



The Rabbi's Column: EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY CIRCLES: TOTS AND TEENS

by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan

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The theme of my first year at PCS has been “community building.” We share a vision of a community that is welcoming, inclusive and joyous. Every event and interaction this year has been an opportunity to strengthen our bonds. With expanded Shabbat and holiday celebrations, gatherings at my home or lunch with the rabbi at PCS, Torah study/adult education, spiritual programs like our monthly Rosh Chodesh programs and even expanded menus for kiddushes and Oneg Shabbats, we create a warm, communal atmosphere that people want to enjoy together. With the good deeds of our new Caring Committee and revitalized Tikkun Olam Committee, we reach out to our own members and the world beyond our congregation. With SNAP, organized by PCS member Vivian Chang Freiheit, we create a loving communal space for members with special needs.

We have a strong and nurturing Hebrew School ably led by Education Director Galit Sperling and our wonderful teachers. We have expanded our offerings for adults, especially those in the so-called “empty nest” phase who are seeking adult education and spiritual and cultural experiences.

The next step in community building is to expand our communal circles. There are two groups who currently need much more from our community: families with young children (tots to preschool) and teens post-B'nei Mitzvah. Your board of trustees, lay leaders, Education Director and I are all working to provide for the needs of these cohorts and grow the circle wider.

Serving Ages 0-5

We currently offer our lively PJ/Tot Shabbat each month for young families, which has been growing in attendance, especially for holidays like Sukkot, Hanukkah and Purim. We sing, say blessings and hear a story. Often, dinner is served afterward. Now we are adding a second Shabbat program for our youngest families. As you will see on page 15 of this issue, PCS member Naava Katz has teamed up with Vivian Chang Freiheit to pilot our “Shabbatots” music class for preschoolers with their parents or caregivers. I know it will be very fun and educational for all.

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Growing Jewish Naturally: A Partnership with Hazon

I'm excited to share that next fall we will expand our offerings for young families with a very special program of outdoor and nature education, **Growing Jewish Naturally**. We were just awarded a grant for this purpose from UJA-Federation, thanks to the hard work and expertise of our board member Jonathan Goodman and PCS president Amy Gutenplan. The focus of **Growing Jewish Naturally** will be on experiences in nature, organic food and sustainable living as gateways to Jewish connection for young families, with internationally acclaimed Jewish environmental group Hazon as our partner!

Teen Programs

Speaking of grants, we also have been awarded a "Micro Mini Grant" from the Jewish Education Project of the UJA. We applied and received this mini grant to hold three social, "listening tour" sessions with our teens of various ages in order to learn what kind of programs and services they need from our community. One program will be for preteens, one for teens and a third for families with college-aged students. We have joined the Westchester Jewish Teen Learning Initiative, and Galit Sperling is attending a roundtable for Jewish youth professionals.

This spring, we already offered several "one-off" teen programs. Our teens have participated in a Purim play directed by Galit and a J-Serve Health Fair in Yonkers, and they are invited to a teen celebration of Israel through food on May 23 in Chappaqua (see page 18 of this issue).

American Jews are among the most educated people in the world, and our Jewish educations should not culminate in seventh grade b'nei mitzvah! A successful teen education program represents the future of our community as well as the future of the Jewish people. I hope to launch our Teen Confirmation program this fall, which will combine youth group/service activities along with educational programs and outings. Our plan is to kick off the educational program with a camping trip/retreat in September, hopefully also in collaboration with Hazon. More details will follow in our June/Summer newsletter.

PCS is a small but very active community. We don't have a large staff to provide activities for all ages. In order to expand our communal circles, we need your help. If you can serve on a committee to plan and offer programs for our young families or our teens, if you can host an event or volunteer, please let me or our president Amy Gutenplan know. Our vision of a warm, authentic and inclusive Jewish community for people of all ages needs your support!

P.S. I am looking forward to our **Texas Bar{BQ} Mitzvah** this month! I'm polishing my cowgirl boots and looking forward to seeing all y'all on May 7 in support of our community.

HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



by Galit Sperling, Principal

Time flies when you are having fun! In Hebrew School this April, there were many wonderful celebrations with our students. Our third grade (Kitah Gimmel) students helped me lead a special Friday night service on April 15, singing Shabbat songs and prayers with our congregation. On April 10, our fourth grade (Kitah Daled) students celebrated the PCS tradition of Daled Heritage Day, when our Daled class and their families shared stories of their Jewish traditions, family history and tales passed from generation to generation. They brought in family heirlooms to show, and it was lovely to see parents and grandparents connecting not only with their own children and grandchildren, but with peers and community members as well. We ended the day with tasty Jewish foods, like knishes, pickles, hummus and amazing homemade rugelach! (Thank you, Neilson-Papish family!)

In the first Saturday morning Hebrew School Shabbaton this year, the sixth graders (Kitah Vav) led the *shacharit* (morning) service as a class with Rabbi Julie. This practice of familiarizing themselves with the service and becoming comfortable on the *bimah* will help them feel even more confident for their upcoming B'nei Mitzvah, and more importantly, beyond for the next chapters of their lives! Once they become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, they will be able to lead services and read from the Torah going forward as a member of our adult Jewish community, and continue on as learners in exciting new ways.

To celebrate Passover, we held Model Passover Seders in Hebrew School, with our students practicing singing Passover songs, telling the Passover story and enjoying the festive meal around our communal table. For the *maggid* part of our seder, our fourth-grade class performed a modernized Passover play!

While singing Passover songs with our first- through third-grade (Kitah Aleph/Bet and Kitah Gimmel) students earlier this month, I was awed by the incredible questions, ideas and concerns of our youngest Hebrew School learners. As we discussed the Passover story and characters, they expressed their thoughts beautifully not only about the exciting parts of the story, but the more difficult topics as well. They had much to say regarding slavery and the 10 plagues, and when asked about the world today, they wowed us with their insight into the problems still needing to be solved in our country, and in humanity at large. By not taking our freedom for granted, reaching out to those in need and speaking up and taking action against injustice, there is no doubt this generation will make great strides toward freedom for all!

Important Upcoming Hebrew School Dates:

Thursday, May 5: Yom HaShoah commemoration

Saturday morning, May 7: Fifth grade (Kitah Hey) Shabbaton

Sunday, May 15: Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) celebration in Hebrew School

Friday, May 20: Hebrew School promotion ceremony during Friday night services (seventh grade)

Sunday, May 22: Last Day of Hebrew School with traditional ice cream party!

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



Kitah Daled
Heritage Day



CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



Kitah Aleph/Bet Model Seder



CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

More Model Seder Fun



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Kitah Daled (fourth grade)
performing a Passover play

The President's Message

IT'S A PARTY!! And you're invited!

Whether you are going to Bar Mitzvahs every weekend, or you haven't been to one in 40 years, this is one party not to be missed! Join us and celebrate our Texas Bar{BQ} Mitzvah. Texas native Billy Bob Boychick (played by David Rakower) has decided at the age of 40 to become a Bar Mitzvah, and we are all invited to the party. It's a hora and a hoedown all in one.

Not only do we want everyone to show up for the party, but we need everyone to contribute to Billy Bob's mitzvah project: raising money for a needy synagogue in Pleasantville. There are a couple of ways you can help Billy Bob Boychick achieve his goal of raising \$40,000:



1. You can buy a ticket and attend the party!
2. You can become a sponsor of the party!
3. You can go directly to Billy Bob Boychick's gift registry at <https://bar-bq-mitzvah-gift-registry.cheddarup.com> and make a contribution!

Billy Bob has recently become a huge fan of the Pleasantville Community Synagogue and would like to do everything he can to ensure its continued presence in the Jewish community of Pleasantville. He was introduced to the synagogue by that great and learned Texas Rabbi, Julie Danan, attending many adult education classes on topics such as "Digging Deeper into the Haggadah and Finding the Afikomen." He was moved to commit to raising money for this group after he witnessed the selfless and generous donation made by founding members, David Sheinkopf and Shelley Weiner. Billy Bob said, "If these soon-to-be residents of North Carolina could find it in their hearts to fund a new Torah table for the synagogue, then ya'll know I'll be fixin' to make a Texas-sized donation."

I hope ya'll will join us in celebrating Billy Bob Boychick's Bar{BQ} Mitzvah and help him reach his mitzvah project goal. Whatever your donation, be sure you make it Texas-sized!

— Amy Gutenplan

Aging & Dying - A Covenantal Approach

Several weeks ago I read a column by David Brooks in which he referred to the idea of the covenant, a relationship that exists between God and man. It is a relationship of love: "Where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people." The power of this promise has sustained us for thousands of years, the deepest part of an unshakeable heritage. The very language is the encouragement to both move out and remain, to explore possibilities without limit and to return home. Whether we are conscious of this covenant or not, it probably infuses our lives daily. It certainly does with me, as I become more aware of it by bringing it into my spiritual practice as I settle into old age.

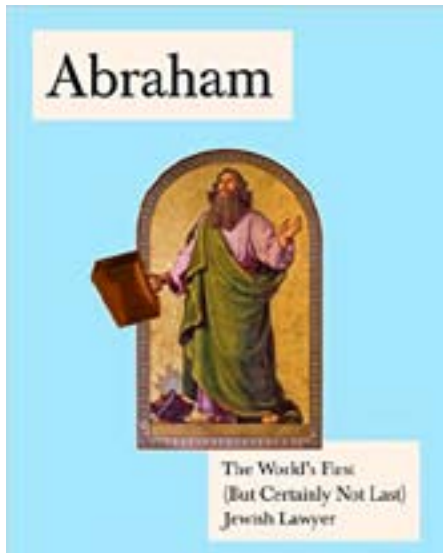
Having this base enables me to allow thoughts of death to descend into my being, to wrestle with my fears and to understand how to invigorate my life by feeling everything that arises within me, the joys and the sorrows. It has become a motivator to explore the meaning of my existence on earth and how this fits into the divine plan. I don't have answers, but I value the exploration; it feels rich and ultimately fulfilling. One thing I do now know is that death is part of life, not even the end. It is only the end of this physical entity, this ego that I was taught to think is me, but is only a tool for greater understanding if I allow it to be. I have come to feel the continuity of all life and to be aware of how ancestors long gone are still with me, still in me, as I will be with and in those who come after.

So there is continuity, a real sense of ongoingness, that is often palpable, that I feel bodily as I sit in meditation and prayer. It takes many forms, none of which I consciously summon up, but which arise spontaneously as I create the space within to invite whatever needs to appear. I am almost always surprised by what happens, and I'm delighted to know that there is more available to me than my mind can wrap itself around. If there is a name for this, it is God. It is the sense of the infinite, the immutable and the unending. And it is most certainly a sense that I am not separate; I am not alone, that I am a part of something much greater than myself. As was promised.

—Peter Schaffer

Abraham: The World's First (But Certainly Not Last) Jewish Lawyer

by Alan M. Dershowitz



According to Alan Dershowitz, Abraham was the first Jewish lawyer. This book is about Abraham and generations of other Jewish lawyers. Dershowitz's thesis is that Jewish lawyers have changed the world by challenging the status quo.

Abraham, the patriarch of the three great Abrahamic religions, was, as described in the Torah, a very complex man. Of course, we don't know whether he really existed or was instead a mythical or composite figure. How do we know Abraham was a lawyer? Look how he argued with God on behalf of the sinners of Sodom! He also put God on trial for breaking his covenant with the Jewish people and allowing all the horrors that would befall them through the ages.

Dershowitz explains how Abraham entered into a series of contracts—covenants, actually—with God. According to Dershowitz, a contract is the beginning of democracy. However, before Abraham could become the patriarch of a great people, he had to pass many tests. In this, he used his lawyerly wiles to save his own life. Dershowitz shows us how Abraham paved the way for many Jewish lawyers to follow, including Moses, who advocated for the Jewish people, urging God to spare them despite their erecting a golden calf.

If Christianity is a religion of grace, and Islam is a religion of submission, says Dershowitz, then Judaism is a religion of laws. After all, what other religion has 613 laws (or rules)? These laws are highly technical, with many prohibitions, and all kinds of ways around those prohibitions! No wonder so many Jews become lawyers!

The second part of this most interesting book traces the history of legal challenges faced by the Jewish people, from the Inquisition and the blood libels of the Middle Ages to the present day. Dershowitz discusses, among other cases, the famous trial of Alfred Dreyfus and, closer to home, the sensational trial of young Leo Frank for the murder of Mary Phagan; each trial gripped public attention in its respective country and beyond, and are but two examples of how Jews have had centuries of practice having to defend ourselves. Dershowitz also profiles a number of Jewish lawyers of note, including Louis Brandeis, Theodor Herzl, Judah Benjamin and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Renowned attorney Alan M. Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law (Emeritus) at Harvard Law School, a frequent commentator on U.S. constitutional and criminal law and on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the author of more than 30 books.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue
warmly invites you to attend our Annual Fundraiser

Texas
BAR {BQ}
MITZVAH!

Saturday May 7 at 7 pm

Captain Lawrence Brewing Company
444 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford

Beer, Wine, Dinner and Dancing
and a Special Appearance by the PCS Players!

Dress: Texas Casual

Event Committee

Amy & Bruce Gutenplan

Sheila & Martin Major

Karen & Jeff Neuburger

Lisa Nicotra & Lenora Sealey

Michael Safranek

Dara & Evan Kingsley

Leyla Z. Nakisbendi & Michael Mayers

Lori & Jerry Neuburger

Barrie & David Rakower

Andrea & Bob Shayegani

Pleasantville Community Synagogue Annual Fundraiser

Please RSVP by:

1. Visiting <https://pcs-texas-bar-bq-mitzvah.cheddarup.com>, at which you can pay online by debit card, credit card or e-check (preferred),

2. Completing the form below and mailing it, with your check made payable to "Pleasantville Community Synagogue," to PCS, P.O. Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 or

3. Completing the form below and returning it by fax (914-769-1795), email (mgray@shalompcs.com) or by mail, if you wish to pay by credit card but prefer not to do so online.



I/We will attend

Sponsorship Levels

_____ Texas Ranger • \$1,800 • Includes Eight Tickets

_____ Sheriff • \$1,200 • Includes Six Tickets

_____ Marshall • \$600 • Includes Four Tickets

_____ Deputy • \$300 • Includes Two Tickets

Individual Tickets

_____ Wrangler • \$100 per person times _____ people

Texas Ranger, Sheriff, Marshall and Deputy Sponsors will be listed in the event program.

Please List Guests Attending:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Please List Any Dietary Needs _____

I/We cannot attend, but please accept our contribution of

\$180 \$360 \$720 Other Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

For payment per #3 above, please complete the following:

I/We authorize Pleasantville Community Synagogue to charge the following credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Credit card # (Visa or MasterCard only): _____ Expires: ____/____

Name as it appears on card _____ Signature _____

Payment for all tickets must be received before the day of the event. *Tickets are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

To donate something from the gift registry or make another donation, please visit <https://bar-bq-mitzvah-gift-registry.cheddarup.com>

PCS Bar-B-Q Mitzvah Gift Registry

| ITEM | VALUE | NEEDED |
|---|----------------|--------|
| Art Supplies (crayons, dry erase markers, calligraphy pens, glue sticks, etc.) | \$36/classroom | 4 |
| Textbooks & Workbooks (Berman House, Torah Aura, et.al.) | \$300/class | 7 |
| Holiday Poster Set | \$150/year | 1 |
| Weekly pizza for 7th graders | \$240/month | 8 |
| Paper goods | \$200/month | 8 |
| Copy paper | \$60/case | 4 |
| Projector | \$500 | 1 |
| Office & Teacher Supplies (printer ink, pens, notebooks, erasers, etc.) | \$150/month | 8 |
| Back to Hebrew School Night (refreshments) | \$225 | 1 |
| High Holiday Children's Services (refreshments, art supplies) | \$400/each | 2 |
| Challah Making Experience | \$120 | 1 |
| Purim Experience | \$350 | 1 |
| Model Seder | \$200 | 1 |
| End of Year 7th Grade Retreat | \$1,700 | 1 |
| Havdallah Experience (spice boxes, candles, pottery Kiddush cups) | \$500 | 1 |
| Chanukah Experience (latke, dreidels, candles, jelly donuts) | \$600 | 1 |
| Tu B'Shevat Experience (seven species) | \$200 | 1 |
| Yom Ha'Atzmaut Independence Day Experience (falafel making) | \$400 | 1 |
| End of Year Ice Cream Party | \$100 | 1 |

"For the dead and the living,
we must bear witness."

- Elie Wiesel

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day Service

Thursday, May 5, 6:15 p.m.

at

*Pleasantville Community Synagogue
219 Bedford Road in Pleasantville*

*Families of Hebrew school students in third-sixth grades, please
stay with your children for this most important ceremony.*

Dinner will be served for those staying after Hebrew School.

~ ~ ~

*Fifth, sixth and seventh grade B'nei Mitzvah students will receive
credit for service attendance.*

NEW AT PCS! MUSICAL SHABBATOTS CLASSES!



For those who don't know me, I'm Naava, a member of Pleasantville Community Synagogue and a mom to two girls, ages 1 and 3. We moved to Chappaqua two years ago.

We are really excited about starting the first parent and child Jewish music class at PCS - very "mommy and me style," with lots of songs about Shabbat and the holidays and circle time. It's a great way to help our little ones feel a part of Jewish celebrations and a fun way for us moms (and dads, and caregivers) to meet and hang out.

PCS congregant Vivian Chang Freiheit has offered to teach the class. She's a wonderful musician and has years of experience teaching classes like this. We're in very good hands!

We would like to hold our first two classes on:

Friday, May 6, and Friday, June 3, 1:30-2:30 pm at PCS.
Ages 0-5 (not yet in kindergarten)

Please let me know if you can come on May 6, and if you know anyone else who wants this kind of experience for their kids as much as we do, please ask them to contact me: naava@yahoo.com.

Looking forward to starting this with you!

Naava

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*Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community with people of diverse traditions and backgrounds who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home.*

Pleasantville Community Synagogue  
219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY  
[www.shalompcs.com](http://www.shalompcs.com) ~ 914-769-2672 ~ [info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)



# COORDINATOR

Do you want to be a huge part of making the PCS High Holiday experience memorable and meaningful not only for yourself and your family but for the entire congregation? Please read this description of the **HIGH HOLIDAYS COORDINATOR** written by David Sheinkopf, who has held this position for more than 20 years. You will be in good hands: David will work with you at *this* year's High Holidays, and – yes, we guarantee it – you will not regret taking this on.

**Note:**

*This is one of the most rewarding volunteer positions one can undertake at PCS. It gives one an intimate working knowledge of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. In addition, it allows one to work very closely with Rabbi Julie and Cantor Abbe (with whom it is an absolute delight to work). This also makes the position a great learning experience.*

*After holding this position since the birth of PCS (approximately 20 years), I highly recommend it to anyone who would like to have a special, fulfilled feeling at holiday time and a great sense of helping your fellow congregants. You will be intimately involved in making everyone's holidays that much more meaningful and memorable. And that will make your own holiday experience mean so much more.*

**Duties:**

1. Meet with volunteer assistant (now Emma Reisman) during the summer to prepare index cards for English reading honors and Torah-related honors.
  - a. Review Order of Services prepared by Rabbi Julie annually and coordinate index cards with Order of Services.
  - b. **Note: Most cards are already prepared and can be reused each year.** I will go over this in detail with the new Coordinator and assistant.
  - c. Add any missing cards and add or delete any changed cards as per Order of Service.
2. At services:
  - a. Arrive approximately 15 minutes before the start of each service.
  - b. Services include Erev Rosh Hashanah I, Rosh Hashanah morning 1, Rosh Hashanah morning 2, Erev Yom Kippur, Yom Kippur morning and Yom Kippur afternoon/evening.
  - c. Work in conjunction with Floor Coordinator (now Malcolm Netburn) to assign unassigned honors among congregants present.
  - d. Be positioned near right front of sanctuary. Assist honorees to position themselves at microphone (or, for Torah honor, near *bimah*).
  - e. Utilizing visual coordination with Rabbi Julie and/or Cantor Abbe, signal honoree as to when to start reading their honor or when to start their Torah honor.
  - f. Congratulate honoree after completion, and retrieve honors card so it can be reused the next time.
3. I will meet with the new High Holidays Coordinator during July 2016 to walk him/her through the process step by step, and I will be here to work one-on-one with them (and Malcolm) during this year's services.





*Come celebrate*

**ROSH CHODESH\***  
with a  
**Kippot Fashion Show!**  
**Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 pm**  
at Pleasantville Community Synagogue



**To RSVP or for more information,  
please call Marcy Gray at PCS at (914) 769-2672 or  
e-mail Robin Berman at [awake.robin@gmail.com](mailto:awake.robin@gmail.com).**

*\* Why do we celebrate the new moon every month? The Jewish nation is often compared to the moon. Throughout history, our light has waxed and waned but even in the darkest times it has never been extinguished. This is one reason why, when the head of the new moon - the Rosh Chodesh - appears for the first time in the night sky, we celebrate. Come join us!*

~ ~ ~

**Pleasantville Community Synagogue** ~ 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY  
(914) 769-2672, [info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com) ~ [www.ShalomPCS.com](http://www.ShalomPCS.com)



The Westchester Jewish Teen Learning Initiative (WJTLI) invites all teens grades 8 - 12 to a fun & exciting teen program in celebration of Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel Independence Day).

# CELEBRATE ISRAEL

## THROUGH



MONDAY, MAY 23RD, 2016 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

TEMPLE BETH EL OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER | 220 S BEDFORD RD, CHAPPAQUA, NY 10514



- ★ Experience Israel's rich and diverse culture through food
- ★ Enjoy food demo by Israeli Chef Shlomo Schwartz
- ★ Israel Master Chef Competition - prizes for winning team
- ★ Kosher dinner will be served

Free! Registration required: [bit.ly/IsraelMasterChefMay23](http://bit.ly/IsraelMasterChefMay23)

Registration deadline: May 18th, 2016

Questions? Contact Abby at [apitkowsky@JewishEdProject.org](mailto:apitkowsky@JewishEdProject.org) or 914-328-8090

Funded in part by UJA-Federation of New York/Neshamot to encourage cross community interaction of Jewish teens.

Sponsored by:







Join Rabbi Julie Danan in D.C. at the AJC Global Forum 2016!



MAJOR POLICY ADDRESSES AND GREAT DEBATES



June 5-7, 2016  
Washington, D.C.  
[ajc.org/globalforum](http://ajc.org/globalforum)



DINNERS WITH DIPLOMATS AND MEETINGS ON CAPITOL HILL



ACCESS TRACK FOR YOUNG JEWISH LEADERS



# ***Rekindling Shabbat and Other Observances at PCS***

## ***IN MAY...***

On **Thursday, May 5**, please join us at **6:15 pm** for an observance of **Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)**. There will be a special candle-lighting in memory of the millions who perished. For more information, please see page 14 of this issue.

Please join us on **Friday, May 6, at 7:30 pm** for a Kabbalat Shabbat service with music by **Vivian Chang Freiheit**. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.

On **Saturday, May 7**, please join us for Shabbat morning services at **10 am**. The Hebrew School's **Kitah Hey** (fifth grade) will be there to help lead the service.

On **Friday, May 13**, help PCS host a **Community Shabbat for Yom Ha-Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day**, with **Kabbalat Shabbat services beginning at 7:30 pm**. There will be music by **Jason Breslin** and **Mark and Vivian Chang Freiheit**, special readings and a personal Israel story from **Rabbi Julie Matthea Schor** and her family will participate in honor of her Bat Mitzvah and will host an Israeli-themed Oneg Shabbat after the service. There will also be a children's service that evening.

At **9:30 am on Saturday, May 14**, **Matthea Schor** will become a **Bat Mitzvah** at our Saturday morning service.

On **Friday, May 20**, there will be a **Tot Shabbat service from 5:30 to 6 pm**, followed by challah and juice for those attending. That same evening, our **B'nei Mitzvah class** will participate in **Kabbalat Shabbat services** for all ages **beginning at 7:30 pm**. This will also mark a special "first" for PCS; not "graduation" from Hebrew School, but rather **promotion to our new confirmation/teen class!** An Oneg Shabbat will follow.

On **Saturday, May 21**, please join us for Shabbat morning services at **10 am**.

On **Friday, May 27**, **Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at 7:30 pm** and will be led by **Cantor Isabel Kopstein**.

On **Saturday, May 28**, please join us for Shabbat morning services at **10 am** led by **Cantor Isabel**.

***EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, come for services and/or one or more of the following (or come for the whole thing!):***

**9:15 am:** Jewish spiritual teachings and meditation with Rabbi Julie (except on May 28)

**Noon:** Kiddush lunch with varied menu following services

**12:30-1:15 pm:** Interactive Torah study led by Rabbi Julie (except group-led on May 28)

## ON THE HORIZON AT PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE...

Don't miss Rabbi Julie's "First Wednesday" **Adult Ed** class on **Wednesday, June 1, at 7:30 pm** at which she will teach and lead a discussion about the **Book of Ruth**. For more information, please see page 19.

Calling all little ones (not yet in kindergarten) and their parents or other caregivers! Please join us for the second **Musical Shabbatots** class on **Friday, June 3, from 1:30-2:30 pm**. Details can be found on page 15.

Join Rabbi Julie in Washington, DC, **June 5-7**, for the **American Jewish Committee's Global Forum 2016**. For more information, please see page 20.

Mark your calendar for two special **Shavuot** events in June:

- On **Saturday night, June 11**, Rabbi Julie will lead a **late night Torah study session, with blintzes**. More details in our June issue.
- On **Sunday morning, June 12**, PCS will hold **Shavuot services at 10 am**, as well as a special **installation ceremony celebrating Rabbi Julie's joining our community**.

In our June issue, **the PCS Bookworm**, Eileen Jagoda, will review *This Is Not a Love Story: A Memoir* by Judy Brown.

*On Thursday, May 12,*

*the Westchester Business and Professional Division  
of UJA-Federation of New York will honor*

**PCS Member Ken Fuirst**

*at its annual luncheon.*

*For tickets to the event, or to make a donation in Ken's honor, please contact Nora Shapiro at 914-385-2122 or [shapiron@ujafedny.org](mailto:shapiron@ujafedny.org).*

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## 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.**

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### **General Fund/Fair Share**

Susan and Malcolm Netburn

Ted Molnar and Family

Douglas Wehrle in memory of his beloved mother, Elizabeth Wehrle

### **Kiddush Fund**

Rabbi Julie and Avraham Danan in honor of the rabbi's birthday!

### **PCS Wish List**

Ellen Glass for office supplies



# MAY YAHRZEITS

|                                                      |        |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Fredric Weiss, husband of Miriam Seiler              | May 5  |
| Mildred Goodman, mother of Jonathan Goodman          | May 5  |
| Morris Borenstein, father of Marc Borenstein         | May 6  |
| Charles Bernard Hilton, father of Julie Hilton Danan | May 9  |
| Florry Jablow, mother of Robert Jablow               | May 16 |
| Albert Marans, father of Ron Marans                  | May 19 |
| Charles Weiner, father of Steven Weiner              | May 21 |
| Sidney Kleinman, father of Carren Kleinman           | May 22 |
| Harriet Sigal, mother of Melanie Gordin              | May 29 |
| Morton Silberblatt, father of Mark Silberblatt       | May 29 |
| Beatrice Singer, mother of Sheila Major              | May 31 |

**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 Julie at (914) 769-2672, or Steven Weiner at (914) 232-8166 or (646) 369-9167. You can also email them at [Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com) or [SWeiner@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:SWeiner@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](http://www.hebcal.com), or contact Marcy Gray at 769-2672, [mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.



7"01



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## ***You've Got a Ticket to Ride...to PCS!***

***Desperate*** to get to PCS but don't have a ride?

Look no further than the PCS Taxi Fund!

Thanks to the generosity of John Ehrlich, we now have a start-up account with the Pleasantville Taxi Service. Call (914) 238-3314, tell the dispatcher you're from PCS and your ride is taken care of, including the tip.

**All future donations to this fund are welcome (and necessary)!**

# Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

*Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a welcoming Jewish community connecting people of diverse traditions and backgrounds who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home.*

## PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

### Officers

President: Amy Gutenplan  
Secretary: Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
Treasurer: Mark Freiheit  
Vice President: Kiersten Zweibaum  
Vice President: Richard Solomon

### Board of Trustees

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[ggreenwald@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:ggreenwald@ShalomPCS.com)

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Richard Solomon  
[info@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:info@ShalomPCS.com)

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

Rabbi Julie Danan  
[rabbi@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:rabbi@ShalomPCS.com)

## 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](mailto:bdoctor670@gmail.com)

### B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling  
[edsperling@gmail.com](mailto:edsperling@gmail.com)

### Building

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

### Jewish Education

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

### Communications

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

### Religious Practices

Eric Klein  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Finance

Mark Freiheit  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Fundraising

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

### High Holidays

Richard Solomon  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Human Resources

Karen Neuburger  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Caring (Chesed)

Steven Weiner  
[sweiner@shalomPCS.com](mailto:sweiner@shalomPCS.com)

### Membership Engagement

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

### Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi  
[leyla@shalomPCS.com](mailto:leyla@shalomPCS.com)

### Israel Action

[Vacant]

### Rosh Chodesh

Robin Berman  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

### Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold  
[mgold@shalomPCS.com](mailto:mgold@shalomPCS.com)

### Youth

Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.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; [mgray@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:mgray@ShalomPCS.com)

Galit Sperling, 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)

## **THE PCS 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](mailto: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.



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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 24th of the month. They can be e-mailed to Roberta Korus, Editor, at [rkorus@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:rkorus@ShalomPCS.com), or dropped off at the newsletter box in the synagogue office.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue \* 219 Bedford Road \* Pleasantville, NY 10570  
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**Pleasantville Community Synagogue**

**FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Building Fund**

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

**General Fund/Fair Share**

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

**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.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Supports various individuals, organizations and/or programs at the discretion of the rabbi.

**Oneg Shabbat/Kiddush/Shabbat Dinner Fund**

To help offset the costs of providing food and drinks following services.

**Taxi Fund**

Provides taxi service for those needing a ride to and/or from PCS.

**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 see page 25 of this issue 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:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

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**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](mailto: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.

# NISAN - IYYAR 5776

## May 2016 - PCS Calendar

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                     | Monday                                        | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                             | Wednesday                                                       | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                               | Friday                                                                                                                              | Saturday                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Hebrew School                                                                                                                                         | 2<br>7:15pm Yoga at PCS                       | 3<br>7:30pm Religious Practices Committee meeting                                                                                                                   | 4                                                               | 5<br>6:15pm Observance of Yom HaShoa at PCS<br> Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day<br>Hebrew School | 6<br>1:30pm Musical Shabbatots class at PCS, up to age 5<br>7:30pm Services, including Children's Service<br>7:40pm Candle lighting | 7<br>9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am<br>9:11pm Havdalah<br>PCS Fundraising Party!<br>Kita Hey Shabbaton<br>Parashat Achrei Mot |
| 8<br> Rosh Chodesh Iyyar - The new Hebrew month of Iyyar<br>Hebrew School | 9<br>7:15pm Yoga at PCS<br>Rosh Chodesh Iyyar | 10<br>7:30pm Transition Committee meeting<br> Yom HaZikaron - Israeli Memorial Day | 11                                                              | 12<br> Yom HaAtzma'ut - Israeli Independence Day<br>Hebrew School                                     | 13<br>7:30pm Services, including Children's Service and community celebration of Israel Independence Day<br>7:47pm Candle lighting  | 14<br>9:15am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Matthea Schor, 9:30 am<br>9:18pm Havdalah<br>Parashat Kedoshim                 |
| 15<br>7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting<br>Hebrew School                                                                                                  | 16<br>7:15pm Yoga at PCS                      | 17<br>7:30pm Board Meeting                                                                                                                                          | 18<br>7:30pm Rosh Chodesh Kippot Fashion Show                   | 19<br>Last Day of Hebrew School for Kita Zayin                                                                                                                                         | 20<br>5:30pm Tot Shabbat service<br>7:30pm Services<br>7:54pm Candle lighting<br><b>Hebrew School Promotion</b>                     | 21<br>9:15am Morning meditation, Shabbat morning service, 10 am<br>9:24pm - Havdalah<br>Parashat Emor                                                    |
| 22<br>Last Day of Hebrew School                                                                                                                            | 23<br>7:15pm Yoga at PCS                      | 24                                                                                                                                                                  | 25                                                              | 26<br> Lag B'Omer - 33rd day of counting the Omer                                                   | 27<br>7:30pm Services<br>8:00pm Candle lighting                                                                                     | 28<br>10:00am Shabbat morning service<br>9:31pm Havdalah<br>Parashat Behar                                                                               |
| 29<br>4:00pm Spiritual Direction group, led by Rabbi David Markus                                                                                          | 30<br>7:15pm Yoga at PCS<br>Memorial Day      | 31                                                                                                                                                                  | 1<br>7:30pm Adult Ed program with Rabbi Julie: The Book of Ruth | 2                                                                                                                                                                                      | 3<br>7:30pm Services<br>8:05pm Candle lighting                                                                                      | 4<br>9:15am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Schulz, 9:30 am<br>9:36pm Havdalah<br>Parashat Bechukotai                |

**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). Calendars for future months are also on the website.