



THE RABBI'S COLUMN: DO JEWS BELIEVE IN HEAVEN?

By Mark Sameth

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The question comes up over and over again: do Jews believe in heaven? I get the question from folks who are not Jewish...and Jews ask me too. So this fall I'll be teaching a three-part course and everyone – Jews, folks who are not Jewish, synagogue members and non-members – are invited.

First Class, October 9: "Jewish Beliefs in the Afterlife." What did the Jews of the ancient world believe? Did those beliefs change over time? (Spoiler alert: they did.) Do Jews believe in reincarnation? And much more.

Second Class, October 16: "Jewish Mourning Practices." How is Jewish belief in the afterlife reflected in the way Jews mourn? What is shiva? What is sheloshim? What is considered proper "etiquette" in a Jewish house of mourning? And much more.

Third Class, October 23: "Death and Dying." The story is told: "Rabbi Simcha Bunem lay dying. In her grief, his wife burst into tears. He said to her: 'Why are you crying? My whole life was only that I might learn how to die.' And with this attitude he died, peacefully." How have Jews prepared themselves spiritually for death? What can the living do to help the dying?

And much more.

Please join me for this very special three-part series to be held at the Rosenthal JCC, 600 Bear Ridge Road, Pleasantville, Wednesday evenings October 9, 16, and 23 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. A nominal tuition payable to the "Westchester Adult Education Program" applies. For more information or to register contact Nina Luban of WAJE at waje@wjcouncil.org. With thanks to our sponsors: Westchester Adult Jewish Education (WAJE) of The Westchester Jewish Council; The Rosenthal JCC; and United Jewish Appeal (UJA).

PLUS: I'll be joining the other rabbis of Northern Westchester for our year-long "Introduction to Judaism" course at the Rosenthal JCC in Pleasantville, which begins Wednesday night October 2. Everything you ever wanted to know about Judaism! We did this last year, and it was a huge hit! In this comprehensive course, we'll be looking at everything from Jewish texts, to Jewish beliefs, to Jewish holidays, lifecycle events, history, prayer, ethics, customs, and more. Interested in Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism)? Shabbat? Bar and Bat Mitzvah? Messiah? We'll be looking at it all. I hope to see you.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we move beyond Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and into the fall festival of Succos, as well as the holidays of Shemini Atzeres and Simchas Torah, our thoughts turn to continuity and tradition.

If it's true that we all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors who preceded us, then it also follows that we all share in the responsibility of maintaining, protecting and nurturing the uncommon history and heritage that has been handed down to us.

At this time of year, we also have a sense of pride in who we are, and with Hashem's help, for what we have accomplished and achieved as a people.

We still represent less than 1% of the world's population, but comprise an incredibly high disproportionate amount of the world's best doctors, scientists, brilliant legal minds, global business leaders, as well as pioneers in music and the arts.

Has any group or culture been

responsible for a higher percentage of significant contributions to the world, covering a myriad of disciplines and professions, with a smaller percentage of the world's population?

This remains especially impressive when one considers that we lost one-third of our people during the Holocaust.

Here at PCS, we may be a smaller community, but we have never been short of talented and extraordinarily dedicated individuals.

The three basic tenets of any synagogue (or any house of worship of any faith for that matter), have always been, and continue to be, a necessary staple for success, growth and stability. Our predecessors and we still have the same requirements for synagogue life: the 3 Ds - doers, daveners and donors.

In a community of our size, by necessity, we place more of a premium on participation.

If we can 'do' and make a contribution with our own individual skill sets, knowledge and time, the community needs it.

If we choose to dedicate our participatory efforts, understanding and time to prayer, the community needs that.

And, if Hashem has provided us with a little more than we may require with respect to material wealth and sustenance, and we can share that blessing with our shul and community in order for it to thrive and grow, then our community needs 'donors' as well.

Whatever our abilities and station in life are, please make a conscious decision to dedicate and share those blessings with our synagogue community. They are needed and invaluable assets to PCS. Chag Sameach to everyone!

– Jerry Neuburger



CHAG SAMEACH



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

The PCS Hebrew School year is off to an exciting start! Students in grades one through seven (Alef through Vav) have begun their classes in Hebrew, Jewish Culture, Bible Stories, and Jewish History at PCS.

In September, students learned about and celebrated Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. On Sunday, September 22nd, every class had a special music and snack session in PCS's very own Sukkah!

The first day of Hebrew School was also an Open House at which we welcomed new and veteran families alike to experience Rabbi Mark's morning tefillah, and to tour and visit with the Hebrew School classes. We are thrilled to welcome over ten new families to the Hebrew School this year!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for welcoming me so warmly to my new role as Educational Director here at PCS. I feel grateful and excited for the adventure ahead! I am very much looking forward to getting to know each and every child and family that make up this nurturing community. Please continue to introduce yourselves to me so that I can match up faces and names.

Finally, I am happy to introduce to you the wonderful Teen Assistants this year in the Hebrew School, role models for the next generation of PCS b'nei mitzvah students: Eliana Johnston, Margot Silblerblatt, and Katie Ng Ross. Thank you to these young ladies, as well as our incredible teachers!



Alef/Bet students make Edible Sukkot out of graham crackers, pretzels, and gummy bears!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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, CONTINUED



Teen Eliana works with Vav student Bella on Hebrew reading and comprehension



Students pose in the PCS Sukkah with Morah Jaimeon



Rabbi Mark leads Tefillah services for Kitah Dalet, Kitah Hey, and Kitah Vav in the Sanctuary



Morah Jennifer introduces Shabbat and lights candles with Kitah Gimel students (3rd grade)



**Join us at the
Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Sunday, October 6, 2013, 4:30 PM**

**for a reading of
“Yom Kippur”
A play by Meri Wallace**

Commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War

Two American couples living in Jerusalem are caught in the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War. The story follows the powerful impact of the war upon their relationships and their commitment to Israel.

A soldier dies, a baby is born and a new love is created.

“Yom Kippur” was formerly produced at the Prospect Theater and the Midtown International Theater Festival.

Following the reading there will be a question-and-answer period about the influence of the war upon Israel and world Jewry.

This event is free and open to the public.

*Pleasantville Community Synagogue
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY ~ 914-769-2672
Contact: Ofri Felder, ofelder@optonline.net ~ www.shalomPCS.com
Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!*

SUKKOT AT PCS!



Sukkah building team: Barry Werbin, Peter Schaffer, Richie Levine and David Benattar

To quote new principal, Gali Sperling: "The PCS Hebrew School year is off to an exciting start!"

Sukkot created the right environment for everyone to celebrate in great weather outdoors and also inside with fun activities and serious learning.

Rabbi Mark lead Tefillah services for Kitah Dalet, Kitah Hey, and Kitah Vav in the Sanctuary.

Lisa Lipkin engaged the children in song and everyone experienced the Joyful Judaism that PCS is proud to offer.

A warm thank you to Galit Sperling for all the school and Sukkah photos!



Student-made decorations!



PCS invites you to
spend a very special Friday night,
October 18, with active-duty combat
soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces.

Join us Friday night, **October 18, 6:15 pm** for a
festive Shabbat dinner,
followed at 7:15 pm by joyful
Shabbat services
followed at 8:15 pm by a coffee and cake
Oneg Shabbat
featuring a Q & A with visiting
active-duty officers from the
Israel Defense Forces

Pleasantville Community Synagogue ~ 219 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570

For more information or to RSVP, e-mail Marcy Gray at
mgray@shalompcs.com or call 769-2672.

For the littlest ones, there will also be a Pajama Shabbat Service at 6 pm.
Doors open at 5:45 pm.

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*Long-time members, new members
prospective members, and everyone else!
Please join us for*

Pajama Shabbat!

With our very special guests of honor:
active officers in the Israel Defense Forces who will come to
sing, pray, eat and celebrate with us!

Friday night, October 18

5:45 pm doors open ~ 6:00 pm Pajama Shabbat Service (up to age 6)
6:15 pm Dinner* (all ages) ~ 7:15 pm Family Service, with the PCS House Band
8:15 pm Festive "Oneg Shabbat" Refreshment Hour
and Q & A with the IDF soldiers

*The dinner is free but RSVPs are a must.



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Rhoda Scherer, Mother of Susan Scherer	October 7
Arnold Reisman, Father of David Reisman	October 8
Henry Elkin, Father of Eve-Marie Schaffer	October 8
Florence Fuchs, Sister of Audrey Lenoff	October 8
Rose Dulberg, Grandmother of Lisa Lipkin	October 9
Ruth Goldberg, Mother of Eric Goldberg	October 9
Esther Levine, Mother of Susan Netburn	October 10
Janete Collins, Mother of Beth Manners	October 12
Irwin Rutman, Father of Seth Rutman	October 14
Warren Singer, Stepbrother of Sharon Friedman	October 17
Edward Saravis, Father of Lynn Hock	October 19
Leo Sheinkopf, Father of David Sheinkopf	October 21
Jennie Etkin, Grandmother of Rhea Wolfthal	October 27
Sidney Cohen, Father of Oren Cohen	October 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 \$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.

SAVE THE DATE

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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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bdoctor670@gmail.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling
edsperling@gmail.com

Building Committee

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rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

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Seth Rutman
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Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth Committee

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
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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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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. A 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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Donor contact information (if not a PCS member): _____

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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).

TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5774

October 2013 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>1:00pm Yahrzeit Board Dedication 1:30pm Take down PCS Sukkah</p> <p>Pre- and post-adoption group, 6 pm, at PCS. schwarzruffm@jccany.org.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30pm 7th grade parents' meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Children's Service, 7:15 pm</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan</p> <p>Candle lighting 6:15 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Family Education Shabbat Service 10 am Parashat Noach</p> <p>7:44 pm Havdalah</p>
<p>6</p> <p>4:30pm "Yom Kippur" play reading and discussion</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ask the Rabbi with Kita Gimel</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Children's Service, 7:15 pm</p> <p>Candle lighting 6:04 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Griffen Rakower 9:30 am Parashat Lech-Lecha</p> <p>7:32 pm Havdalah</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Executive Committee meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>IDF soldiers visit Hebrew School</p> <p>PCS Board meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Prospective/new member Shabbat dinner with IDF soldiers from Israel</p> <p>Candle lighting 5:53 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Roberta Berman 9:30 am Parashat Vayera</p> <p>7:22 pm Havdalah</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Pre- and post-adoption group, 6 pm, at PCS. schwarzruffm@jccany.org.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>High Holiday committee meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Children's Service, 7:15 pm</p> <p>Candle lighting 5:43 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Aydin Mayers 9:30 am Parashat Chayei Sara</p> <p>7:12 pm Havdalah</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Candle lighting 5:34 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am Lay-led morning meditation, 10:00am Family Education Shabbat Parashat Toldot</p> <p>7:02 pm Havdalah</p>

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

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Wednesday, October 2: "Introduction to Judaism" class begins at Rosenthal JCC, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 5: Family Education Shabbat, 10 am, at PCS

Sunday, October 6: "Yom Kippur" play reading and discussion, 4:30 pm, at PCS

Wednesday, October 9: "Do Jews Believe in Heaven?" class with Rabbi Mark begins at JCC, 7:30 pm (first of three classes)

Friday, October 18: Pajama Shabbat at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:45 pm) at PCS

Friday, October 18: Shabbat Dinner (6:15 pm), Service (7:15 pm) and Q&A Coffee Hour with visiting Israeli soldiers of the IDF (8:15 pm) at PCS

