



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Chaverim,

I think we can all agree that this is the end of an era, as we now change leadership in the synagogue. Of course, I am referring to the end of my nine-year tenure as your trustee, with the last seven years as an officer, culminating in my privilege to serve as your president.

Thank you for your trust in me, for your faith and support throughout the years. When I was first asked to serve on the board of trustees, I agreed so that I would be in a position to help PCS thrive and prosper – to help us grow and develop, and also to avoid unwanted or unnecessary change.

But change has been the one true constant. Beloved friends have left the congregation, and others have come – never to replace them, but just as dear. I have had the honor and privilege of working closely with my good friend, Rabbi Mark Sameth, week in and week out, through meetings and services, as a congregant, as *gabbai* in the community, as an executive officer of the community we were both leading, eventually as president, and as a devoted, enthusiastic congregant on nearly every Shabbat morning.

Several people have offered me the opportunity to stay on as president – I politely declined. Not because I am tired of the position, but because it is time for new leadership, new blood, new ideas. I have had my time of leadership and it has been wonderful. But, like with my children who are now grown and will start their own lives, I need to leave room for growth and development that I would crowd out if I tried to continue my control. Instead, I will trust our new leadership (and my boys) to make decisions that will make us all proud, happy, and able to thrive in new ways that I could not have imagined. And I look forward to my own opportunities for personal growth, as I find ways to fill the many hours previously devoted to my leadership roles.

And lest you think this is my goodbye, I intend to stick around as *gabbai*, serving on committees, and singing (loudly) at services. *Todah rabah.*

B'shalom –
Michael Safranek



HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Galit Sperling, Principal

It has been a wonderful year in the PCS Hebrew School! We wrapped up with an Ice Cream Party and Student Craft Fair on Sunday, May 17. The craft fair was inspired by Kitah Vav (sixth grade) and the students' desire to raise money for the victims of the recent earthquakes in Nepal. Students from every grade contributed craft projects to be sold for *tzedakah* (charity). Thank you to all who came out and donated!

Yasher koach to our Kitah Zayin (seventh grade), who in May graduated from Hebrew School. It was an honor to hand these students their diplomas, a class that had been together for so long, and grown so much. We are proud of their maturity, strength, and embodiment of Jewish values. We can't wait to see them all back in the fall, whether as Hebrew High School students or *madrachim* (teen assistants) in the Hebrew School!

I hope you will indulge me now, as there are many people to thank for their contributions to this successful year in the PCS Hebrew School:

Firstly, our incredible teaching staff. We are fortunate to have knowledgeable, experienced, passionate teachers working with our students and growing our community. *Todah rabah* to Isaac Brooks, Jaime Chervin, Jennifer Chervin, Jamie Cotel, Tamar Drucker, Karen Stamatis, Ann Vesei, and Rabbi Mark Sameth.

To our fabulous *madrachim*, Tova Greene, Katie Ross, Liana Sameth, and Michelle Siegel, for giving of their time and energy, and for serving as role models for our students. To Robin Berman for her work and assistance, and Judy Chinitz, Estelle Rosen Kersh, and Roberta Korus for our newsletter.

To Marcy Gray, our amazing synagogue administrator who helps in every way behind the scenes, ensuring that things run smoothly. To Kirsten Zweibaum and Vivian Chang Freiheit for their work and leadership. To all of the parents of our Hebrew School students for their incredible support. Finally, to the incomparable Rabbi Mark for his spiritual leadership, his guidance and charisma, and for inspiring us and our students each and every week!

Wishing you all a great summer; see you in September!

**Parents: Registration forms for next year's
Hebrew School classes
will be available online soon!**

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Kitah Aleph/Bet



Kitah Gimel

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Kitah Daled



Kitah Hey

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Kitah Vav



Kitah Zayin

Mazal tov on your graduation
from Hebrew School!

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Ice Cream Party & Student Craft Fair



Deborah Johnston Mitzvah Project

I love music. I love playing my violin. I want to encourage people to enjoy music in many ways, beyond listening to what is played on the radio.

I am giving short afternoon violin concerts at the Atria retirement home in Briarcliff Manor as my mitzvah project. I really enjoy playing for senior citizens because they sing along. Also, as they smile while I play, they know that the appreciation for classical violin music and show tunes endures. Included in my repertoire are songs from *The Sound of Music* and pieces by Huber and Bach.

I hope to continue to play for senior citizens for a long time!



ASK THE RABBI: Israel, God and Life Itself

On May 7, 2015, Rabbi Mark met with our fifth grade (Kitah Hey) class for a session of “Ask the Rabbi.” Here is an excerpt from that conversation:

DAVID TERZOULI: I’m part Italian. Is Italy friends with Israel?

RABBI MARK: Yes, Italy and Israel are friends. Italy recognized the State of Israel soon after it was established, and there were many important Italian rabbis – such as Rabbi Umberto Cassuto. The well-known Jewish name Rappaport comes from the marriage of two Jewish-Italian families, the Rapa family and the Porto family. And just a few weeks ago the Roman Catholic Church (which is located at the Vatican, within Italy, although not part of Italy itself) made Rabbi Arthur Schneier (who was my grandparents’ rabbi in Brooklyn) a Papal Knight. Yes, Italy and Israel are friends!

JOSH SHEA: How many times have you been to Israel?

RABBI MARK: I’ve been to Israel many times; we have a lot of family there. And I lived in Israel twice, once on a kibbutz during the Yom Kippur War, and then again for a year when I was studying to be a rabbi.

MAX COHEN: Was it scary being in Israel during a war?

RABBI MARK: I got to Israel a month before the Yom Kippur War, was there when the war broke out, and stayed until it was over. Was it scary? Sure. But I was 19 years old, and teenagers do not always feel danger as much as maybe they should. I remember sitting on the floor of the communal dining hall listening to Prime Minister Golda Meir telling the country what was happening. And sitting next to me was a young girl; she was only 13 years old. And she said “I hope it’s not like the last war.” And I thought: “I can’t believe a 13-year-old is living through her second war!”

JOSH SPIEGEL: If everyone in Israel goes into the army, why isn’t it the biggest army in the world?

RABBI MARK: As a percentage of population Israel’s army may be one of the largest in the world. But think about it. If only 10% of Americans sign up that’s, what, 30 million soldiers? Israel doesn’t have close to a population of 30 million people. Something like 8 million people. It’s a very, very small country.

JORDAN GALIN: How many peace treaties has Israel made?

RABBI MARK: Israel made a peace treaty with Egypt, and it made a peace treaty with Jordan. It wanted but never got peace treaties with Syria or Lebanon – maybe one day. It also has agreements with the Palestinian Authority, but no “final agreement” yet.

JAKE TETENMAN: What percentage of Israel is Jewish?

RABBI MARK: About 75% of Israelis are Jewish. The other 25% are mostly Muslim, but also Christians, Druze, and others.

JOSH SHEA: What is your favorite place in Israel?

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RABBI MARK: Wow, that's a great question. I have to think about it, I have so many. I would have to say I have two. One of my favorite places is the Old City of Jerusalem. I love to look at a place not far from the famous Western Wall (the "Kotel"), where a staircase to the Temple Mount used to be. It's not there anymore, but you can see on the wall the outline of where it was. And when I look at it I imagine my ancestors walking up and down those stairs. My other favorite place in Israel is way up north, along the coast of the Mediterranean. It's called Rosh Hanikra. And there's a cave, down by the water, that you can go down to. And I love to stand inside the cave and watch and listen to the water rush in (woosh) and rush out (woosh) and to think that that cave has been making that sound for thousands and thousands of years. And when I come back up the hill, I think about how the cave is still making that sound; it's making that sound right now!

MIRANDA MILLER: How many words are there in the Torah?

RABBI MARK: I should know this, but I don't have my "concordance" book with me. Let me check and get back to you. (The answer is 79,847 words.)

NADIA BERKOWITZ: Last year you told us how you decided to become a rabbi. What did you study in college?

RABBI MARK: Well, I started off studying music. Ask Morah Karen, and she'll tell you all about being a music major in college. I switched and ended up studying creative writing. And after college I was a songwriter, so I got to write both music and words.

JOSH SPIEGEL: So how did you decide to become a rabbi?

RABBI MARK: The story Nadia is remembering from last year is that one day I looked at a pile of books next to my bed; the books were stacked up very high, right to the top of the bed. And the books were all about the Torah, and about Judaism. And I said to myself, "This means this is what you want to do."

BENNY RAKOWER: Were your parents rabbis?

RABBI MARK: No. My father-in-law is an Orthodox rabbi. And one of my grandfathers was ordained a rabbi in Europe when he was just 14. But when he came to the United States, he sold suits at Sears.

JACK KLINGNER: How many years have you been a rabbi?

RABBI MARK: I have been here at PCS for 18 years, but the first year I had not yet been ordained. I was ordained a rabbi 17 years ago this month.

BENNY RAKOWER: Were you ever nervous about leading services?

RABBI MARK: You know, I was, Benny. I always loved to write; I loved to sing; I loved to help people, and to talk with people one to one. But for some reason I was very nervous about speaking in public. I even talked to one of my teachers, a rabbi at the seminary where I was studying to be a rabbi, about this. He told me, "The more you do something, the more comfortable you will be." And he was right. And I have been totally comfortable for many, many years now.

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MOLLY GALIN: When you have a Bat Mitzvah, do you keep the tallit? Do you only wear a tallit at that service?

RABBI MARK: If you wear one of the synagogue's tallitot, you're supposed to put it back for other people to use. Some parents buy their children a tallit – or make one, or have one made – and then, of course, you keep that one. Once you have a Bat Mitzvah our tradition is that you wear a tallit whenever you come to a morning service – though not at an evening service. There are other Jews whose tradition is not to wear a tallit at all until you're married.

NADIA BERKOWITZ: Why is the Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah at 12 or 13?

RABBI MARK: The Bat or Bar Mitzvah is a “coming of age” ceremony. It's when you become a “first level” adult in the Jewish world. Trust me: there are many more levels after this! It all evens out in the end, but at your age girls mature earlier and faster than boys, which is why the traditional age for Bat Mitzvah is 12. But at PCS, and elsewhere, girls usually have their Bat Mitzvah at 13.

MOLLY GALIN: Why do we throw marshmallows at a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

RABBI MARK: The custom of throwing sweets comes from the Spanish (Sephardic) Jews, who would throw candy at weddings. It's like throwing someone a kiss, wishing them a sweet life. We made it part of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebration here – other synagogues do this too – but we changed from hard candies to kosher marshmallows because they're really soft, and no one gets hurt! Jews all over the world have developed different traditions, and the great thing is that we can mix and match from all of the customs we like. North African Jews have a tradition of making a sort of high-pitched sound with the tongue at the roof of the mouth - luh-luh-luh-luh – which they got from their Arab neighbors. And Chinese Jews have a tradition of holding a red umbrella (a sign of royalty and good luck) over the rabbi on the holiday of Simchat Torah.

MAX SHAYEGANI: Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

RABBI MARK: Thank you, Max! Believe it or not, I actually know this one. People think that there is no answer to this question, but that's only if you believe that chickens and eggs have been around forever. That's what the great Greek philosopher Aristotle thought. He was one of the smartest people ever, and he was right about most things, but about this he was wrong. Because we know about evolution, we know that there was a time on earth when there were no chickens and no eggs. OK, so here's your answer: The egg came first. Now I'll tell you why. You know what a gene is, yes? OK, so in evolution, the genetic modifications that make a new species show up first in the egg. And here's what happened with the chicken and the egg: A bird which was very close to a chicken – but was not a chicken – laid an egg. And the genes in that egg were different from the bird that laid it. And so when the egg hatched a new species of bird – the chicken – was born!

ELLA FLEISCHER: What was the bird that laid that egg?

RABBI MARK: That's as much as I know, Ella! But I'll look it up for you and put it in the newsletter. [The answer is the red junglefowl, or possibly a hybrid of the red and grey junglefowls.]

OWEN FLEISCHER: Is it possible to put the trait of one animal in another animal?

RABBI MARK: Scientists can do that in the lab. There's also something called horizontal gene transfer (which we didn't think could happen). And then there is something called epigenetics, which means changes to our genes from environment. You'll learn all about this in high school. Sometimes the "environment" is our culture, and then the word is "memes." A meme is part of the culture that says things like "be nice," "don't bully," "take care of people who need your help." And so when you take those lessons from the Torah into the world, they can spread on the planet, just like life itself.

MAX COHEN: When did life start?

RABBI MARK: No one knows for sure how life on earth got started. Some people think it happened on the ocean floor, at the mouth of something like a super-hot, underground volcano. Other people think it got started from a lightning strike. Some think it might have started on another planet, and then landed here on a meteor. We don't know. But we do know that all of this got started in the Big Bang, 13.8 billion years ago, when a tiny dot of energy exploded into the entire universe, like a quickly expanding balloon. So we – all people and all life – are one! Jews are allowed to think many different things about God because Jews believe there is no way we could ever have all the answers. But personally, when I think about God I often think about the Big Bang, and how that means that we are really all connected, all part of one big family.

KATIE ROSS (MADRICHAH): Did you ever not believe in God?

RABBI MARK: I never believed that God was an old man in the sky with a white beard throwing lightning bolts, and stuff like that. And I was happy to learn the Jewish mystics taught that that idea of God is not the real God. For a long time I called myself an "agnostic" – that means someone who thinks that we can never know the answer to the question of whether God exists or not. But the Jewish mystics – and modern science – made it possible for me to see that I actually did believe in God. And I do.

JACK KLINGNER: What is your favorite prayer?

RABBI MARK: Thanks, Jack. This is a good one to end on. I would have to say that my favorite prayer is the "Shema." I love what it says: "Listen! God is One!" And since all of us are part of God, all of us are one. I love that. And I also love the meditation we do at PCS before we say the Shema, when we chant each letter of the word Shema: the letter Shin, which makes the sound of quieting down "shhhhhhh;" the letter Mem, which makes the sound of the universe "mmmmmmmm;" the letter Ayin, which is our breath response to the universe "ahhhhhhhh!" Chanting the Shema this way helps me to calm down, to find my center, and to be more mindful of what I am doing. And then when my mind is calm, I pray the Shema itself. And I remember that we really are – all of us – one.



PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

PCS Fair Share Update

Dear PCS Congregant,

June 30, 2015 is the end of this year's fiscal year. We want to thank the 80 families that have contributed to this year's Fair Share Dues structure. *This means over half our community has donated money to help our religious home grow and thrive.* If you have not had an opportunity to send in your gift, please do it now so that we can balance this year's budget. We did not have our annual Purim Shpiel fundraiser this year so we are currently behind our fundraising targets. And please don't forget that close to half the annual PCS budget is paid for through our Fair Share Dues.

You know that not all families can afford synagogue dues. And the fact is that dues do not come close to paying for the operating budget of a small community like ours. PCS has managed to keep operating by relying on the generosity of its membership base giving their family's Fair Share to helping the PCS family. We have survived by asking each person to give 2% of their household income to help their religious home. Each year we receive checks ranging from \$36 to \$36,000. Every gift helps.

Thank you again to the 80 families that have supported PCS this year. If you have not paid your Fair Share for this year, please help us out by sending it in now. You can send in a check to PCS, call the office with credit card information or, if you'd prefer to donate online with a credit card or PayPal, go to www.shalompcs.com/support-pcs and click on the "Donate" button.

Thank you again for helping to support your PCS community.

Ken Furst
Chairman, Fundraising Committee

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CELEBRATING SPRING ROSH CHODESH AT PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE!!

By Robin Berman, Committee Chair – Photos: Cristina Altieri-Martinez

Learning, laughter, friendship, and prayer are the hallmarks of Rosh Chodesh at PCS. On Wednesday evening, May 20, PCS congregant and professional flower arranger Jan Gordon helped us celebrate Sivan, as a “time to honor the fruit of the seed.” Jan studied Ikebana; traditional Japanese flower arrangement. As she created two very beautiful floral pieces (pictured above), she explained how she was using the tenets of Ikebana.

We learned and experienced that “the relationship between the placement and height of the beautiful flowers is significant, invites meditative reflection, delights the senses, and refreshes the spirit.” Jan “blends Asian and European design concepts by introducing more fresh flowers than a traditional Ikebana Japanese arrangement.” Japanese meditate on the flowers in their homes while Americans usually just look at them.

We raffled off the arrangements. Audrey Larkin and Leyla Nakisbendi took home the two arrangements, and we each received beautiful flowers and greens to create our own arrangements at home. For more information about Jan’s business, please visit www.EastMeetsWestFlowers.com.



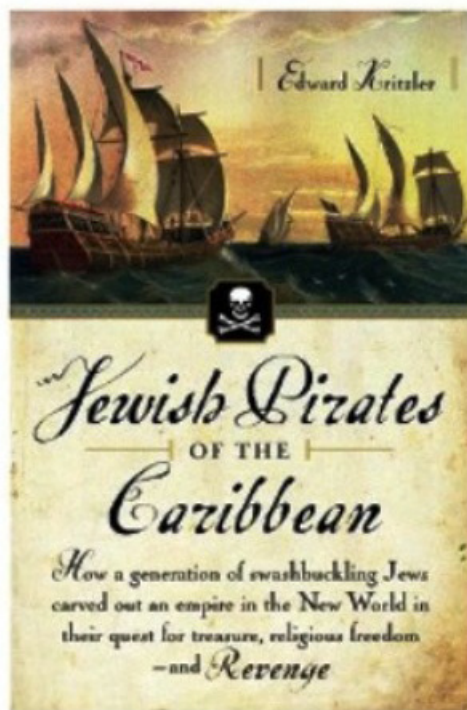


From the PCS Bookworm... Eileen Jagoda

Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean:

***How a Generation of Swashbuckling Jews
Carved Out an Empire in the New World
in Their Quest for Treasure, Religious Freedom – and Revenge***

by Edward Kritzler



A New Yorker transplanted to Jamaica, Edward Kritzler is a historian who loves all things about his adopted country. In this fabulous book, Kritzler's debut work, he tells a most engaging tale filled with stories of courage and perseverance.

As of the close of the 16th century, the only place in Europe in which Jews could live safely as Jews was Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, and so they looked for other places to settle. Before England conquered Jamaica in 1655, the island belonged to the family of Christopher Columbus, who provided a haven for Jews, otherwise outlawed in the New World. Since Jews were forbidden, they came disguised as Christians, called Esperandos (hopeful ones). As such, Jews in the New World prospered. They were mercantile people, mainly traders and shipbuilders. Jewish settlements in the New World, especially in Brazil, transformed Jewish life in the 16th and 17th centuries, making Recife in particular the richest trading port in the New World outside of Havana.



GETTING MORE JEWS by Lawrence Kushner

FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS A JEW HAS BEEN DEFINED as anyone born of a Jewish mother or who became a Jew-by-choice. Reform Judaism extended this definition to include someone born of a Jewish father. But it has not worked and neither have our redoubled efforts at outreach. We Jews remain only a tiny fraction of the world's population. Entire neighborhoods in San Francisco are still predominantly Christian.

It is time to take the next logical step. If conversion is too strenuous and having only one Jewish parent still insufficient to boost Jewish population, then we have no choice. We must consider admitting people into Judaism who neither have any Jewish parents nor have undergone conversion. Whereas, in the past, there were either Jews-by-birth or Jews-by-choice, now it is time for: Jews-by-surprise.

We might begin by simply taking names at random from the white pages of the phone book. Just imagine their surprise upon receiving a registered letter informing them of their new religious status:

Shalom!

We the board of directors of the Congregation Emanu-El at our last meeting unanimously selected you (and your entire nuclear family) to become Jews-by-surprise.

Housewife, opening the morning's mail, drops everything and gasps.

"What's the matter, Chastity?" her husband dotingly asks.

"Skylar, we're Jews!"

"Oh God, not the children, too!"

"Yes, all of us."

"Oy vey!"

"See what I mean ..."

The letter continues:

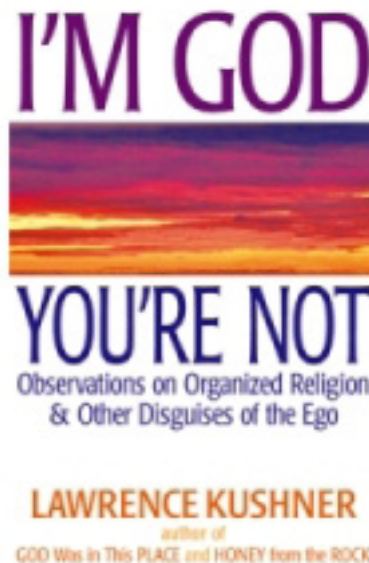
No matter how ridiculous you consider this decision, there are already tens of thousands of born Jews who know and do less than you do. Even if you are an avowed anti-Semite, relax, there are already many Jews like you, too.

This decision is irrevocable. Once a Jew, always a Jew. Neither changing your name, fixing your nose, nonpayment of any temple dues or charges will release you from your guilt nor exempt you from being solicited by the United Jewish Appeal for the rest of your life.

In order to maintain the traditional denominational spread, you will notice that the lower right-hand corner of your letter has been marked with either an "R," a "C," or a "U." Memorize your movement and then eat the lower right-hand corner of your letter—except in the case where your letter has "U," in which case, please wait three hours before eating it. If your "U" is enclosed in a little circle, wait six hours. And if you only have a lowercase "r," you may eat the whole letter without even reciting a blessing.

Please do not be alarmed by certain changes in mannerism or temperament such as talking with your hands, craving Chinese food, feelings of conflict toward Israeli politicians, heightened anxiety in the presence of your mother, yearning to purchase clothing at discount stores, and if you are a man, the gradual disappearance of your foreskin.

In conclusion, let us say, Mazel tov! It will be an honor to collect your money even if we never see you again—except, of course, on Purim.



Excerpt is from *I'm God; You're Not: Observations on Organized Religion & Other Disguises of the Ego*
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www.jewishlights.com.

Excerpt and illustrations selected by Estelle Rosen Kersh

ON THE HORIZON AT PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE...

The **Vision Committee** is building a pillar as it moves forward, and, based on the congregation's responses to the **Vision Survey**, it plans to address the suggestions and ideas expressed by our members.

At its meeting on Thursday, May 14, the committee focused on a new and revised PCS Mission Statement, with all participating in collective brainstorming, and created several ideas to distinguish and describe our community and include our "reason to believe." On Thursday, May 28, the Vision Committee met and continued to review and develop its vision and mission statements.

The next meeting of the Vision Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 pm.**

Please feel free to e-mail Committee Chair Laurie Hirsch Schulz at lhirschsulz@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

The **Rosh Chodesh Group** event on **Wednesday, June 17, at 7:30 pm** is a program about **Tamuz**, which will be celebrated with songs led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein; see flyer on page 20 of this issue.

After the June event, our Rosh Chodesh Group will take a hiatus, and will resume for **Cheshvan** with an event on **Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 pm.**

Whether we dance, chat, or meditate, Rosh Chodesh will bring us together spiritually and in friendship - and - refreshments will be served.

Contact Group Chair Robin Berman: awake.robins@gmail.com.

To learn more about the Rosh Chodesh Group event that took place on **Wednesday, May 20**, please see page 13 of this issue.

During July and August, **The PCS Bookworm**, Eileen Jagoda, ejtiny@optonline.net, recommends:

The Five Books of Miriam by Ellen Frankel. Ellen Frankel is a folklorist, writer, and scholar who has written a book that lets the Torah speak to women and welcomes women into its sacred pages. Discover the stories, conflicts, and dreams of many women – named and nameless – who populate the biblical landscape.

FDR and the Jews by Richard Breitman and Allen Litchman, professors of history at American University. There has always been a contentious debate over whether FDR turned his back on the Jews of Hitler's Europe. This book may surprise you. President Roosevelt's response to the "Jewish problem" is not what we have all been led to believe.

Treasures from the Attic: The Extraordinary Story of Anne Frank's Family by Mirjam Pressler. Mirjam Pressler is the German translator of Anne Frank's diary and has written over 30 books. How fascinating this book will be for all of those who have been moved by Anne Frank's story!

The **PCS Newsletter** editors are requesting **photos taken in Israel** that include you and your family, from either past or current travels. Please send as an attachment via email to:

Estelle Rosen Kersh - eaststar18@optonline.net Roberta Korus - robertakorus@gmail.com



PCS Congregational Meeting Sunday, 4:30 pm June 14, 2015 at PCS

We look forward to seeing you at this very important meeting.

PCS Board of Trustees

Michael Safranek, President/Secretary (mlsafranek@aol.com)
April Lasher, Treasurer/Vice President (avivalasher@gmail.com)
Mark Freiheit, Vice President (markfreiheit@gmail.com)
Laurie Hirsch Schulz, Vice President (lhirschsulz@gmail.com)
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Amy Gutenplan, Trustee (amygutenplan@gmail.com)
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Karen Neuburger, Trustee (kaneuburger@gmail.com)
Richard Solomon, Trustee (rsolomon@rsolomonlaw.com)
Seth Rutman, Trustee (seth.rutman@ubs.com)

Women and girls! Come to PCS for a celebration of song and

ROSH CHODESH!

Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 pm

at Pleasantville Community Synagogue



Tamuz is a month of mourning, but it is also a time for Hannah's Song. The commentary in the Chumash that accompanies Hannah's Song suggests that song is a celebration that the universe is functioning harmoniously. We will sing to celebrate Tamuz led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein. Refreshments will be served.



To RSVP or for more information,
call Marcy Gray at PCS at (914) 769-2672 or
e-mail Robin Berman at info@shalompcs.com.



HIGH HOLY DAYS 2015

Dear PCS Family:

In our continuing effort to honor the many member families who participate in our vibrant community, we endeavor to call to the bimah representatives of as many families as possible to participate in our High Holiday services.

Though it may seem early, planning for the coming Yamim Nora'im requires much advance preparation.

Please see the form on the following page and mail/email/fax (769-1795) it to the synagogue office as soon as possible so that we may begin scheduling the honors that require it.

Individual Honors: English reading and Torah honors (holding, lifting or dressing the scrolls) are scheduled in advance of services. Please enter the name of each adult in your family with appropriate preferences. In consideration of your family's own High Holiday practices, you are also invited to enter a preferred day and time.

Teen Participation: We invite all of our teens - including those who celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvah this past year and those who will be celebrating in the coming year - to lead the community in the chanting of Ashrei during the Torah service on the first day of Rosh HaShana. It would be appreciated if those of you whose children will be participating in Ashrei would confirm this honor on the form as well.

Celebratory Group Aliyot: We will be calling to the bimah lay leaders and volunteers for celebratory group aliyot on the first day of Rosh HaShana, including all those students who recently became a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. All current members - men and women - who would customarily be eligible for an aliyah are welcome to participate. These are not scheduled in advance.

Torah Reading Honors: Reading from the Torah will be scheduled separately.

Thank you for your help during this important time in the spiritual life of our community.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Please indicate below your interest in honors participation for the coming High Holidays. **Note that this is not a commitment or assignment;** you are simply indicating interest in being contacted for scheduling. Thank you.

The High Holiday calendar for 2015/5776 is as follows:

Erev Rosh HaShana	Sunday, September 13, 7-9 pm, JCC
Rosh HaShana Day I	Monday, September 14, 9 am – 1:30 pm, JCC
Rosh HaShana Day II	Tuesday, September 15, 9 am – 1:30 pm, JCC
Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre	Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 – 9 pm, JCC
Yom Kippur/Yizkor	Wednesday, September 23, 9 am – 1:30 pm, JCC
Yom Kippur	Wednesday, September 23, 4:30 – 7:45 pm, JCC

First Member Adult _____

I would be interested in an English reading honor. I would be interested in a non-reading Torah honor. I am unable to participate this year, but contact me for next year. I would like to participate on _____

Second Member Adult _____

I would be interested in an English reading honor. I would be interested in a non-reading Torah honor. I am unable to participate this year, but contact me for next year. I would like to participate on _____

Teen Ashrei Participation

I would like my child _____ to participate in the group Ashrei honor.

Please mail, fax, or email this form to the synagogue office at:

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
PCS High Holiday Committee
P.O. Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Phone: 914-769-2672 **Fax:** 914-769-1795

Email: mgray@shalompcs.com



Pleasantville Community Synagogue

Yahrzeit Memorial Board

The PCS Yahrzeit Memorial Board is a beautiful and symbolic place to honor your loved ones while helping to support your synagogue. 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: _____

Check enclosed payable to *Pleasantville Community Synagogue*

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 _____

Mail checks to: PCS, P.O. Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

If paying by credit card, please mail this form to PCS, email to Accounts@shalomPCS.com, fax it to (914) 769-1795, or call Barbara Doctor at (914) 747-3017 to provide your credit card information.

Please make your donation by check if at all possible.



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.

General Fund/Fair Share

Jonathan Gaines, in memory of his beloved father, Joseph Gaines

Vivian Chang and Mark Freiheit

Roberta Korus, in memory her beloved grandparents, Morris Itkin, Max Korus, and Dessie Sliffman Itkin, on their yahrzeits, and in honor of Rabbi Mark Sameth

Ali and Ben Serebin, for the beautification of PCS

Eileen Jagoda

Mary and Louis Bernstein, in honor of Peter Schaffer's birthday

SUMMER 2015 YAHRZEITS

JUNE

Martin Klein, father of Eric Klein	June 2
Sylvia LePatner, mother of Gilda Borenstein	June 2
Jack Saal, father of Audrey Wolotsky	June 6
Emanuel Teitel, father of Merrie Teitel-Greene	June 8
Mary Echevarria, grandmother of Rob Marra	June 8
Meyer Spector, uncle of Malcolm Netburn	June 16
Rose Netburn, mother of Malcolm Netburn	June 16
Anna Fuchs, mother of Audrey Lenoff	June 18
Ettie Greenberg, mother of Cora Greenberg	June 19
Alvin Sigal, father of Melanie Gordin	June 27
Henry Sperling, father of Ed Sperling	June 29

JULY

Dorothy Curtis, mother of Hillary Marra	July 1
Margaret Schneider, grandmother of Lisa Lipkin	July 2
Marcus Schwartz, father of Nancy Mayers	July 3
Joan Gerstler, mother of Deborah Spanierman	July 3
Nathan Cohen, father of Hirsh Cohen	July 4
Hilda Reisman, mother of David Reisman	July 4
Miriam Wall, mother of Naomi Novak	July 5
William Landau, father of Pamela Landau-Connolly	July 6
Paul Stone, father of Hillary Marra	July 8
Al Silverman, father of Janet Silverman	July 9
Mildred Weiner, mother of Shelley Weiner	July 11
Jerry Chazen, father of Eileen Jagoda	July 14
Emanuel Jacobs, stepfather of Barbara Altman Bruno	July 23
Troy Rutman, brother of Seth Rutman	July 25
Philip Rosen, father of Estelle Rosen Kersh	July 26
Morris Etkin, grandfather of Rhea Wolfthal	July 27
Edith Silberger, mother of Monte Silberger	July 28
Nathan Lipkin, father of Lisa Lipkin	July 29

AUGUST

Rosaline Lasher, mother of April Lasher Sanders	August 6
Sybil Berman, mother of Roberta Berman	August 7
Michael Weill, husband of Janice Sandbank	August 9
Gertrude Cohen, wife of Hirsh Cohen	August 14
Shulamit Badichi, mother of Ariela Wehrle	August 17
Henry Major, father of Martin Major	August 18
Shalom Badichi, father of Ariela Wehrle	August 19
Morton Greenwald, father of Gary Greenwald	August 22
Elaine Rutman, mother of Seth Rutman	August 24
Etta Rosen, mother of Estelle Rosen Kersh	August 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 (914) 769-2672, and Michael Gold at (914) 238-9219.



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SALEM GOLF CLUB

18 Bloomer Road, North Salem NY 10560 914*669*5485 www.salemgolfclub.org

Introducing to Briarcliff the new owner of Zokkoz Salon, Jillian Sherman. Ever since she discovered Aveda a few years ago, she has tried to live by their mission. The combination of her love for hair and making people's true beauty come out with Aveda's products has proven to give her the ability to deliver healthy, sexy hair that is safe for her guests as well as the environment. Her next quest is to share her knowledge and passion with her staff at Zokkoz. Briarcliff has been so friendly and has made her feel so welcomed. She would like to pass that feeling on to you. Please come in and mention this ad and save 40% off your first appointment and we guarantee you'll love the results!!!

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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 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 by emailing them to mgray@shalompcs.com.

*** Ad Specifications:**

Ads will be published in one size only: one-quarter page, which is approximately 3½ x 4¾ inches. The entire ad (both text and artwork) should be provided by the advertiser in GIF, JPEG, PDF or TIFF format ONLY. Please proofread your ad before sending.

*** Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin is published in July and August) is \$125 for ¼ page. **Note:** Checks preferred; please mail checks 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.



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 Roberta Korus or Estelle Rosen Kersh, Editors, at robertakorus@gmail.com or eaststar18@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 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.

PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Officers

President/Secretary: Michael Safranek
 VP/Treasurer: April Lasher Sanders
 Vice President: Kiersten Zweibaum
 Vice President: Laurie Hirsch Schulz
 Vice President: Mark Freiheit

Eric Klein
info@shalomPCS.com

Michael Safranek
msafranek@shalomPCS.com

Richard Levine
info@shalomPCS.com

April Lasher Sanders
avivalasher@optonline.net

Board of Trustees

Cristina Altieri-Martinez
cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Sheila Major
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Laurie Hirsch Schulz
lhirschsulz@shalomPCS.com

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Amy Gutenplan
agutenplan@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Rabbi Mark Sameth
msameth@optonline.net

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

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
kfurst@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Richard Solomon
info@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

Ofri Felder
ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman
srutman@shalomPCS.com

Rosh Chodesh

Robin Berman
info@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold
mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth

Laurie Hirsch Schulz
info@shalomPCS.com

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



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	
<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: Checks preferred. To help our bookkeeper, please issue separate checks for dues or other special events. Checks should be made payable to "Pleasantville Community Synagogue." Please indicate the fund to which you are donating in the memo section of your check and **mail your check to** PCS, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570.
If paying by credit card, please email this form to Accounts@shalomPCS.com, fax it to (914) 769-1795, or call Barbara Doctor at (914) 747-3017, or PCS, (914) 769-2672 to provide your credit card information.

SIVAN - TAMUZ 5775


June 2015 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p>Israel Day Parade in NYC</p> <p>Executive Board meeting, 7 pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:15pm Yoga class</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Board of Trustees meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:15pm Services Children's Service</p> <p>8:06 pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Beha'alotcha</p> <p>9:36 pm - Havdalah</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15pm Yoga class</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Vision Committee meeting, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:15pm Services Children's Service</p> <p>8:10 pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Deborah Johnston, 9:30 am Parashat Sh'lach</p> <p>9:40 pm - Havdalah</p>
<p>14</p> <p>4:30pm PCS Congregational meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:15pm Yoga class</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30pm Rosh Chodesh event  Rosh Chodesh Tamuz</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:15pm Services</p> <p>8:13 pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Korach</p> <p>9:43 pm - Havdalah</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:15pm Yoga class</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:15pm Services Children's Service</p> <p>8:14 pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Harrison, 9:30 am Parashat Chukat</p> <p>9:44 pm - Havdalah</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:15pm Yoga class</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:13 pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Balak</p> <p>9:43 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. Calendars for future months are also on the website.

TAMUZ - AV 5775

July 2015 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 7:15pm Yoga class	30	1	2	3 8:13 pm - Candle lighting	4 9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Balak 9:43 pm - Havdalah
5 18th of Tamuz 5775 Fast commemorating breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar	6	7	8	9	10 8:11pm - Candle lighting	11 9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:41pm - Havdalah Parashat Pinchas
12	13	14	15	16  Rosh Chodesh Av	17 8:08pm Candle lighting Rosh Chodesh Av	18 9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:37pm - Havdalah Parashat Matot-Masei
19	20	21	22	23	24 8:02pm - Candle lighting	25 9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:31pm - Havdalah Parashat Devarim Erev Tish'a B'Av, the Ninth of Av; fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples
26 Tish'a B'Av, The Ninth of Av; fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples	27	28	29	30	31 7:56pm - Candle lighting	1 9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:25pm - Havdalah Parashat Vaetchanan

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. Calendars for future months are also on the website.

August 2015 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>Tish'a B'Av, The Ninth of Av; fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples</p>	27	28	29	30	<p>31</p> <p>7:56pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:25pm - Havdalah Parashat Vaetchanan</p>
2	3	4	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>7:48pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:16pm - Havdalah Parashat Eikev</p>
9	10	11	12	13	<p>14</p> <p>7:38pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat morning service 9:07pm - Havdalah ★ Rosh Chodesh Elul - The new Hebrew month of Elul</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Elul - The new Hebrew month of Elul</p>	17	18	19	20	<p>21</p> <p>7:28pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat morning service 8:57pm - Havdalah Parashat Shoftim</p>
23	24	25	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>7:18pm - Candle lighting)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat morning service 8:46pm - Havdalah Parashat Ki Teitzei</p>
30	31	1	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>7:06pm - Candle lighting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Tetenman, 9:30 am 8:35pm - Havdalah Parashat Ki Tavo</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. Calendars for future months are also on the website.

Summer Fun



ENJOY...BE SAFE...SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

The Editors