



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS

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What are you doing from 10 pm until midnight, Tuesday night June 3? I know it sounds crazy, but here's the invitation:

Think about joining your fellow PCS members (and interested non-members) at the synagogue for a late-night study of Jewish mystical texts (all in English) over cheesecake and other dairy desserts. I have to say that every year I'm surprised by how many people actually turn out for this! And yet there's something inherently compelling about being in a room with other adults in the still of the night; learning something new; and hearing the commentaries, interpretations, and voices of our friends and neighbors. So I hope you'll join us.

The occasion? It's the traditional late-night study which takes place every year before the holiday of Shavuot (but you don't have to be traditional, studious - or even Jewish - to participate and to enjoy). It's called a "tikkun" (which means "repair") and there is indeed something reparative about it. I guarantee - and I don't make this claim lightly - that you'll be happy you came. Given the alternatives - padding around the house, raiding the refrigerator, scrolling through your list of recorded programs - this one offers something really different.

We'll provide the coffee and a "starter" cheesecake, but feel free to bring your own cheesecake or other dairy dessert as well. (I've done the research, and while there are many stories which attempt to explain this, no one can say definitively why we eat cheesecake on Shavuot. Does it matter? It's delicious!)

Please note that our Shavuot services are Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:00 am. In deference to those with obligations those mornings we conclude both days by 10:00. And please note that the Thursday service includes Yizkor, the Memorial service.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This month my two-year term as President of the PCS Board of Trustees expires. Working with all of you on behalf of the community that we love has been a wonderful privilege and honor. I thank all of you for it from the bottom of my heart.

It has truly been a joy and labor of love to share a vision with so many others at PCS, to be an inclusive house of peace, faith, prayer, study, kindness and social awareness, in concert with our sense of Jewish history and heritage.

One of Judaism's greatest strengths is that with our ever-more-transient and pressurized lives, it is very comforting and reassuring to have at least one aspect of our lives that is stable, continuous and unchanging, no matter what else transpires.

We may be a small community, however, we have never been short of multi-talented and extraordinarily dedicated individuals.

In particular, our unique and immensely talented Rabbi Mark, who in 2013 was deservedly selected by 'The Jewish Daily Forward' as one of "America's 36 Most Inspiring Rabbis."

Our incredibly dedicated and devoted Synagogue Director, Marcy Gray, who has given entirely new definition to the term multi tasking, as well as possessing a remarkable ability to work under pressure with grace and a sense of humor.

We join Marcy in mourning the loss of her wonderful, learned and mensch of a husband, Itzik Mintz..

Our dynamic Hebrew School Principal, Galit Sperling, whose vision, transparent passion and knowledge will lead our future educational growth. Our synagogue, community and most importantly, our children and their families have been the beneficiaries of her talents.

Finally, to our wonderfully dedicated and devoted Board of Trustees and Officers, as well as all of PCS' Committee Chairs, members and the entire PCS community. It has been my aliyah to work with all of you. Thank you so much for everything.

Enjoy a healthy, safe and good summer!

– Jerry Neuburger



Thank You



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Galit Sperling, Hebrew School Principal

Our last month of Hebrew School at PCS for this year was jam-packed with fun events and celebration. On May 4th, students celebrated Israel's 66th birthday with Israeli dancing, a drum circle, Israeli trivia, and falafel making – and eating! Thank you to Ofri Felder, Seth Rutman, and the Israel Action Committee for coordinating such a special program. (See photos on the following pages.)

On May 18th, we had a special guest speaker, a colleague of teacher Hannah Greene's, who gave us a unique perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In opening the debate and discussing this complicated issue with our fifth and sixth graders, we hope to help our students feel prepared to intelligently discuss Israel's history, the modern-day situation, and in what ways they may be able to take steps toward a peaceful, long-term solution.

We finished out the year with the completion of our studies, assessments, and an ice cream party and musical celebration! As is tradition, Grandpa Mikee Greene visited with our youngest students on their last day, teaching them the importance of charitable giving (through his book "Tzedakah and the Precious Pushke"), dancing, and visiting Israel! As Grandpa Mikee says, it is never too early to start thinking about your trip to this special place.

Mazal Tov to our 7th grade B'nei Mitzvah class upon their graduation from the PCS Hebrew School! This group of students has been a thoughtful, confident class of adolescents, now Jewish adults. Congratulations to Lily, Jodi, Jacob, Isaac, Jenna, Juliet, Hannah, Michelle, and Rosa on the completion of this first stage of their Jewish learning! We look forward to their continued involvement with the Hebrew School, through mentorship, BBYO participation, and teen leadership in their communities.

Thank you to our fabulous teen assistants at Hebrew School this year, for giving of their time every week to help our students learn, grow, and achieve: Eliana Johnston, Margot Silberblatt, Katie Ng Ross, and Michelle Siegel. We hope to continue and to enhance our teen mentorship (Madrachim) program next year; please reach out for more information.

I am looking forward to my upcoming second year as Principal at PCS. Send in your registrations now for the 2014-2015 calendar year! Plans for next year are already in the works. I am grateful to all of the terrific parents of our students who help our Hebrew School improve each and every year.

Finally, thank you to our wonderful teaching staff for their passion, knowledge, and dedication to making this year such a success at PCS: Jaime and Jennifer Chervin, Tamar Drucker, Jamie Cotel, Karen Stamatis, Lisa Lipkin, Hannah Greene, and our Rabbi Mark Sameth.

Have a wonderful summer!

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Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

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

Grandpa Mikee and the Alef/Bet class



Yom Ha'Atzmaut



HEBREW SCHOOL , CONTINUED



Israeli Dancing at Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration



CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE

HEBREW SCHOOL , CONTINUED



Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Joyful Judaism

An exciting evening of lecture and discussion at PCS

Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 pm

with **Dr. Sarah Tauber**

Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary

*on the controversial and heart-breaking book by renowned
Israeli journalist, Ari Shavit:*

“My Promised Land”



Dr. Tauber's past lecture series, "Visions of Modern Israel" and "Battle Lines: Great Schisms in Jewish History" have garnered her an enthusiastic following. We invite the PCS community and anyone interested to join us for this not-to-be-missed lecture and discussion.

Click [here](#) for the New York Times review.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570
Contact: Marcy Gray at mgray@shalompcs.com or call PCS at 769-2672.

*Sponsored by the PCS Adult Education and Israel Action Committees.
Light refreshments will be served.*

Israeli Film Festival: The Gatekeepers

The last film in PCS' Israel Documentary Film series was screened on Wednesday, May 21.

The Gatekeepers, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary, and winner of numerous international awards, is at once disturbing and affirming because it raises questions about current Israeli politics.

The discussion following the film, moderated by PCS member David Felder, was enlightening and it gave a forum for each attendee to present her/his point of view.

We thank the Israel Action Committee and co-chair Ofri Felder for a wonderful program and look forward to next year's film festival.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Can You Do a Mitzvah?

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

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To contact PCS:

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Galit Sperling, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; principal@shalompcs.com
Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; Accounts@shalomPCS.com

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JUNE 2014 YAHRZEITS

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Hyman Wolotsky, Father of Gene Wolotsky	June 2
Henry Herman, Father of Diana Benattar	June 3
Jack Saal, Father of Audrey Wolotsky	June 5
Chaim Benattar, Father of David Benattar	June 5
Sharis Rosenshine, Mother of Ben Rosenshine	June 7
Julius Berzin, Father of Jodie Rossi	June 7
Anne Sacks, Mother of Jeffrey Sacks	June 7
Sylvia LePatner, Mother of Gilda Borenstein	June 13
Emanuel Teitel, Father of Merrie Teitel-Greene	June 19
Mary Echevarria, Grandmother of Rob Marra	June 19
Meyer Spector, Uncle of Malcolm Netburn	June 27
Rose Netburn, Mother of Malcolm Netburn	June 27
Anna Fuchs, Mother of Audrey Lenoff	June 29
Ettie Greenberg, Mother of Cora Greenberg	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 \$125 for 1/4 page. Note: Checks preferred. Can be mailed to Pleasantville Community Synagogue, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 with "newsletter ad" in the memo section. To pay by credit card, please call the synagogue office at 914-769-2672.

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PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Adult Education

Barbara Doctor
bdoctor670@gmail.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling
edsperling@gmail.com

Building Committee

Richard Levine
rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

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Communications

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Spiritual Life

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Membership Engagement

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Membership Outreach

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ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth Committee

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.com

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

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AUDREY LARKIN, IN MEMORY OF HER BELOVED FATHER,
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THANK YOU TO THE FAMILIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE
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DONNA AND ANDREW ZIZMOR, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION
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THEIR DAUGHTER, JENNA, BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

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

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

phone (914) 769 - 2672

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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.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

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.

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 contact the office for appropriate form.

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

June 2014 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 PCS Board meeting	2 7:15pm Yoga class	3 Erev Shavuot Study with Rabbi Mark at PCS, 10 pm to midnight. Festival of Weeks; commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai Candle lighting 8:04 pm	4 Shavuot I Service at PCS, 8 am Festival of Weeks	5 Shavuot II Service at PCS, 8 am. Includes Yizkor (memorial) service. 9:36 pm Havdalah	6 Children's service Candle lighting 8:06 pm	7 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Beha'alotcha 9:37 pm Havdalah
8 4:00pm Congregational meeting	9 7:15pm Yoga class	10	11 7:30pm Sarah Tauber lecture on "My Promised Land"	12	13 Candle lighting 8:10 pm	14 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Rosa Hahn, 9:30 am Parashat Sh'lach 9:41 pm Havdalah
15	16 7:15pm Yoga class	17	18	19	20 Candle lighting 8:13 pm	21 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Korach 9:43 pm Havdalah
22 Pre- and post-adoption group, 6 pm, at PCS. schwarzruffm@jccany.org.	23 7:15pm Yoga class	24	25	26	27 Children's service Candle lighting 8:14 pm	28 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Parashat Chukat 9:44 pm Havdalah
29	30 7:15pm Yoga class	1	2	3	4 Candle lighting 8:13 pm	5 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Balak 9:43 pm Havdalah

Note: Times and dates of events may change after the newsletter has come out. To get the latest information on any possible changes, please check the calendar on our website: www.ShalomPCS.com. Future months are also on the website.



SAVE THE DATES:



Tuesday, June 3: Late night “Tikkun Leil Shavuot” study at the synagogue, 10 pm until Midnight

Wednesday, June 4: Shavuot service, 8 am to 10 am

Thursday, June 5: Shavuot service 8 am to 10 am, includes Yizkor (the Memorial service)

Sunday, June 8: Congregational meeting, 4 pm

Wednesday, June 11: Sarah Tauber lecture on “The Promised Land”, 7:30 pm