



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jerry Neuberger

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One of Webster's four definitions for the word "perspective" is, "A mental picture of the relative importance of things." Like many of us, I've seemingly become accustomed to the all-too-often natural or unnatural disaster or catastrophic event that seems to occur more frequently than we used to experience either here at home or abroad.

The latest example is the aftermath of the horrific Typhoon Haiyan that struck the Philippines. It has left over 5,000 people dead as of this writing (local authorities estimate the total may rise closer to 10,000). It has affected over 9 million people more with respect to injuries, homes lost and incalculable damages. Reaching out to friends and business colleagues, asking about them and their families being safe and okay, if they need anything at all, has unfortunately been somewhat of the norm somewhere in the world.

Obviously in the totality of the situation, food and water, medical attention, medicines and shelter are the most immediate of needs in any disaster situation on this scope. It puts our daily crises, problems and frustrations into a more clear perspective when juxtaposed against such a horrendous backdrop. Little more than a year ago, Hurricane Sandy also reminded us of perspective. Seeing the pictures of the catastrophic destruction and damage to familiar areas as Long Island, Queens, the Rockaways, Staten Island and the Jersey Shore, would also cause us to reflect on thoughts and

feelings that we all too often simply take for granted, such as every-day security and well being.

Most of us experienced a week or so of downed trees and area power lines, no electricity, no heat, hot water, Internet or cable. When pictured against loss of life, serious injuries, or in other cases the loss of homes and all personal possessions, it yet again brings to the forefront the concept of perspective.

As we enter a season of holidays whose core significance is giving thanks for our blessings and the recognition, understanding and celebrations of miracles and renewal, it is important at this troubling time for so many, that we keep in mind those small every-day blessings that we often overlook (while looking past them to bigger goals and more lofty aspirations).

During this upcoming season of thanks and miracles, let's attempt to find appreciation in those aspects of life that all of us so often simply take for granted. This year let us try and be more mindful of expressing our love, affection and appreciation for family and friends, for our health, as well as for our home and community.

To everyone, a holiday season filled with only good health, joy, peace, contentment and happiness. Be safe and enjoy all of Hashem's blessings in these days ahead. A Happy Chanukah to everyone.



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

The fall session of Hebrew School culminated with the PCS Chanukah Party on Sunday, November 24th! The Alef, Bet & Gimel students (1st, 2nd and 3rd graders) sang Chanukah songs for the residents of the Atria Senior Living Center in Briarcliff Manor. The Daled, Hey, Vav & Zayin students (4th, 5th, 6th and 7th graders) played dreidel with pennies they brought in as tzedakah (charity). All of the Hebrew School students engaged in various activities and art projects, made dreidels out of clay, ate latkes, and celebrated Chanukah 2013, a wonderful opportunity to examine all that they are grateful for.

Wishing your families a very Happy Chanukah!

- Galit Sperling, Hebrew School Principal



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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.

HEBREW SCHOOL CONTINUED



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WARMEST THANKS TO CRIS MARTINEZ AND ADAM BROWN FOR THESE WONDERFUL PHOTOS!



B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECTS

Aydin Mayers

For my mitzvah project I am leading drum circles for the synagogue. I love music, so I am collaborating with my drum teacher, Norbert Goldberg, to learn how to lead a drum circle. Music is a very big part of my life and it is important to me that other kids are exposed to it. I think all people could use a little more music in their lives. Music is one of those things that everybody should do. The best part about a drum circle is that it is one of the most accepting ways to play music; you do not have to be an experienced drummer or musician, you just have to have a passion for what you are doing at that very moment. It is a way to meet new people but also to be able to relax and have fun at the same time. When I first had this idea, I did not know if it would work and, after a little talk, it happened. On October 18 we had our first drum circle with the all the tot Shabbat kids. Everybody was so energetic and was having fun learning new things. I am planning to make this a regular event and hopefully bring it to the Hebrew school.

For the last three years, I have also volunteered for the fundraiser for the Shipman Youth Center in Lake Placid by working at the "I Love BBQ Festival," a 3 day event. My family has a house in Lake Placid and I have been going there all my life. Our friend Dmitry Feld organizes the event and my sister and I volunteer with friends we've made in Lake Placid who use the Youth Center. Also, I have been participating for many years (we can't remember how long we have been doing this) in the Autism Speaks Walk supporting my friends and classmates with autism.



Ethiopian Jews and the State of Israel: A Success Story?

On November 20, PCS welcomed Yoav Cohen, the enthusiastic new Israeli shaliach (emissary) for Westchester, to speak about Ethiopian Jews and the State of Israel.

Yoav gave a fascinating presentation, which began with a video from Israel's version of "American Idol" featuring a beautiful Ethiopian woman singing in Amharic, the language of Ethiopia. From there, Yoav recounted the Ethiopian Jews' extraordinary history and the daring missions that brought them to Israel.

Through a video and his own personal perspective, Yoav related that while the story of their aliyah is incredibly moving and "is what Israel is all about," he did not flinch from relating the harsh realities of their integration – or lack thereof – into Israeli society. Numerous PCS congregants and others took part in an engaging and at times heated discussion about what might have been done better and what needs to be done moving forward.

The evening was sponsored by the Adult Education committee under the new leadership of Barbara Doctor, and the Israel Action committee led by Ofri Felder and Seth Rutman.

To find out more about the Ethiopian Jews, check out Yoav's blog at <http://israelinwestchester.blogspot.com/2013/10/from-mountains-of-ethiopia-to-hills-of.html>



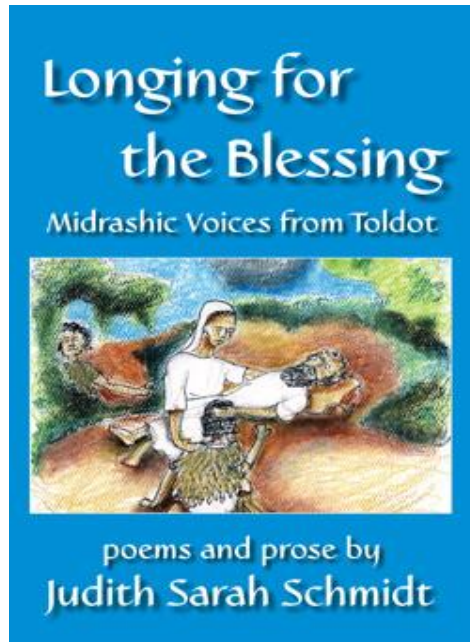
THANKS TO
CRIS MARTINEZ FOR
THESE PHOTOS!



“Longing for the Blessing ...”

PCS is proud to announce the recent publication of “Longing for the Blessing: Midrashic Voices from Toldot” by PCS member, author, poet and speaker, **Judith Schmidt**.

In honor of Ed Sperling, Judith has made the **book available for purchase at PCS for \$18.00**, with all proceeds going to the **Ed Sperling Fund**. If interested, please contact Marcy Gray at PCS, mgray@shalompcs.com, 769-2672, or fill out and send in the form below.



“To enter Judith Sarah Schmidt's stunningly profound and beautiful *Longing for the Blessing*, her reflections on the section of the Torah called Toldot, is to become intimate with words of Torah, dream images, the collected insights of over a thousand years of religious commentary, contemporary psychology and literature and personal memories. Through these words and images you enter into the soul of Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Esau, as well as of her great-grandfather Judah, and of Judith herself. Through these images you deeply understand and love them, their faith, their prayers, their struggles and triumphs. In their light, you see your own.”

— Rabbi Rachel Cowan, co-founder of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality

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Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Yahrzeit Memorial Board

The PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board will be a beautiful and symbolic place to honor your loved ones. The anniversary of their passing will be commemorated with a light by their nameplate.

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

Name in English: _____ Name in Hebrew: _____

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

Requested by: _____ Relationship to person being honored: _____

Phone Number/E-mail address: _____

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SAVE THE DATE!

PCS Progressive Dinner
Saturday - February 1 at 6:15pm

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Volunteer as a Host

or

Come as a Guest

(couvert for guests - \$20)

Plan to have an exciting evening progressing from one home to the next. Meet new people, have fun and enjoy great food in a relaxed, warm atmosphere.

We all start together at the same home for appetizers. We then draw names for dinner assignments and proceed to our host homes for the entrée. At the end of the evening we gather together once again for dessert at another member's home.

Look for invitation coming in the mail

Want to Host or have questions? Call or e-mail:

Marlo 914-213-7337
marlo.klein2@gmail.com

The Jewish Museum and Marc Chagall: "Love, War and Exile"



Join us at PCS for an exciting visual presentation and discussion – with a docent from the museum - about the new Chagall exhibit at NYC's Jewish Museum.

Tuesday, December 10, 7 pm

Chagall: Love, War, and Exile, shown for the first time in the U.S., explores a significant but neglected period in the artist's career from the rise of fascism in the 1930s through 1948, years spent in Paris and then in exile to New York.

"A fresh look at Marc Chagall that's riveting." – Howard Halle, Time Out New York

Pleasantville Community Synagogue

219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570

**For more information contact Barbara Doctor at
bdoctor670@gmail.com, or call PCS at 769-2672.**

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Looking for a meaningful mitzvah project to share with your child?

For two years, Isaiah Schrader and his parents, Howard and Nancy, have been helping to conduct Friday night services at the Atria Senior Living center in Ossining, a profoundly rewarding experience for everyone concerned.

If you would like more information about this, please contact Marcy Gray in the PCS office or Nancy and Howard directly at ngutman@gmail.com.

WHAT IS HAVAYA?

July 6 -
Aug. 4,
2014

HAVAYA

INTERNATIONAL ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

For more information, contact
Yoav Cohen (914) 741-0333 or
Shaliach@rosenthaljcc.org



OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DEC. 15
7:00PM

Rosenthal JCC
600 Bear Ridge Road
Pleasantville, NY

Havaya is a program of the Rosenthal JCC in collaboration with the Sid Jacobson JCC and others, as well as with their sister communities of Shoham, Ramat HaSharon, Kochav Yair and others in Israel.

Havaya International Israel Experience brings together Jewish American and Israeli teens (entering 10th - 12th grades) for a four-week summer program in Israel and the US. Teens participate in two weeks of unique outdoor adventures, Jewish learning, and leadership training in Israel, followed by two weeks in the U.S. where they put their leadership skills into practice. The final week of the program involves a social service experience leading a camp for inner-city children. Havaya creates life-long connections among Jewish teens, engaging them in meaningful experiences and encouraging the exploration of the pillars of Jewish peoplehood and *tikkun olam*. It is led by dedicated expert educators and professional facilitators in both countries.

Global Jewish Connections

Rosenthal JCC + Shoham, Israel



We invite 7th & 8th graders to join us in partnership with teens from our sister city of Shoham, Israel!

- Meet one Sunday a month, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., for fun activities that foster learning about Israel and Jewish interconnectedness
- Connect on social media to build new relationships
- Host our Israeli partners here at the end of March
- Stay with our friends in Shoham at the end of August

Space is limited to 10 participants, and all applicants must interview. Year-long commitment is required.

For more information, contact Yoav Cohen at (914) 741-0333 or Shaliach@rosenthaljcc.org or Jennifer Pergament at (914) 741-0333 or JPergament@rosenthaljcc.org.

\$180/year (includes meetings with dinner) plus airfare*

* Program and partial subsidy of airfare is made possible by a grant from UJA-Federation of New York, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Rosenthal JCC, and contributions from generous donors.

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For more information contact:

Adam Benmoise, Executive Director

adam@naaleh.org or 212-229-2700

www.naaleh.org

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To contact PCS:

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

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

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

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

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DECEMBER 2013 YAHRZEITS

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|---|-------------|
| Victor Chiarizia, Father of Maria Levine | December 3 |
| Louis Israelow, Father of Marvin Israelow | December 3 |
| Margaret Sperling, Mother of Edward Sperling | December 4 |
| Pauline Alt, Grandmother of Audrey Rabinowitz | December 5 |
| Jay Polansky, Father of Debra Schor | December 8 |
| Andrew Rosenberg, Father of Debbie Rosenberg | December 12 |
| Michael Fineman, Nephew of Roberta Berman | December 12 |
| Max Gitelson, Father of Rhea Wolfthal | December 13 |
| Ruth Hersh, Mother of Karen Sanders | December 14 |
| Frederick Berman, Father of Roberta Berman | December 15 |
| Joyce Goldman, Mother of Dorian Goldman | December 15 |
| Nathan Blackman, Father of Jonathan Blackman | December 16 |
| Milton Turkel, Father of Jeffrey Turkel | December 16 |
| Fay Singer, Mother of Sharon Friedman | December 17 |
| Fanny Goldman, Grandmother of Dorian Goldman | December 17 |
| Julius Strauss, Father of Fredric Strauss | December 18 |
| Samuel Weiner, Father of Shelley Weiner | December 19 |
| Alexander Gordon, Father of Bernard Gordon | December 20 |
| Marvin Levine, Father of Richard Levine | December 21 |
| Ruth Kloogman, Mother of Helen Kloogman | December 26 |
| Irving Epton, Father of Arli Epton | December 26 |
| Philip Wolfthal, Husband of Rhea Wolfthal | December 29 |
| Regina Fisher, Grandmother of Dorian Goldman | December 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

Kiersten Zweibaum
info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Spiritual Life

Peter Schaffer
pschaffer@shalomPCS.com

Finance

April Lasher Sanders
alasher@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Furst
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High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger
jneuburger@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Karen Neuburger
info@shalomPCS.com

Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschsulz@shalomPCS.com

Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi
Leyla@shalomPCS.com

Israel Action Committee

Ofri Felder
ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth Committee

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.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.

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BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

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THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PURCHASED PCS CON-
GREGANT JUDITH SCHMIDT'S NEW BOOK, "LONGING FOR THE
BLESSING" WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE ED SPERLING
FUND. THERE ARE STILL SOME COPIES AVAILABLE IN THE PCS
OFFICE.

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

fax (914) 769 - 1795



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Building Fund

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

General Fund/Fair Share

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

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.

Name and fund selected: _____

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






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

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

| |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed payable to <i>Pleasantville Community Synagogue</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill my credit card |
| Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____ |
| Circle One: VISA MasterCard |
| Name as it Appears on card: _____- |
| _____ |
| Phone number in case verification is needed: |
| _____ |
| Your Signature _____ Amount to charge: _____ |
| Print Name |
| _____ |

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).

December 2013 - PCS Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>7:30pm BBYO youth group meeting at PCS Chanukah: 5 Candles </p> | <p>2</p> <p>Chanukah: 6 Candles </p> | <p>3</p> <p>Chanukah: 7 Candles  Rosh Chodesh Tevet</p> | <p>4</p> <p> Chanukah: 8 Candles</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Chanukah: 8th Day </p> | <p>6</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:08 pm</p> | <p>7</p> <p>9:00am Lay-led morning meditation, with Toby LaMarche; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Vayigash 5:38 pm Havdalah</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>6:00pm Kids' Mitzvah Project</p> <p>Executive Committee meeting</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> <p>7:00pm Jewish Museum presentation on Chagall exhibition, at PCS</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>PCS Board meeting</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Asara B'Tevet Fast Candle lighting 4:09 pm</p> | <p>14</p> <p>9:00am Lay-led morning meditation with Toby LaMarche; Family Education Shabbat, 10 am 7:00pm Social Action Coffeehouse? Parashat Vayechi 5:39 pm Havdalah</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>Pre- and post-adoption group, 6 pm, at PCS. schwarzruffm@jccany.org.</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:11 pm</p> | <p>21</p> <p>9:00am Lay-led morning meditation with Toby LaMarche; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Shemot 5:31 pm Havdalah</p> |
| <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:15 pm</p> | <p>28</p> <p>9:00am Lay-led morning meditation, leader TBD; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Vaera 5:45 pm Havdalah</p> |
| <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:21 pm</p> | <p>4</p> <p>9:00am Lay-led morning meditation with Mindy Stoller; Shabbat Service 9:30 am Parashat Bo 5:51 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.



Sunday, December 1: BBYO Youth Group meeting, at PCS, 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 8: Kids' Mitzvah Arts and Crafts Project, at PCS

Tuesday, December 10: New Chagall Exhibit presentation with docent from the Jewish Museum, at PCS, 7 pm

Saturday, December 14: Family Education Shabbat service, at PCS, 10 am

