participating in a drum circle led by Aydin Mayers



Happy 68th birthday, Israel!

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End of the Year
Ice Cream Party
and Craft Fair



Sydney Schulz Mitzvah Project



My name is Sydney Schulz and for my mitzvah project I am setting up a Little Free Library outside of Morse School in Sleepy Hollow. A Little Free Library is an international organization where every day people set up a box filled with books from which anyone can take or give their favorite books. Before anything could start I had to email and talk to many people so that I could make the project a reality. For the physical box I had to decide what it would look like. I settled on the idea of a little red school house. I thought it was perfect considering that the box would be next to Morse school. Then my dad and I had to build the box. Even after we built the box my work was far from done. The school suggested we set up a bench next to the library. So I did lots of fundraising for that. I raised money at the Middle School book fair, the John Paulding book fair and at the Warner Library book sale. I have raised \$260 so far, and my family and I are so proud of all the good things I have done for my community.

I decided to choose this project because I love reading. I learned about this project when I saw one in Woodstock, New York, and I decided that it would be the perfect project to spread my love of reading. I thought that many people all over our community could bond over sharing their favorite books. I can't wait until the box is set up so that everyone can share their books and their love of reading with everyone that they know. I hope that generations of students who come to Morse School as well as others in the community will be able to see and use my box to grow their love and appreciation for reading.

This project will help students and families in our community who may not get the chance to keep books or share books with their friends to do so. I hope that many children and families use my library to learn about many different aspects of their world that they could not do without reading. I love that my library is promoting literacy for the schools and for the entire town.

I learned many things out of my experience while doing this project. I learned how important it is for kids and adults to read. I also learned how our community joins together when there is a project that promotes reading. Many kids don't have access to books and I found that people in our community were thrilled that I am making a project that helped promote literacy in our town. I also learned many people skills by stepping out of my comfort zone by talking and e-mailing many strangers. This project helped this community greatly and also will help me further in life when I need to talk and email people in the future.

Maya Solnick Mitzvah Project

For her mitzvah project, Maya Solnick raised more than \$350 for the local SPCA with her bake sale at Scattered Books in Chappaqua.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write my last president's message of this fiscal year, I return to the first message I wrote back in August 2015. In that newsletter, Roberta Korus, our board member and newsletter editor, posed the following question to the Board: "Besides good health for you and your loved ones, what is your wish for the New Year?" My wish for the New Year was to see a strong, welcoming, united PCS community. It has been a remarkable year, and we have accomplished so much together.



Our First Annual PCS Fundraiser was a resounding success. With more than 120 people in attendance, we danced, ate, drank and, certainly, laughed a lot. Thanks to a fantastic committee, led by Karen Neuburger and Sheila Major and including Marty Major, Lisa Nicotra, Lori Neuburger, Leyla Nakisbendi, Evan Kingsley, Roberta Korus and the PCS Players, we surpassed our original goals in financial support and attendance; in fact, it was unprecedented on both counts, and it sets a great precedent for the future.

On Sunday, June 12, beginning at 10 am, we will be celebrating Shavuot with song and (of course) food. As a special additional celebration, we have invited Cantor Abbe to assist us with our Rabbi installation and our celebration of Rabbi Julie's first year. I realize it is somewhat odd to be officially installing our Rabbi after 10 months. I'd like to think of the first 10 months as more of a transition and a welcoming period, and now we are officially recognizing our community partnership with Rabbi Julie. Thank you Leyla Nakisbendi and Robin Berman for organizing this wonderful celebration. Cantor Abbe will be at PCS for the entire weekend, so please see the flyer on page 4 for details.

Finally, I invite you to join us at the Congregational Meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at 7:30 pm. At this meeting I will review the past year and discuss exciting changes and new initiatives for the year ahead. We will also be discussing gaps in our 2016 budget and presenting a 2016-17 budget and new trustees for your approval.

Back in September, I was not sure how, or if, my New Year's wish would come true. Ten months later, I would like to thank Rabbi Julie for her energy, enthusiasm and wonderful ideas. I thank Marcy for her efficiency, spirit and friendship. Thank you to the Board for their commitment, dedication and vision. And I need to thank each and every congregant for participating and supporting this community. Thank you for helping make my New Year's wish come true.

— Amy Gutenplan

Aging & Dying - Death As Metaphor

When life burdens us or treats us unkindly, we feel as though we are dying. It happens with loss, with radical change or even in the unanticipated stillness that descends stealthily in moments of reflection or meditation. Sometimes there is a feeling of emptiness or of dropping down suddenly into an abyss that threatens to swallow us whole. Other times we experience anxiety, shortness of breath or the waves of grief that are our birthright and our ultimate salvation.

One of the metaphors the poets use is the bridge of sighs, the journey the dead souls walk as they leave this life. The dying process is a journey that takes us from time to a place of no time. In the place of no time, pain and sorrow are absent, all of our human clothing has been shed and we live in the nakedness of spirit. But in life where there is still time, tragedy grips us and engraves suffering on our hearts. That suffering can become intolerable in which case the sorrow is frozen; there is no feeling. Mostly this passes and we return to grief, where the full expression is allowed and which cleanses us, returns us to life and, if we allow it, brings with it a sense of gratitude. We can again breathe; we can feel. But, as Stephen Jenkinson writes in his book *Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul*, "Everything we do and don't do makes a wake, a legion of waves and troughs that pound the shores at the edges of what we mean, grinding away on the periphery of what we know." In other words the past isn't over. That event, that heartbreak, is eternal; it lives even after our lives are over, reverberating through all time.

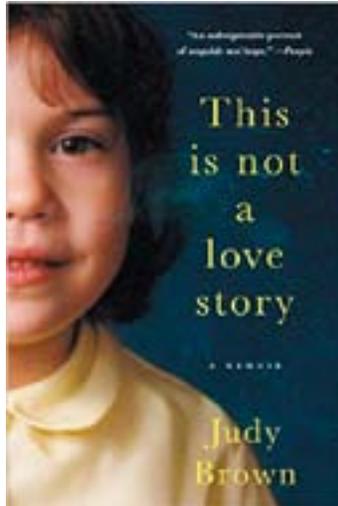
Now this may sound radical, but I believe it is deeply true and is embedded in all of our religions and spiritual teachings. Nothing dies; nothing is gone; it just changes form. The seeds of the dying plant become the birth of a new plant; the pain that our ancestors suffered become the remembrance and honoring of their lives, and the wisdom of our great teachers is reborn in the students who read their words. In our breathing the exhalation of carbon dioxide becomes the nourishment for the trees that give us back oxygen. The rivers feed the ocean and the water returns as rain. It is all a benign, never-ending cycle.

When we think of death as the end we are confusing our individual identity, our association with the body we were born into and the ego that we developed, with the eternal aspect of life itself, of which we are simply a small part. But small doesn't mean insignificant; everything we do, every thought we think has a resonance and has meaning. For me, that is the reassurance that even my own eventual demise will be understood and hopefully welcomed. I don't deny the fear that still accompanies this thought, but I am writing these essays as a way to pave the way for my full acceptance.

— Peter Schaffer

This Is Not a Love Story: A Memoir

by Judy Brown



This is a fascinating look into the rarified world of the Chasidim in Brooklyn, and it can be quite a shocker! The author's legacy of centuries of religious teaching, faith and lore has sustained her family for generations. Brown, known in this book by her Yiddish name, Menuchah, was one of six children. Her focus early in the book is on her autistic brother Nachum, who was not diagnosed until late in childhood. His siblings all called him "crazy" although it was clear he was not. He was sent to a special school and then to relatives in Israel, who knew of doctors with experience in his kind of problems.

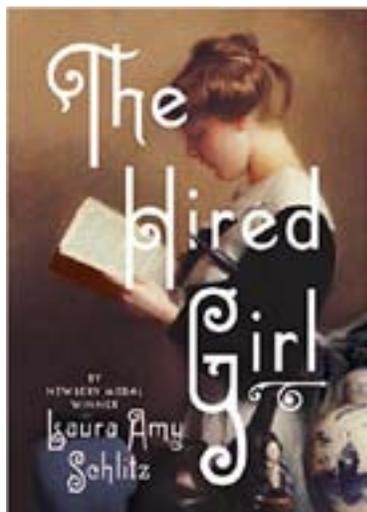
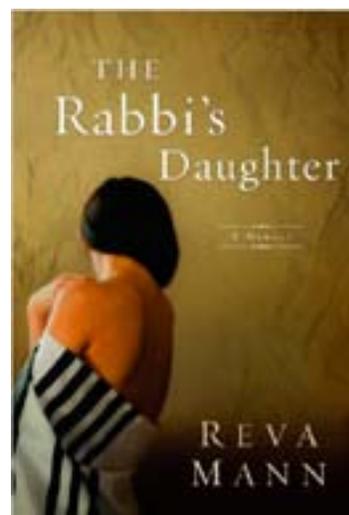
Menuchah's mother fiercely defends her son; her father listens to Menuchah when no one else seems to. Menuchah learns that every aspect of life for Chassidic Jews is dictated by the rabbis, and that couples marry despite the fact that pious people are not supposed to fall in love! This shocks Menuchah, but she discovers a secret life her parents had in Israel and learns that they really do adore one another but cannot show it.

Menuchah travels to Israel four years later and sees a great change in Nachum. He is speaking in full sentences! She is quite amazed. He has attended the only school for autistic children then in Jerusalem. Eventually he graduates, the only student to ever do so. He even has a Bar Mitzvah and later gets a job. He has a real life in Jerusalem. Menuchah views her brother as a miracle. Within the bounds of the Orthodox community and the increasing numbers of special-needs children born, much is being done today to accept them rather than hide them, and to integrate them into the Chassidic society.

Judy Brown wrote the 2010 novel Hush, a story of sexual abuse and suicide within the ultra-Orthodox community in Brooklyn, under the pseudonym Eishes Chayil, fearing backlash from the Chassidic world. Hush was a finalist for the 2011 Sydney Taylor Book Award for outstanding book on the Jewish experience. Since that time, Brown has disclosed her identity as the author of Hush and has left Chassidism. In addition to her books, Brown has written for the Huffington Post and the Jewish Daily Forward.

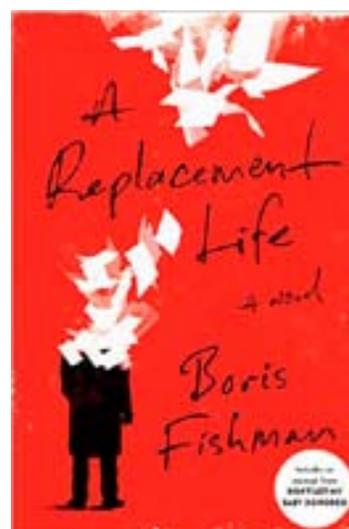
For your summer reading pleasure, [the PCS Bookworm](#) recommends...

The daughter of a highly respected rabbi, Reva was a wild child spiraling into a world of sex and drugs. Find out what happens to her next!



A young girl starts life all over again with an Orthodox family when she never even knew anyone who was Jewish! As a Newbery Medal Winner, this book is especially well-suited for children and teens, but can be enjoyed by readers of any age.

All about forged documents, older Russian Jews and intrigue!





PCS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS!!



As mentioned elsewhere in these pages, the recent **PCS Texas Bar{BQ} Mitzvah Fundraiser** exceeded all expectations in terms of both attendance and money raised. About 120 guests enjoyed delicious food, laughs provided by the PCS Not Ready for Purim Shpiel Players, lots of spirited dancing facilitated by our terrific fiddler and caller and, most importantly, a wonderful sense of community.



Rabbi Julie in her
genuine Western finery



Event co-chairs
Karen Neuburger
and Sheila Major

All photos by Emma Reisman



Kvelling parents of Bar Mitzvah boy Billy Bob Boychik Laredowitz (David Rakower - center), Amy Sue Laredowitz Dallastein Gutenplan (Amy Gutenplan) and the Magnificent O aka Oren Laredowitz (Oren Cohen)



Bubba Lee Wacowitz (Michael Safranek) displays a bottle of excellent wine during the post-*simcha* auction



Billy Bob's frisky Aunt Sally (Dara Meyers-Kingsley) participates in the candlelighting ceremony

There was a whole lotta do-si-do'in' goin' on...



and a splendid time was had by all!



Thanks are due to so many people whose contributions and participation helped make the annual PCS fundraiser one of our most successful events ever!

Sean & Kirsten Aghen
Cristina Altieri-Martinez and Richard Martinez
Meredith Angert & Alexander Kenna
Roberta "Robin" Berman
Jonathan Blackman & Kathy Schuler
Gilda & Marc Borenstein
Vivian Chang & Mark Freiheit
Claire & Oren Cohen
Rabbi Julie and Avraham Danan
Barbara & Gautam Doctor
Dorfman Mizrach & Thaler LLP
Steven & Michelle Eickelbeck
Karen Fixler
Alan & Susan Friedman
Ken & Sue Furst
Bernard & Jan Gordon
Iris & Stan Gotterer
Marcy Gray
Anne Tetenman & Gary Greenwald
Amy & Bruce Gutenplan
Robin Henry & Jonathan Goodman
Francine & David Holzman
Dana & Mark Ipri
Eileen Jagoda
Elizabeth McGoldrick & Mark Bertin
Dara Meyers-Kingsley & Evan Kingsley
Marlo & Eric Klein
Roberta Korus
Richard Levine
Leslie Mack & Robin Freedman
Sheila & Martin Major
Robert Marshak
Aydin Mayers
Nancy Mayers

Adam & Adina McGinley
Mohsin Memon/Edible Arrangements
Karin & Burt Meyers
Robin & David Meyers
Erica Murkofsky & Michael Rhodes
Ellen Morgenstern & Alexander Ouzounis
Leyla Nakisbendi & Michael Mayers
Malcolm & Susan Netburn
Jeffrey & Karen Neuburger
Jerry & Lori Neuburger
Lisa Nicotra & Lenora Sealey
Carla Paganelli & Richard Solomon
Pamela Papish & Vickie Neilson
Lisa & Michael Pfeffer
Plan A Advisors
Jeffrey & Isabel Rachlin
David & Barrie Rakower
Emma & Dave Reisman
Joanna Rizoulis & Seth Rutman
Michael Safranek
April Lasher Sanders & Peter Sanders
Eve-Marie & Peter Schaffer
Craig & Debra Schor
Marilyn & Stephen Schultz
Laurie Hirsch Schulz & Jay Schulz
Miriam Seiler
Ben & Ali Serebin
Deborah Spanierman
Hedi and Ed Sperling
Peter Volgyes
Ariela & Douglas Wehrle
Rhea Wolfthal
Kiersten & Jay Zweibaum

Helping PCS is just an easy [click](#) away...

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Joyful Judaism

Dear PCS member,

It was wonderful to see so many gather at our Texas Bar{BQ} Mitzvah fundraiser. It was amazing to get together as a community to celebrate the fantastic year we have had. We hope you had a great time.

To everyone who contributed to the event, we want to say thank you. It was an extraordinary evening of connection, caring and community, and the energy in the room was warm and tangible. The evening was a tremendous success, far surpassing our original goals in financial support and attendance; in fact, it was unprecedented on both counts, and it sets a great precedent for the future.

If you were unable to attend - or if you have more to give - you can still be part of the effort to close our expected budget gap. With your support, we can continue to make PCS a warm, welcoming and full-service synagogue.

Please click [here](#) or go to <https://new-and-improved-bar-bq-mitzvah-gift-registry.cheddarup.com> to visit our Cheddar Up web site and see all the ways your donation can go to work. Whether you choose to donate toward a Hebrew school program, new Bimah furniture, landscaping or sponsoring a Kiddush, we need your support. We are looking for—and we need—100% participation.

We hope to celebrate again with you soon!

Amy Gutenplan, PCS President
Sheila Major, Fundraiser Committee Co-Chair
Karen Neuburger, Fundraiser Committee Co-Chair

What goes on at PCS when people aren't here praying, learning or meeting?

The building exterior is being painted...



and *True Crime* came to PCS!

At the suggestion of TV producer and director (and PCS member) Ron Marans, a TV production crew recently spent almost 12 hours at PCS filming re-enactment scenes for *True Crime with Aphrodite Jones*. The episode is scheduled to be aired July 11 on Investigation Discovery Channel. See if you can recognize the different places at PCS used for the shoot.



NEW AT PCS! MUSICAL SHABBATOTS CLASSES!



Are you looking for a great way to help your little ones feel a part of Jewish celebrations and a really fun way for moms (and dads and caregivers) to meet and hang out?

Look no further!

The next class is

Friday, June 3, 1:30-2:30 pm
Ages 0-5 (not yet in kindergarten)

For more information or to RSVP please contact the PCS office
at 769-2672 or e-mail naava@yahoo.com.

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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 ~ 914-769-2672 ~ info@shalompcs.com

It's a song...!

It's a challah...!

It's...

SUPERHERO SHABBAT
AT PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016
5:30-6pm

Shabbat Songs + Stories
Followed by Pizza dinner + Kiddush

**WEAR YOUR COOLEST
SUPERHERO GEAR!**

Ages 0-5

RSVP

marcy.gray@verizon.net

PCS is at: 
219 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, NY

Join us for a very special *Prime-Time Shabbat* at PCS with

Prof. Sarah Tauber

*engaging in a dialogue on women
and Jewish leadership*

Friday, June 17, 8 pm



PCS congregant and Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Sarah Tauber has garnered an enthusiastic following and ***an evening with her is not to be missed.***

All are welcome.

For more information, e-mail Marcy Gray at mgray@shalompcs.com
or call PCS at (914) 769-2672.

~ ~ ~

*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
(914) 769-2672 ~ info@shalomPCS.com ~ www.shalompcs.com**



KOL RINAH

JOYFUL VOICE

presents

Spring Concert

Benjamin Gruder, Artistic Director

Connie Prener, Accompanist

Sunday, June 19, 2016

2:00 p.m.

Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester

600 Bear Ridge Road

Pleasantville, NY 10570



For tickets and information,

WWW.KOLRINAHCHORALE.ORG

or call (914)243-9059



national havurah committee summer institute 2016

Join 300 friends of all ages and walks of life at the National Havurah Committee [Summer Institute](http://havurah.org/institute-2016)

Where every teacher is a student and every student is a teacher.

August 1-7, 2016

Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH

Scholarships available! To learn more, check out our stellar courses, and register, visit: havurah.org/institute-2016

Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, June 21 at 7:30 pm



PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

We would like to invite all members of PCS to the Congregational Meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm. We will be discussing matters of significant importance to PCS and its future. First, we will be presenting for a congregational vote the 2016-17 budget that has been recommended by the finance committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Some budget highlights (please come to the meeting to hear assumptions and details):

- * Raising of membership dues by 5% (PCS has not raised its dues in more than five years)
- * Reduction in operating expenses of 5%

As you already know, fiscal year 2016 was financially challenging for PCS. But we saw the congregation pull together for the Spring Texas Bar{BQ} Mitzvah fundraiser. It was an extraordinary evening of connection, caring and community, and the energy in the room was warm and tangible. The evening was a tremendous success, far surpassing our original goals in terms of both financial support and attendance; in fact, it was unprecedented on both counts, and it sets a great precedent for the future. And as a result of that fundraising success, the financial health of our community is better than anticipated. We will still close the year with a budget deficit, but we believe the proposed 2017 budget will ensure a responsible financial future for PCS.

We will also be voting in the new Board Trustees as well as saying thank you and farewell to the outgoing Trustees. Information about the proposed Trustees will be sent out in June.

Please come to the June 21 Congregational Meeting to discuss our future as well as hear about all the wonderful things that have been happening at PCS.

Thank you for your continued support of PCS.

Best,

The Pleasantville Community Synagogue Board of Trustees

P.O. Box 148 ~ 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570
Telephone (914) 769-2672 ~ Fax (914) 769-1795
E-mail: info@shalompcs.com
www.shalomPCS.com

We're doing some landscaping...



Are you looking for a way to contribute to the beautification of PCS? Look no further! We are in the process of making some landscaping improvements to the front area and you can make a donation directly targeting this effort!

Call the PCS office with credit card info, send in a check or go to <https://www.cheddarup.com/tabs/new-and-improved-bar-bq-mitzvah-gift-registry>.

Thank you!

~ ~ ~

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

Rekindling Shabbat at PCS

IN JUNE...

Please join us on **Friday, June 3, at 7:30 pm** for a Kabbalat Shabbat service with **Sydney Schulz** and her family participating in honor of her Bat Mitzvah. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.

At **9:30 am on Saturday, June 4, Sydney Schulz** will become a **Bat Mitzvah** at our Saturday morning service.

On **Friday, June 10**, please join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat service at **7:30 pm** with **Maya Solnick** and her family participating in honor of her Bat Mitzvah. There will also be a children's service and the evening will conclude with an Oneg Shabbat.

At **Saturday** morning services on **June 11, at 9:30 am, Maya Solnick** will become a **Bat Mitzvah**.

At **8 pm on Saturday evening, June 11**, we will gather for **Shavuot Torah study** and blintzes. For more information, please see the flyer on page 4.

On **Sunday morning, June 12, Shavuot services** will begin at **10 am**. At this time we will also be **officially installing Rabbi Julie as our rabbi**. A delicious, dairy, pot-luck lunch will follow at noon.

Friday, June 17, has something for everyone! At **5:30 pm**, there will be a **Tot Superhero Shabbat** with a pizza dinner; for more information, please see page 23. At **8 pm**, there will be a **Prime Time Shabbat with** Kabbalat Shabbat services and a dialogue on Women and Jewish leadership facilitated by PCS Member **Professor Sarah Tauber**; for more information, please see page 24. A festive Oneg Shabbat will follow.

On **Saturday, June 18**, please join us for Shabbat morning services at **10 am**.

On **Friday, June 24**, Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at **7:30 pm**.

On **Saturday, June 25**, please join us for Shabbat morning services at **10 am**.

SUMMER SHABBATS AND "THE LIVIN' IS EASY..."*

Join us for **Shabbat morning services** every Saturday, including all summer, from **10 am (9:30 am for B'nei Mitzvah) to noon**, followed by a light kiddush lunch. **Meditation at 9:15 am (9 am for B'nei Mitzvah)** and **Torah study at 12:30** will continue during the summer dependent on interest.

During July and August, Friday night services will be on a Summer Schedule offering different ways to experience Shabbat, including some **7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services, monthly Potluck Shabbat Picnics and monthly Tot/Family early services** with a light dinner. On the **July 4 weekend, Labor Day weekend and a couple of other weekends when the rabbi is away, there will be no Friday night service**, so please enjoy a leisurely Shabbat dinner at home and plan to join us the next day for our Shabbat morning service.

Please check the PCS emails or the website calendar for each week's Friday schedule.

In order to insure minyanim over the summer, we will invite members by email to sign up to "be a minyanaire" using the Sign-Up Genius website. Please choose one or more summer services to attend so that our community can offer a minyan every Shabbat of the year!

* From "Summertime" from the folk opera *Porgy and Bess* by those nice Jewish boys, George and Ira Gershwin, and their co-writers, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward.

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.**

General Fund/Fair Share

Barbara Goldberg, in honor of Maya Solnick becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Jonathan Gaines, in memory of his beloved father, Joseph I. Gaines

Roberta Korus, in memory of her beloved grandparents, Morris and Dessie Sliffman Itkin and Max
and Fannie Grossman Korus, on the occasion of their yahrzeits

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Marcy Gray, in memory of her beloved husband, Itzik Mintz, on the occasion of his second yahrzeit

PCS Beautification and Landscaping

Jane Sandbank, in memory of her beloved husband, Charlie Sandbank



JUNE YAHRZEITS

Howard Tekulsky, father of Audrey Larkin	June 1
Joseph Gaines, father of Jonathan Church	June 1
Leslie Schmidt, daughter of Judith Schmidt	June 1
Fannie Grossman Korus, grandmother of Roberta Korus	June 2
Geraldine Schaffer, mother of Peter Schaffer	June 5
Paul Gottfried, father of Ali Serebin	June 5
Joel Goldwin, father of Harriet Goldwin-Cohen	June 6
Irving Stiker, father of Judith Schmidt	June 9
Henry Herman, father of Diana Benattar	June 11
Chaim Benattar, father of David Benattar	June 13
Julius Berzin, father of Jodie Rossi	June 15
Anne Sacks, mother of Jeffrey Sacks	June 15
Sylvia LePatner, mother of Gilda Borenstein	June 21
Martin Klein, father of Eric Klein	June 21
Mary Echevarria, grandmother of Rob Marra	June 27
Emanuel Teitel, father of Merrie Teitel-Greene	June 27
Max Korus, grandfather of Roberta Korus	June 28
Morris Itkin, grandfather of Roberta Korus	June 29

JULY YAHRZEITS

Dessie Sliffman Itkin, grandmother of Roberta Korus	July 2
Rose Netburn, mother of Malcolm Netburn	July 5
Meyer Spector, uncle of Malcolm Netburn	July 5
Anna Fuchs, mother of Audrey Lenoff	July 7
Nadine Aghen, mother of Sean Aghen	July 7
Alvin Sigal, father of Melanie Gordin	July 16
Henry Sperling, father of Edward Sperling	July 18
Dorothy Curtis, mother of Hillary Marra	July 20
Joan Gerstler, mother of Deborah Spanierman	July 22
Marcus Schwartz, father of Nancy Mayers	July 22
Nathan Cohen, father of Hirsh Cohen	July 23
Hilda Reisman, mother of David Reisman	July 23
Paul Stone, father of Hillary Marra	July 27
Al Silverman, father of Janet Silverman	July 28
Mildred Weiner, mother of Shelley Weiner	July 30

AUGUST YAHRZEITS

Jerry Chazen, father of Eileen Jagoda
Emanuel Jacobs, stepfather of Barbara Altman Bruno
Troy Rutman, brother of Seth Rutman
Philip Rosen, father of Estelle Rosen Kersh
Morris Etkin, grandfather of Rhea Wolfthal
Rosaline Lasher, mother of April Lasher
Sybil Berman, mother of Roberta Berman
Michael Weill, husband of Janice Sandbank

August 2
August 11
August 13
August 14
August 15
August 25
August 26
August 28

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 Julie at (914) 769-2672, or Steven Weiner at (914) 232-8166 or (646) 369-9167. You can also email them at Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com or SWeiner@ShalomPCS.com.





Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Yahrzeit Memorial Board

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 nameplate.

Please provide the following information and payment (\$360) for each plate. If you need assistance with the Hebrew date, you can find date conversions at www.hebcal.com, or contact Marcy Gray at 769-2672, mgray@shalompcs.com. If there is no Hebrew name, the name in English will be centered at the top. Delivery of nameplates will take 4-6 weeks. *Please print very neatly.*

Name in English: _____ Name in Hebrew: _____

English date of passing: _____ Hebrew date of passing: _____

Requested by: _____ Relationship to person being honored: _____

Phone Number/E-mail address: _____

Check enclosed payable to Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Bill my credit card

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____

Circle One: VISA MasterCard

Name as it appears on card: _____

Phone number in case verification is needed: _____

Your Signature _____ Amount to charge: _____

Print Name _____

Mail checks to: PCS, P.O. Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

If paying by credit card, please mail this form to PCS, email to Accounts@shalomPCS.com, fax it to (914) 769-1795, or call Barbara Doctor at (914) 747-3017 to provide your credit card information.

Please make your donation by check if at all possible.

ON THE HORIZON AT PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE...

Mark your calendars for the High Holidays, which begin on **Sunday evening, October 2**, with **Rosh Hashanah**. **Yom Kippur** begins on **Tuesday evening, October 11**. Watch your email for details on times and location of services.

What I Did on My Jewish Summer Vacation

Going to Israel? Jewish summer camp? The ALEPH Kallah in Colorado or another Jewish conference or festival? To see *Fiddler* on Broadway? Or just have an interesting Jewish experience over the summer? Please send your photos to RKorus@ShalomPCS.com for inclusion in our September newsletter.

Graduations and Other Simchas

Please send announcements of graduations, weddings and other special events in your family to RKorus@ShalomPCS.com for inclusion in our newsletter. We want to share the joy of our community members!

REAL ESTATE IN THE BERKSHIRES



Steve Erenburg
201 663 0800



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Introducing to Briarcliff the new owner of Zokkos Salon, Jillian Sherman. Ever since she discovered Aveda a few years ago, she has tried to live by their mission. The combination of her love for hair and making people's true beauty come out with Aveda's products has proven to give her the ability to deliver healthy, sexy hair that is safe for her guests as well as the environment. Her next quest is to share her knowledge and passion with her staff at Zokkos. Briarcliff has been so friendly and has made her feel so welcomed. She would like to pass that feeling on to you! Please come in and mention this ad and save 40% off your first appointment and we guarantee you'll love the results!!



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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.

PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Officers

President: Amy Gutenplan
Secretary: Laurie Hirsch Schulz
Treasurer: Mark Freiheit
Vice President: Kiersten Zweibaum
Vice President: Richard Solomon

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Board of Trustees

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cmartinez@ShalomPCS.com

Mark Freiheit
info@ShalomPCS.com

Gary Greenwald
ggreenwald@ShalomPCS.com

Jonathan Goodman
jgoodman@ShalomPCS.com

PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Adult Education

Barbara Doctor
bdoctor670@gmail.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling
edsperling@gmail.com

Building

Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum
info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Religious Practices

Eric Klein
info@shalomPCS.com

Finance

Mark Freiheit
info@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Furst
kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Richard Solomon
info@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Karen Neuburger
info@shalomPCS.com

Caring (Chesed)

Steven Weiner
sweiner@shalomPCS.com

Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com

Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi
leyla@shalomPCS.com

Israel Action

[Vacant]

Rosh Chodesh

Robin Berman
info@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.com

To contact PCS: Phone (914) 769-2672; Fax (914) 769-1795; Website: www.ShalomPCS.com

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

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

Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; Accounts@ShalomPCS.com

THE PCS 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 by emailing them to mgray@shalompcs.com.

*** Ad Specifications:**

Ads will be published in one size only: one-quarter page, which is approximately 3½ x 4¾ inches. The entire ad (both text and artwork) should be provided by the advertiser in GIF, JPEG, PDF or TIFF format ONLY. Please proofread your ad before sending.

*** Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin is published in July and August) is \$125 for ¼ page. **Note:** Checks preferred; please mail checks 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.



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 Roberta Korus, Editor, at rkorus@ShalomPCS.com, or dropped off at the newsletter box in the synagogue office.

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



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Building Fund

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

General Fund/Fair Share

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

Hebrew School Scholarship Fund

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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

Oneg Shabbat/Kiddush/Shabbat Dinner Fund

To help offset the costs of providing food and drinks following services.

Taxi Fund

Provides taxi service for those needing a ride to and/or from PCS.

Yahrzeit Memorial Board Nameplate (\$360)

A nameplate with the name and date of departed loved ones will be lit in their honor on the anniversary of their passing. Please see page 32 of this issue for appropriate form.

Name and fund selected: _____

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

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

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

___ Check enclosed

___ Please bill my credit card

Credit card # _____ Expiration Date: ____/____

Circle one: VISA MasterCard

Name as it appears on card: _____

Phone number in case verification is required: _____

Your signature _____ Amount to charge: \$ _____

Print name: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Checks preferred. To help our bookkeeper, please issue separate checks for dues or other special events. Checks should be made payable to "Pleasantville Community Synagogue." Please indicate the fund to which you are donating in the memo section of your check and **mail your check to** PCS, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

If paying by credit card, please email this form to Accounts@ShalomPCS.com, fax it to (914) 769-1795, or call Barbara Doctor at (914) 747-3017, or PCS, (914) 769-2672 to provide your credit card information.

IYYAR - SIVAN 5776

June 2016 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 4:00pm Spiritual Direction group, led by Rabbi David Markus	30 Memorial Day	31	1 7:30pm Adult Ed program with Rabbi Julie: The Book of Ruth	2	3 1:30pm Musical Shabbatots class 7:30pm Services 8:05pm Candle lighting	4 9:15am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Schulz, 9:30 am 9:36pm Havdalah Parashat Bechukotai
5 Yom Yerushalayim - Jerusalem Day	6 Rosh Chodesh Sivan - The new Hebrew month of Sivan	7 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	8 7:00pm Teen Listening Tour at member's home	9 5:30pm B'nei Mitzvah class end-of-year trampoline party	10 7:30pm Services, including Children's Service 8:09pm Candle lighting	11 Shavuot (5776) begins at sundown 9:15am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Maya Solnick, 9:30 am 8:00pm Torah Study for Shavuot
12 Shavuot (5776) 10:00am Shavuot services and Rabbi Julie's installation Shavuot I	13 9:41pm Havdalah Shavuot II	14 7:30pm Religious Practices committee meeting	15 7:00pm Pre-teen Listing Tour at member's home 7:30pm Transitions Committee meeting	16	17 5:30pm Tot Superhero Shabbat service and pizza dinner. 8:00pm Services, including a Dialogue on Women and Jewish Leadership 8:12pm Candle lighting Children's Service	18 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:43pm - Havdalah Parashat Nasso
19 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	20	21 7:30pm Congregational Meeting	22 7:30pm Tikkun Olam Committee meeting. Discussing social action projects. All are welcome.	23	24 7:30pm Services 8:14pm Candle lighting	25 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:44pm Havdalah Parashat Beha'alotcha
26 4:00pm Spiritual Direction group, led by Rabbi David Markus	27	28	29	30	1 8:14pm Candle lighting NO SERVICE TONIGHT	2 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:43pm Havdalah Parashat Sh'lach

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. Calendars for future months are also on the website.

SIVAN - TAMUZ 5776

July 2016 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 4:00pm Spiritual Direction group, led by Rabbi David Markus	27	28	29	30	1 8:14pm Candle lighting NO SERVICE TONIGHT	2 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:43pm Havdalah Parashat Sh'lach
3	4	5 7:30pm Religious Practices Committee meeting	6 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz	7	8 7:30pm Services 8:12pm Candle lighting	9 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:41pm Havdalah Parashat Korach
10	11	12	13	14	15 8:08pm Candle lighting NO SERVICES TONIGHT	16 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:38pm Havdalah Parashat Chukat
17	18	19	20	21	22 6:30pm Pot luck or picnic "outdoor" service 8:03pm Candle lighting	23 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:32pm Havdalah Parashat Balak
24 Tzom Tammuz Fast commemorating breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar	25	26	27	28	29 5:30pm Tot Shabbat/Family service for all 7:57pm Candle lighting	30 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:26pm Havdalah Parashat Pinchas
31	1	2	3	4	5 7:30pm Service 7:49pm Candle lighting Rosh Chodesh Av	6 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:18pm Havdalah Parashat Matot-Masei

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. Calendars for future months are also on the website.

TAMUZ - AV 5776

August 2016 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5 7:30pm Service 7:49pm Candle lighting Rosh Chodesh Av	6 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:18pm Havdalah Parashat Matot-Masei
7	8	9	10	11	12 7:40pm Candle lighting NO SERVICE TONIGHT	13 Tisha B'Av (5776) begins at sundown 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 9:00pm Lamentations: evening learning service for Tisha B'Av 9:08pm Havdalah Parashat Devarim ...
14 Tisha B'Av (5776) Tish'a B'Av; fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples	15	16	17	18	19 6:30pm Pot luck or picnic "outdoor" service 7:30pm Candle lighting	20 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 8:58pm Havdalah Parashat Vaetchanan
21	22	23	24	25	26 5:30pm Tot Shabbat/Family service for all 6:00pm Shabbat dinner 7:19pm Candle lighting	27 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 8:48pm Havdalah Parashat Eikev
28	29	30	31	1	2 7:08pm Candle lighting NO SERVICE TONIGHT	3 9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am 8:36pm Havdalah Rosh Chodesh Elul Parashat Re'eh

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. Calendars for future months are also on the website.



**Have a *great*
summer!**

