



## THE RABBI'S COLUMN: VACLAV HAVAL AND THE JEWS

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**By Mark Sameth**

Vaclav Haval, who died just before the New Year, was a personal hero of mine, a hero to the Jews, a hero to all who champion the cause of human rights.

Havel, a dissident playwright, was one of the leaders of Czechoslovakia's Sametova (Velvet) Revolution in 1989, the non-violent overthrow of the Soviet dominated authoritarian regime. After the Revolution, he was elected president, served until the unhappy but peaceful breakup of the country into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, and then acted again as president of the Czech Republic until 2003.

I had the honor of meeting him briefly in 1991. That year Czechoslovakians were arguing about their future together. I wrote a letter to *The New York Times*, taking issue with an editorial they had published on the conflict between the Czechs and Slovaks. The publication of that letter - "Cold War Doesn't Explain Slovak Nationalism" - resulted in my being invited (quite improbably) to an international conference in Slovakia, which was being held that spring in the hometown of my father's paternal grandfather.

Havel took time away from his duties at that conference to attend a small ceremony at the much destroyed "Alter Shul" - the great old synagogue of the city of Bardejov, where my great-grandfather had stood for Bar Mitzvah in

the 1800's, and from which the Jewish citizens of that town were deported in the 1940's. I was flabbergasted at Havel's act of kindness and sensitivity. A man standing nearby translated what he was saying. "Let this destroyed synagogue," he said, "be a 'warning finger' against those who tell lies and preach hate."

I soon learned that Havel, though not Jewish himself, had many Jewish friends, both within and without the world of theater and the arts. It may be hard for American Jews - so accepted and well integrated into the fabric of American life - to imagine. But for a non-Jewish Czech or Slovak to be able to point to having Jewish friends was akin to a European-American pointing to Native American friends. In Czechoslovakia, having Jewish friends spoke volumes about your politics; volumes about the sort of person you were. It was considered a badge of honor.

In 2008 Havel became member of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation, an NGO designed to monitor tolerance in Europe and to prepare practical recommendations on fighting anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia on the continent. Upon his death Havel was president of Human Rights Foundation. He was in our time truly one of the lights of the world.

May his memory be for a blessing.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I've been thinking lately about darkness and light - especially today, the winter's solstice, where the darkness is at its peak. Last week I was in Germany, visiting my wife, Eve-Marie's, family, where the combination of a more northerly setting and a misty weather pattern meant that we were deprived of almost any real daylight. This lack of daylight tends to make me, like most people, less joyful, more withdrawn, though also more contemplative. So this season I've been more mindful than ever of the contrast, as I light the Chanukah candles and recite the prayers each evening, looking out at the blackness through my kitchen window.

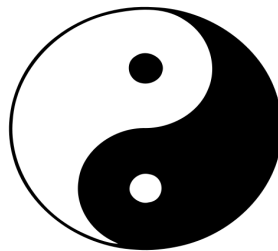
In our prayers we thank God by chanting: "You create day, you create night, you separate darkness and light." On a purely physical level, this is true: day and night are separate; psychologically, it isn't true, and at this time of year, where

darkness predominates, we feel the loss of light so deeply that it almost seems nonexistent. A number of years ago I visited Finland—coincidentally I was there on the summer solstice when I witnessed the midnight sun—and my hosts told me the story of how the Finnish government, touched by the story of the Mung people of Vietnam who were left homeless and despised after the end of the war, invited about 3,000 of them to emigrate to their country. They came from a land where the balance of day and night was fairly constant throughout the year, so after experiencing one year of the extremes of the Finnish summer and winter they all left to return to an uncertain political environment in Vietnam. The complete separation of darkness and light was more than they could tolerate.

When I was young, my favorite book of poems was Robert Louis Stevenson's "A Child's Garden

of Verses." In particular, I recall the lines: "In winter I get up at night, and dress by yellow candlelight"....These days I flick on a switch to dress by, as it is still pitch black when I get to work, but that childhood sensation remains with me, reminding me how darkness flows into light seamlessly as I sit by my computer and watch it happen. Even more, I think about the meaning of the darkness, the sense of solitude it instills in me, and I feel a certain measure of gratitude. Leonard Cohen, who has a wonderfully deep appreciation for night and darkness writes that: "Though the night was made for loving/ And the day returns too soon... 'nevertheless' the heart must pause to breathe,/And love itself have rest." So I wish us all this pause and rest as we light our candles and breathe into the dark.

- Peter Schaffer



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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 HAPPENINGS

December has been a busy month for our Hebrew School children and their families.

We started the month with menorah-making for the younger grades, an Ask the Rabbi session for the Dalet class and a wonderful schoolwide Chanukah Celebration on Sunday, December 18, 2011. The celebration included a visit to the Atria Senior Living Community in Briarcliff Manor with the Aleph, Bet and Gimmel classes, who sang songs, accompanied by Rabbi Mark on the piano and Vivian Freiheit on her violin. The children handed out Chanukah cards that they made and we all recited the prayers while we lit the chanukiah. The students and the residents had a wonderful time. It was a meaningful event for all, one that I would like to repeat in the spring with the older students in the later session. The administrator at the Atria welcomed the idea of a repeat visit.

At the synagogue, all the students enjoyed delicious latkes (thanks to Jennifer Yamuder for ordering and arranging their delivery to PCS). We also had fun with different crafts including dreidle-making, scratch-art, and magnet-making. Gelt was given out to everyone along with a dreidle and Bazooka bubble gum from Israel. The celebration would not have been such a success without the help of the parents, so on behalf of the school, I would like to thank all the parents that lent a hand in the kitchen and served the hot latkes, and a special thanks to Cantor Isabel who taught and led the children in song! (See photos of the day on pages 4-6, thanks to PCS parent and photographer, Emma Reisman!)

You may have seen the Chanukah menorahs hanging on the windows in the Sanctuary. Each one represents one student that generously donated the money for one night of presents to needy families in Israel. I am delighted to inform you that we have raised over \$650.00 for the American Friends of Meir Panim, which is an organization dedicated to feeding poor and disadvantaged families in Israel. Yasher Koach to these Mitzvah Makers!

January promises to be a fun-filled month as well, with the older students making challah in their classes and the Dalet and Hey Shabbatonim scheduled for January 20 and January 28, respectively.

Wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 5 and Sunday, January 8, when school resumes.

### CLASSROOM UPDATES:

The Aleph Bet class has been working very hard on learning the Hebrew alphabet, and have learned Aleph through Vav. The students have been learning the Parshat Hashavuah (parsha of the week) and have enacted some of the scenes from the Torah as well. They have also begun learning the prayers for the Friday night service.

In celebration of Chanukah, the students made menorahs out of popsicle sticks that they had decorated. These menorahs are hanging up in our classroom. They also made beautiful Chanukah cards which were handed out to the residents of the Atria.

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## HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS, CONTINUED

The Dalet class has become quite “fluent” in Hebrew and each session begins with a Hebrew conversation. The students discuss the weather, how they are feeling, the members of their families, where they live, as well as requesting snack and more snack in Hebrew. They are enjoying this activity and feel very proud of themselves. We also read Hebrew stories in a reader about a family and their many pets and the students have been acting out some of the stories. Ashrei means happy, and the Dalet students are very happy that they have learned 15 lines as they prepare to lead the Ashrei prayer.

We are also reading *The Mensch Handbook*, which offers many situations for the students to discuss what is mensch-like behavior. One situation in the book centered on a new student in a class, which led to a very interesting discussion with the students, very open in offering their opinions. They were truly mensch-like when they created Chanukah cards for senior citizens which I took to a nearby nursing home. The cards were read aloud and the residents loved them.

The Hey class has been studying the travails of their beloved llama named “Shiri.” Their reading and comprehension of the stories has been wonderful. The students have become adept at Hebrew calligraphy and are anxious to use it in future projects. We have put together a class self-portrait quilt which now graces our class wall. We are presently preparing for their Havdallah Service in February and are starting to plan our individual recycle projects.

The Vav class has continued their reading of the adventures of Shiri the llama in the second more advanced book of stories. They are also making incredible progress in their Hebrew Through Prayer books, working at their own individual pace. In honor of our class mitzvah, “Bikur Cholim,” we have been constructing get-well cards for Jewish veterans at the Montrose VA Hospital for the past few weeks. Our goal is to reach 150 for each and every patient! The students have really made some beautiful artwork with very sensitive messages. Bravo!



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HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS, CONTINUED





HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS, CONTINUED



# The Best of Old World Elegance, Rural Beauty and Modern Amenities

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# Family Hanukkah and Rosh Chodesh Celebration!



On the second night of Hanukkah, the Rosh Chodesh committee held a family event for parents and their children. The room was abuzz with activity and the excitement of children and parents.

The kids celebrated Hanukkah in the traditional way by lighting their menorahs, singing Hanukkah songs, playing dreidel, and eating jelly-filled doughnuts.

But this time, they also got involved in a tzedakah project.

About twenty pillowcases decorated by the children, and the parents who couldn't resist picking up color pencils also, were filled with stuffed animals, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and lotion.

The stuffed pillowcases will be donated to the Community Opportunity Center in Tarrytown, and kids there will receive the bags during a holiday party.

We thank the organizers: Laurie Hirsh Schulz, Estelle Kersh, Deborah Spanierman for their hard work and ingenuity, the parents and kids that attended, and Cris Martinez for taking the pictures.



Mike Rhodes, watching sons Nolan and Ian playing dreidel



Nolan and Ian Rhodes with Deborah and Eliana Johnston, Sydney Schulz and Ethan Spanierman



The children busy at work



CHANUKAH PARTY, CONTINUED



Deborah Spanierman lighting the menorah



Nolan Rhodes lights candles



Jay Schulz and daughter Kyra decorating pillowcases



Deborah Spanierman and daughter Sarah



Douglas and Ariela Wehrle



Simon Spivack and son Zach



Laurie Hirsh Schulz, Estelle Kersh (Rosh Hodesh Chair) and Susan Spraragen.



Nancy Meyer

## CHANUKAH PARTY, CONTINUED



Doug Wehrle



Kyra Schulz



## B'NEI MITZVAH PROJECT

Isaiah Schrader

The parsha and haftorah for my bar mitzvah, Vayechi, is about the old age of Jacob, Joseph and King David. So it is very appropriate that as my community service project, I have been spending time at the Atria Assisted Living Center in Ossining, leading Friday Shabbat services for the Jewish residents. Each Friday evening my family and I bring a set of candlesticks, a challah plate, a box of kippot, a "prayerbook" (which Rabbi Sameth and I created), and a bottle of

Manischewitz wine to an activity room at Atria. We are joined there by between eight and fifteen Atria residents. Some are very healthy and active. Some are in wheelchairs or walkers. All of them seem happy to be given the chance to celebrate Shabbat. It is fun to lead the service and to bench the Friday night blessings and prayers. It is even more fun to talk afterwards with the Atria residents about their interesting lives. I am very happy that I can help Jewish seniors greet the Sabbath.



# Ask the Rabbi: Jewish Holidays, Numbers, and Cookies

**Last month Rabbi Mark met with the fourth-grade class for a session of Ask the Rabbi. Here is a very short excerpt of that wide-ranging conversation:**

Zennor Angove-Cohen: *Were you ever in an Egyptian pyramid? If so, do you have any treasure?*

Rabbi Mark: Actually I was once in an Egyptian pyramid. During the time I was living in Israel, studying to be a rabbi, Tali and I took a trip to Egypt. But we didn't come back with any treasure – it's all in museums!

Jacob Coleman: *Why do we light candles on Channukah?*

Rabbi Mark: Most channukiot (Channukah Menorahs) use candles today because they're easier, but some still use oil, which is what the Maccabees used. The story goes that there was only enough oil to light the menorah in the Temple in Jerusalem for one night, but that it lasted for eight nights. When things seem dark that's a great lesson to remember!

Jeremy Tetenman: *Why do we have a lulav and etrog in the sukkah?*

Rabbi Mark: Sukkot is our fall harvest festival. The Pilgrims actually based the holiday of Thanksgiving on Sukkot! The lulav (a palm frond bound to a willow and myrtle branch) and etrog (a citron) are symbols of nature which all have to work together – just like people.

Aaron Foote: *Why are there so many multiples of four in the Torah?*

Rabbi Mark: You've noticed! Noah and his family are in the Ark for forty days; Moses is on the mountain for forty days; we wandered in the desert for forty years. Yes, in the Torah whenever we're moving from one important stage of life to another it is associated with the number four. Like fourth grade.

Dylan Marcus: *Why are the plagues not a multiple of 4?*

Rabbi Mark: Right. There are ten plagues. Ten is another important number in the Torah (think of the Ten Commandments). Ten is a number symbol meaning "complete." When you get annoyed, count to ten before saying anything. It helps!

Nathan Foote: *Why are there four letters on the dreidel?*

Rabbi Mark: Well, today we say that the four letters stand for Nes Gadol Haya Sham – a Great Miracle Happened There. But the dreidel was originally a German gambling toy, and the letters stood for nisht ("nothing"), halb ("half"), gants ("all"), and shtel arayn ("put in"). The rabbis took a gambling device and turned it into something spiritual!

Yakira Sameth: *Why are there five books in the Torah?*

Rabbi Mark: At first the Torah was only four books – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. But then in the time of King Josiah a fifth book was "found" (some people think it was written then) and added to the Torah. That's the beautiful book of Deuteronomy. And that's where the Shema comes from.

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## ASK THE RABBI, CONTINUED

Sophia Rutman: How many words are there in the Torah? How many letters? How many paragraphs?

Rabbi Mark: OK, wait! For this one, Sophia, I will need to get a book from my study... Alright, so someone actually counted all of this. There are 79,847 words in the Torah. There are 304,805 letters. And as far as paragraphs, it depends on what we mean by paragraphs. There are sections of the Torah where there is a small space between sentences called a "setuma" – a space just long enough to write nine letters. And then there are sections in the Torah where a sentence ends and then there's just white space to the end of the line, called a "petucha." So in the Torah there are two different kinds of "paragraphs" – it was a different system than we have today.

Owen Stone: How long is the Torah?

Rabbi Mark: If you unrolled the entire Torah and people held it up it would stretch around the entire sanctuary!

Isabella Friedman: How do we know if the legends in the Torah are true?

Rabbi Mark: Well, some of the most important rabbis of the very old past – like Rabbi Abraham, son of the Rambam – said since Jews believe in science, that if a story is not scientifically possible it is there to teach us a spiritual lesson. Before we were human beings we were apes. But the Torah has a story that God created the first human being as a strange half-man, half-woman creature. Why? To teach us that boys and girls, men and women are equal.

Deborah Johnston: What's the Ashrei about?

Rabbi Mark: Ashrei means happy, and the word appears three times in the opening lines: happy, happy, happy. The rabbis taught that if you say the word "happy" three times – you will be! Now that doesn't always work, but science is teaching us it works more than we thought. It's good for us to think about the good things in our lives, and be happy for our blessings.

Jonah Lichtenthal Steinberg: Why did you become a rabbi? How long did you study?

Rabbi Mark: One day I looked at the side of my bed, and saw a stack of books piled high. I realized that I was really interested in learning Torah, and what our sages had taught for thousands of years, and that being a rabbi would allow me to teach and to help people. I studied for five years in rabbinical school, but I'm still studying.

Maya Sabatier: How did vowels become part of the Hebrew language?

Rabbi Mark: In Israel Hebrew is written without vowels. But if you know the language, you don't really need them. How is that possible? CN U RD THS? (I know, U is a vowel, but you get the idea!) At one time it looked like the Jews might forget their ancient language, so a group called the Masoretes created the Hebrew vowels and wrote everything down using them, so we would never forget.

Jacob Taboh: Did the Jewish people in the Torah have cookies?

Rabbi Mark: Oh yes! In the book of Genesis – in the Torah portion called Vayera - Abraham and Sarah treat their guests to ugot (cakes). Well you know if they had ugot (cakes) they had to have had ugiot (cookies)!



# UNDER ONE ROOF COOKBOOK SALE!!!



By now we hope that everyone is aware of the new joint committee between PCS and the Upper Westchester Muslim Society called "Under One Roof." This committee, the brainchild of PCS Social Action Chair, Michael Gold, was created to be something of an antidote to much of the distrust and hatred we see in the world. The goal of the committee is to collaboratively provide secular aid to the local and global community and in the course of that work, to get to know and learn from each other. And equally important, we hope to be good role models to the larger community in part by the mere act of making our donations jointly.

Started less than a year ago, we are now in the midst of our second project. Capitalizing on our mutual love of food, and knowing that sharing a meal is a wonderful way to make new friends, we came up with the idea of a cookbook and joint dinner. We just finished (and sent to the printer!) a cookbook that contains recipes from both of our communities. Many members of PCS and UWMS contributed to the almost 100 recipes collected. On January 22, our communities will come together at the UWMS in Thornwood for a dinner that will include many of the recipes in the book. Proceeds from the sale of the book at the dinner will be donated to the work of Dr. Hawa Abdi in Somalia, who transformed her family farm into a refugee camp for women and children who are victims of violence in her country; and Birthday Angels, which provides birthday parties for orphaned and destitute children - Jewish and Arab - in Israel. The dinner is open to all members of our communities (children welcome) and promises to be a delicious and delightful evening.

Audrey Rabinowitz, Social Action Committee

(Cookbooks will be available at the dinner or by contacting the Social Action Committee after January 22nd)



# JANUARY 2012 YAHRZEITS

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Mark Loren, Father of Heather Sabatier	January 1
Michael Fineman, Nephew of Roberta Berman	January 4
Max Gitelson, Father of Rhea Wolfthal	January 5
Ruth Hersh, Mother of Karen Sanders	January 6
Frederick Berman, Father of Roberta Berman	January 7
Joyce Goldman, Mother of Dorian Goldman	January 7
Nathan Blackman, Father of Jonathan Blackman	January 8
Fay Singer, Mother of Sharon Friedman	January 9
Fanny Goldman, Grandmother of Dorian Goldman	January 9
Julius Strauss, Father of Fredric Strauss	January 10
Samuel Weiner, Father of Shelley Weiner	January 11
Alexander Gordon, Father of Bernard Gordon	January 12
Marvin Levine, Father of Richard Levine	January 13
Ruth Kloogman, Mother of Helen Kloogman	January 18
Philip Wolfthal, Husband of Rhea Wolfthal	January 21
Regina Fisher, Grandmother of Dorian Goldman	January 22
Sandra Furman, Aunt of Galia Silverberg	January 26
Kenneth Wolf, Father of Michael Wolf	January 29
Lena Lupowitz, Grandmother of Nancy Cande	January 30
Louis Etkin, Uncle of Rhea Wolfthal	January 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.**

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## **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 organisations.

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@lightbodemusic.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.





## Missed the lottery? Didn't get picked?

No problem! You still have a great opportunity to compete in some of New York's most popular and exciting sporting events while helping people in need.

Spots are available for the New York City Triathlon with UJA-Federation's Sports for Youth Team.

Sunday, July 8, 2012

Join the second annual UJA-Federation of New York and Sports for Youth triathlon team in the New York City Triathlon to raise money for UJA-Federation and Sports for Youth. If you join our charity team, you'll commit to raising a minimum of \$2,200, which guarantees you a spot to compete while helping those in need.

## Sign up for the New York City Triathlon!!!



### 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.

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#### Youth Committee

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

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Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry      Diplomate  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

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[www.Eastmeetswestflowers.com](http://www.Eastmeetswestflowers.com)



## **PCS ROSH CHODESH**

### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Rosh Chodesh Musical Event - Thursday March 22, 2012  
Our own Lisa Lipkin will present Music as Prayer:  
How music, meditation & prayer come together in Judaism to open your heart & soul.



## CONTRIBUTIONS

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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.**

### **ED SPERLING FUND**

JAN AND BERNARD GORDON  
JANICE AND TONY GAMBINO

### **GENERAL FUND**

WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL, IN HONOR OF RABBI MARK: "HIS ENERGY, EXPERTISE AND TEACHING SKILLS HAVE BROUGHT LIGHT TO THE CLASSROOMS OF THE WESTCHESTER ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM."

KAREN NEUBURGER

SUE AND KENNETH FUIRST, IN MEMORY OF SIDNEY NEUBURGER

JANICE AND TONY GAMBINO, IN MEMORY OF PHIL WOLFTHAL

ALICE FASS KORWAN, IRIS AND JOEL ROTHSTEIN, MERRIE AND GEORGE TEITEL GREENE, SUSAN AND ANDREW STOESSEL, IN MEMORY OF JERRY LENOFF.

DORIAN GOLDMAN AND MARVIN ISRAELOW, AND SUE AND KENNETH FUIRST IN MEMORY OF SIDNEY COHEN

DORIAN GOLDMAN AND MARVIN ISRAELOW, AND SUE AND KENNETH FUIRST IN MEMORY OF SIDNEY NEUBURGER

### **KIDDUSH FUND**

DEBBIE ROSENBERG AND MARC FREEDMAN, IN HONOR OF THEIR SON, BENJAMIN, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH

RHEA WOLFTHAL, IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND, PHIL WOLFTHAL, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST YAHRZEIT

NANCY GUTMAN AND HOWARD SCHRADER IN HONOR OF THEIR SON, ISAIAH, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

KAREN NEUBURGER

DAVID REISMAN, IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER, ARNOLD REISMAN

RHEA WOLFTHAL, IN MEMORY OF JERRY LENOFF

JAN AND BERNARD GORDON, IN MEMORY OF JERRY LENOFF

JANICE AND TONY GAMBINO

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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

# 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: salads, bagels and pastry.

## SPECIAL FUND: ED SPERLING

Pleasantville Community Synagogue continues 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).

# January 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>NO YOGA CLASS</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Asara B'Tevet</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Children's Service PCS House Band 4:23pm-4:41pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Vayechi Bar Mitzvah - Isaiah Schrader</p> <p>5:54pm-5:55pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm Introduction to Judaism, 11:30am-1pm</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Social Action Committee meeting, 7 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>4:30pm-4:48pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Morning Meditation 9 am; Shabbat service 10 am Parashat Shemot</p> <p>6:02pm-6:03pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Executive committee meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>PCS Board meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Kita Dalet Shabbaton Tot Shabbat PCS House Band 4:38pm-4:56pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Morning Meditation 9 am; Shabbat service 10 am Parashat Vaera</p> <p>6:10pm-6:11pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>"Under One Roof" fundraising dinner at mosque, 5 pm Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parent Group at PCS - 7pm Kita Zayin class, 11am-1pm Introduction to Judaism</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Children's Service Birthday blessings</p> <p>4:47pm-5:05pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Morning Meditation, 9 am Family Education Shabbat 10 am Kita Hey Shabbaton Parashat Bo 6:18pm-6:19pm - Havdalah (72 min)</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Introduction to Judaism, 11:30am-1pm</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Children's Service PCS House Band 4:56pm-5:14pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Beshalach Bar Mitzvah - David Solodukhin</p> <p>6:27pm-6:28pm - Havdalah (72 min)</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](http://www.ShalomPCS.com). Future months are also on the website.



# WJCS JEWISH HEALING CENTER

(SELECTED PROGRAMS)

## Spiritual Journeying Groups

The Literature of Grief (6:00-7:30 PM)

Writers of all genres (poetry, fiction, memoir, playwriting) have explored the universal theme of grief in their work. In this group, we will read a variety of literature and discuss the work and the writer's experience of bereavement.

You need not be bereaved to attend, but you do need to read the assignments before class!

3 Wednesdays, November 9, December 14, January 11, 6-7:30 PM (\$25)

## Spiritual Support Groups

Bringing Light into Darkness - a Chanukah Bereavement Program

Celebrate the 2nd night of Chanukah with other bereaved Jews. How can we find light in dark times? Food, songs, storytelling, candle-lighting, and discussion of relevant Chanukah themes. For those with any kind of loss at any stage of the grieving process.

Wednesday, December 21, 6:30-8:00 PM

Fractured Families – a workshop for those dealing with family estrangements

You may be a sibling, a parent, or an adult child. You may be the one who cut off relations or you may be the one who was cut off by another family member. If there is an estrangement in your family-of-origin for which you desire healing, join us as we explore issues of anger, grief, and forgiveness in a safe environment. Familiarity with the

Book of Genesis is highly recommended for this session.

Monday, January 9, 2012, 6:00-9:00 PM

## Kumi Ori - Contemplative Sundays

We will be offering a variety of programs from 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon on Sundays once a month, integrating modalities such as meditation, chanting, yoga, text study, and writing exercises. Starting in October, there will be an optional meditation circle preceding each program from 9:15-9:45 AM

The upcoming dates for these programs will be Sundays, November 20, December 11, January 8, February 5, March 4, April 1, and May 20.

December 11: A Personal Chanukah: Rededicating Ourselves to Living Our Truest Selves

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For further information on these or our many other programs, or to register, please 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

## Help Us Celebrate!

The 36th Annual (Double Chai) Westchester Jewish Council Gala  
Saturday, February 11, 7:15 PM, honoring  
Tobi & The Honorable Martin Rogowsky and Joyce & Fred Claar  
Featuring an evening of fun and comedy with the Chicago City Limits  
plus the music of The New Relics  
kosher dietary laws observed

Westchester Jewish Center, 147 Rockland Avenue, Mamaroneck

ASL interpretation available upon request to [nancy@wjcouncil.org](mailto:nancy@wjcouncil.org)

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

### **Hola, ¿habla español? ¿No? ¡Qué pena!**

#### SPANISH LESSONS

Brush up on your Spanish:

- if you're traveling
- to have a conversation
- to prepare for your school or college exams

Native Spanish speaker with an MA in  
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email: [inspanish@optonline.net](mailto:inspanish@optonline.net)



### **STRATEGIC ADVISORS FOR NON-PROFITS**

### **PLANNING, FUND RAISING BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

**Evan Kingsley**  
Vice President and  
Senior Consultant

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WHELAN  
GROUP**

**483 Tenth  
Avenue, Suite**

## **PAINTING FROM THE INSIDE OUT**

Guided by Eve-Marie Elkin Schaffer, LCAT,  
LMSW

Painting from the Inside Out uses paint as a catalyst for growth and exploration....encouraging adults and children to express spontaneously, without judgment or concern for outcome.

The paintbrush is a tool; whether it is a color a dot, an outline or an image, a gesture appears from within. Spontaneity is awakened for exploration and play.

No training is involved. No skills required; just the desire to experience a sense of freedom and joy.

More info: [www.evemarieelkin.com](http://www.evemarieelkin.com)  
[eveelkin@yahoo.com](mailto:eveelkin@yahoo.com), 914 909 6292



## **REMINDER!!!!**

### ISRAEL DAY PARADE

### JUNE 3, 2012

### BE THERE!!!!



## **SAVE THE DATE:**



**Saturday, January 14:**

**Special Congregant-Led MLK Weekend Shabbat Service**

**Monday, January 16:**

**Pleasantville Clergy Association MLK Service 7:30 pm (at the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church)**

**Sunday, January 22:**

**"Under One Roof" celebratory dinner at the Upper Westchester Muslim Society**