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COMMUNITY  
PLEASANTVILLE SYNAGOGUE



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## The Rabbi's Column: To Be Jewish Is to Be a Dreamer\* by Rabbi Dr. Julie Hilton Danan

*A rebbe and his hassid, his devoted disciple, were on a journey. Night was falling as they passed a forest, so they had to stop, make camp, and set up a tent for the night. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.*



*Some hours later, the student woke the rabbi and said, "Rabbi, look toward the sky. What do you see?"*

*The rabbi replied, "I see millions of stars."*

*"What does that tell you?" asked the student.*

*The rabbi pondered for a minute, then stroked his beard and said, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies. Time wise, it's a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, Hashem is all powerful, and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow." And, turning dreamily toward his pupil, the rabbi asked, "And what does it tell you, my son?"*

*"Shmendrick!" yells the hassid. "It tells me that somebody stole our tent!"*

To be a Jew is to be a dreamer. Maybe to overlook the harsh realities of the moment and see past them to the stars. To keep proclaiming, "Next year in Jerusalem" at the end of every Yom Kippur service and Passover Seder, no matter how dire the circumstances. To sing "Hatikvah," the hope, as the Israeli national anthem.

To be a Jew is to be a dreamer. After the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897, Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, wrote in his diary, "Were I to sum up the Basel Congress in a word - which I shall guard against pronouncing publicly - it would be this: 'At Basel, I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. If not in five years, certainly in 50, everyone will know it.' " Almost exactly 50 years to the day of that diary entry, give or take a few months, the State of Israel was born. In Herzl's words, "*Im tirtzu, ein zo aggadah*, if you will it, it is not just a legend," the dream can become a reality.

It is not only the nation builders who have dreamed; it is every individual who envisions a better future. I take myself back to a scene at the turn of the 20th century. A plucky young girl named Rochel, just 12 years old, stands on the deck of a packed, rocking ship as the Statue of Liberty emerged into view. She is tremendously grateful to be leaving behind the poverty and danger of life for Jews on the Russian-Polish border. She is sorry, though, that she had to leave school and become a seamstress to help support her family. She gazes out at the shore, dreaming of a better life for herself and her family on the packed streets of New York's Lower East Side, where she will now be known as Rose. I wonder how far her imagination could take her. Could she

have dreamed at that moment that all of her children would go to college?

Could she have imagined as the ship drew into harbor that in her granddaughter's day women would be counted in a minyan in the synagogue, make an *aliyah* to the Torah? If you had told her that her great-granddaughter would become a rabbi, she might have just laughed her delightful chuckle and thought it was a crazy, wonderful dream. But she was always looking forward and never back.

I am my Great-Grandmother Rose's dream come true. And you are somebody else's dream. Have you ever thought about how your life is a fulfillment of opportunities of which your ancestors could only dream? And our ancestors dreamed their dreams in the most challenging of circumstances. Can we who live in much greater comfort and ease, with so many advantages of education and technology, afford to be cynical and make our dreams smaller?

Over two decades ago, a small group of Jews in Pleasantville began to dream. To envision a local Jewish community that would be inclusive, relevant and meaningful. Out of their dreams and vision grew the Pleasantville Community Synagogue. Thanks to their vision, generous contributions and countless hours of hard work, over 20 years later we enjoy a beautiful, serene shul, a caring staff and a congregation that is a magnet to those who are looking for a welcoming, diverse and authentic community and an experience of joyful Judaism.

Nothing great can be achieved without starting as a vision or dream. Jewish mysticism teaches that a dream is like a blueprint. For the mystics, creation of anything new begins in *Beriah*, the world of ideas. From there it filters through the world of *Yetzirah*, planning and formation of the details, and then into the world of *Assiyah*, hard work and actual accomplishment. By the time we begin to get our hands dirty in the real world of budgets and building repairs, we can sometimes forget the vision that brought us here. As the Midrash says, even at the great moment when the Red Sea parted, two Israelites, Reuven and Shimon, never looked up from the mud at their feet.

Every miracle, every dream realized, has its share of challenges and imperfection. That doesn't negate the realization of a dream, it just means that it's time to pause and rededicate ourselves to our vision.

In the words of Max Weber, "Certainly all historical experience confirms the truth - that humanity would not have attained the possible unless time and again we had reached out for the impossible." Shortly before I came to PCS, our PCS Vision Committee, chaired by Laurie Hirsch Shulz, dedicated many hours of reflection and hard work to survey the congregation, to find out what brought you to PCS and where you want our congregation to go in the years ahead. Members described PCS as "a welcoming Jewish community connecting people of diverse traditions and backgrounds who want to share a joyous spiritual and cultural home." You identified Spirituality, Community and Education as the three pillars of our community. Six current priorities were affirmed: music, welcoming new members, a teen youth group, social action, a caring committee for member support and adult education. Just a year later, even with limited staff and funds, several of those areas are coming steadily to fruition, while others need more support. We have also added a focus on new programs for our youngest families.

From the day I arrived just over a year ago, I immediately sensed that PCS is the essence of the traditional Jewish ideal of "Mikdash Me'at," a small holy sanctuary. When I say that PCS is, for me, every day, a holy place where I go to do holy things with holy people, do not be put off by my choice of words. Holy doesn't have to mean pious and ultra-religious. **Holiness means those people, times and places, where we feel most alive, most connected, most aware of the sacredness of life.**

So dream with me about the years to come. Let us envision what it will look and feel like as PCS goes from strength to strength as a true spiritual home, a hub of Jewish life where you want to be, where members and visitors are welcomed, loved and valued so that all may feel a deep sense of belonging and live our values. As I describe our connection to our people, activities and space, consider which of these resonates with you personally, and where you want to make your unique contribution to realizing our communal vision.

When I say Holy People, I mean that people will always come first at PCS. PCS will continue to be a warm, welcoming and diverse community, weaving close social and personal ties among its members. Openness and welcome will continue to be our hallmark. Members of all Jewish backgrounds, Jews-by-choice, spiritual seekers, family members of all faiths and interfaith guests will always be welcome and valued in our community. We will build caring relationships and increase our support for one another in times of need as well as times of joy. One of our top priorities is to start a caring committee to support members in time of need, and Susan Friedman

has kindly offered to be the committee chair.

When I say Holy Actions, it reminds me that activities at PCS are much more than "programs"; they are meaningful deeds and *mitzvot* in which we engage as a community. Our programs will continue to include great spiritual, intellectual and social gatherings, and more actions that connect us to *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam* and the natural world. Which of these programs is the one that you will attend and support?

When I say Holy Space, I think of our historic house of worship in the village of Pleasantville, already beloved for its serene, sacred and gentle atmosphere. Over the next few years, let us envision and carry out the needed upgrades that will make our facility maximally comfortable, aesthetically pleasing and accessible to people of *all* physical abilities.

Will you be one to help make this vision a reality?

In Jewish tradition, the fullest expression of holiness is found with others, in community. As rabbi, one of my blessed jobs is to hold a mirror to the community and reflect back to you who you truly are, to the depths of your souls. On this Day of Remembrance, my words can help us to renew our vision, to remember our shared dreams. To bring our dreams to reality will take each one of us here finding our own unique place of connection, our personal way of contribution. As Reb Zalman said, "The only way we can get it together is together."

In the coming year, may we dream together and make our dreams a reality: May our synagogue become a vibrant hub of Jewish life, where we love to gather often to celebrate, serve and mark our sacred times together. May we support one another through life as we work for *Tikkun HaLev* and *Tikkun Olam*, healing our hearts and repairing our world. May we start now.

***\*The Rabbi's Column this month is adapted from Rabbi Julie's Erev Rosh Hashanah sermon.***

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Dear PCS Members,

*As we look back on the High Holy Days, let's extend one more huge Todah Rabbah to everyone who worked behind the scenes as well as on the bimah over the Days of Awe! Of course, it is my total delight to work with a gifted, spiritual and creative Hazzan such as Cantor Abbe Lyons. But few people realize all the preparation and logistical work that goes on behind the scenes to produce the biggest services of the year. I mention just a few names of those who led these efforts: our very hardworking High Holiday committee chair, Richard Solomon, and all his helpers and committee members, including Jeff and Isabel Rachlin for storing our books, polishing the silver and transporting the Torahs. A huge thanks to our super-organized holiday managers Robin Berman with Rhea Wolfthal and Malcom Netburn (thank you again to David Sheinkopf, for passing that baton, in person, into such capable hands), to all who helped move, serve food and clean up, and to Leyla Nakisbendi for the lovely flowers. Thanks to David Benattar for leading a very large crew of Sukkah builders and to*

Peter Volgyes for donating the new Sukkah.

I won't dare attempt to include all the names of those whose faces you did see and voices you did hear over the holidays, but let's just reflect for a moment and appreciate the many who stepped up and shared their time and talents: inspiring meditation and Tashlich leaders, totally awesome musicians, fantastic choir members, talented vocal and instrumental soloists, thoughtful Speak Chorus participants, nurturing children's service leaders and resounding shofar blowers! Board members served as ushers and warmly greeted everyone. We are blessed with so many great Torah and haftarah chanters and davenners, both adults and teens, and our wonderful Gabbais, who kept it all running smoothly. Behind the scenes, Ed Sperling did the huge job of organizing all the Torah readers, as he does throughout the year.

As always, our president, Amy Gutenplan, and administrator, Marcy Gray, worked extra hard before and at this season to make sure all ran smoothly.

My heart is filled to overflowing with appreciation.

*Shanah tovah to one and all at PCS!*

Rabbi Julie



## HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Galit Sperling, Principal

The High Holidays made October an exciting month in the PCS Hebrew School! We celebrated Rosh HaShanah by blowing the shofar, enjoying apples and honey, and talking about what we want to do differently in the new year. Students were encouraged to reflect during Yom Kippur on how they would like to improve themselves and contribute more to their communities and the world at large.

For Sukkot, our children made decorations for the brand new (and big!) PCS Sukkah and enjoyed snack and classes inside it, taking turns shaking the lulav and etrog. These symbols of the holiday represent parts of us: the etrog represents our heart, the palm - our spine, the myrtle - our eyes, and the willow - our mouth. As Jewish people, it is our responsibility to use all parts of ourselves to create a better world. We also welcome in *ushpizin* (guests) to our Sukkah. Our Sukkah has one open side, symbolizing how all are welcome.

It was wonderful to see so many of our Hebrew School students at the Simchat Torah celebration on October 24, with Rabbi Julie leading us in a fun and festive service, as we finished reading the Torah and started all over again! Children danced and sang along with the *hakafot* (circling and dancing with the Torah), expanding to outside the synagogue itself.



As we begin the Torah again, we launch into the new year with open hearts and minds, ready to learn, express and celebrate!

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### Upcoming Hebrew School Dates:

**Sunday, November 6:** Israel Defense Forces soldiers visit the Hebrew School!

**Sunday, November 13:** Seventh grade (Kitah Zayin) parent/child workshop with Rabbi Julie

**Friday evening, November 18:** Kitah Aleph/Bet/Gimmel (Grades 1-3) Shabbaton

**Thursday, November 24 - Sunday, November 27:** (Thanksgiving): No Classes



Dana, Olivia, Chloe and Lucy host a bake sale to raise money for tzedakah



Making decorations for the Sukkah



B'nei Mitzvah class learning about Simchat Torah

For pictures of our Hebrew School students in the PCS Sukkah, click [here](#).

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## Benjamin Hahn's Mitzvah Project

For my mitzvah project I spend an hour every Thursday working with a child who lives at the JCCA Cottage School. As a member of the Jewish community, I believe it is my duty to help people less fortunate than I. I chose to do this by supporting someone who doesn't have the same privileges that I have. The children who live at the Cottage School do so because they have no other stable place to stay. Once a week throughout the whole year, I meet with one child at the Cottage School and tutor him. I help him to learn with simple sheet work, and then we play together with Legos, board games, card games, etc. When it is my turn to bring in a snack, the student will tell me what snack he would like for the next session, and I do my best to bring in what he asks for. Once a month I can take my kid outside of the Cottage School, and he, my family and I will do activities together like going for ice cream or pizza. This is important because to the Cottage School residents, the volunteers at the tutor group are consistent and reliable people in their life. As much as the tutor group is important to the child, it is a learning experience for me. This experience helps me to realize how lucky I am to be born into such a fortunate life and how it is my duty to society to help the less fortunate as much as I can.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE\*

A year ago I stood before this congregation as the new president. The synagogue had just been through a tremendous upheaval and a tumultuous time in figuring our future and transitioning to a new rabbi. And when I stood up here a year ago, although I was hopeful, I really had no sense of where we were going and no real vision of our future. But I knew I needed your help.



Last year, I asked you to join me in taking responsibility for the future of PCS. I closed my talk with this: "My wish is for all of us to come back here next year and be able to say, 'Together, we created something special.'"

So now that it is a year later, I am absolutely delighted and excited to say that we indeed have created something new and special. We have a rabbi with tremendous energy and fabulous ideas, and we have a young and growing congregation that is reinvigorated. Early childhood and teen programs have been created, while committees have expanded. So, although a year ago I stood up here as the new president with a great deal of uncertainty, today I stand here in front of this congregation with a tremendous amount of optimism and a vision for our future.

On Erev Rosh Hashanah you heard Rabbi Julie articulate this vision. While the past year has given me the opportunity to learn how to implement our vision, it has also given me much fuller understanding of the challenges facing us. We face some challenges that are shared by the larger Jewish community, and some that are specific to us. Research studies have shown that Jews in Westchester are increasingly choosing not to affiliate. The synagogue model across Westchester and New York is suffering. I can't fight the demographics, but I can ask you to help identify those that are seeking a spiritual and religious home for their families. We have created something special and wonderful here at PCS, and it falls to all of us to let the greater community know.

Within our congregation, we face our own challenges. We are a small, intimate congregation with the programming of a full-service synagogue. Our Hebrew school is educating the next generation, and whether you have a child in Hebrew school, or not, we all benefit from educating a generation that identifies deeply as Jewish. This means we all need to step up and continue to take responsibility for our future. Whether it's chairing an event, volunteering with a committee, coordinating youth activities or helping us with our marketing, no matter your skill set, we will find a role for you to play.

Taking responsibility for our future also means committing financially to PCS. We all have different financial circumstances, and every contribution is important, and valued. The dues you pay, however, do not even cover our basic expenses. So that PCS can survive and thrive as the full-service synagogue we have all grown to love, we need additional giving, gifts from the heart.

"A gift from the heart." What does that even mean? Unlike many other synagogues, we don't ask for financial statements, or tax returns, or explanations of financial circumstances. Each member is a valued member of our community, and we do not allow money to be an obstacle to membership. We have some members who cannot pay full dues, and we also have members, who, without fanfare, without expectation, without recognition, send checks for quite a bit more than their required dues payments. To each and every member, we say, "Thank you very much for your most valued and generous contribution."

In the last year, I've been to baby namings, B'nei Mitzvahs, celebrations and funerals. I've been to shivas where I see an outpouring of community support. I've seen congregants in crisis being supported by PCS, as well as congregants celebrating and being supported by PCS.

I never quite understood the value of being part of a religious community in times of crisis and need until recently, when I needed support. This community has been there for me just as it is there for all of us.

And now I have to say, PCS needs your help. We are at a tipping point, and we need your help. We ask each of you to reflect on your own situation and decide what gift your family can comfortably make and then perhaps go beyond comfortable. PCS is there for you, year round, and no matter your financial circumstances. We need you to support PCS, so that we can continue to support you and your children.

So, once again, I ask you for that gift from the heart. Whether it's an additional \$18, \$180, \$1800 or even \$18,000, we need to all dig deep and be in this together. Without your continued and increased generosity, it will be impossible to continue with our current model. I cannot impress upon you enough, we cannot run a deficit again this year. PCS is here when you need us. Please be present and generous at this time when we need you.

Last year, I wished for all of us to come back here and be able to say together, we created something special. What we have here, at PCS, is unique and special, and each and every one of us is responsible for that. Please join me in guaranteeing the future of PCS.

I wish for you and yours a healthy, joyous and prosperous New Year.

- Amy Gutenplan

\*This month's President's Message is adapted from Amy's Kol Nidre appeal.

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## **Celebrating the High Holy Days and Sukkot 5777**

This year, for the first time, PCS members, family and friends celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the beautiful sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua.





One of the many special moments during these holidays was taking part in the *tashlich* ceremony, when we cast our sins into the water at nearby Nannyhagen Park.





An able crew gathered on October 16 to erect our spacious new PCS Sukkah, generously donated by Peter Volgyes.



Our Sukkah builders



Sukkah by Ikea (just kidding!)

As you can see below, throughout the Sukkot holiday, PCS members of every age gathered in our Sukkah to eat, drink, schmooze, pray and learn.



Our youngest students enjoying the Sukkah.





Kitah Vav also likes hanging out in the Sukkah.



B'nei Mitzvah Class practices shaking the lulav.



PCS teens got together for Pizza in the Hut (aka the Sukkah) with new PCS youth specialist, Julia McCarthy (right)





A good time was had by all at the reception hosted by Rabbi Julie and Avraham Danan in the PCS Sukkah.

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## The Little Ones Prepare for Simchat Torah

The Menchkins (ages 0-8) and their families, having bonded at a PCS pre-Sukkot outing at Muscoot Farm, also had a wonderful time celebrating Simchat Torah at the home of PCS congregants, Ali and Ben Serebin. Among other activities, the children colored Simchat Torah flags and baked Torah and Star of David cookies, which PCS members enjoyed following Simchat Torah services.





For more Menchkin activities, including Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm services one Friday per month, check out the PCS web site, [www.shalompcs.com](http://www.shalompcs.com) or contact the PCS office at (914) 769-2672, [info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com).

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## Intimacy: Seeing the Stranger Face to Face

On Shabbat we recite the words "*v'havta l'reacha kamocha*," part of the commandment to love the other as our self. I'd never quite understood what this means in practice; I understood it only in theory. This has been changing for me, so I'd like to pass on what I have learned during the past 18 months as a volunteer sitting with dying people, actually seeing them face to face, seeing them not as strangers in their most elemental state, but as fellow human beings who are where I will also be one day.

In this work I enter a home or an institution with no preconceptions, knowing only the basic facts of the state of health of the individual, and introduce myself. Then I make room for them to either talk to me or to remain silent as I sit close by. Creating space is my goal, allowing whatever needs to be said without comment unless I am asked for a response. Most of the time the person wants to talk and doesn't want feedback, and I am comfortable with this arrangement.

This is similar to how a sense of intimacy can be created in other relationships: from casual conversations on the street, to meetings with friends and neighbors, to interactions with workers in stores or children in a playground. Again, the goal is to allow space, to allow what is ready to arise to come forward, with or without words. This leads to a new kind of intimacy, an intimacy that derives from a coherence, a sense of being on

the same wavelength regardless of how long the meeting lasts. I see in myself, and am aware of this in others as well, the impulse to fill the space with words, to deny the soundless emptiness that makes me feel uncomfortable. This is an old habit, something I learned very early in my life, and it has been useful in many ways, but it forfeits that moment of uncertainty when a new kind of connection might arise. These moments allow feelings, rather than thoughts, to emerge, and the feelings lead to a deeper connection to whomever I am with, even when it feels awkward.

I'm relabeling these moments of intimacy as love, love of the other. It doesn't feel like a stretch to apply the word love here; in fact it strikes me as exactly what the commandment means. Neither love nor intimacy is something we do; rather they are what we allow ourselves to feel. None of us have ever forced ourselves to love or to be loved by another. It doesn't work that way. As the poet sings: "I am not the one who loves, it's love that seizes me...." The love can "seize" us when, and only when, it has the space to emerge. We are used to seeing it when we witness young lovers resting shyly in their love. It is no different in our less intense interactions. It just takes space and the willingness to see one another face to face.

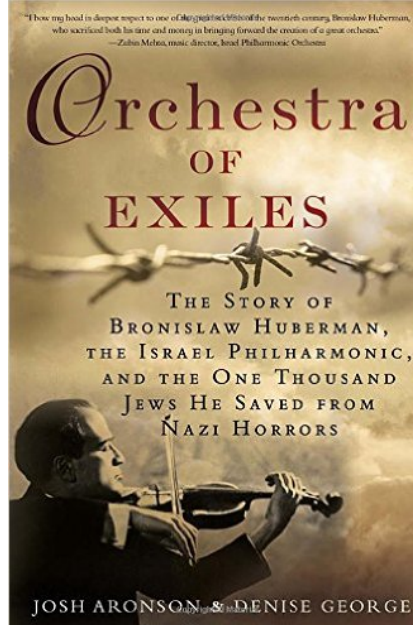
-Peter Schaffer

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**From the PCS Bookworm... Eileen Jagoda**

***Orchestra of Exiles:  
The Story of Bronislaw Huberman, the Israel  
Philharmonic, and the One Thousand Jews He  
Saved from Nazi Horrors***

**by Josh Aronson and Denise George**



Bronislaw Huberman played the Brahms violin concerto in Vienna when he was only 14 years old. He instantly became famous and was a well-traveled prodigy throughout Europe until World War I. After the war, he decided to dedicate his phenomenal talent and celebrity to aiding humanity. He had a lot of help from illustrious personages like Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein. He also knew most of the great musicians around the world. They all had a vision for peace through the Pan-European movement.

Huberman began a crusade that would result in the 1936 creation of the Palestine Symphony. Just 12 years later, the ensemble became the Israel Philharmonic. Through sheer determination and perseverance Huberman miraculously arranged for the very best Jewish musicians worldwide and their families to emigrate from Nazi-threatened territories. He had to do a lot of pleading, especially from David Ben Gurion to arrange special visas and permits for these musicians. The first concert of this newly formed orchestra was conducted by Huberman's good friend, Arturo Toscanini.

Ultimately, Huberman saved nearly 1,000 Jews from the approaching Holocaust. The founding of the Israel Philharmonic was thus one of the greatest cultural - and humanitarian - achievements of the 20th century.

*Josh Aronson is an Academy Award-nominated writer, producer and director of films and documentaries, including his 2012 documentary also entitled Orchestra of Exiles. Denise George is an author, teacher and world-traveled speaker who has written or co-authored 27 books.*

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In our December issue, [the PCS Bookworm](#), Eileen Jagoda, will review *A Fifty-Year Silence: Love, War, and a Ruined House in France* by Miranda Richmond Mouillot.

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# Introduction to Judaism:

## A Survey of Jewish History and Practice for Beginners and Deepeners

Join with clergy from throughout Northern Westchester to learn about the breadth and wonder of Jewish tradition. This class offers a pathway for the adult learner who wishes to discover or deepen Jewish knowledge or the non-Jew who is considering living a Jewish life or possibly conversion to Judaism. Each session is based upon a chapter in Stephen M. Wiylen's *Settings of Silver: An Introduction to Judaism*. It is recommended but not required that the chapters be read in advance of each session.

Select Tuesdays Evenings, 7:30–9:00 pm, November–April

Please register with Jaclyn Dubray: [JDubray@bethelnw.org](mailto:JDubray@bethelnw.org)

There is no charge for these classes.

November 1, 2016

### **The Many Names of God**

(*Settings of Silver* pages 35-52)

with Rabbi Julie Danan

at Pleasantville Community Synagogue



November 15, 2016

### **My Heart Turns to the East: Israel and Jerusalem**

(*Settings of Silver* pages 53-78, 380-406)

with Rabbi Stacy Bergman

at Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford



November 22, 2016

### **The Tanach and Rabbinic Literature**

(*Settings of Silver* pages 15-36)

with Rabbi David Greenberg

at Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford



December 6, 2016

### **The Jewish Lifecycle: Bris/Marriage/Divorce/Birth/Conversion**

(*Settings of Silver* pages 79-98)

with Rabbi Maura Linzer

at Temple Beth El, Chappaqua



January 10, 2017

### **The Siddur and Public and Private Prayer**

(*Settings of Silver* pages 99-109)

with Rabbi Joshua Strom

at Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Armonk



January 24, 2017

### **Heaven, Hell, the Afterlife, Divine Judgment**

(*Settings of Silver* pages 110-123)

with Rabbi Jason Nevarez

at Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford



BET TORAH

CONGREGATION B'NAI YISRAEL



PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY  
SYNAGOGUE



TEMPLE  
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OF NORTHERN  
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בית אל



Temple Shaaray Tefila  
Celebrate • Learn • Pray • Connect


February 7, 2017  
**The Centrality of Shabbat**  
(Settings of Silver pages 124-136)  
with Rabbi Julie Danan  
at Pleasantville Community Synagogue



February 21, 2017  
**Jewish Calendar and Holidays**  
(Settings of Silver pages 137-184)  
with Rabbi Jonathan Laffa



*Come celebrate the first*  
**ROSH CHODESH\***  
*of 5777 with the*  
**Scents and Sensibilities of Cheshvan**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 pm**  
*at Pleasantville Community Synagogue*



**In mystical traditions, each month has a sensory experience of the body associated with it. The month of cheshvan is associated with the sense of smell. Please BRING A FAVORITE AROMA/SMELL OR A SCENT MEMORY to share.**

For more information  
call Marcy Gray at PCS at 769-2672 or  
e-mail Robin Berman at [awake.robin@gmail.com](mailto:awake.robin@gmail.com).

**Pleasantville Community Synagogue**  
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[www.ShalomPCS.com](http://www.ShalomPCS.com)

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***Please join us at PCS for a very special  
Shabbat of Learning  
and Israel Experience***  
*with*

# Rabbi Jonathan Porath

## November 4-5, 2016



Click [here](#) for Rabbi Porath's bio.

### November 4

**Friday night, EARLY 6:30 pm service:**

**An evening about Israel with our scholar from Israel**

"Leaving Home and Coming Home: 32 Years on Aliya to Israel"

**[We will be joined by two visiting Israeli soldiers from Tzahal Shalom.]**

**Friday Prime-Time catered dinner, 7:30 pm:\***

"Israel Update: Current Issues and How to Talk About, Educate and Advocate"

### November 5

**Saturday morning: 10 am, Devar Torah:**

"In Honor of the Story of Noah: What Do You Do When Your Whole World Collapses?  
Coping With Life's Transitions"

**Saturday noon: Kiddush lunch**

**Saturday Torah Study, 12:30 pm:** "The Life and Death of Rabbi Akiva: A Hero for Our Time"

**Saturday night, 7 pm, Havdalah program, at the home of Isabel and Jeff Rachlin, 19 Great Oak Lane in Pleasantville:** "Nurturing Jewish Hearts and Jewish Souls." Rabbi Porath will explore people and events that have influenced his Jewish life, including his 45-year friendship with Elie Wiesel, of blessed memory. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own stories and experiences.

***All are welcome to this very special program.***

***\*RSVPs are a must for the dinner. To help offset the cost of the dinner suggested donations are \$18/adult.***

***Any donations gladly accepted.***

***Click [here](#) to RSVP and pay for the dinner.***

*For more information or to RSVP, please contact  
the PCS office at (914) 769-2672 or [info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com).*

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PCS invites you to  
spend a very special Friday night  
with active-duty combat soldiers from  
the Israel Defense Forces  
AND Scholar in Residence  
Rabbi Jonathan Porath.

Join us **Friday night, November 4** for **Shabbat services at 6:30 pm** followed by a **festive meal**, when Pleasantville Community Synagogue welcomes Rabbi Porath and IDF officers **for singing, learning, praying and celebrating!**

Friday, November 4, 2016

6:30 pm at PCS

For more information or to RSVP, e-mail Marcy Gray at [mgray@shalompcs.com](mailto:mgray@shalompcs.com) or call 769-2672.

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TZAHAL SHALOM OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

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**Come join Peter Schaffer and other PCS congregants on Sunday, November 13, to see *From Silence: Her Freedom from the Holocaust Came at a Cost* at the Theater for the New City in New York.**

**Tickets are \$18.**

**Contact Peter Schaffer at [pschaffer@casepaper.com](mailto:pschaffer@casepaper.com) for more information and to RSVP.**

Click [here](#) for a transcript of "All That Chat - A Holocaust Survivor Finds Her Voice" by Anne Lucas, the writer of *From Silence*.

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**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)

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# And how are ***YOU*** feeling?

Bringing *simcha* (joy) into your life  
through Emotional Awareness

**Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:30 pm**



Dr. Jane Sandbank

***Come for a very special evening with renowned educator  
and PCS congregant, Dr. Jane Sandbank.  
This is a program you do not want to miss!***

***Sponsored by the PCS Adult Education Committee.***

***For more information, e-mail committee chair [Barbara Doctor](mailto:Barbara.Doctor@shalompcs.com)  
or contact the PCS office.***

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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.*

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***GIVE GENEROUSLY***

*Look for the marked box at PCS.*

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### Employment Services for the Westchester Jewish Community



Westchester Jewish Community Services Career>Connect program helps those dealing with employment instability.

Funded by a grant from UJA-Federation of NY, Career>Connect provides job-seekers with dynamic, informational workshops and groups on relevant topics, a Career Boot Camp Intensive (application and screening required), and individual career counseling services where appropriate.

If needed, referrals are made for financial, legal and small business counseling, as well as for emotional and spiritual support.

Individual assistance is offered by appointment.

#### Contact

914-761-0600 x170; [careerconnect@wjcs.com](mailto:careerconnect@wjcs.com).

*Jill Schreibman, LCSW*  
Program Coordinator  
UJA's Career>Connect at WJCS

WJCS Headquarters, 845 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603  
P: 914.761.0600 F: 914.761.5367 E: [info@wjcs.com](mailto:info@wjcs.com) [www.wjcs.com](http://www.wjcs.com)

### ABOUT THE WJCS CENTER FOR JEWISH PROGRAMS

Our Jewish Roots: In 1943, with support from UJA-Federation of New York, WJCS was founded by a group of Westchester residents who recognized a growing need for family services for the Jewish community. We are proud of the roots upon which we are founded. Through the Center for Jewish Programs, we remain committed to providing programs and services at more than 40 Synagogues and Jewish institutions to help meet the particular needs of Westchester's dynamic Jewish community.



Supported by a Grant from [www.wjcs.com](http://www.wjcs.com)  
The Westchester Community Foundation



### ABOUT WJCS

Founded in 1943, WJCS is one of the largest non-sectarian, non-for-profit human services agencies in Westchester County. We support 20,000 Westchester residents annually to meet challenges and achieve personal health success. Services include mental health treatment, a network of literacy, learning and youth development initiatives, residential and non-residential programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism, homecare, geriatric care management and programs and services for older adults, and privately funded programs for the Jewish community.

Strengthening Lives. Shaping Futures.

## Rekindling Shabbat at PCS

IN NOVEMBER...

On Friday, November 4, please join us for very special Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:30 pm. Not only will the evening feature our scholar-in-residence for the weekend, Rabbi Jonathan



Porath, but we will be joined by active-duty combat soldiers from the Israel Defense Force, who will share their experiences with us. A Shabbat dinner (RSVP required) will follow services. For more information, click [here](#).

On Saturday, November 5, please join us for Shabbat morning services at 10 am, with a presentation by Rabbi Porath, followed by a kiddush lunch at noon and Torah study with Rabbi Porath at 12:30 pm. The day will conclude with a Havdalah program at 7 pm at the home of PCS congregants, Isabel and Jeff Rachlin, at 19 Great Oak Lane in Pleasantville; Rabbi Porath will speak of his long friendship with Elie Wiesel.



On Friday, November 11, Kabbalat Shabbat services will be at 7:30 pm with Benjamin Hahn and his family participating in honor of his Bar Mitzvah. The evening will conclude with an Oneg Shabbat.

At Saturday morning services on November 12, at 9:30 am, Benjamin Hahn will become a Bar Mitzvah.\*

Friday, November 18, will be a very busy day! There will be a Tot Shabbat service at 5:30 pm, followed by a Shabbat dinner at 6 pm. There will also be services at 6:45 pm; not only will David Terzuoli and his family be participating in honor of his bar mitzvah, but as part of our Aleph/Bet/Gimmel Shabbatton, our first-, second- and third-graders will help to lead the service.

At Saturday morning services on November 19, at 9:30 am, David Terzuoli will become a Bar Mitzvah.\*

On Friday, November 25, there will be no Kabbalat Shabbat services held at PCS.

On Saturday, November 26, please join us for Shabbat morning services at 10 am.\*

### **\* Shabbat Treats: Services Optional!**

Shabbat at PCS is a time to nourish your soul.

*Whether or not you come for the "main course" (Shabbat services from 10 am-noon), you are invited to join us weekly for spiritual "appetizers" and "dessert."*

**Appetizers: Jewish Meditation and Spiritual Teaching & Torah Study**  
Want a sweet and simple way to add some contemplation to your life? Join our Jewish meditation group every Shabbat (Saturday) morning at PCS at 9:15 am. We begin with a *niggun* (melody) or chant, then a short spiritual teaching and silent meditation, followed by sharing. You can stay for services or go on your way, refreshed! (When there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, meditation starts at 9 am

and concludes at 9:25 am). This is our best-kept secret and a highlight of Rabbi Julie's week.

### **Dessert: Torah Study with Rabbi Julie**

After services (whether you attended or not), join us at noon for a yummy Kiddush lunch and socializing, followed from about 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm by group Torah study featuring a lively interactive discussion and led by Rabbi Julie, who always has a thought-provoking question or text to get us started. Shmooze, debate, discover the meaning of Torah for your life.

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## **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.*

*[For PCS donation form, please click here.](#)*

*[You can also donate online by clicking here.](#)*

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

Gilda and Mark Borenstein

Peter Volgyes

Susan and Malcolm Netburn

Dr. William and Amy Rosenblum

Audrey Lenoff, dedicated to "the survival of PCS"

Karen Fixler and the Conti Family

Beth and David Shea

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Mary Siemes and Marvin Silverman in appreciation for Rabbi Julie conducting the baby naming of their grandson

### **Kiddush Fund**

Kiersten and Jay Zweibaum in honor of the occasion of their son, Joshua, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Lindsey Silverman Love and Frank Love in honor of the occasion of their son's baby naming

### **Ed Sperling Fund**

Kimberly and Kenneth Ackerman

Elise and Leonard Elman

Ronald Wallach

Harriet Liebowitz

April Lasher Sanders and Peter Sanders

Yvette Smolin and Brad Foote

Susan and Michael Wolf

Froma Benerofe

Myriam Siboni-Leibowitz and David Leibowitz

David Black

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Carol and Morris Glassman  
Susan Kravet  
Mia Simon  
Alexander Reisz  
Vivian Chang and Mark Freiheit  
Dov Matz  
Paul and Catherine Shaffer  
Mira and Michael Daniels  
Judith Freedman and Bruce Fleischer, in memory of Susan Ruth Safranek  
Debra and Martin Greenberg  
Barbara and Joe Bruno

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## NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

<b>Hinda Berenbaum, grandmother of Helen Harrison</b>	<b>November 2</b>
<b>Edythe Rosenberg, mother of Joan Krasne</b>	<b>November 3</b>
<b>Rhoda Scherer, mother of Susan Scherer</b>	<b>November 4</b>
<b>Henry Elkin, father of Eve-Marie Schaffer</b>	<b>November 5</b>
<b>Arnold Reisman, father of David Reisman</b>	<b>November 5</b>
<b>Florence Fuchs, sister of Audrey Lenoff</b>	<b>November 5</b>
<b>Esther Levine, mother of Susan Netburn</b>	<b>November 7</b>
<b>Irving Goodman, father of Jonathan Goodman</b>	<b>November 9</b>
<b>Irwin Rutman, father of Seth Rutman</b>	<b>November 11</b>
<b>Leo Sheinkopf, father of David Sheinkopf</b>	<b>November 18</b>
<b>Zelda Marans, mother of Ron Marans</b>	<b>November 22</b>
<b>Jennie Etkin, grandmother of Rhea Wolfthal</b>	<b>November 24</b>
<b>Karen Sanders, wife of Peter Volgyes</b>	<b>November 25</b>
<b>Sidney Cohen, father of Oren Cohen</b>	<b>November 26</b>
<b>Sidney Neuburger, father of Jeffrey Neuburger</b>	<b>November 30</b>

*To All PCS Members:*

*If you or another member suffer personal tragedy or loss or are otherwise in need of help, please immediately contact Rabbi Julie at (914) 769-2672 or [Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:Rabbi@ShalomPCS.com), or to our Caring (Chesed) Committee Chair, Susan Friedman at (917) 846-3038, or [SFriedman@ShalomPCS.com](mailto:SFriedman@ShalomPCS.com).*





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 name plate. You will find the appropriate form for purchasing a memorial name plate by clicking [here](#).

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## 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.*

### **PCS officers and trustees:**

#### **Officers**

President: Amy Gutenplan  
Secretary: Laurie Hirsch Schulz  
Treasurer: Jonathan Goodman  
Vice President: Roberta Korus  
Vice President: Richard Solomon

#### **Board of Trustees**

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

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

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

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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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**For the full PCS calendar for November 2016, please click**  
**[here.](#)**

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Pleasantville Community Synagogue Newsletter  
November 2016 30 Tishrei - 29 Cheshvan 5777