



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: "SUMMER: THE LONG SHABBAT"

**By Mark Sameth**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

<u>The Rabbi's Column</u>	1
<u>President's Message</u>	2
<u>Hebrew School Happenings</u>	3
<u>High Holy Day Letter</u>	6
<u>Ask The Rabbi</u>	8
<u>B'nai Mitzvah Projects</u>	13
<u>June Yahrzeits</u>	15
<u>Committee Chairs</u>	16
<u>Contributions</u>	18
<u>Funds Available for Your Support</u>	19
<u>Calendar</u>	20
<u>Save The Dates</u>	22

When we hear the word "Shabbat" we usually think – whether observed or not - of a day. But in the Torah, the word had a more expansive meaning, and could be applied as well to other periods of holy rest.

With our 24/7 connectivity, constant busyness, and seeming inability to downshift even for a few hours, the notion of holy rest is about as anachronistic as they come. But with summer finally upon us, we may find ourselves drawn – even against our will – toward some almost primal need to take in the light, and to moving a bit more gracefully and intentionally.

I strongly advise you – should you be visited by this urge – to give in to it without reservation.

The pace of life as we have come to know it over these past years is simply unsustainable. Each of us has our private challenges and quiet pressures, some of us more than others right now, of course. But no matter what we have been trying to uphold all year, at some point we need to see that our very humanity is being compromised by our inability

to simply be with life as it is, to take one day at a time, and to find in that day a sense of blessing and peace.

Many Jewish teachings center on the word "or" (meaning "light") as our tradition has always understood the creation event to have begun with light (even before there was a sun and other stars to generate light). And so the abundance of light we enjoy over these long summer days has, for the Jew, a religious quality to it. No one has to teach us this, nor do we need to try to believe it. Our bodies tell us there is something deeply beneficial here.

Shabbat services continue at PCS throughout the summer, as they do in every season. Please be with us when the spirit moves any Friday night, or Saturday morning (including our 9 am meditations). But please make sure to take time for Shabbat in its more expansive sense: with a walk along the Hudson or in Rockefeller State Park Preserve.

These are precious days. Enjoy them!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

This is the last column I will write as the president of the synagogue. My term is up at the end of June, and while I will no longer be an executive of the synagogue, I will remain fully engaged, as this is my spiritual home and a place I dearly love. It is also my intention to write columns for the newsletter on subjects of interest to me and hopefully to some of you.

The last four years have flown by for me and the journey has been an exciting and gratifying one in all respects. I am especially appreciative of the present board, which is the strongest and most committed of any I have worked with, within or outside of the synagogue. The 15 people who represent all of us are a diverse group with multiple talents, but even more, a group of self-starters who take on tasks and simply do them. This has made the job of president an easy one for

me. I hope my successor, Jerry Neuburger, has the same good fortune during his tenure. So I'd like to leave with some final thoughts and wishes. My deepest connection is, and has been, to Shabbat and holiday celebrations. That being the case I will continue working on the Spiritual Life Committee in the coming year with a couple of goals in mind. The first will be to reach out to the older adult community and to encourage others to attend services and to experience the "Joyful Judaism" of our rituals and celebrations. While we have a core group of daveners, it is smaller than we had years ago and I'm anxious to see more people at services on Saturday mornings. For those reading this who are not yet regular attendees, I can only tell you that I look forward to Saturday morning and am never disappointed.

The other piece I want to convey is that I am going to organize a "salon" for study and sharing. My idea is that anyone who has an interest and some expertise in any area—study, literature, music, visual arts—would offer to lead an evening where the subject would be announced in advance and anyone who has an interest could attend. There are many ways this could unfold and I am open to all suggestions. Just bring your enthusiasm.

- Peter Schaffer



---

### Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

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



# HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

By Ronni Metzger, Principal

After a busy month of April, things at the Hebrew school did not slow down in May!

The Gimel class had its Shabbaton, where the students led several prayers and songs. We commemorated the students' completion of the Aleph Bet with the presentation of a Siddur for each child. The next Shabbat we celebrated the Zayin class graduation! Yasher Koach to the students for all their hard work!

The Vav class participated in a yad-making program. Each student designed their own yad out of clay that they can use for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah! The Vav students also prepared a presentation of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah Torah portion to the rest of the class. The students each demonstrated a clear understanding of their parashah. It was an informative and enriching experience for all.

On our last day of Hebrew school, we celebrated our first annual Mitzvah Day by planting a garden at PCS. See below for more on this wonderful event!

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and students who helped make this year such a success!



Ronni Metzger, Elizabeth Feigelson and Deborah Spanierman

### WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO END THE YEAR!

On our last day of Hebrew school, we celebrated our first annual Mitzvah Day by planting a garden at PCS. Students, teachers and parents all participated in beautifying the Synagogue by planting many flats of annual flowers and perennial plants and bushes in and around the building. It was a true community building event that was (and will continue to be) enjoyed by everyone! When the planting was done, we all enjoyed making ice cream sundaes complete with Ben and Jerry's ice cream!





*The Best of Old World  
Elegance, Rural Beauty and  
Modern Amenities*

*Parties of all sizes welcome*

*One affair per day*

*Kosher catering available*



**SALEM GOLF CLUB**

18 Bloomer Road, North Salem NY 10560 914\*669\*5485 [www.salemgolfclub.org](http://www.salemgolfclub.org)



**The Fountainhead**

**FINE DINING  
ATTENTION TO DETAIL  
SUPERIOR SERVICE**

To arrange a visit with our event planner, please contact us at  
914-235-4400  
or by email at  
[info@fountainheadcaterers.com](mailto:info@fountainheadcaterers.com)



**PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

Officers

President: Peter Schaffer

Vice President: Jerry Neuburger

Vice President: April Lasher Sanders

Secretary: Michael Safranek

Treasurer: Oren Cohen

Board of Trustees

Cristina Altieri-Martinez  
[cmartinez@shalomPCS.com](mailto:cmartinez@shalomPCS.com)

Oren Cohen  
[ocohen@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ocohen@shalomPCS.com)

Gary Greenwald  
[ggreenwald@shalompcs.com](mailto:ggreenwald@shalompcs.com)

Amy Gutenplan  
[info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)

Evan Kingsley  
[ekingsley@shalompcs.com](mailto:ekingsley@shalompcs.com)

Richard Levine  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

Lisa Lipkin  
[llipkin@shalomPCS.com](mailto:llipkin@shalomPCS.com)

Leyla Nakisbendi  
[info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)

Karen Neuburger  
[info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)

Jerry Neuburger  
[jneuburger@shalomPCS.com](mailto:jneuburger@shalomPCS.com)

Seth Rutman  
[srutman@shalompcs.com](mailto:srutman@shalompcs.com)

Michael Safranek  
[msafranek@shalomPCS.com](mailto:msafranek@shalomPCS.com)

April Lasher Sanders  
[alasher@shalompcs.com](mailto:alasher@shalompcs.com)

Peter Schaffer  
[pschaffer@shalomPCS.com](mailto:pschaffer@shalomPCS.com)

Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
[lhirschschoultz@shalompcs.com](mailto:lhirschschoultz@shalompcs.com)

Kiersten Zweibaum  
[kzweibaum@shalompcs.com](mailto:kzweibaum@shalompcs.com)

Rabbi Mark Sameth  
[rabbi@shalompcs.com](mailto:rabbi@shalompcs.com)

To contact PCS:

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

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

Ronni Metzger, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; [principal@shalompcs.com](mailto:principal@shalompcs.com)

Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; [Accounts@shalomPCS.com](mailto:Accounts@shalomPCS.com)



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.

Please see the form on the following page 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 5773 is as follows:

- Erev Rosh HaShana Sunday, September 16, 7-9pm - JCC
- Rosh HaShana Day I Monday, September 17, 9am-1:30pm – JCC
- Erev Rosh HaShana II Tuesday, September 18, 8pm
- Rosh HaShana Day II Wednesday, September 19, 9am-1:30pm - JCC
- Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Tuesday, September 25, 6:30-9pm – JCC (no honors)
- Yom Kippur/Yizkor Wednesday, September 26, 9am-1:30pm - JCC
- Yom Kippur Wednesday, September 26, 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  
PO Box 148  
Pleasantville, NY 10570

PCS High Holiday Committee  
Phone: 914-769-2672 Fax: 914-769-1795 Email: mgray@shalompcs.com

# ASK THE RABBI

Last month, on May 6, Rabbi Mark held an “Ask the Rabbi” session with the 6th grade class, Kitah Vov. The class really had Rabbi Mark on his toes that day. Here’s an excerpt:

**Leo Schor (question asked by Isaac Reisman):** Leo asked me to ask this question: Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons?

**Rabbi Mark:** That’s a great question. It’s in the category of questions like: Is God so powerful that God could create a stone too heavy for God to lift? I love these sorts of questions. They make us stretch our thinking. OK, so here’s my answer: The story doesn’t say! But remember, these stories are not literally true. The first man and first woman – and it’s fine to call them Adam and Eve – but the first man and first woman were descended from apes. The story is there to teach us a lesson, not to teach us science. So if God creates the man and woman as one completely equal being (which is what the first story in the Torah tells us) what is the message? The message is that men and women are equal; boys and girls are equal. Still, a great question!

**Tova Teitel Greene:** I read that in the first Torah portion you’re talking about, Bereishit, Eve is not even the first woman. The first woman was named Lilith. Can you talk about that?

**Rabbi Mark:** Yes. If you read the story closely you’ll see that there are two stories of how the woman was created. The first story says that the man and woman were created as one creature, and then presumably divided in two. The rabbis told a story about that, and they called the woman “Lilith.” There’s even a Woman’s Music Festival today called “Lilith” in her honor. The second story tells of a woman being created from Adam’s rib, and that woman is called Eve. But what was God’s original intention in the story? God’s original intention was that men and women should be equal.

**Kyra Schultz:** In the stories of Adam and Eve, other people pop into the scene. Where did they come from?

**Rabbi Mark:** OK, first let’s remember that these are stories meant to teach us ethical messages, not science or history. But having said that, Kyra, the rabbis told stories that each child born in the Torah was born with an opposite gender twin who goes unmentioned in the story. Other rabbis talked about the nephelim, the “giants” who roamed the earth at the time and who became the mates of some of the early humans. Again, these are myths, not history, but they show that the rabbis of 2,000 years ago were asking the same sorts of questions you are today!

**Joseph Zucker:** Did Adam and Eve start off as kids?

**Rabbi Mark:** Once again, these stories are not literally true, but to answer your question, Joseph, the story in the Torah does suggest that they were created as adults, albeit with a childlike naiveté.

**Aydin Mayers:** Were Adam and Eve married?

**Rabbi Mark:** Another great question. Well, they certainly are presented as husband and wife, though there’s nothing in the Torah about their wedding. The rabbis did make up stories about their wedding [see <http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/eve-midrash-and-aggadah>]. Stories that the rabbis make up to try to answer the sorts of questions you’re asking today are called “midrash.”

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



## ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

**Sam Angove Cohen:** Why do different religions have different stories about the Garden of Eden?

**Rabbi Mark:** Well, let's start by saying that the original version of these stories are in the Torah, since Judaism is so much older than Christianity or Islam. If you look in a Christian Bible you'll find the same stories as we have in the Torah, although Christians change the meaning of those stories. If you look in the Koran you'll find a lot of stories from the Torah, but their versions are different than the Torah; the stories are retold with different words. Christianity and Islam both grew up in the same area as, and were influenced by, Judaism. So that's why they both tell stories we know from our Torah.

**Sam Angove Cohen:** Why do the Jewish priests (Kohanim) make this sign with their hands?

**Rabbi Mark:** Does anyone recognize the sign Sam is making? Has anyone here seen Star Trek? *[Many hands go up.]* OK, so the actor Leonard Nimoy who played Mr. Spock on Star Trek came up with the Vulcan sign used on the show. It almost looks like a "V" on each hand. And he would say "Live long and prosper," a Vulcan blessing. But that sign was actually the sign of the ancient Jewish priests, the kohanim. Look at the sign again. When you hold your hands together that way, you are actually making the letter "shin" which stands for a name of God: El Shaddai. Look on any mezuzah and you'll see the letter "shin" there as well.

**Aydin Mayers:** Do the prayers in the siddur change over time? Do some synagogues have different prayers than the ones we have at PCS?

**Rabbi Mark:** Some of the prayers have been in the prayer books for as long as we've had prayer books: the Shema, the Ve'Ahavta, the Amidah. In some prayer books today a lot of the Amidah is said in English, and is said while sitting down, not standing. But still, those are the main prayers, and they are in every siddur. But to answer your question: yes, the prayers do change over time. New prayers are always being written, and there are some prayers we don't say anymore. There will be differences from one synagogue to another. But the main prayers are all the same.

**Tova Teitel Greene:** Why is the bimah [stage] in the middle of the sanctuary in an Orthodox synagogue? Is that because it symbolizes the Circle of Life?

**Rabbi Mark:** I love it! But no – it's for acoustics! The earliest synagogues were built as amphitheatres. Have you studied Greek and Roman amphitheatres? The rabbi and cantor would stand at the bottom, and the seats would rise up so the sound would carry. The Orthodox placement of the bimah in the center may have come from that early configuration.

**Joseph Zucker:** When you die do you meet the spirit of God? I believe that when we die we meet the spirits of our loved ones, and that we then come back to earth in different bodies. I believe that my sister – who was born after my grandfather died – I believe that she is my grandfather reincarnated.

**Rabbi Mark:** No one of course knows for sure. But there are rabbis who have believed everything you're saying. They taught that when we die we go to a place called "Ha'olam Ha'ba" which means "the world to come" and that we do indeed encounter God's spirit. The place where all the spirits of our ancestors reside is called the "Otzar Nefesh" – the "Soul Treasury." And the rabbis had a term for reincarnation, too. They called it "Gilgul ha'Nefesh" – the "Recycling of the Souls." Again, I don't think anyone knows for sure, and you can be a good Jew without believing any of this. I'm interested in this, but I'm also interested in trying to meet God's spirit in every person I encounter here in life.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

**Aydin Mayers:** Why do we read the Torah every year? And where did that tradition start?

**Rabbi Mark:** Well, the tradition began in Israel. Originally we would take seven years to read the Torah, and then we would start all over again. The tradition changed (yes, traditions change!) where now we read it through once a year. Why do we keep reading the same Torah? Well, my answer would be that every year we see new things in it. For real! Every year I see something in the Torah I would swear wasn't there the year before! Of course it was, but I didn't notice it; it wasn't important to me then. So that's the "magic" of the Torah. You can read it your whole life and every year you learn something new. The rabbi known as Ben Bag Bag said in the Talmud: Turn it, and turn it again; for everything is in it!

**William Clark:** When did the tradition of the tallit begin?

**Rabbi Mark:** Well, in the Torah it says that we're supposed to put fringes on any four-corner garment. Four-cornered garments were expensive, so the tradition was to take a piece of cloth with four corners, to tie fringes to it, and then you could wear it anytime. It goes with anything!

**Hana Rossi:** And why do we wear a tallit?

**Rabbi Mark:** Well, we wear a tallit because the fringes (tzitzit) are supposed to remind us of the commandments ("mitzvot") and in that way we're reminded to do good deeds whenever we can.

**Isaac Reisman:** Why do we wear kippot? And why don't both boys and girls wear them?

**Rabbi Mark:** Men wear kippot because the tradition in the Middle East was to cover one's head as a sign of respect (just as taking one's hat off in the West is considered a sign of respect). Women were also expected to cover their heads, and in many synagogues today you'll see "doilies" for women to cover their hair, or they will wear hats. It's true that it became a custom for girls and women not to do this anymore, but many girls and women do. Look at Cantor Kopstein – she is wearing a kippah. I think it's a great custom for everyone.

**Norman Simon:** Why is the place Jews pray called a Temple?

**Rabbi Mark:** Another great question. There are many words for the place we pray. "Synagogue" comes from the Greek word for gathering place. "Shul" comes from the Yiddish for "school" (we study here as much as we pray). Temple used to refer only to the Temple in Jerusalem which was destroyed in the year 70. But it began to be used, mostly by the Reform I believe, to refer to any synagogue or shul.

**Max Coleman:** Why are temples built like churches?

**Rabbi Mark:** All of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim worship spaces started in the Middle East, so they all have the same roots. But there's very little you need to make a space a synagogue. It needs a bimah (stage) a ner tamid (eternal light) and an aron (an ark for the Torah scrolls). So in Italy, a lot of the synagogues looked like Italian churches. In China they looked almost exactly like Buddhist temples. Our PCS sanctuary was built in 1848, and it actually was a church for many years. When we bought the building in the 1990's, we changed it to make it into a synagogue, but the building itself didn't have to be changed. It's a beauty!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

**Isaac Reisman:** How are Judaism and Christianity alike? How are they different?

**Rabbi Mark:** Well, first of all we believe many things the same. We believe in God, we believe in being a good person, we believe in being kind. All of those things we believe in common. What do we believe differently? Well, Christians believe that God came to earth as a man. Jews don't believe that that happened, or that it could happen; that God would come to earth as a man and not a woman, as white but not black or Asian. And we don't believe that God would want God's own child to be killed. Those are some very big differences. But again, we respect Christianity, and we believe that we have a lot of important things in common.

**Tova Teitel Greene:** It would go against what it said in Bereishit.

**Rabbi Mark:** How do you mean?

**Tova Teitel Greene:** Well, about making the human being in God's own image.

**Rabbi Mark:** That is such an important line in the Torah. It says that God created the human being in God's own image – and now listen to the Hebrew - zachar u'nekeva, male and female! God is male and female. So Tova's brought us right back to where we began today!



## CAMP NA'ALEH

⇨ **The perfect camp for PCS families!** ⇩

Sports - Swimming - Arts & Crafts - Trips -Tikkun Olam -  
Israel Education -Conversational Hebrew - Shabbat -  
Kibbutz Values - Leadership Training

Now enrolling campers ages 8-16 (currently in grades 3-9)  
Half summer and full summer (7 weeks) programs  
Plus shorter session options for first time campers




**PCS Families receive \$100 if you mention this ad!**  
**First time camper incentives & scholarships are available**


For more information contact:  
Adam Benmoise, Executive Director  
adam@naaleh.org or 212-229-2700  
www.naaleh.org

Redefining the Country Club Experience.


- limited memberships
- banquets
- private parties
- bar/bat mitzvahs
- weddings



**BRYNWOOD**  
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



WWW.BRYNWOODCLUB.COM  
914.273.9300 | ARMONK, NY



## 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](http://www.evemarieelkin.com)  
[eevelkin@yahoo.com](mailto:eevelkin@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](mailto:inspanish@optonline.net)



## New Star Nutritional Consulting



**Judith Chinitz,  
MS, MS, CNC  
Certified Nutritional Consultant  
NYS Certified, Special Education**



Specializing in Nutritional Treatment for Chronic Immune Diseases:  
Autism, ADHD and other developmental disorders,  
Allergy, Celiac, Colitis, Crohn's, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and more...

*Please visit my website for details and testimonials*

Phone/Fax: 914-244-3646 [judyhope@optonline.net](mailto:judyhope@optonline.net)  
[www.newstarnutrition.com](http://www.newstarnutrition.com)

**THE  
WHELAN  
GROUP**

**STRATEGIC  
ADVISORS FOR  
NON-PROFITS**

**PLANNING,  
FUND RAISING  
BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

**Evan Kingsley  
Vice President and  
Senior Consultant**

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

**[www.whelanguroup.com](http://www.whelanguroup.com)**





# B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECTS

## Daniel Bring

A mitzvah is a Hebrew word for a good deed. My mitzvah is to gather donations for the special needs orphans at the Sunshine Academy Vocational School in the Peoples' Republic of China in Shenzhen, Guandong Province. I selected this project because of my cousin, Iona Wei, who was adopted from China in 2011. I wanted to try my best to make a difference in Chinese orphaned children's lives too. When my mom met a teacher from the Sunshine Academy while working for IBM in China, we knew we had found our project. I first collected donations from my Middle School at Masters in time for my family's travel to China over spring break. We gave the gifts to the orphans and had a great time at the playground with them. The pictures show the orphans and our time together. We said our goodbyes, but I am continuing to collect items for 2-6 year olds, as well as monetary donations at my Bar Mitzvah. The Sunshine Academy School would like to be able to purchase room dividers to use in their room to set up classrooms for the children. We plan to see the kids again this summer during my mom's next business trip in July and I will have even more time to play and help them then! If you would like to contribute to my project, please send contributions to 12 Prickly Pear Hill, Croton on Hudson, New York, 10520. I will let everyone at PCS know how it goes this summer.



## Lee Greenwald

For my community service project, I went back to the preschool I went to when I was a kid, Virginia Marx Children's Center. While I was there, I played games with the kids such as blocks and Legos and we also did finger paintings, which the kids really enjoyed. This experience allowed me to re-connect with the teachers that I knew when I was little, and it was also a great way to get kids involved in learning but in a fun way. Volunteering lets you get involved in your community and it was a pleasant surprise to see my old teachers and how they remembered me from way back when. I would enjoy going back to Virginia Marx Children's Center because it is fun to help out younger kids and to see people you know from when you were little.



## Mark Your Calendar Now – Exciting Council Events To Come:

Annual Celebration of Jewish History and Heritage Month  
Monday, September 10, 6:00 PM  
Held at the Westchester County Office Building  
Come and Meet Your Legislatures

Night of Jewish Music and Joy with the Cantors of Westchester  
Saturday, November 17, 7:00 PM  
Held at Temple Israel Center, White Plains

37th Annual Gala honoring President Ronald E. Burton  
With the entertainment of Israeli singer/song writer, David Broza  
Saturday, February 9  
Held at Beth El Synagogue Center, New Rochelle

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for more exciting things to do in Jewish Westchester?  
Check out our web-site [www.wjcouncil.org](http://www.wjcouncil.org) and click on calendar  
to view what's happening seven days a week!

For more information call the Westchester Jewish Council (914) 328-7001  
[info@wjcouncil.org](mailto:info@wjcouncil.org) visit us at [www.wjcouncil.org](http://www.wjcouncil.org)  
(Formerly the Westchester Jewish Conference)  
A proud beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York

# JUNE 2012 YAHR ZEITS

---

Stanley Bring, father of Mitchell Bring	June 1
Stanley Wallace, father of Joseph Wallace	June 7
Emanuel Teitel, father of Merrie Teitel-Greene	June 11
Meyer Spector, uncle of Malcolm Netburn	June 19
Rose Netburn, mother of Malcolm Netburn	June 19
Anna Fuchs, mother of Audrey Lenoff	June 21
Ettie Greenberg, mother of Cora Greenberg	June 22
Alvin Sigal, father of Melanie Gordin	June 30



**To All PCS Members:**

**If you or another member suffer personal tragedy or loss or are otherwise in need of help, please immediately call Rabbi Mark at 769-2672, and Michael Gold at 238-9219.**

---

## **NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADS!**

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

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

**\* Deadlines:**

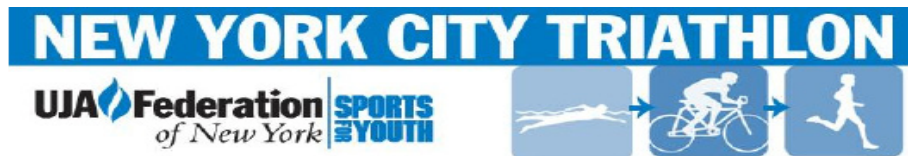
Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to Judy Chinitz at judyhope@optonline.net or cristina@lightbodymusic.com.

**\* Ad Specifications:**

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

**\* Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin published in July and August) is \$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.



## Missed the lottery? Didn't get picked?

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

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

Sunday, July 8, 2012

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

## Sign up for the New York City Triathlon!!!



### PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

#### Adult Education

David Felder  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

Emma Reisman  
[info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)

**B'nei Mitzvah**  
 Eileen Jagoda  
[ejagoda@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ejagoda@shalomPCS.com)

**Building Committee**  
 Richard Levine  
[rlevine@shalomPCS.com](mailto:rlevine@shalomPCS.com)

#### Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

#### Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez  
[cmartinez@shalomPCS.com](mailto:cmartinez@shalomPCS.com)

#### Spiritual Life

Michael Safranek  
[msafranek@shalomPCS.com](mailto:msafranek@shalomPCS.com)

#### Finance

Oren Cohen  
[ocohen@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ocohen@shalomPCS.com)

#### Fundraising

Kenneth Furst  
[kfurst@shalomPCS.com](mailto:kfurst@shalomPCS.com)

#### High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger  
[jneuburger@shalomPCS.com](mailto:jneuburger@shalomPCS.com)

#### Human Resources

Lisa Lipkin  
[llipkin@shalomPCS.com](mailto:llipkin@shalomPCS.com)

#### Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
[lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com](mailto:lhirschschulz@shalomPCS.com)

#### Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi  
[Leyla@shalomPCS.com](mailto:Leyla@shalomPCS.com)

#### Israel Action Committee

Ofri Felder  
[ofelder@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ofelder@shalomPCS.com)

Seth Rutman  
[srutman@shalomPCS.com](mailto:srutman@shalomPCS.com)

#### Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold  
[mgold@shalomPCS.com](mailto:mgold@shalomPCS.com)

#### Youth Committee

Evan Kingsley  
[ekingsley@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ekingsley@shalomPCS.com)



## EAST MEETS WEST FLOWERS

*provides personalized floral design services*

*whether for business or pleasure, add a touch of luxury with a distinctive Asian Fusion custom floral arrangement*

JAN L. GORDON  
EAST MEETS WEST FLOWERS  
PLEASANTVILLE, NY

914 769 1151

EASTWESTFLOWERS@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.EASTMEETSWESTFLOWERS.COM



## Mayers & Nakisbendi Dental Associates

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

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

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

## Okinawa Goju Ryu Karate

Original, traditional karate in the heart of  
Pleasantville

72 Memorial Plaza  
(Behind the Post Office)

2 Free Classes or  
2 Months for \$100 and a Free Gi

Visit Us Today

Kokoro Dojo  
teaches Okinawa  
Goju Ryu (or hard  
and soft style) ...

their



... introduces a true  
karate experience  
to beginners and  
helps advanced  
students to refine  
technique.

Kids      Teens      Adults

Contact us: Chuck Nuccio sensei      914-497-2903  
Or email: [gojuryu@kotorokenkyukai.com](mailto:gojuryu@kotorokenkyukai.com)

## 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**

WENDY AND STEVE CROCITTO, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR SON, DOUGLAS, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH.

LISA AND STEVE APKON, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR DAUGHTER, MAAYAN, BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH.

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

BETH AND ROBERT MANNERS IN HONOR OF RABBI MARK, GALIT SPERLING AND MICHAEL SAFRANEK FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WITH SARAH'S BAT MITZVAH.

### **PCS MITZVAH DAY**

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED THEIR TIME, MONEY, ENERGY AND GREEN THUMBS TO HELP PLANT THE NEW FLOWER GARDEN AT PCS!

### **UNDER ONE ROOF**

THANKS TO THE MULTIPLE DONORS

### **GENERAL FUND**

GILDA AND MARC BORENSTEIN, IN MEMORY OF MARC'S MOTHER, EMILY BORENSTEIN.

TERRI AND JOE SACHS, IN APPRECIATION OF THE OPEN HOUSE SHABBAT AND FOR THE READINGS DURING THE SHABBAT SERVICE.

HEATHER AND JAMES SABATIER

SUSAN AND LENNY GERSTEN

TOBY LAMARCHE DEUTCHMAN, IN THANKS FOR RABBI MARK'S MEDITATION SESSIONS.

JAN AND BERNARD GORDON, IN HONOR OF MICHAEL GOLD AND THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

AUDREY LENOFF, IN HONOR OF MICHAEL GOLD AND THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

---

## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

---

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June. Articles and photos should be submitted by the 24th of the month. They can be e-mailed to Judith Chinitz, Editor, at [judyhope@optonline.net](mailto:judyhope@optonline.net) or dropped off at the newsletter box in the Synagogue office.

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

phone (914) 769 - 2672

fax (914) 769 - 1795

# FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

---

## General Fund

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

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

## Building Fund

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

## Hebrew School Emergency Scholarship Fund

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

## Kiddush Fund

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

## Special Fund: Ed Sperling

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

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

Send acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/  
memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me an acknowledgement of this gift.

Yes

No

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

# SIVAN - TAMMUZ 5772

## June 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Shavuot I Services for Shavuot, 9-11:30 am	<b>28</b> Shavuot II Services for Shavuot, including Yizkor service, 9-11:30 am  No Yoga Class  9:31pm-9:32pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Children's Service PCS House Band Birthday blessings  8:04pm-8:22pm - Candle lighting	<b>2</b> Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Nasso Bar Mitzvah - Lee Greenwald  9:34pm-9:35pm - ...
<b>3</b>  Executive meeting, 7:30 pm	<b>4</b>  Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  8:08pm-8:26pm - Candle lighting	<b>9</b> Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Special Congregational Kiddush after services at Chang/Freiheit home Parashat Beh'alotcha  9:39pm-9:40pm - ...
<b>10</b> PCS Congregational Meeting, 7 pm	<b>11</b>  Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  PCS Board meeting, 7:30 pm	<b>15</b> Children's Service  8:12pm-8:30pm - Candle lighting	<b>16</b> Morning Meditation 9 am; Shabbat service 9:30 am Bat Mitzvah - Maayan Apkon Parashat Sh'lach (Jewish Holidays)  9:42pm-9:43pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Rosh Chodesh Tamuz	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Children's Service	<b>23</b> Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Korach Bar Mitzvah - Daniel Bring  9:44pm-9:45pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...
<b>24</b> Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parent Group at PCS - 7pm *	<b>25</b>  Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Birthday blessings  8:14pm-8:32pm - Candle lighting	<b>30</b> Morning Meditation 9 am; Shabbat service 9:30 am Bar Mitzvah - Max Koved Parashat Chukat  9:44pm-9:45pm - Havdalah (72 min)

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](http://www.ShalomPCS.com). Future months are also on the website.





Shabbat at the Western Wall is just the start!

Join us for UJA-Federation of New York's

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

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

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

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

For further information or to register, please contact Cindy Cutler at 1.212.836.1140 or [cutlerc@ujafedny.org](mailto:cutlerc@ujafedny.org).

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

130 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022 | 1-866-UJA-FED1 | [www.ujafedny.org](http://www.ujafedny.org)

**BE A PART OF HISTORY...**  
**BE A PART OF THE ISRAEL DAY PARADE**  
**JUNE 3, 2012**



**Join Pleasantville Community Synagogue and other Westchester groups to be part of the “Westchester Cluster” marching down Fifth Avenue!**

**For more information or to order a special parade T-shirt, contact Israel Action Committee co-chair, Seth Rutman at [seth.rutman@ubs.com](mailto:seth.rutman@ubs.com).**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

*June 3, Sunday - Israel Day Parade*

*June 9: Special Congregational Kiddush after Services at the Chang/  
Freiheits*

*June 10, 7 pm: Congregational Meeting*

*September 8, Saturday – Selichot with Rabbi Mark, at PCS, 10 pm*

*September 16, Sunday – Erev Rosh Hashana*

*September 17 and 18, Monday and Tuesday – Rosh Hashana*

*September 19, Monday – Tashlich with Malcolm Netburn, at Nannahagan Park, 2 pm*

*September 25, Tuesday – Kol Nidre*

*September 26, Wednesday – Yom Kippur*

