



## THE RABBI'S COLUMN: LOOKING OUT AND LOOKING IN

**By Mark Sameth**

In her parenting book, *Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, Wendy Mogel wrote that there were two things important for every child to learn: one, that he or she is utterly unique, like no other child in the world; two, that he or she is just like everyone else. What a wonderfully wise teaching. Of course the teaching applies equally well to adults, communities, and nations.

In the past months we've been privileged to see how very much the Jewish community has in common with every other religious community in the world. At our interfaith Thanksgiving service, and at synagogue events held over the weeks following, we have prayed with Christians, shared a meal together with Muslims, and meditated with Buddhists. What wonderful bridges have been built and strengthened by these efforts. Indeed, just before I was to sit down to write this column Michael Gold, chair of our Social Action Committee, informed me that an effort was underway to form a joint Jewish-Muslim relief effort; an attempt, Michael tells me, to remove politics from the effort to bring humanitarian aid to suffering human beings. Reminders that we are, each of us, like everyone else.

But the Jewish community is also utterly unique. We have our own history, culture, language(s), art, music, stories, and traditions. Tracing our Jewish roots - or the roots of our Jewish family members - can be a powerful experience. We imagine ourselves in a synagogue in Italy 300 years ago; in a Jewish study house in Spain 1,000 years ago; in a Jewish market in Yemen 1,500 years ago; in the First Temple in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. Our sense of time and space takes on a different quality as we contemplate our lives against the great historical sweep of the 4,000 years of Jewish experience.

Next month, on Tuesday evening February 8 at 7:30 pm, the PCS Israel Action Committee, in cooperation with the PCS Adult Education Committee, will be presenting a very special evening: Exploring Your Jewish Roots with Karen Franklin, past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. I did a study of my own family years ago, found out I was part Italian and part Mongolian; and how many cousins in Israel! It was life-changing. I hope you'll take part.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Rabbi Mark sent me an article recently that he thought I might like to read. It was written by Rabbi Eric Yoffie on the subject of younger Jewish people not joining synagogues and seeking alternatives to traditional Jewish worship. When I finished it I replied that while I thought the rabbi's comments were interesting and on target, there were many aspects left unmentioned. He asked me to begin a conversation about this and I'm using this month's column to do that. I'm actually hopeful that this subject will become a topic for our Adult Education Committee, as it affects all of us as individuals, as members of PCS and as Jews.

At the risk of oversimplifying the issue, I ask this: what's missing? Why do young singles not join? Why do married couples wait until a child is ready for Hebrew School before joining and why do so many families leave as soon as the youngest child becomes b'nei mitzvah? There are many pos-

sible answers to these questions, which is why I would like to have input from anyone interested. I have one overriding thought: we fail to touch their hearts. We do not answer the basic desire for connection, for deeper meaning and for spiritual fulfillment. Without this, we become one more stopping off place in their lives, one more obligation that parents have to fulfill. Not an attractive proposition.

Now here's a little story that for me offers the beginnings of an answer. At the last family shabbat service the Rabbi, as is his custom, handed out a sheet with 3 questions drawn from the weekly parsha, in this case Va Yechi. In the part we studied we read the story of Jacob's final days and the blessing he confers on his two grandchildren from Joseph. The first question asked the children and the adults in attendance to speak about their own grandparents or even great grandparents, about the stories

that they had heard growing up. The congregation then broke into groups of 6 to 8 people, and the little group I sat with took up this question with great enthusiasm (to the exclusion of the others) - what I heard was heartfelt. It seemed as though we could have gone on in this vein for hours, telling each other where our families had come from, how they struggled in the old country and how they finally made it to America. Our hearts were touched.

This is what a synagogue and what a community must be about - listening, communing, telling meaningful stories and finally realizing what our common bonds are. This is one of the elements that the unaffiliated Jews (and others) miss out on in their secular lives, the deepest connections between ourselves and ultimately with God. Now, how to remedy this?

- Peter Schaffer



# **PCS WELCOMES MARCY GRAY**

**Marcy Gray is the new Administrator for our synagogue, taking the place of Gale Silverberg who has held the position for 5 years and will now pursue her interest in graphic design and communications.**

**Marcy comes with a wide array of experience as an editor, writer, and manager. She was the first editor of The Hudson Independent, a monthly award-winning community newspaper based in Tarrytown, and has been a successful freelance editor for most of her career, working with publishing companies in New York, educational foundations, and non-profit organizations. In addition, Marcy is certified as a trainer of service dogs and recently ran a dog therapy program at a children's home in the Bronx.**

**"I am so excited about this opportunity to work at PCS," said Marcy. "I've been to the synagogue a number of times for various celebrations and I've always loved the energy and the kind of community that is fostered here. I really look forward to meeting as many people as soon as possible, and hope that people will stop by whenever they can."**

**Marcy lived in Israel for a number of years where she worked for different news magazines, and now lives in Ossining with her husband, Itzik Mintz, and two children, Ella, 17, and Tal, 15.**

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Michael Pfeffer  
[mpfeffer@shalomPCS.com](mailto:mpfeffer@shalomPCS.com)

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

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

### Board of Trustees

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[cmartinez@shalomPCS.com](mailto:cmartinez@shalomPCS.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rabbi Mark Sameth  
[pcsyn@mindspring.com](mailto:pcsyn@mindspring.com)

Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
[lhirschschulz@gmail.com](mailto:lhirschschulz@gmail.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; [marcy.gray@verizon.net](mailto:marcy.gray@verizon.net)  
Michal Solomon, 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)

(This is the first installment of a 3 part series about the great Jewish philosopher, Maimonides)

## **Maimonides - The early years**

By Philip Paris

Who was the greatest Jewish philosopher of all times? Many say it is Maimonides, born Moses ben Maimon, over 800 years ago in the city of Cordoba, Spain. Born on Passover eve, it is possible he was named after that great prophet. Maimonides was born into an Islamic culture at its height, in a city that boasted sparkling fountains, paved streets, indoor plumbing, employment to all who needed it, and extraordinary luxuries to those who could afford them.

In this magnificent culture, the Jewish people were able to fully participate. Maimonides' father was a wealthy man with a well furnished household, serving excellent food, good wines, exotic fruit and costly spices. Valuable Persian carpets covered the stone floors. Beautiful textiles were purchased for household use and clothing. Rooms were filled with ivory carvings and beautiful ceramics. A library included not only Jewish texts, but collections of philosophy and medicine. Young Moses was brought up in a household of love and a love of learning. His father was gentle and kind and spent much time educating his son at home. For his father was a learned scholar with a wide knowledge of Jewish law.

Unfortunately, this life of comfort came to a sudden end. When Moses was only 12 years old, a group of fanatic, Islamic fundamentalists invaded Spain. Religious tolerance was no more. Jews were given the choice of conversion, emigration or death! The golden age of Spain, for Jews and for the resident Muslims, was over. Maimonides' father took his family out of Cordoba. Young Moses experienced, for the first time in his life, a sense of fear, poverty, hunger and exile. But worst of all was the loss of his library. He had no access to books, the core of his being. A period of wandering stretched into years. Moses was forced to learn a huge amount of information by rote memory. While this ability did aid him greatly in his future years as a Jewish scholar and leader, we can understand the anguish he went through in those years.



# PCS WELCOMES OUR MUSLIM FRIENDS



On December 11, 2010, the Social Action Committee of PCS organized a pot luck dinner with our neighbors at the Upper Westchester Muslim Society in Thornwood, providing an opportunity for two communities to meet, mingle, learn and eat!. It was one of those magical connections that spark hope and determination for a better future. We had approximately 30 people attending and everyone enjoyed themselves even as we honestly touched upon some difficult feelings. All the participants exuded such grace and ease that any awkwardness or reservations swiftly melted away. Teenagers spoke of 9/11, prejudice, assimilation and adapting to the pressures in school and in the community. Lisa Lipkin entertained us with her usual assortment of musical excellence. We were all reminded of a basic truism: despite our differences, perceived and real, as long as people of good will communicate, there is always a way to live and share in peace. We didn't solve anything. We just took a giant step towards making things better. We talked. We listened. And we had fun!

The company was matched only by the incredible food prepared by everyone. After the dinner, the leftovers were brought to the women's shelter and they were greatly appreciative so the dinner ended as beneficially as it began.

To all those who attended, thank you for sharing a wonderful evening. To those who missed it, there will be many more opportunities ahead and you owe it to yourselves to attend. One of the concrete results of the dinner was the agreement to form a joint Jewish-Muslim relief effort that would respond in mutually agreed upon ways to any crisis that may arise. It will be a strictly non-sectarian, humanitarian response to such natural disasters as the Pakistan floods this summer and the recent fires in Israel. Please contact Michael Gold at [Michaelgold@aol.com](mailto:Michaelgold@aol.com) if you are willing to help in this crucial work and if you have any ideas that might be useful to the project.

Thanks.  
Michael Gold  
PCS Social Action Committee

(Cont'd on next page)



**TEHREEM MUMTAZ, 10TH GRADE, URSULINE SCHOOL; MUHSANAH AREFIN, 11TH GRADE, OSSINING HIGH SCHOOL; NABEED HASSAN, 12TH GRADE, BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL; SABRINA AL-BARGHOUTHY, FRESHMAN, MERCY COLLEGE; MUNIBA HASSAN, SOPHOMORE, NYU**



**TOVA GREEN DISCUSSES HER EXPERIENCES INTERACTING WITH NON-JEWISH CHILDREN AT SCHOOL**



**LISA LIPKIN WELCOMES GUESTS WITH SONG**

WARMEST THANKS TO MICHAEL GOLD FOR THESE WONDERFUL PHOTOS!

## ASK THE RABBI

Last month Rabbi Mark met with our fifth grade class for a session of Ask the Rabbi (on December 8, 2010). It was the last night of Channukah, and the questions, as you'll see, went far beyond the holiday. Here is a very short excerpt of that wide-ranging conversation:

Max Coleman: How many letters are there in the Torah?

Rabbi Mark: There are 22 letters in the Torah, but they're used over and over. OK, you got me! That's a great question and I'll have to look up the answer. I'll make sure it's in the newsletter. [The answer is that there are 304,805 letters in the Five Books of Moses.]

Leo Schor: Who made the first Torah? Who made the First Temple?

Rabbi Mark: Well the second question is the easier one to answer. The First Temple was built by King David's son, King Solomon, almost 3,000 years ago. We don't know when the first Torah was made, the Torah doesn't tell us. But we know that there was a big celebration in Jerusalem when everyone gathered in a public square and the entire Torah was read by Ezra the Priest. That happened almost 2,500 years ago. [See Nehemiah 8] So it's very old.

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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**

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

Emma Reisman  
[ereisman@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ereisman@shalomPCS.com)

#### **B'nei Mitzvah**

Eileen Jagoda  
[ejagoda@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ejagoda@shalomPCS.com)

Phil Paris  
[pparis@shalomPCS.com](mailto:pparis@shalomPCS.com)

#### **Building Committee**

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

#### **Communications**

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

#### **Jewish Education**

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

#### **Finance**

Oren Cohen  
[Finance@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:Finance@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 Inreach**

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

#### **Membership Outreach**

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

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

#### **Youth Committee**

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



## NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

During the months of January, February and March many of our classes, and parents, will participate in some very special programs. Kitah Aleph students and their parents will celebrate and learn about Shabbat. They will enjoy freshly baked Challah and make beautifully decorated tzedakah boxes. Kitah Bet students and their parents will explore the origin of their Hebrew names and make colorful Hebrew name plates to hang in the children's rooms. Kitah Dalet students and their parents will come together to share and learn about their families' histories. Kitah Hay will lead a Havdallah service followed by a presentation on the Bal Tashchit mitzvah/recycling projects.

We will celebrate Tu B'Shvat in our school soon (Jan. 18, 19 & 20) by eating fruits, learning about Israel, and many of you will participate in the "JNF tree planting in Israel" program. This year it is especially important to plant new trees in Israel since many trees in the Carmel Mountain were destroyed by the fire raging there three weeks ago. Please turn in the donation forms as soon as possible and if you did not get a form please let me know.

Below you will find some midrashim written by students of Kitah Vav under the guidance of their teacher Isabell Kopstein.

Have a great winter break!  
Michal Solomon

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Midrashim from Kitah Vav

What is God?  
by Alyssa Kerper

When God first created Adam and Eve, He was considering which shape to take on. HaShem experimented with many of His creations: big animals, small animals, even people like Adam or Eve. God was also debating whether to become male or female. He knew it might be unfair to the one he didn't select.

One day an idea came to Him. If there was a way to be everything at once, He would find it. He worked day and night, trying to use His power to take the good qualities from every living creature He had created. God also had to add in some imperfections so that people would think of Him as an equal and not as a ruler.

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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.



## **FOOD DRIVE - PLEASE HELP!!!**

PCS is once again participating in the 4th Annual UJA-Federation Families Feeding Families January Food Drive as we have since its inception. Our primary beneficiary still is the Bronx Jewish Community Council Food Pantry who is feeding 500 people more on average each month as compared to last year and for whom this food drive is their largest non-governmental donation annually. That means they are feeding almost 2200 people a month and they desperately need our help to do so. Additionally, we are supporting Westchester Jewish Community Services food programs where a persistent and growing need exists as well. We have a lot of food to collect and will be doing so from January 3rd-26th! Please leave your donations in the back of the sanctuary. If you are interested in helping to deliver or sort food for delivery please contact Michael Gold at [Michaelgold@aol.com](mailto:Michaelgold@aol.com).



## JANUARY 2011 YAHR ZEITS

<b>Regina Fisher, Grandmother of Dorian Goldman</b>	<b>January 3</b>
<b>Sandra Furman, Aunt of Galia Silverberg</b>	<b>January 7</b>
<b>Kenneth Wolf, Father of Michael Wolf</b>	<b>January 10</b>
<b>Louis Etkin, Uncle of Rhea Wolfthal</b>	<b>January 11</b>
<b>Lena Lupowitz, Grandmother of Nancy Cande</b>	<b>January 11</b>
<b>Joel Serebin, Father of Ben Serebin</b>	<b>January 13</b>
<b>Aaron Netburn, Father of Malcolm Netburn</b>	<b>January 13</b>
<b>Celia Lubelsky, Mother of Janice Sandbank</b>	<b>January 14</b>
<b>Alexander Blank, Father of Suzanne Sadler</b>	<b>January 14</b>
<b>Leslie Ogrin, Father of Mara Cohen</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>Marion Gaines, Mother of Jonathan Church</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>Syd Gitelson, Mother of Rhea Wolfthal</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>Rose Schwartz, Mother of Nancy Mayers</b>	<b>January 24</b>
<b>Eleanor Blackman, Mother of Jonathan Blackman</b>	<b>January 27</b>
<b>Charles Fisher, Grandfather of Dorian Goldman</b>	<b>January 29</b>
<b>Annette Sheft, Mother of Janice Gambino</b>	<b>January 29</b>
<b>Harold Cande Father of Nancy Cande</b>	<b>January 31</b>



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.

# 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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ROBERT SICHEL IN HONOR OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RUDY SICHEL, FATHER OF PCS CON-GREGANT, HELEN SICHEL SILBERBLATT  
MONTE SILBERGER  
JUDITH CHINITZ

## MIDNIGHT RUN

On January 22, 2011, the first Midnight Run of 2011 will take place. Donations of winter clothing such as coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, sweat shirts and pants, boots, vests, etc. are essential to clothe those in desperate need. A clothing box will be available for donations starting January 1, 2011 in the Holy Innocent Church at 431 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY. PCS has committed to bring 25 sandwich, fruit and dessert packages which must be delivered to Holy Innocent's kitchen on January 21, 2011, the day before the run. If you can make some sandwich packages please let Michael Gold know at [Michaelgold@aol.com](mailto:Michaelgold@aol.com).

Clothing can be brought directly to the Holy Innocents Church starting January 1, 2011.



## ASK THE RABBI, CONT'D

William Clark: How was the Star of David made?

Rabbi Mark: Some people believe that the Star of David – Magen David in Hebrew – was the design on King David's shield. No one really knows for sure. But look how it's made. Here's one triangle pointing up, standing for what? (Students: God? Heaven?) and another pointing down, standing for what? (Students: Earth? People?) Right. And some say they stand for male and female, too. So when we put these triangles one over the other we see that God and people need each other, that men and women are equal; there are lots of great lessons here.

Tova Teitel-Greene: What is the first historically documented holiday?

Rabbi Mark: Well, I would say that celebration of the winter and summer solstice may be the oldest holidays. It's not "historically documented" in that it was celebrated before there was writing. But there are ancient structures in various parts of the world with stones that align only on those days; so we're as certain as we can be that that's what they were doing. But the first holiday where everyone was regularly free to stop working was Shabbat. There was no such thing as a weekend before the Shabbat. Can you imagine?!

Aydin Mayers: We're not supposed to work on Shabbat. But isn't going to services a kind of work; because we're "doing" something?

Rabbi Mark: Good point, Aydin. The kind of work we're not supposed to do on Shabbat is work that "creates" anything because it's the day we celebrate God resting from creating the Universe. Other kinds of activities are permitted.

Norman Simon: Why do we say the Ashrei?

Rabbi Mark: Well, the Ashrei is made up of the 145th Psalm, with two introductory lines before it. Those lines contain the word Ashrei three times. Ashrei means "happy" and the rabbis said that if we say "happy" three times a day we'll be happy. Do you think that works? No, me neither – if only it were that easy! But you know, brain researchers are finding out that positive, happy thoughts and words do release chemicals in our brain that make us happier. If we focus on the positive, instead of complaining all the time, we are actually happier. So maybe the rabbis were on to something after all.

Isaac Reisman: What is the percentage of Jews in the world?

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## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

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The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June. Articles and photos should be submitted by the 15th 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

Rabbi Mark: How many people think the world is half Jewish? (No hands up.) A quarter Jewish? (One hand up.) An eighth? (A number of hands up.) A sixteenth? (More hands up). OK, not even close. The number of Jews in the world is just a fraction of a fraction of one percent. You're very special to be a part of the Jewish people!

Adam Neuberger: Why was the land Canaan's name changed to Israel?

Rabbi Mark: Most countries names have changed. Canaan was the name of the land before the Israelites arrived and named it after the Patriarch Israel, whose name means one who strives with God. The name of our country was changed to America after an Italian map-maker named Amerigo Vespucci.

Kyra Schultz: Were there any new prophets after Moses?

Rabbi Mark: The Torah says that there would never be a prophet as great as Moses, but there certainly were others after him – Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos, all of the great prophets of ancient Israel. The Talmud said that the last prophet was Malachi, and that after him prophecy was given only to children and fools. Why do you think they said that? [Students discuss the fact that children are more "open" than adults, and that no one listens to "fools" even when they're right.]

Zachary Jacobus Osseroff: Was ancient Israel a constitutional or absolute monarchy?

Rabbi Mark: Wow! What a great question. The answer is definitely constitutional. The constitution was the Torah, and it placed real and important restrictions on the king.

Joseph Zucker: Why can't we dig under the Temple Mount?

Rabbi Mark: OK, Joseph is talking about the site of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem. The Second Temple was destroyed in the year 70 CE by the Romans. Hundreds of years later Muslims built a mosque - and another structure called The Dome of the Rock - on that site. They have prayed there ever since. We'd love to see what's underneath, because there are likely many interesting Jewish relics from the days when the Temples stood. But it would be disturbing to dig under there, and so we haven't and don't.

Hanna Rossi: Why do we believe that God lives forever?

Rabbi Mark: This is really one of the hardest things to understand. Everything in the Universe was created, and came from a tiny dot of light that exploded – something called the Big Bang – about 14 billion years ago. Before that dot of light was created there was nothing – no space, no stuff, not even time! – just God. I know, it's very hard to understand!

Samuel Cohen-Angove: Since Jesus was a Jew, why is he not in the Hebrew Bible?

Rabbi Mark: Well, the easy answer is that the Hebrew Bible was written a very, very long time before Jesus. King David lived a thousand years earlier! The other reason is that Jews don't believe that Jesus was the Messiah, or that he was God. We respect all religions, but we don't all believe the same thing.

Laura Perlmutter: What makes our God real and the other gods fakes?

Rabbi Mark: Oh, that's a very important question. When Christians pray to God, when Muslims pray to Allah, we Jews believe that they're praying to the same God that we're praying to. They're not "fake" gods because there's only one God who created the Universe! Different religions believe different things about God, but Jews believe that there is only one God.

# FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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## 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, eaunganarray of salads, bagels and pastry.

## **SPECIAL FUND: ED SPERLING**

Pleasantville Community Synagogue has begun 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).

## (NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, CONT'D)

Finally, HaShem did it. He knew He had everything He needed to take on the best possible shape. He would be invisible. It made perfect sense. No one would feel offended and no one would feel superior to another. That is why God just IS...a spiritual essence, an unseen presence that God's people can connect to.

### The Creation of the Star of David by Lucas Cohen

One day there was a famous Israeli King named David. He was quite fond of drawing configurations and connecting them into different shapes. The people in his kingdom implored him to draw a symbol for Israel. This was a wonderful challenge which David accepted.

He became so excited with the concept that he became light-headed. He passed out cold with a pencil and a piece of paper in his hand. While he was unconscious, God moved David's hand and drew two intertwined triangles. When the King awoke, he found himself still holding a pencil, and gazed down to see a piece of paper lying on the floor. King David picked up the sheet of paper and flipped it over. To his amazement, it revealed two intertwined triangles.

He then brought his brilliant drawing to the people of his kingdom. They were astonished when they saw the incredible symbol. Since he had made the emblem, he was asked to name it. He called it the Star of David, Magen David. He explained that the triangle with the point facing upward represented the heavens of God. The triangle with the point facing downward was the earth that God created. King David then put this insignia on his shield so that he could have God's amazing protection all the days of his life.

### Cain's Jealousy by Clara Perlmutter

All siblings have problems. They always fight about nothing, or everything. This included Cain and Abel. Cain just could not stand his goody-two shoes brother. Abel always upstaged him, and when confronted, he apologized. Although it was annoying, it was truly sincere and from his heart. This made Cain sick to his very core!

When God asked them to bring Him an offering, Cain found that this would be the perfect chance to kiss up to God. For once in his life, he would be better than Abel. Each day Cain would remind himself to set aside a separate section of his field to grow his special crops for God. When Cain finally remembered, he selected a secluded area to plant his seeds.

Two months later, a day before they had to make the offering, Abel came over to Cain's farthest field, and brought his sheep to graze. Unaware that this was to be Cain's offerings, he set his sheep free. They headed straight to Cain's crops and started to nibble on them. Cain, who was trying to tolerate his brother, walked in to see Abel's flock of sheep devouring his tasty plantings.

"This is your fault! You just wanted God to like you more! Cain roared. In a fury, he slew Abel and God punished him for a lifetime by making him wander the earth.

Cain wallowed in self-pity, but every single day God reminded him that it was up to him to improve himself. He must do this by showing compassion and consideration for others, and to be sincere when doing mitzvot.

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Todah Rabbah (thank you)

- to Emma Reisman, Helen Harrison and Vikki Simon, for coordinating the kitah Hay Shabbaton

**Jewish Genealogy Workshop**  
**How to find family in Israel (and around the world)**  
**Tuesday, February 8 at 7:30 pm**



**The PCS Israel Action Committee will be hosting a very special interactive workshop with Karen Franklin, past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and currently co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen. Through case studies and using the latest online databases, Karen will provide tips on tracing our ancestors and contacting our families. Participants will have the opportunity to work online with Karen to start their research during the session.**

**\*Coffee/tea and dessert will be served – snow date Tuesday 2/15 at 7:30  
Contact Seth Rutman at [seth.rutman@ubs.com](mailto:seth.rutman@ubs.com) with questions or to RSVP.**

**Pleasantville Community Synagogue – 219 Bedford Rd. Pleasantville, NY**

# January 2011 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	27	28 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	29 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	30 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	31 Friday Night Service 7:15pm 4:18pm-4:36pm - Candle lighting	1 Shabbat Service 9am Torah Study 12:15pm Parashat Vaera 5:49pm-5:50pm - Havdalah (72 min)
2 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	3	4 Tuesday Morning Minyan 7am	5	6 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	7 Friday Night Service 7:15pm with PCS House Band, Tot Shabbat (7pm), Children's Service & Birthday Blessings followed by Shabbat ...	8 Shabbat Service 9am Torah Study 12:15pm Parashat Bo 5:55pm-5:56pm - Havdalah (72 min)
9 Introduction to Judaism at PCS 11am	10	11 Tuesday Morning Minyan 7am	12 Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30pm	13 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30pm	14 Friday Night Service 7:15pm 4:32pm-4:50pm - Candle lighting	15 Shabbat Service 9am Torah Study 12:15pm Morning Meditation 9 am Family Education 10 am Parashat Beshalach 6:03pm-6:04pm - Havdalah (72 min)
16 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	17 Martin Luther King Day Martin Luther King Interfaith Service	18 Tuesday Morning Minyan 7am Hebrew School Tu-B'Shvat Program	19 Hebrew School Tu-B'Shvat Program Tu B'Shvat Seder	20 Tu B'Shvat Hebrew School Tu-B'Shvat Program	21 Friday Night Service 7:15pm with PCS House Band and Children's Service 4:40pm-4:58pm - Candle lighting	22 Shabbat Service 9am Torah Study 12:15pm Parashat Yitro 6:11pm-6:12pm - Havdalah (72 min)
23 Introduction to Judaism at PCS 11am	24	25 Tuesday Morning Minyan 7am	26	27	28 Friday Night Service 7:15pm with Dalet Shabbaton 4:48pm-5:06pm - Candle lighting	29 Shabbat Service 9am Torah Study 12:15pm Parashat Mishpatim 6:19pm-6:20pm - Havdalah (72 min)
30 Introduction to Judaism at PCS 11am Congregational Meeting	31	1 Tuesday Morning Minyan 7am Ask the Rabbi 4pm 2nd Grade	2	3	4 Friday Night Service 7:15pm with PCS House Band Rosh Chodesh Adar I 4:57pm-5:15pm - Candle lighting	5 Shabbat Service 9am Torah Study 12:15pm Rosh Chodesh Adar I Parashat Terumah 6:28pm-6:29pm - 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.



# TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE

TORAH READINGS Between Jan.1 and Oct.1, 2011

Note	Date	Parsha	Book	Verses	TOPIC	QUOTES	HAFTORAH
	Jan. 1	Vaera	Ex.	6:2-7:7	The Call of Moses	I have made you Master over Pharaoh. (7:1)	Ez. 28:25 - 29:21
	8	Bo	Ex.	10:1-11:3	Locust, Darkness	I shall never see your face again. (10:29)	Jer. 46:13 - 46:28
	15	Beshalach	Ex.	13:17-15:26	The Departure, The Song	Better to serve Egypt than to die in the Wilderness. (14:12) Who is like You, Adonay? (Mi kamocho?) (15:11)	Judges 4:4 - 5:31
	22	Yitro	Ex.	18:1-18:27	The Appointment of Judges	...teach them the statutes...show them the way...(18:20)	Is. 6:1 - 7:6; 9:5 - 9:6
	29	Mishpatim	Ex.	21:1-22:3	Laws concerning slaves, homicide, wounds, blows	An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth... (21:24)	Jer. 34:8 - 34:22;
a.	Feb. 5	Teruma	Ex.	25:1-25:40	The Sanctuary, The Ark	Build Me a Sanctuary and I shall dwell among them. (25:8)	Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24
	12	Tetzaveh	Ex.	27:20-28:30	The oil and the vestments	Kindle the lamp continually. (27:20)	Ezekiel 43:10 - 43:27
	19	Ki Tisa	Ex.	30:11-31:17	The census, The Sabbath	Observe the Sabbath through all generations. (31:16)	I Kings 18:1 - 18:39
	26	Vayakhel	Ex.	35:1-37:16	Construction of the Tabernacle	Bezalel made the Ark of acacia wood. (37:1)	I Kings 7:40 - 7:50
	Mar. 5	Pekudei	Ex.	38:21-39:21	The accounts of the Tabernacle	A bekah a head, a half a shekel. (38:26)	II Kings 12:1 - 12:17
	12	Vayikra	Lev.	1:1-2:16	Offerings	A sweet savour unto Hashem. (1:9)	Isaiah 43:21 - 44:23
b.	19	Tzav	Lev.	6:1-7:10	Offerings of the Kohens	-----	I Samuel 15:2 - 15:34
c	26	Shmini	Lev.	9:1-10:11	The death of Aron's two sons	Take no wine or strong drink. (10:9)	Ezekiel 36:16 - 36:38
	Apr. 2	Tazria	Lev.	12:1-13:39	Laws of Human Contamination	-----	Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:18
d	9	Metzora	Lev.	14:1-14:32	Purification	-----	II Kings 7:3 - 7:20
e	16	Achrei Mot	Lev.	16:1-17:7	Yom Kippur	And the goat shall be set free in the wilderness. (16:22)	Malachi 3:4 - 3:24
P	23	Ki Tisa	Ex.	33:12-34:26	The Encounter on Mt. Sinai	I shall show favor when I choose to show favor and mercy when I choose to show mercy. (33:19)	Ezekiel 37:1-37:14

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE, CONT.

TORAH READINGS Between Jan.1 and Oct.1, 2011

Note	Date	Parsha	Book	Verses	TOPIC	QUOTES	HAFTORAH
f	30	Kedoshim	Lev.	19:1-19:37	The human road to holiness	Do not favor the poor or honor the great. (19:15)	Amos 9:7 - 9:15
	May 7	Emor	Lev.	21:1-22:16	Contamination of the Kohens	-----	Ezekiel 44:15 - 44:31
	14	Behar	Lev.	25:1-25:38	The Sabbatical / Jubilee Year	Proclaim freedom throughout the land. (25:10)	Jeremiah 32:6 - 32:27
	21	Bechukotai	Lev.	26:3-27:15	Rewards and Punishments	I have broken your yoke and led you erect. (26:13)	Jer. 16:19 - 17:14
	28	Bamidbar	Num.	1:1-1:54	Census	Take a census...by number of the names. (1:2)	Hosea 2:1 - 2:22
	June 4	Nasso	Num.	4:21-5:10	Duties of the Levites. Restitution	Pay full value...and add to it its fifth. (5:7)	Judges 13:2 - 13:25
	11	Beha'alotcha	Num.	8:1-9:14	The Levites. The Passover	There shall be one law for stranger and native alike. (9:14)	Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7
	18	Sh'lach	Num.	13:1-14:7	The spies	It flows with milk and honey.(13:27) ...we felt like grasshoppers. (13:33)	Joshua 2:1 - 2:24
	25	Korach	Num.	16:1-17:15	Rebellion in the desert	...the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them. (16:32)	I Sam. 11:14 - 12:22
	July 2	Chukat	Num.	19:1-20:13	The red cow The striking of the rock	...you will not bring this people to the Land... (20:12)	Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24
	9	Balak	Num.	22:2-22:38	The parable of the she-donkey	Am I not your ass you have ridden all your life? (22:30)	Micah 5:6 - 6:8
	16	Pinchas	Num.	25:10-26:51	Census	-----	I Kings 18:46 - 19:21
	23	Matot	Num.	30:2-31:54	Vows. The taking of Midian	A thousand from a tribe, a thousand from a tribe. (31:4)	Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3
	30	Masei	Num.	33:1-33:49	Summary of the Wanderings	-----	Jeremiah 2:4 - 28; 3:4
	Aug. 6	Devarim	Deu.	1:1-2:1	Moses begins his memoir	I cannot carry you alone. (1:9)	Isaiah 1:1 - 1:27
	13	Vaetchanan	Deu.	3:23-5:18	The Ten Commandments	Add nothing and take nothing away. (4:2)	Isaiah 40:1 - 40:26
	20	Eikev	Deu.	7:12-9:3	Hashem is the Provider	...man does not live by bread alone... (8:3)	Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3

TORAH READINGS Between Jan.1 and Oct.1, 2011

Note	Date	Parsha	Book	Verses	TOPIC	QUOTES	HAFTORAH
	27	Re'eh	Deu.	11:26-12:28	Laws for after the crossing	...you shall obliterate their names... (12:3)	Isaiah 54:11 - 55:5
	Sept. 3	Shovtim	Deu.	16:18-18:5	Judges. The king of Israel	He shall not have too many horses (17:16), ...wives...silver and gold (17:17)	Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12
	10	Ki Teitzei	Deu.	21:10-23:7	Of marriages, sons, property.	You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. (22:10)	Isaiah 54:1 - 54:10
	17	Ki Tavo	Deu.	26:1-27:10	The new commitment	Of whole stones shall you build the altar. (27:6)	Isaiah 60:1 - 60:22
	24	Nitzavim	Deu.	29:9-30:14	The renewal of the Covenant	What is secret is Hashem's, what is known is ours.(29:28)	Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9
	Oct. 1	Hazinu	Deu.	32:1-32:52	The Song of Moses	I shall render vengence upon My enemies and upon those who hate Me I shall bring retribution (32:41)	Hosea 14:2-10 Micah 7:18-20 Joel 2:15-27
Notes: P Passover. Bnei Mitzvahs: a.Abbe Furst b.Robert Levine c. The Dosters d.Benjamin Yampolsky e.Sophie Epstein f.Ilana Cohen							



## **JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER ANNOUNCES DATES FOR WESTCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2011**

The Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville has announced the dates for the annual Westchester Jewish Film Festival and will once again hold a Community Night as part of the Festival programming. The festival will run from March 24 – April 14, 2011 and is sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, Westchester. Films, speaker events, and receptions are in the planning stage and the complete schedule of events will be announced toward the end of the year. Community Night is a Sunday program which includes a film, speaker and a reception. Many synagogues use this night as a fundraiser. For questions, additional information and to register for group sales, please contact Abby Popper at [apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org](mailto:apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org) or at 914.773.7663 ext.424.

Contact: Abby Popper ([apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org](mailto:apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org))  
914.773.7663, ext. 424

### **When a Get is Not Enough: For Separated and Divorcing Individuals**

Discuss issues such as mourning the loss of your relationship, rebuilding self-esteem, navigating family complications, and dating again.

Co-facilitated by Jennifer Spitz, LCSW, and Rabbi Pamela Wax

6 Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM, December 8, 15, January 5, 12, 19, 26

\$72 donation to the WJCS Jewish Healing Center

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For more information or to register, contact:

Rabbi Pamela Wax  
Spiritual Care Coordinator  
Westchester Jewish Community Services  
845 North Broadway  
North White Plains, NY 10603  
914-761-0600 x149  
fax 914-949-6778  
[www.wjcs.com](http://www.wjcs.com)

With funding from UJA Federation of New York



You Are Invited!  
The 35th Annual Westchester Jewish Council Gala  
Saturday, February 12, 7:15 PM, honoring  
Stuart Kolbert, Susan Baer, and Sheila Friedland  
Featuring the comedy of Elon Gold and the music of SR2  
Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY

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Look for our free 2011-2012 Directory; Available Through Your  
Synagogue/Organization or through the Westchester Jewish Council

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

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Saturday, January 15: Morning Meditation, 9:00 am

Saturday, January 15: Family Education Shabbat, 10:00 am

Sunday, January 30: Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, February 8: Jewish Genealogy Workshop

