

VOLUME XX, NUMBER 3 WWW.SHALOMPCS.COM NOVEMBER 2014

THE RABBI'S COLUMN: WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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Welcome to all of our new Pleasantville Community Synagogue members!

We're delighted that you have found your way to us – and us to you. To celebrate, and as a way to get to know each other better, our membership committee chair Leyla Nakisbendi and I would like to invite you to a Wine and Cheese get together at PCS, November 8 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. We'd love to hear your impressions so far, answer any questions you may have, and to hear any thoughts you might like to share about your own hopes and dreams for the journey ahead.

But mostly this is meant as a chance to connect informally, outside of a class or service, and just enjoy each other's company. At just before 6:30 pm we'll end with a brief, five-minute ceremony called "Havdallah," which is the traditional way Shabbat concludes - with fire, wine, and sweet-smelling spices. It's quite lovely.

Who's invited: we initially meant this for the many families who have joined PCS over the past 18 months. But then we realized that there are some PCS folks who, because of scheduling conflicts in the past, never got to attend a New Member Wine

and Cheese. So, for any PCS members who never got to attend, regardless of when you joined, you're invited too!

Only because it would be helpful to know how many chairs to put out - and how much wine, cheese and crackers to buy - it would be very much appreciated if you would RSVP to Marcy Gray, either by calling the synagogue office at 769-2672, or by dropping her an e-mail at mgray@shalompcs.com.

Again, we are delighted that you are here, and we look forward to seeing you and getting to know you better on this day - and over the days, weeks, and years to come.

PS: It's not too late to join our "Judaism for Non-Jews" class. The first, introductory, session was held on October 26. But the class begins in earnest on Sunday, November 2, 11:30 am to 1 pm. (By the way, in response to an oft-asked question: Yes, the class is open to Jews as well. The class - minus the interfaith discussion component to be separately scheduled - has in the past been taught as "Introduction to Judaism.") Bottom line? Come join us!

HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

By Galit Sperling, Principal

October was a short yet busy month in the Hebrew School! Just in time for the holiday, students made decorations and ate snacks in the PCS sukkah, doing a mitzvah with a blessing for the joyous harvest festival of Sukkot. On October 23, two soldiers from the Israeli Defense Forces visited the Hebrew School students, courtesy of Tzahal Shalom of Westchester. The children loved meeting and getting to know Tamar, a paratrooper trainer, and Erez, a commander working on the Iron Dome defense system. The students asked intelligent questions and learned about what it is like to be a young Israeli adult in the armed forces today.

The Aleph-Bet Shabbaton on October 24 was a wonderful evening at which our youngest students started off the Friday night service with several of the Shabbat songs they have been learning and practicing in class. The 3rd grade (Gimel) class is next, with their first Shabbaton of the year coming up on November 21! At the Alef-Bet Shabbaton, Captain Daniel Elbo, a Brigade Medical Officer in the IDF stationed in southern Gaza, shared his incredible experiences with families and congregants after services. It has been amazing for our children to hear of the humanity with which the IDF operates, and to meet such brave, charismatic young Israelis.

On November 1, we celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Michelle Siegel, a Madricha (teen assistant) in our Hebrew School classes for the past year and a half. Mazal Tov to Michelle and her family!

Coming Up:

Saturday morning, November 8: Family Education Shabbat (5th, 6th & 7th grade students are encouraged to attend)

Sunday, November 9: No classes (Veterans Day weekend)

Friday evening, November 21: Gimel Shabbaton

Thursday, November 27 - Sunday, November 30: No classes (Thanksgiving weekend)





Continued on next page





1st and 2nd grade students practicing Alef-Bet Yoga



Continued on next page

Tzahal Shalom soldiers from IDF visit Hebrew School









SUKKOT 2014



Led by Richard Levine, center, the PCS Sukkah Crew of 2014 put up a beautiful sukkah.



Principal Galit Sperling and Hebrew school students enjoyed the fun of being inside the sukkah.

Please join us for another joyful

Pajama Shabbat! Friday night, November 21

5:45 pm doors open ~ 6:00 pm Pajama Shabbat Service (up to age 6) 6:15 pm Dinner* (all ages) ~ 7:15 pm Family Service featuring our Hebrew School 3rd Graders and the PCS House Band ~ 8:30 pm Festive "Oneg Shabbat" Refreshment Hour

*The dinner is free but RSVPs are a must. Call 769-2672.



You've read about us in the *New York Times*.
You've heard about us from friends & neighbors. **Pleasantville Community Synagogue...** with members from *twenty* towns, villages and cities all across Westchester.

Joyful Judaism!

Celebrating 17 Years ~ Fair Share Dues means anyone can belong Rabbi Mark Sameth, named one of the "36 Most Inspiring Rabbis in America" by the *Jewish Daily Forward* ~ Galit Sperling, Principal ~ For the Top Ten Reasons to Join PCS visit: www.ShalomPCS.com (914) 769-2672, info@shalomPCS.com ~ 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY

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.

"Amazing Grace" Screening at PCS – The Story of a Powerful Journey

-Ofri Felder

On October 19, a number of PCS members as well as outside guests came together to view "Amazing Grace," an amazing film about the work of Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA). Rehabilitation Through the Arts is a local organization that volunteers in area prisons; it brings inmates the gift of theater as a means of self-discovery, community building and transformation. "Amazing Grace" takes place in the Bedford Hills Correction Facility, a maximum security prison for women. It chronicles the making of a musical based on the women's writings that the women – none with theatrical backgrounds – are rehearsing. Scenes from the actual play are woven into the short film. But the main focus is the women's journey: with the guidance of dedicated volunteers, they create a performance that is not only entertaining but also tells an important story.

It was my second time viewing the film – but it still moved, inspired and surprised me. The women prisoners in this film defy common stereotypes. Young and old, black and white, with very different shapes, they work hard to express who they are and take risks by sharing something of themselves on stage. They are articulate in confronting their shame, pain and loneliness, but they are also willing to embrace and support each other. Their performance teaches us to celebrate what it means to be human.

Anne Lloyd, a social worker from Katonah who directed the women in this performance, presented the film at PCS with a spirited and engaging Q&A following. If you are interested in learning more about the work of RTA, please visit their website at www.rta-arts.org.



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Intermarried?

You can get a lot out of yoga even if you're not Hindu. You can get a lot out of meditation even if you're not Buddhist. You can get a lot out of Judaism even if you're not Jewish.



Take our free "Judaism for Non-Jews" class & join our Intermarried Discussion Group this fall at **Pleasantville Community Synagogue**, with members from twenty towns, villages, and cities across Westchester For more information: (914) 769-2672 or info@shalomPCS.com 219 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY

YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME.

Joyful Judaism!





PCS Progressive Dinner Saturday – January 31st at 6:15pm

> Delicious Hors D'oeuvres Dinner at Members' Homes Fabulous Dessert Reception

Volunteer as a <u>Host</u> or Come as a <u>Guest</u>

(couvert for guests – \$20)

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

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

Look for invitation coming in the mail

Want to Host, help or have questions? Call or e-mail:
Marlo Klein 914-238-0082
pcsprogressivedinner15@gmail.com



It's Never Too Early to Learn the Importance of Giving Back

This Veterans Day, spend the morning participating in a mitzvah project with your family making Thanksgiving food packages for local seniors.

Join us to decorate and assemble these bags. Nursery and elementary school children and siblings welcome.

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 • 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Two locations to choose from:

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester

Social Hall 999 Wilmot Road Scarsdale, New York

or

Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester

600 Bear Ridge Road Pleasantville, New York

Couvert: \$25 for the first bag, \$45 for two bags, and \$65 for three bags.

\$20 per bag represents the value of the event and is not tax-deductible.

Women's Philanthropy Community and Volunteer Services
Chair • Amy Gutenplan
Committee • Leslie Goldberg, Amy Hughson, Elese Silverman,
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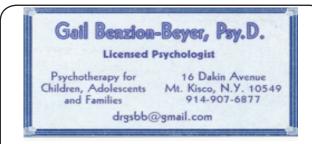
Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact Veronica Landin at landinv@ujafedny.org or 914.761.5100 ext. 115. Please specify location preference. Space is limited.





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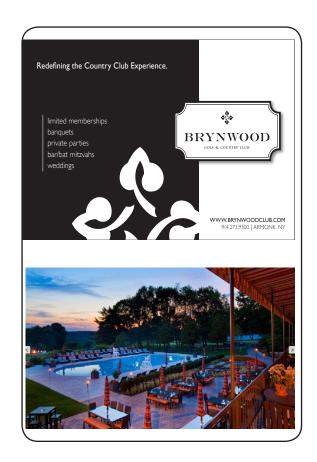
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To contact PCS: Phone (914) 769-2672; Fax (914) 769-1795; Website: www.shalomPCS.com

Marcy Gray, Synagogue Administrator: (914) 769-2672; mgray@shalomPCS.com Galit Sperling, Religious School: (914) 773-0043; principal@shalompcs.com Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; Accounts@shalomPCS.com

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NOVEMBER 2014 YAHR ZEITS

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To All PCS Members:

Sidney Lasher, father of April Lasher

If you or another member suffer personal tragedy or loss or are otherwise in need of help, please immediately call Rabbi Mark at 769-2672, and Michael Gold at 238-9219.

NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADS!

November 30

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June, and it is emailed to every member family as well as to prospective members and some Jewish organizations.

If you provide professional or business services in the area, the PCS newsletter might provide some extra, valuable visibility. To arrange for your ad to appear in the newsletter, here's what you need to know:

* Deadlines:

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to Marcy Gray at mgray@shalompcs.com

* Ad Specifications:

Ads will be published in one size only: one-quarter page, which is approximately 3 $1/2 \times 4 3/4$ inches. The artwork should be provided by the advertiser.

*Advertising Rates:

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin published in July and August) is \$125 for 1/4 page. Note: Checks preferred. Can be mailed to Pleasantville Community Synagogue, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 with "newsletter ad" in the memo section. To pay by credit card, please call the synagogue office at 914-769-2672.

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PCS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

All the committees of the Pleasantville Community Synagogue are eager for your participation and suggestions. If you'd like to get more involved in the life of the PCS community, this is the way to begin! Below are the names of the committees, their chairs, and contact information.

Adult Education

Barbara Doctor bdoctor670@gmail.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Ed Sperling edsperling@gmail.com

Building Committee

Richard Levine

rlevine@shalomPCS.com

Jewish Education

Kiersten Zweibaum info@shalomPCS.com

Communications

Cristina Altieri-Martinez cmartinez@shalomPCS.com

Spiritual Life

Peter Schaffer pschaffer@shalomPCS.com

Finance

April Lasher Sanders alasher@shalomPCS.com

Fundraising

Kenneth Fuirst kfuirst@@shalomPCS.com

High Holidays

Richard Solomon info@shalomPCS.com

Human Resources

Karen Neuburger info@shalomPCS.com

Membership Engagement

Laurie Hirsch Schulz

Ihirschschulz@shalomPCS.com

Membership Outreach

Leyla Nakisbendi Leyla@shalomPCS.com

Israel Action Committee

Ofri Felder ofelder@shalomPCS.com

Seth Rutman srutman@shalomPCS.com

Tikkun Olam

Michael Gold mgold@shalomPCS.com

Youth Committee

Laurie Hirsch Schulz info@shalomPCS.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Pleasantville Community Synagogue by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

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MERRIE AND GEORGE TEITEL-GREENE, IN MEMORY OF GEORGE'S BELOVED FATHER, ROBERT GREENE

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 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

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.

Donation in honor/memory of (pleas	e specify which):					
Donor contact information (if not a PCS member):						
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PLEASE NOTE: To help our bookkeeper, please issue separate checks for dues or other special events. All donations should be made payable to Pleasantville Community Synagogue (please indicate which fund in the memo section of your check).

TISHREI - CHASHVAN 5775

November 2014 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11:30am Rabbi Mark's class	7:15pm Yoga class	7 28 7:30pm 7th Grade Parents' Meeting	29	30	7:15pm Services 5:35 pm - Candle lighting	9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including Bat Mitzvah of Michelle Siegel, 9:30 am
2		3 4	5	6	7	8
11:00am Rabbi Mark's class	7:15pm Yoga class			4:00pm Ask the Rabbi, 3rd grade	7:15pm Services PCS House Band Children's Service 4:27 pm - Candle lighting	9:00am Morning Meditation; Family Education Shabbat service, 10 am 5:00pm New member wine and cheese
9	1	0 11	12	13	14	Parashat Vayera
	7:15pm Yoga class	Veteran's Day			7:15pm Services 4:20 pm - Candle lighting	9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am
						Parashat Chayei Sara
16	1	7 18	19	20	21	5:49 pm - 22
Executive Board meeting	7:15pm Yoga class	Board of Trustees meeting, 7:30 pm		20	PJ Shabbat Dinner Kita Gimmel Shabbaton PCS House Band 4:14 pm - Candle lighting	9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Toldot 5:44 pm -
23	2	4 25	26	27	28	Havdalah 29
11:30am Rabbi Mark's class Rosh Chodesh Kislev	7:15pm Yoga class			Thanksgiving NO HEBREW SCHOOL	7:15pm Services Children's Service	9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am
					4:11 pm - Candle lighting	Parashat Vayetzei 5:40 pm - Havdalah
NO HEBREW SCHOOL	7:15pm Yoga class	1 2	3	4	7:15pm Services PCS House Band Children's Service 4:09 pm - Candle lighting	9:00am Morning Meditation; Shabbat Service including B'nei Mitzvah of Jordan and Hudson Burrows, 9:30 am
						Parasnat

Note: Times and dates of events may change after the newsletter has come out. To get the latest information on any possible changes, please check the calendar on our website: www.ShalomPCS.com. Future months are also on the website.



SAVE THE DATES:



Saturday, November 8: Family Education Shabbat, 10 am to Noon

Saturday, November 8: New Member Wine and Cheese, 5:00 to 6:30 pm

Friday, November 21: Pajama Shabbat - Shabbat Dinner (all ages) - 3rd Grade Class Shabbaton

Friday, December 12: Our third-ever "SNAP" (Special Needs at Pleasantville) service

Friday, December 19: Channukah Shabbat Dinner (all ages)