



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: ISRAEL ON OUR MINDS

By Mark Sameth

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Perhaps you saw the article in *The New York Times*, "Church Appeal on Israel Angers Jewish Groups" (October 20, 2012). It told of an initiative of 15 Christian denominations to persuade Congress to reconsider giving aid to Israel because of accusations of human rights violations.

Jewish groups – including some of the most liberal/progressive groups in the country – reacted with dismay, even outrage. A letter was written to the church leaders. The national rabbinic group to which I belong – the CCAR – was amongst the signers of that letter. I'm glad the letter by the Jewish leaders was written.

As an ohev yisrael (a lover of Israel), I have never been shy about criticizing Israel when I felt criticism was warranted. I'm happy to know that my Israeli brothers and sisters enjoy the same right of free speech as we Americans do. Indeed, a glance at any day's newspapers in Israel will reveal a spirited, on-going, and

very open debate. The strength of a democracy is the ability to speak and disagree openly. And Israel – like America - is nothing if not strong in that regard.

But the double standard being applied to Israel by the church leaders is worse than merely an affront to "balance." "Where's the letter to Congress about Syria, which is massacring its own people?" said Rabbi Steven Wernick, the chief executive of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. "When Israel is the only one that is called to account, that's when it becomes problematic."

You can find *The New York Times* article on-line easily. Just search for "Church Appeal on Israel Angers Jewish Groups." Take a look as well at the letter by the Jewish leaders. It appears on the JCPA website. Search for "Jewish Groups Pull Plug on Longstanding Dialogue with Churches." Please let me know what you think about this by dropping me an e-mail or by giving me a call.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

(King Solomon)

Still lamenting the end of summer, a season associated with long sunny days, swimming, barbecues and the absence of academic structure, it's hard to escape the magnificence of the Fall foliage.

The sun glazed leaves in vibrant shades of orange, yellow and red, enhanced by the bright blue sky and remaining greenery, remind us to take a step back and savor the moment.

Yes, the season is changing, and while change brings with it a departure from the rituals to which we have grown accustomed, so too does it pave the way for new opportunities and experiences. It's all a matter of perspective.

The end of the summer brought with it the High Holidays, a time within the Jewish community

when we refresh and renew, and what better way to do so than with our eyes wide open and embracing the sheer simplicity of a moment, taking in its peace and beauty.

In doing so we are enabling ourselves to reserve our resources for those times that require more of us.

Rather than harboring the notion that the splendor of the Fall can lead to a cold harsh winter with lots of storms, canceled plans and high oil bills, I have started to remind myself that seizing the best of the day will ultimately make each day, week and season more rewarding.

In this vein, I will attempt to make peace with winter, and view it as a time of holiday joy and spirit, celebrating Chanukah and New Year's, and partaking with friends that enjoy other winter holidays.

I will open my eyes to a fresh snowfall, the scent that one's fireplace emits in the crisp

outdoors and the roaring glow of the actual flames. While accepting winter and the change that it brings, I hope to not waste any time anticipating the negative, but rather focusing on the positive.

In the spirit of positive thinking, I am reminded that winter fades away and we will enjoy renewed beauty with all that blossoms in the Spring. Once again, longer more temperate days, and for me, one step closer to my favorite season.

So yes, to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. And yes, change can be very good for us if we are willing to accept it gracefully, looking forward to the challenge with a positive attitude. So I hope you will join me (no matter your seasonal preferences) in welcoming the seasons and new experiences.

— Jerry Neuburger



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

Ronni Metzger, Principal

Here at PCS Hebrew School we are blessed with a wonderful and talented faculty. Some of you may know some of our teachers, but I thought you would like to know a little bit about all of our educators. (Our web site is currently being updated with more complete bios, if you are interested in learning more about them!) PCS has been very fortunate that several of our teachers have been a core part of our staff for several years.

Jennifer Chervin has been a Hebrew School teacher for 14 years. Her yeshiva background along, with her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education, have provided her with excellent training and skills. She has taught every grade from Aleph to Zayin. She spends her weekdays teaching 3-year-olds in a preschool setting in Croton. She is teaching Gimmel and Dalet class this year.

Karen Stamatis has been a pillar here at PCS. She has also worked in many synagogues throughout Westchester. Her extensive background and education in Art and Hebrew, pervades her teaching style. She uses an interactive approach by teaching the calligraphy script of the Torah, and other hands on projects, that inspire the students to take pride in their Jewish heritage. She teaches the Hey and Vav classes.

Tamar Drucker was born and educated in Israel. She is an accomplished quilter and artist. She has been working as a teacher for the last 24 years. She loves to work with kids, incorporating Hebrew teaching with art. When you look at the creative decorations in her classroom, and the art activities she does with her students, you can see her inventive style at work. She teaches the Gimmel classes.

We are so happy to have Anne Cahill back as part of the PCS staff. She has been involved in teaching for over 25 years in different synagogues throughout Westchester County. Anne was also the USY/Kadima Youth Group Director for another congregation for over ten years. Using her extensive background working with children, Anne is able to engage her students by incorporating games and group activities as part of her curriculum for the Hey and Vav classes.

We have a few new additions to our faculty.

Most of you know Lisa Lipkin as a past board member of PCS, and former co-vice president, who also sang at the High Holiday services. Lisa is a voice teacher, a singer-songwriter, a Jewish music composer and Cantorial soloist. Lisa has livened up our music program this year as our music teacher, teaching the students classic Jewish tunes, niggunim, and some beautiful melodies that she has written. We are so fortunate that Lisa has joined our staff.

We welcome Hannah Greene, a recent graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and a long-time member of Pleasantville Community Synagogue to the PCS staff. She has led family Havdalah mitzvah projects and taught adult education classes at PCS. Hannah will be teaching a unit on Jewish mystical tradition and b'zelem Eloheem, to the Zayin class for the first semester.

I am also happy to introduce Jaime Chervin, who was an aide in many of the classrooms last year and is teaching the Bet class this year. It is her first year teaching Hebrew School in PCS. She works with 4-year-olds in a nursery school during the day and attends Pace University for a Master's degree in education in the evenings. Her kind and gentle nature creates a warm and nurturing environment for our young students.

Another wonderful addition to our staff is Adam Zagoria-Moffet. He is a second-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His focus is on Kabbalah, and particularly on Kabbalistic exegesis of the Tanakh. He has taught in other congregations and will also be teaching at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City. Adam will be teaching the Zayin class the second semester.

We are currently planning a back to school night, so you can come and meet the teachers in person!

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

Wish you felt more comfortable at services?

Planning for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah but feeling a bit lost?



Join us Saturday morning, November 3 at 9:30 am for our first ever

G.P.S. ("Guide for the Perplexed" Service)

At this fun, easy, relaxed service, Rabbi Mark will explain step by step the form and the meaning behind the Saturday morning (Shabbat) Jewish service. The service will even include a question/answer period, and you will leave with a new appreciation for *and* comfort with the service.

Jews, non-Jews, folks married to Jews, and those thinking about Judaism as a possible spiritual path are all welcome and warmly invited. Bring your friends - and your questions!

Intermarried?

Come to our first ever PCS “Interfaith Forum”

Sunday, November 18, 11:30 am to 1 pm.

How are Jewish communities welcoming non-Jews?
What supports are in place for non-Jewish spouses who are
helping raise Jewish children?

Come ask your questions and share your experiences!



You've read about us in the [New York Times](#).
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Founded 20 years ago by award-winning author and journalist John Wallach, SEEDS OF PEACE is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization whose mission is to inspire and equip new generations of leaders from regions of conflict with the relationships, understanding and skills necessary to advance reconciliation and lasting peace: WWW.SEEDSOFPEACE.ORG

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Begins: October 18 th	Begins: October 10 th	Begins: October 25 th	Begins: October 18 th	Begins: October 18 th

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Jennie Etkin, Grandmother of Rhea Wolfthal	November 8
Glenda Salyman, Mother of Susan Raab	November 9
Sidney Cohen, Father of Oren Cohen	November 10
Mathilde Dick, Mother of Gertrude Cohen	November 14
Josef Dick, Father of Gertrude Cohen	November 14
Sidney Neuburger, Father of Jeffrey Neuburger	November 14
Ruth Wolotsky, Mother of Gene Wolotsky	November 17
Walter Arenwald, Father of Elaine Barella	November 17
Rudy Sichel, Father of Helen Silberblatt	November 18
Jill Schehr, Wife of Jeffrey Sacks, Mother of Alexandra and Liza Sacks	November 19
Martin Rosen, Brother of Estelle Rosen-Kersh	November 20
Samuel Yamuder, Father of Robert Yamuder	November 20
Sidney Lasher, Father of April Lasher Sanders	November 22
Edythe Blum, Mother of Pamela Blum	November 23
Samuel Tessler, Uncle of Rhea Wolfthal	November 24
Jerome Lenoff, Husband of Audrey Lenoff	November 25
James Strauch, Father of Helen Harrison	November 25
Arthur Jackson, Father of Sharon Friedman	November 27
Howard Needleman, Father of Karen La Porta Tina Gambino, Daughter of Janice and Tony Gambino, Sister of Isabelle Gambino	November 28
Ellie Baumwald, Mother of Nancy Krakaur	November 28
	November 29



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.



A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND JOY
Saturday, November 17th @ 7:30 p.m.
Temple Israel Center of White Plains

- Enjoy the talented Cantors of Kol Hazzanim as they share their rhythm and soul
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 - Celebrate the richness of our Jewish community
 - Relax and enjoy a delicious dairy dessert buffet.
- \$20 per person by November 9th - \$25 per person after November 9th
Register on line at www.wjcouncil.org

THE ANNUAL
THANKSGIVING DIVERSITY BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 15, 2012 – 8 a.m.

Reid Castle, Manhattanville College, Purchase

Manhattanville College Duchesne Center for Religion and Social Justice in conjunction with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) of Westchester and the Westchester Jewish Council (WJC), are proud to present the Annual Westchester/Fairfield County Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast, which brings together over 250 people representing approximately 100 local and state-wide government, religious, secular, and private offices and organizations, to celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of America.

For more information contact the Westchester Jewish Council at (914) 328-7001 or info@wjcouncil.org or visit us www.wjcouncil.org
A proud beneficiary of UJA Federation of NY

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

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info@shalomPCS.com

Emma Reisman
info@shalompcs.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling
edsperling@gmail.com

Building Committee

Richard Levine
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Jewish Education

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Israel Action Committee

Ofri Felder
ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

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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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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.

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Fund: _____

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Please send me an acknowledgement of this gift.

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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).

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Thursday, November 15th
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(doors open at 7:30 A.M.)
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Purchase, NY

Tickets \$16 in advance
and \$20 at the door
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www.ajc.org/westchester/diversity2012

For more information,
contact AJC (914.948.5585)



 ASL interpreter available upon request.



Thank you to our many wonderful partner organizations which can be viewed at www.ajc.org/westchester/diversity2012partners

CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5773

November 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Kita Zayin, 11 am Hebrew High School/Rabbi's Comparative Religion Class, 11:30 am	29 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	30	31	1	2 Children's Service PCS House Band 5:31pm-5:49pm - Candle lighting	3 9:00am Morning Meditation; Special Learner's Shabbat Service Parashat Vayera 7:00pm-7:01pm - ...
4	5 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	6	7	8	9 4:24pm-4:42pm - Candle lighting	10 9:00am Morning Meditation, ; Shabbat Service, Bar Mitzvah - Gordon Ward Parashat Chayei Sara 5:53pm-5:54pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...
11 Kita Zayin, 11 am Hebrew High School/Rabbi's Comparative Religion Class, 11:30 am Executive Committee meeting, 7:30 pm Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parent Group at PCS • 6 •	12 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	13 Spiritual Life Committee meeting, 7:30 pm	14	15 Rosh Chodesh Kislev Board meeting, 7:30 pm	16 Children's Service PCS House Band 4:17pm-4:35pm - Candle lighting	17 9:00am Morning Meditation, 10:00am Family Education Shabb Parashat Toldot 5:46pm-5:47pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...
18 6:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, at St. Johns Ask the Rabbi, 3rd grade, 9 am Kita Zayin, 11 am Interfaith Forum at PCS, 11:30 am ...	19 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	20	21	22 Thanksgiving No Hebrew School	23 4:12pm-4:30pm - Candle lighting	24 9:00am Morning Meditation, ; Shabbat Service, Parashat Vayetzei 5:42pm-5:43pm - Havdalah (72 min) ...
25 No Hebrew School	26 Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	27	28	29	30 PCS House Band 4:09pm-4:27pm - Candle lighting	1 9:00am Morning Meditation, ; Shabbat Service, Parashat Vayishlach 5:39pm-5:40pm - 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. Future months are also on the website.

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SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, November 17: Family Education Shabbat

Sunday, November 18, 11:30 am: Interfaith Forum at PCS

Sunday, November 18, 6:00 pm: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Pleasantville Clergy Association at St. John's Episcopal Church

