



## THE RABBI'S COLUMN: STARTING OVER

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**By Mark Sameth**

One of the things I like most about Jewish tradition is the opportunity it gives us to do the very things we really, deeply, and truly wish to do. Whereas the secular New Year so often feels, to me, contrived, filled with false expectations and forced conviviality, the Jewish New Year has always struck me as hitting just the right note.

We all need the chance to begin again, and the Jewish New Year gives us that opportunity, but without all the whoop-de-doo. These are hard times, harder for some than for others, but hard for all of us nonetheless. And all of us are still looking for – and we're right to be looking for - positive signs; signs that things can get better for our families, the Jewish community, our country, and the world.

Rather than thronging together in Times Square, wearing funny hats, and blowing on a cheap noisemaker, we gather more solemnly, wear funny hats, and blow on the not-inexpensive horn of a kosher animal. OK, so maybe it's not as different as I thought. And yet there is a difference. The difference is in our intention and in our expectation.

When we say that we want things to be better, we say that in the context of a community that knows better than most, how hard – and how good - things can be. We say that in the context of a community that has always had as a core

value bettering its own lot (in the words of the Bruce Springsteen song, "We Take Care of Our Own") but also bettering the lot of everyone with whom we share this world, no exceptions. Finally, when we say that we want things to be better, we say it knowing that part of wanting things to be better has to do with changing external realities, and part has to do with managing internal realities.

There's a poignant scene in the Book of Deuteronomy that describes Moses pleading with God to let him see the Promised Land and to enter it. God seems to ignore Moses' plea. "Never speak to Me again about this matter!" But then the text goes on to tell how God instructs Moses to go up to the top of Mount Pisgah where he would be able to see the land. Half of Moses' request is indeed actually to be fulfilled. Much, though not all, of what Moses wants he gets.

Life is hard, filled with disappointment and sadness. But life is also filled with joy and many blessings, often unnoticed. The Jewish New Year allows us to reflect on these blessings, and yes to revel in them – without the whoop-de-doo – and then to dedicate ourselves again to making this a world where more folks have a greater share in the blessings we ourselves have been so fortunate to have known. *Shana tova u'metuka!* A good and sweet New Year to all!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As we approach the High Holidays, traditionally a time of the year when many of our thoughts turn to the fragility and precarious nature of life, we often think of maybe a meaningful aliyah or some other service to Hashem, our shul or community.

For me, my aliyah has always been, and continues to be, just being a member of this shul and this extraordinary community.

It has been an honor and a privilege to share a vision with so many others at PCS, of successfully growing our community in the ensuing years, while continuing to be an inclusive house of peace, faith, prayer, study, kindness and social awareness, in concert with our sense of Jewish history and heritage.

One of Judaism's greatest

strengths is that with our ever more transient and pressurized lives, it is very comforting and reassuring to have at least one aspect of our lives that is stable, continuous and unchanging, no matter what else transpires.

With Rabbi Mark and all of us working together, I very much look forward to the strategic opportunities, growth and maturation that lay ahead, and are an inherent part of any organization – religious or otherwise.

May our entire community enjoy a good and sweet New Year. May these Yamim Noraim bring only good health, happiness, contentment as well as much success and prosperity for all.

Most importantly, may this New Year bring what we so need – peace. Shana tova and may

everyone be inscribed and sealed in the book of life for a wonderful and sweet new year ahead.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the ensuing months I envision this column more as a rotating one for monthly guest columnists, for people's views as a forum on a variety of issues affecting the community (current events, holidays, etc.). If you're interested in writing a column please contact either our newsletter editor, Judy Chinitz, at [judyhope@optonline.net](mailto:judyhope@optonline.net) or me at [jdneuburger@aol.com](mailto:jdneuburger@aol.com).

– Jerry Neuburger



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### Pleasantville Community Synagogue Mission Statement

Pleasantville Community Synagogue is a transdenominational, inclusive community, a spiritual home deeply rooted in Torah (study), Avodah (prayer), and Gemilut Chasadim (deeds of loving-kindness). We seek to facilitate lifelong spiritual growth by engaging each member wherever that member may be on life's journey, embracing all generations. We encourage Tikkun Middot (repair of the self) and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) through Jewish education for all ages, social action, Ahavat Yisrael (love of Israel), and a commitment to the understanding and fulfillment of mitzvot. We are a highly participatory community which relies on the commitment of time and energy from all members and which aspires to become an integral part of each member's life and their family's lives.



## HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer. My family had the good fortune to begin the summer by spending a fun-filled 10 days hiking, shopping, sight-seeing, swimming, rafting, sunning, beaching, dining, wine-tasting and exploring the absolutely gorgeous land of Israel. It was a trip of a lifetime, and we cannot wait to go back. I know that this trip will enhance the unit on Israel that I teach the Zayin class. (I promise, no home movies!)

But as the summer ends, the new year begins and we have some new additions to our teaching staff and some terrific new programs in the works. I am delighted to welcome, or should I say welcome back, Anne Cahill and Hannah Greene to our faculty. We have the wonderful addition of Adam Zagoria-Moffet, a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary, who will be teaching Zayin, and Jamie Chervin will also be working with our students! Hazan Isabel will not be teaching at PCS this year; she has chosen to pursue her career as a Cantor. We wish her a hearty Mazel Tov.

This year, we will be putting greater focus on incorporating the mitzvah of Tzedakah in our lives. We will start off the year with a school-wide tzedakah program for the students. I hope that this will be just the beginning of a partnership between the school and your families! I urge you to watch for emails for updates and notices from the Hebrew School so we can reduce our reliance on paper, in an effort to do a small part for the environment.

I am looking forward to another terrific year working with you and your children.

**- Ronni Metzger, Principal**

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[srutman@shalompcs.com](mailto:srutman@shalompcs.com)

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[msafranek@shalomPCS.com](mailto:msafranek@shalomPCS.com)

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[jneuburger@shalomPCS.com](mailto:jneuburger@shalomPCS.com)

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

Amy Gutenplan  
[info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)

Rabbi Mark Sameth  
[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)  
Ronni Metzger, 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)



## Dear PCS Family:

In our continuing effort to honor the many member families who participate in our vibrant community, we endeavor to call to the bimah representatives of as many families as possible to participate in our High Holiday services. Though it may seem early, planning for the coming Yamim Noraim requires much advance preparation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I'shalom,

Rabbi Mark





## Pleasantville Community Synagogue

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

### **The High Holiday calendar for 5773 is as follows:**

Erev Rosh HaShana	Sunday, September 16, 7-9 pm - JCC
Rosh HaShana Day I	Monday, September 17, 9 am-1:30 pm - JCC
Erev Rosh HaShana II	Monday, September 17, 8 pm
Rosh HaShana Day II	Tuesday, September 18, 9 am-1:30 pm - JCC
Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre	Tuesday, September 25, 6:30-9 pm - JCC (no honors)
Yom Kippur/Yizkor	Wednesday, September 26, 9 am-1:30 pm - JCC
Yom Kippur	Wednesday, September 26, 5-8 pm - JCC

### **First Member Adult** \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Second Member Adult** \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Teen Ashrei Participation**

I would like my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in the group Ashrei honor.

**Thank you for your help. Please mail, fax, or email this form to the synagogue office at:**

Pleasantville Community Synagogue  
PO Box 148  
Pleasantville, NY 10570



## ***YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND***

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### **Monday, September 10, 2012/23 Elul 5773**

*6:00-6:30 pm Wine & Cheese Reception*

*“Meet and Greet” with the County Board of Legislators*

*6:30-7:00 pm Proclamation Presentation*

*7:15 pm Dessert Reception*

#### ***Westchester Jewish Council Event Chair: Dan Schorr***

Colonel David F. Everett, U.S. Army Reserve (Retired),

Major Jonathan Gross US Military Academy and

WWII Jewish War Veterans,

among others will be in attendance as proclamation recipients.

*Reception and program are free and open to all by reservation only.*

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Begins: October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Begins: October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Begins: October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Begins: October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Begins: October 18 <sup>th</sup>

To register or for further information, contact WAJE Director Nina Luban [waje@wjccouncil.org](mailto:waje@wjccouncil.org) 914-328-7001



# UNDER ONE ROOF



This summer, Under One Roof, the collaborative charitable effort by PCS and the Upper Westchester Muslim Society, had the pleasure of donating money raised from the goodness of our two communities to three very special recipients. As a result of the largesse of many generous people, we were able to contribute \$500 to Renaissance EMS, an after-school sanctuary for kids in the Bronx where they are taught music, dance and sports as an alternative to gangs and other destructive temptations that steal our youth. As well, we contributed \$500 to the Muslim Women's Institute, a full service provider to families of all faiths in the Bronx who are desperately in need of food and other basic services. Finally, we donated \$500 to the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway, an organization that feeds over 1,000 people per month, need not religion-based, and works in conjunction with the Westchester Interfaith Food pantry and others to provide critical assistance in times of government cutbacks and lessened private donations.

We don't pretend to change the dynamics of the world. We do try to change some lives however incrementally, however profound. With your continued support, I promise you that we will do what we can, day by day, person by person to at least try to touch some lives that might otherwise be lost. And we will do so under the unique umbrella of a Jewish-Muslim group that acknowledges our differences while celebrating our common mission.

- Michael Gold  
Chairman, PCS Social Action Committee

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## SEPTEMBER 2012 YAHR ZEITS

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Etta Rosen, Mother of Estelle Rosen-Kersh	September 2
Lois Polansky, Mother of Debra Schor	September 5
Neil Jagoda, Husband of Eileen Jagoda	September 10
Enid Lessner, Mother of Jan Gordon	September 11
Ruth Israelow, Mother of Marvin Israelow	September 11
Eleanore Wallace, Mother of Joseph Wallace	September 12
Abraham King, Father of Margaret Coleman	September 12
Walter Raab, Father of David Raab	September 13
Bernard Salzman, Father of Susan Raab	September 19
Hilda Needleman, Mother of Karen La Porta	September 19
Sondra Korus, Mother of Roberta Korus	September 19
Raoul Kloogman, Father of Helen Kloogman	September 20
Elaine Schwartz, Sister of Janice Sandbank	September 21
Donald LePatner, Father of Gilda Borenstein	September 23
Samuel Lipkin, Grandfather of Lisa Lipkin	September 23
Robert Greene, Father of George Teitel-Greene	September 24
Anne Silverman, Mother of Janet Silverman	September 25
Alan Rabinowitz, Father of Audrey Rabinowitz	September 27
Mildred Strauss, Mother of Fredric Strauss	September 28
Jerrold Silberger, Father of Monte Silberger	September 30



**To All PCS Members:**

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

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### **NEWSLETTER ACCEPTS ADS!**

The PCS Newsletter is published monthly, online, from September through June, and it is emailed to every member family as well as to prospective members and some Jewish 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 Judy Chinitz at judyhope@optonline.net or cristina@lightbodymusic.com.

**\* Ad Specifications:**

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

**\* Advertising Rates:**

The cost per ad (for 10 issues - no bulletin published in July and August) is \$100 for 1/4 page. Note: Checks preferred. Can be mailed to Pleasantville Community Synagogue, PO Box 148, Pleasantville, NY 10570 with "newsletter ad" in the memo section. To pay by credit card, please call the synagogue office at 914-769-2672.



The Westchester Jewish Council is busy planning the 2012-2013 year and we already have many exciting events planned for the community. Please put these dates on your synagogue/organization calendar. We will send out more information to include in your bulletins as the dates get closer.

Saturday, November 17, 2012

Night of Jewish Music and Joy held at Temple Israel Center of White Plains - This event is co-sponsored by Kol Hazzanim, the Cantors of Westchester and UJA-Federation of New York.

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Westchester Jewish Council's 37th Annual Gala honoring our President Ron Burton. This event will include a concert by singer/songwriter David Broza.

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Westchester Jewish Council's 37th Annual Meeting and Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony honoring 18 deserving community leaders from our member organizations.

Sunday, June 2, 2013 (TENTATIVE)

Celebrate Israel Parade

## 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

David Felder  
[info@shalomPCS.com](mailto:info@shalomPCS.com)

Emma Reisman  
[info@shalompcs.com](mailto:info@shalompcs.com)

**B'nei Mitzvah**  
 Ed Sperling  
[edsperling@gmail.com](mailto:edsperling@gmail.com)

**Building Committee**  
 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)

### Spiritual Life

Peter Schaffer  
[pschaffer@shalomPCS.com](mailto:pschaffer@shalomPCS.com)

### Finance

Oren Cohen  
[ocohen@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ocohen@shalomPCS.com)

### Fundraising

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

### High Holidays

Jerry Neuburger  
[jneuburger@shalomPCS.com](mailto:jneuburger@shalomPCS.com)

### Human Resources

Lisa Lipkin  
[llipkin@shalomPCS.com](mailto:llipkin@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 Committee

Ofri Felder  
[ofelder@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ofelder@shalomPCS.com)

Seth Rutman  
[srutman@shalomPCS.com](mailto:srutman@shalomPCS.com)

### Tikkun Olam

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

### Youth Committee

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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.**

### **KIDDUSH FUND**

GEORGIANA (GEM) MITCHELL AND MITCHELL BRING, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR SON, DANIEL, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH.

PAMELA LANDAU-CONNOLLY IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER, WILLIAM LANDAU.

JACKIE AND ROBERT STONE, IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION OF THEIR SON, JEREMY, BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH.

IRENE HERZ

### **ED SPERLING FUND**

BARBARA BRUNO

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

JANET SILVERMAN, IN HONOR OF HER PARENTS, ANNE AND ABRAHAM SILVERMAN

EMANUEL A. HERZ, IN MEMORY OF FLORENCE, HIS BELOVED WIFE AND MOTHER OF IRENE

OFRI AND DAVID FELDER

SUSAN SPRARAGEN AND BRADLEY JOHNSTON

LINDA AND SHELDON HORN AND EUGENIA PEARLROTH

IRENE HERZ

### **FAIR SHARE/GENERAL FUND**

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GARY GREENWALD

CARREN KLEINMAN AND GERRY KAUFMAN

ROBERTA KORUS

GEM MITCHELL AND MITCHELL BRING, IN HONOR OF ED SPERLING FOR BEING SUCH A GREAT TEACHER FOR THEIR SON, DANNY.

OFRI AND DAVID FELDER

EVE-MARIE AND PETER SCHAFFER

SUSAN AND MALCOLM NETBURN, IN CELEBRATION OF JENNIE'S MARRIAGE

STEVEN GUTENPLAN, IN HONOR OF THE FUIRST AND GUTENPLAN FAMILIES

MARCIA AND MARVIN SAMETH

LAURA LANDAU

CLAIRE AND OREN COHEN

LISA AND STEVE APKON

IRENE HERZ

NANCY AND KEITH KRAKAUR

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

IN HONOR OF ELIANA JOHNSTON BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH, THE SPRARAGEN-JOHNSTON FAMILY HAS GIVEN TO PCS THE GIFT OF A TORAH MANTEL (COVER). OUR THANKS TO SUSAN, BRAD, ELIANA AND DEBORAH FOR THIS MOST MEANINGFUL GIFT TO THE PCS COMMUNITY.

AND MANY, MANY THANKS TO LEYLA NAKISBENDI AND MICHAEL MAYERS FOR THEIR TIME, EFFORT AND DONATIONS DURING THE SUMMER TOWARD UPDATING AND BEAUTIFYING THE PCS BATHROOMS. COME TAKE A LOOK!

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### **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 Judith Chinitz, Editor, at [judyhope@optonline.net](mailto:judyhope@optonline.net) or dropped off at the newsletter box in the Synagogue office.

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

phone (914) 769 - 2672

fax (914) 769 - 1795

# FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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## General Fund

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

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

## Building Fund

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

## Hebrew School Emergency Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships to children who would like to attend our Hebrew School and may not currently have the financial resources to do so.

## Kiddush Fund

Your donation provides lunch after services on Shabbat morning: salads, bagels and pastry.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

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Please send me an acknowledgement of this gift.

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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).

# September 2012 - PCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:11pm-7:29pm - Candle lighting	<b>1</b> Morning Meditation, 9 am; Shabbat Service, 9:30 am Parashat Ki Teitzei 8:40pm-8:41pm
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> NO YOGA CLASS	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Children's Service PCS House Band 7:00pm-7:18pm - Candle lighting	<b>8</b> Selichot services at PCS, 10 pm Parashat Ki Tavo 8:28pm-8:29pm - Havdalah (72 min)
<b>9</b> High Holiday class with Rabbi Mark, 9:30 am Open House, 11 am First Day of Hebrew School Executive committee meeting, 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> High Holiday committee meeting, 7:30 pm	<b>13</b> Board meeting, 7:30 pm	<b>14</b> PCS House Band 6:48pm-7:06pm - Candle lighting	<b>15</b> Parashat Nitzavim 8:16pm-8:17pm - Havdalah (72 min)
<b>16</b>  Erev Rosh Hashanna No Hebrew School 6:44pm-7:02pm - Candle lighting	<b>17</b> Rosh Hashanna 5773 Day 1	<b>18</b> Rosh Hashanna Day 2 8:11pm-8:12pm - Havdalah (72 min)	<b>19</b> B'nei Mitzvah committee meeting, 7:30 pm Tzom Gedaliah	<b>20</b> MG meeting, 7:30 pm	<b>21</b> Children's Service 6:36pm-6:54pm - Candle lighting	<b>22</b> Bar Mitzvah - Jeremy Stone Parashat Vayeilech Shabbat Shuva 8:04pm-8:05pm - Havdalah (72 min)
<b>23</b> Joyful Coffeehouse! With Bishop-Davidson, 7 pm at PCS Build the PCS Sukkah First day of Kita Zayin, 11 am Pre- and Post-Adoptive ...	<b>24</b> Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>25</b>  Erev Yom Kippur 6:29pm-6:47pm - Candle lighting	<b>26</b> Yom Kippur 7:57pm-7:58pm - Havdalah (72 min)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> PCS House Band 6:24pm-6:42pm - Candle lighting	<b>29</b> Bat Mitzvah - Emily Hahn Parashat Ha'Azinu 7:52pm-7:53pm - Havdalah (72 min)
<b>30</b>  Erev Sukkot No Hebrew School 6:20pm-6:38pm - Candle lighting	<b>1</b> Sukkot I Yoga Class at PCS, 7:15 pm	<b>2</b> Sukkot II 7:47pm-7:48pm - Havdalah (72 min)	<b>3</b> Sukkot III (CH"M)	<b>4</b> 7th grade parents' meeting, 7:30 pm Sukkot IV (CH"M)	<b>5</b> Sukkot V (CH"M) 6:12pm-6:30pm - Candle lighting	<b>6</b> Sukkot VI (CH"M) Bar Mitzvah - Samuel Cohen Angove 7:40pm-7:41pm - Havdalah (72 min)

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





# SHANA TOVA!

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

*September 8, Saturday – Selichot with Rabbi Mark, at PCS, 10 pm*

*September 16, Sunday – Erev Rosh Hashana*

*September 17 and 18, Monday and Tuesday – Rosh Hashana*

*September 19, Monday – Tashlich with Malcolm Netburn, at Nannahagan Park, 2 pm*

*September 25, Tuesday – Kol Nidre*

*September 26, Wednesday – Yom Kippur*

