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## The Rabbi's Column: Awesome

By Mark Sameth

In the Torah, there's a story about Jacob who falls asleep in a holy place (he didn't realize it was a holy place or presumably he'd not fall asleep there). He has a dream. In his dream angels are going down and up on a ladder (that's when he realizes he's fallen asleep in a holy place). And when he wakes up, he rubs his eyes and says "Ma nora ha makom ha zeh," which in Biblical Hebrew translates as, "How awesome is this place!"

But when modern Hebrew speakers read the story today they really don't know what to make of it, because in modern Hebrew "nora" no longer means "awesome" but rather it means "awful."

The deep connection between the two words is instructive. On the one hand, awesome and awful seem to have nothing in common; seem, of course, to be opposites of each other. On the other hand, they have more in common than we know. We call something awesome for the same reason that we call something awful: because it has the capacity to arrest our attention.

An unfortunate truth about the times in which we live is that while awful events retain their capacity to capti-

vate our attention, the awesome ones – sunrises, sunsets, the daily miracles of life – seem in danger of slipping from consciousness. We're overwhelmed, and our capacity for joy is compromised.

But Rosh Hashanna arrives with its annual promise. Not that the coming year will be free of all sadness and difficulty (as much as we pray that it will not be overwhelmingly so); but that the coming year will be a year in which our attention will somehow be drawn again and our hearts be open as well again to the awesome.

Rosh Hashanna is our time for reflecting, reprioritizing, and re-orienting ourselves. What in the world, in our society, and in our own lives is in need of repair, and how might we set about doing that work? What is not going to likely or ever change, and where will we find the strength – and offsetting moments of joy and equanimity – to retain our hope and deep appreciation for the blessings we have been given? May the holiday season afford us all new opportunities, in spite of the awful, to once again be open, deeply and appreciatively so, to the awesome.

## president's message

I am writing this prior to leaving on vacation in Europe. This year Eve-Marie and I and 2 of our children and our future daughter-in-law are making a heritage trip to the birthplaces of some of our grandparents and my mother. We will be visiting Lithuania, Poland and Germany, going to the villages where they were born and also taking in the major cities nearby—Vilnius, Warsaw, Krakow and Berlin—hoping to find the remnants of Jewish history that have survived there. This is a trip I have dreamed of taking for many years and I'm thrilled that I'm finally doing it, and doing it at a leisurely pace. I've read up on some of the history

of the Jewish people in these countries, but nothing can replace seeing them for myself. I know that only Berlin has a substantial Jewish population these days, around 50,000-- almost all recent émigrés from Russia—but I know the sense of history, of lives lived and lost, still resound through the streets and countryside. And as I say, it promises to be even more meaningful because we are bringing 2 sons along. I remember in the past how much more I understood and felt when I brought my children to different places and could experience their questions and observations along with my own.

As Jews we live and celebrate the cycles of time; it infuses the essence of our faith as we remember our past and look forward to our future. This is exactly what I feel compelled to experience, and not just experience but to share with my family. There is continuity; we carry our heritage in our bodies and in our spirit; I want all my children to know this. As we walk the streets and as we breathe the air we will know more who these forebearers were and how we carry them in us. I will write more about this in a future message.

- Peter Schaffer

## Pleasantville Community Synagogue Officers and Trustees

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Barbara Doctor, Member Accounts: (914) 747-3017; [Accounts@shalomPCS.com](mailto:Accounts@shalomPCS.com)

Note: Not all new PCS email addresses have yet been activated. Please call the PCS office if you need information.

## PCS Honors Emma Reisman and Diana Benattar on Simchat Torah

This year we are pleased to honor Emma Reisman and Diana Benattar on the holiday of Simchat Torah as our Kallat Torah and Kallat Bereishit, respectively. These are special honors which a community bestows on deserving individuals, with the honorees reading the very last lines of the Torah for the old year, and the very first lines of the Torah for the new year. Diana and Emma – as you will read below – followed different paths to our community, but both sharing deep and longstanding connections to Israel, as well as a deep, albeit it recent, connection to our tradition as regular Shabbat and Holiday Torah readers at PCS. We honor them for their important contributions to our community. In addition to reading Torah, Diana serves as gabbait at services, one of the lay leaders in our community responsible for rehearsing our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students, and helping to guide and conduct those and other services at PCS. Emma, in addition to reading Torah, coordinates the Mitzvah Projects for our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students, helping to disseminate information on volunteer opportunities, keeping track of their efforts, and otherwise acting as a B'nai Mitzvah Committee resource person. Emma and Diana exemplify everything the PCS community is about, and they give so much of themselves to all of us throughout the year. It is our honor to honor them.

(see article by Emma Reisman)

## Spread the Word:

### PCS Open House on September 12th at 10am

Do you know anyone who is interested in joining a synagogue? Sending their children to Jewish religious school? If so, please tell them about the PCS Open House, which will take place on Sunday, September 12th from 10-11 am. They'll get a chance to meet the teachers, director and rabbi, and to see our school in action.



Our annual candlelight service, in which our children participate, will once again be held on Yom Kippur, Saturday, September 18th at the conclusion of services. Children should assemble at approximately 7:00pm



#### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Helen Harrison and Sara Tauber will lead our children's programming this year. The children will be divided into 2 groups with Helen Harrison leading activities for Kindergarten thru 3rd grades, and Sara Tauber leading the 4, 5, and 6th grades. Each group will participate in a program of about one hour from 11:30-12:30 on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur.

We encourage families to hear the blowing of the shofar and Ashrei in the sanctuary before the sermon, which begins at approximately 11:30 am. The shofar will also be blown in the classes.

#### BABYSITTING

Babysitting will be provided during all the services that are held at the Rosenthal JCC, but will be limited to pre-k through 2nd grade. All children must be signed in and out. Children will not be allowed to leave the babysitting room without being signed out by a parent. Thus, it is important that you check on them periodically.

Children in the 3rd through 6th grade who need a break from services can go to the atrium during the times when there is no children's programming. Otherwise, they can go to the room adjoining the babysitting room. While there will be an attendant on duty to maintain order, there will not be babysitting for the older children, nor will there be a sign-in procedure. No one will be permitted in empty classrooms, hallways or the JCC lobby. Please remind your children of these rules and of your expectations of appropriate behavior. If children are not in the babysitting room, they are their parent's responsibility.

We are continuing to make improvements to the children's program that we hope will enhance your family's experience of the high holidays. We welcome your input and participation.

If you have any questions, please call Michal Solomon at (914) 773-0043 or contact the synagogue office at (914) 769-2672 or Gale@shalomPCS.com.

## NOTES FROM OUR CHATTAN TORAHS

FROM EMMA REISMAN

I am deeply honored to be asked to be the Chattan Torah this year. And what a joy to be able to share this honor with my dear friend Diana Benattar. Amongst many reasons Dave and I are grateful to have PCS in our life, high amongst them is having met Diana and David through PCS.

As I reflect on my Jewish journey, I'm sure my story will be a familiar one to many. I grew up in a relatively observant home in Westchester and my family belonged to a Reform synagogue, the Jewish Community Center of White Plains. I became a Bat Mitzvah at 13, but as was customary at our synagogue at that time, didn't chant from the Torah. I read my Torah portion from the Chumash. Throughout my adult years, though deeply proud of my heritage, my connection to Judaism was mostly cultural. The associated rituals in synagogue were largely a mystery to me. Celebrating Jewish festivals with family and friends at home around the holiday table was where our cherished Jewish rituals flourished.

(continued...)



### **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.

## MEET CANTOR DEVORAH GARTNER

We are delighted to once again have Cantor Devorah Gartner with us for the High Holidays. Devorah Gartner has loved sacred music since she was a child, growing up in the choir at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City. At thirteen, she received a Jewish Music Award as a young cantorial soloist. She went on to New England Conservatory of Music to study voice, and served as assistant to Cantor Murray Simon at Temple Israel in Boston during her four years there. Returning to New York to attend Columbia University and study at Jewish Theological Seminary, she apprenticed with Cantor Howard Nevison and sang as a soloist at Temple Emanu-El.

Over the years, she has worked as cantor/education director for synagogues throughout the United States. Since moving to the Hudson Valley in 1991, she has served and taught at numerous area congregations, including Temple Emanuel of Kingston, where she is currently director of B'nai Mitzvah Education and runs the community preschool.

Cantor Devorah is married to Robert Gartner, cousin to Steven Weiner. Their nine year old daughter, Bethanie, is starting fourth grade. They also share their 1890 house in Rosendale, New York with a small menagerie of rescued animals. The Gartner family is thrilled to be joining PCS for the High Holy Days.



Dear PCS Members:

Last year, many of you were very generous and donated substantially to the PCS Fair Share campaign. During these challenging financial times, our synagogue needs the financial support from the families that can give above the minimum dues levels. It is critical that families that can afford to be generous and support PCS do just that. Unfortunately, we have more families on financial needs dues relief than ever before. Obviously that puts more importance on the Fair Share contributions.

The concept of a *tithe* is that 10% of your household income be given to charity. If keeping PCS strong is important to your family, we ask that 2% of your household income be used to support our synagogue. In the past year we have received gifts from \$250 to \$40,000. Every gift is appreciated and helps demonstrate the community's support of PCS. We are delighted that our Fair Share participation is a higher percentage of the membership than any of the other local synagogues.

This year we ask that, if possible, you increase your gift in order to allow us to fund programs in Adult Education and Israeli Action, give more support to the Hebrew School, and thereby promote the rich and vibrant synagogue life that helps to make PCS so special.

Thank you again for your past generosity.

*Ken Fuirst*  
*Fundraising Committee*





The Westchester Jewish Council wishes you a very  
Sweet and Happy New Year!

Join the Leadership of the Jewish Community  
for our Annual Celebration of  
Westchester Jewish History and Heritage Month

Meet the Westchester County Board of Legislators  
September 20, 2010/12 Tishri, 5771 6:30PM

Wine & Cheese Reception, Free and Open to All

Proclamation Program will include the Impact of  
Teen Philanthropy Initiatives In Westchester

### 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.

*Note: Not all new PCS email addresses are yet active. Please call the synagogue office for needed info.*

Adult Education  
David Felder 232-9654  
[dfelder@shalomPCS.com](mailto:dfelder@shalomPCS.com)

B'nei Mitzvah  
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Building Committee  
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PR  
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Human Resources  
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[llipkin@shalomPCS.com](mailto:llipkin@shalomPCS.com)

Membership Engagement  
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Membership Outreach  
April Lasher-Sanders 449-6701  
[alasher@shalomPCS.com](mailto:alasher@shalomPCS.com)

Israel Action Committee  
Ofri Felder 232-9654  
[ofelder@shalomPCS.com](mailto:ofelder@shalomPCS.com)

Seth Rutman 241-4904  
[srutman@shalomPCS.com](mailto:srutman@shalomPCS.com)

Tikkun Olam  
Michael Gold 238-9219  
[SocialAction@shalomPCS.com](mailto:SocialAction@shalomPCS.com)

Spiritual Life

Youth  
(Open seat - Contact Peter Schaffer for information)

## POETRY CORNER

### FOR THE GULF

- JUDITH SCHMIDT

*from your wounds  
may we learn to accept the places  
we cannot go cannot see  
may we be still sense the mystery  
deep down in the earth and the sea  
deep in the soil and waters  
of ourselves*

*may we learn to wait  
for the seeds of the earth  
and for the seeds of our dreams  
as they slowly turn and turn  
hidden beyond our reach  
in pristine darkness*

*may we be patient until  
we are touched suddenly  
surprised from somewhere  
as by a flash of a bird's wings  
swooping over clear waters  
shimmering in flight  
then gone but not before  
awakening washing over  
our modest lives  
with waves of love*



## B'NAI MITZVAH PROJECTS



### LIAM GORMAN

For my mitzvah project I raised money to make gift bags for the children with cancer whose families are staying at the Ronald McDonald House. On Sunday, August 29th, I went to Manhattan to the Ronald McDonald House to give the kids their presents. The Pinwheel Project sponsored a brunch and at my suggestion, we made it a pirate theme. (Every brunch has a different theme.) In the bags I put a pirate teddy bear, a bandana, an eye patch, a pirate pencil, tattoos and bracelets with pirate sayings on them. The kids loved their presents, especially their teddy bears! I really loved doing this, so I'm going to continue to make gift bags for the Pinwheel Project's brunches and will volunteer to go to other brunches in the future. The next one is probably going to be a Halloween Star Wars party!



**UJA-Federation of New York in Westchester Kickoff to the 2011 Annual Campaign  
Concert and Conversation With Peter Buffett**

Join us for an evening with Peter Buffett, musician, philanthropist, and author of the recently published book, *Life is What You Make It*.

Thursday, October 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.  
Ridgeway Country Club  
White Plains, New York

For further information, contact Joy Perlow  
at [perlowj@ujafedny.org](mailto:perlowj@ujafedny.org) or 1.914.666.9650.  
This event is intended for those who make a family  
donation of \$1,800 or more to UJA-Federation of  
New York's 2011 Annual Campaign.

[www.ujafedny.org/westchester](http://www.ujafedny.org/westchester)

Caring for those in need, rescuing those in harm's way, and renewing and strengthening the Jewish people in New York, in Israel, and around the world.

FALL B'NAI MITZVAH CALENDAR

	September 4	Nitzavim-Vayelech
<u>Liam Gorman</u>	September 11	Hazine / Shuvah
<u>Yom Kippur</u>	September 18	
<u>Jonathan Krakaur</u>	September 25	Hol Hamoed Succot
<u>Joshua Della Puca</u>	October 2	Bereishit
<u>Baylor Rosenbaum</u>	October 9	Noah
<u>Jackson Sanders</u>	October 16	Lech Lecha
<u>Zoe Gordin</u>	October 23	Vayera
<u>Family Education Shabbat</u>	October 30	
<u>Elie Rackower</u>	November 6	Toldot
<u>Aliya Mayers</u>	November 13	Vayetze
<u>Family Education Shabbat</u>	November 27	Miketz
<u>Audrey McGrath</u>	December 11	Vayigash
<u>Family Education Shabbat</u>	December 18	

# 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.

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

JUDY POSKANZER IN HONOR OF JACOB BARTENBACH'S BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH

MIKE EFFRON IN HONOR OF LIANA XIAO FENG SAMETH'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

OFRI AND DAVID FELDER

## GENERAL FUND

JUDITH CHINITZ IN HONOR OF LIAM GORMAN'S BAR MITZVAH

KAREN SANDERS & PETER VOLGYES IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE SANDBANK

MARGIE & AARON GREEN AND FAMILY IN HONOR OF PETER SCHAFFER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

JODI AND TIM ROSSI IN HONOR OF LIANA XIAO FENG SAMETH'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

SIGMUND HACK AND MARIANNE TULLY IN HONOR OF PETER SCHAFFER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

ALAN AND MARILYN HOCHSTADT IN HONOR OF PETER SCHAFFER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

PETER VOLGYES AND KAREN SANDERS IN HONOR OF ISAIAH AND JOSHUA SAFRANEK'S BAR MITZVAHS

MOLLIE KATZ

DARA AND EVAN KINGSLEY WITH THANKS TO RABBI MARK FOR A WON-DROUS BAT MITZVAH AND TO GALE SILVERBERG FOR ALL SHE DOES TO MAKE PCS SPECIAL

## KIDDUSH FUND

JUDITH CHINITZ IN HONOR OF LIAM GORMAN'S BECOMING A BAR MITZVAH

ANDREW AND DONNA ZIZMOR IN HONOR OF KATIE'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

NANCY AND ROME CALVI IN HONOR OF ANGELA'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

RICK OSSEROFF AND JOAN JACOBUS IN HONOR OF JENNY'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

DARA AND EVAN KINGSLEY IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

BRUCE AND AMY GUTENPLAN IN HONOR OF IZZIE'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

STEVE AND JACQUELINE ZUCKER IN HONOR OF RACHEL'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

JACOB TINKHAUSER IN HONOR OF LIZZIE NEUBURGER'S BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

NED BOROWSKY IN HONOR OF PETER SCHAFFER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

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## SEPTEMBER 2010 Yahrzeits

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Neil Jagoda, Husband of Eileen Jagoda, September 2, 2010  
Enid Lessner, Mother of Jan Gordon, September 3, 2010  
Eleanore Wallace, Mother of Joseph Wallace, September 4, 2010  
Abraham King, Father of Margaret Coleman, September 4, 2010  
Walter Raab, Father of David Raab, September 5, 2010  
Janet Ruberman, Mother of Louise, Ruberman September 10, 2010  
Hilda Needleman, Mother of Karen La Porta, September 11, 2010  
Bernard Salzman, Father of Susan Raab, September 11, 2010  
Raoul Kloogman, Father of Helen Kloogman, September 12, 2010  
Elaine Schwartz, Sister of Janice Sandbank, September 13, 2010  
Samuel Lipkin, Grandfather of Lisa Lipkin, September 15, 2010  
Donald LePatner, Father of Gilda Borenstein, September 15, 2010  
Robert Greene, Father of George Teitel-Greene, September 16, 2010  
Anne Silverman, Mother of Janet Silverman, September 17, 2010  
Alan Rabinowitz, Father of Audrey Rabinowitz, September 19, 2010  
Jerrold Silberger, Father of Monte Silberger, September 22, 2010  
Melvin Lessner, Father of Jan Gordon, September 24, 2010  
Morris Berenbaum, Uncle of Helen Harrison, September 27, 2010

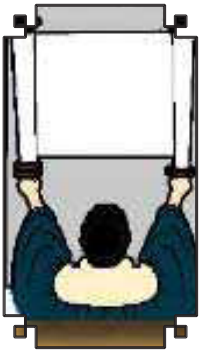


To All PCS Members:

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.

## congratulations to our SEPTEMBER

### b'nei mitzvahs



SEPTEMBER Congratulations to:

9/11 Liam Gorman, his mother, Judy Chinitz, and his brother Alex

9/25 Jonathan Krakaur, his parents, Keith and Nancy, and his brothers, Matthew and Daniel

## funds available for your support

### 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.

### Kiddush Fund

Your donation provides lunch after services on Shabbat morning, featuring an array of salads, bagels and pastry.

### 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.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

Send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/  
memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me an acknowledgement of this gift.      Yes      No

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).

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

Selichot Study and Service: Saturday night, September 4, 10 pm to Midnight  
Erev Rosh Hashanna: Wednesday evening, September 8  
Rosh Hashanna I: Thursday, September 9  
Rosh Hashanna II: Friday, September 10  
Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur): Friday night, September 17  
Yom Kippur: Saturday, September 18  
Sukkot I: Thursday, September 23, 8 am  
Sukkot II: Friday, September 24, 8 am  
Shemini Atzeret: Thursday, September 30, 8 am  
Erev Simchat Torah: Thursday, September 30  
Simchat Torah: Friday, October 1, 8 am  
New Member Wine & Cheese: Saturday afternoon, October 16, 4 pm  
Meditation Shabbat: Saturday morning, October 30, 9 am  
Family Education Shabbat: Saturday morning, October 30, 10 am



FREE SUPPORT OFFERED TO CAREGIVERS IN THE  
RIVERTOWNS & NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

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## New WJCS Project: Baby Naming Bima Baskets

WJCS has launched a new project -- Baby Naming Bima Baskets, asking new parents to "share your joy" and at your baby naming consider decorating with a basket of layette items to donate to WJCS consumers in need. Among the items being collected are receiving blankets, disposable diapers, bottles, baby wipes, children's books, onesies, bibs and towels. For more info, contact Meryl Lewis at 761-0600 X222 or [mlewis@wjcs.com](mailto:mlewis@wjcs.com).

## 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 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Please email to Judit Chinitz at [judyhope@optonline.net](mailto:judyhope@optonline.net) or drop off to the newsletter mail slot in Michal's office.

Pleasantville Community Synagogue \* 219 Bedford Road \* Pleasantville, NY 10570  
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# September 2010 / PCS CALENDAR / Elul-Tishrei 5771

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 19 Elul	30 20 Elul	31 21 Elul	September 1	2 23 Elul	3 24 Elul	4 25 Elul
				7:30 PM High Holiday Committee Meeting	7:15 PM Shabbat Services	9:00 AM Shabbat Services 10:00 PM Selichot
5 26 Elul	6 27 Elul	7 28 Elul	8 29 Elul	9 1 Tishri	10 2 Tishri	11 3 Tishri
			7:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashana Service	9:00 AM Rosh Hashana Service Day I Service 11:30 AM Rosh Hashana Children's Service 2:00 PM Tashlich 8:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashana Day II Service at PCS	9:00 AM Rosh Hashana Day II Service 11:30 AM Rosh Hashana Children's Service 7:15 PM Shabbat Services	Bar Mitzvah - Liam Gorman 9:00 AM Shabbat Services
12 4 Tishri	13 5 Tishri	14 6 Tishri	15 7 Tishri	16 8 Tishri	17 9 Tishri	18 10 Tishri
Sukkah Building Hebrew School Begins 10:00 AM PCS Prospective Member Open House	7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Minyan Resumes 7:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	7:30 PM Social Action Committee Meeting	6:15 PM Hebrew High School	6:30 PM Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Service	11:30 AM Yom Kippur Children's Service 12:00 PM Yizkor	Yom Kippur Services 9am-1:30pm & 5-8pm
19 11 Tishri	20 12 Tishri	21 13 Tishri	22 14 Tishri	23 15 Tishri	24 16 Tishri	25 17 Tishri
	7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Minyan Resumes	No Hebrew School Erev Sukkot	No Hebrew School	8:00 AM Sukkot Service 7:15 PM Friday Night Alive: PCS Band	8:00 AM Sukkot Service 7:15 PM Friday Night Alive: PCS Band	Bar Mitzvah - Jonathan Krekaur 9:00 AM Shabbat Services
26 18 Tishri	27 19 Tishri	28 20 Tishri	29 21 Tishri	30 22 Tishri	October 1	2 24 Tishri
11:15 AM Introduction to Judaism	7:00 AM Tuesday Morning Minyan Resumes	No Hebrew School	No Hebrew School	No Hebrew School 8:00 AM Shemlil Azaret/Yizkor Service 6:30 PM Simchat Torah Service and Celebration	8:00 AM Simchat Torah Service 7:15 PM Shabbat Services	Bar Mitzvah - Josh Della Puca 9:00 AM Shabbat Services

Note: For ongoing updates after the newsletter has been issued, please check the calendar on our website at [www.shalomPCS.com](http://www.shalomPCS.com). The September calendar is posted. Future months will be available on our redesigned website, coming soon!

## **PCS/Rosh Chodesh - The festival of the Seasons of the Moon**

In the spirit of celebrating the festival of Rosh Chodesh as given to the women of Israel, we have planned fun, interesting, and exciting programs.

A few of the events for our PCS women members and friends: a Museum Visit, Yoga Class, Chanuka Menorah Lighting, Pasta Family Shabbat dinner, Music Workshop, and our new tradition, a Women-led Shabbat service followed by a Special Family shabbat dinner.

We all look forward to our PCS monthly women's gatherings and the chance to share good times, so look for detailed bulletins and emails to follow.

(We are still attempting to fill a few open dates. If you have an idea please call Estelle, 914-449-6153)

## PLEASANTVILLE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE YAMIM NORAIM - DAYS OF AWE



AFTER FIRST DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES  
(approximately 2:00 PM)

NANNAHAGEN POND AND SANCTUARY  
PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY IN ONE OF OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL, JOYOUS, SACRED, AND OLDEST TRADITIONS AS WE HEAR THE CALL OF THE SHOFAR, CAST BREAD AND SINS INTO THE RUNNING WATERS, AND SING BOTH HEBREW AND ENGLISH SONGS ON THEMES OF REMEMBRANCE, REDEMPTION, AND SANCTIFICATION.

THIS IS A WONDERFUL EVENT FOR EVERY AGE. HELP CREATE DEEP MEMORIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN. CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH NEW FRIENDS AS WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER.





**L' Shanah Tovah Tikatevu**  
*"May you be Inscribed for a Good Year"*  
**Sharing the Jewish New Year**  
 (Elul 5770 / Tishrei 5771 )  
 &  
**The Chaggim Together**

**Tuesday, September 28**  
**11:00 AM- 12:30 PM**  
**Bet Torah**  
**60 Smith Avenue - Mt. Kisco**

Join us in reading, sharing and discussing meaningful & compelling holiday messages & themes from a

- *High Holy Day D'vor Torah*
- *" Hineini in Our Lives" " Here I Am" by Norman J Cohen*

Please also feel free to share with our "Reaching Out " group any prayers, readings or stories that evoke special meaning to you at this very special time of year in our Jewish Life Cycle.

**RSVP to:**  
**Susan Kronish**  
**WJCS Partners in Caring**  
**914-761-0600 ext. 147**



High Holiday 5771 Service Schedule

Selichot	Saturday, September 4th	10pm	PCS*
Erev Rosh HaShana Day I	Wednesday, September 8th	7-9pm	JCC
Rosh HaShana Day I	Thursday, September 9th	9am-1:30pm	JCC
Tashlich – Nannahagen Park	Thursday, September 9th	2pm	*
Erev Rosh HaShana Day II	Thursday, September 9th	8pm	PCS*
Rosh HaShana Day II	Friday, September 10th	9am-1:30pm	JCC
Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre)	Friday, September 17th	6:30-9pm	JCC
Yom Kippur	Saturday, September 18th	9am-1:30pm	JCC
		5-8pm	
Yizkor	Saturday, September 18th	12pm	JCC

\*Please note that all Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur services will be held at the Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester, 600 Bear Ridge Road in Pleasantville except where otherwise noted.

## Thank you, PCS

In May of 2009, over dinner one night, my almost-12 year old son, Liam, announced, "Mom, I'd like to have a bar mitzvah." For various reasons, we had never belonged to a synagogue and I hadn't been able to enroll Liam in Hebrew school. We celebrated major holidays, and Liam had always known he was half Jewish. But the sudden urge to "be affiliated," as he later explained it to me, caught me by surprise. He didn't want to be "half Jewish" - he wanted to be Jewish, through and through.

I had attended a few services at PCS and loved them. If Liam were going to have a bar mitzvah, that was the place where I wanted it to be - the happy synagogue. I sent an email to Rabbi Mark asking for his help. We were more than helped - we were welcomed with opened arms.

6 weeks later, through his own diligence and Nili's tutelage, Liam was reading Hebrew. He attended Hebrew school this past year and loved every minute of it. He is more than looking forward to his upcoming September bar mitzvah, and Rabbi Mark's Jew-Tube class. He often tells me how much being Jewish means to him and how much he likes our Rabbi. In such a short time, PCS has given us so much. I wanted to do something to give back so I volunteered to help in any way I could. Thank you PCS and Rabbi Mark for making this last year wonderful for me and my son.

- Judy Chinitz



## WJCS Jewish Spiritual Healing Center

Offering spiritual support groups, spiritual journeying, workshops and events

For more information or to register for any of our WJCS Healing Center Fall programs, contact:

Rabbi Pamela Wax  
WJCS Spiritual Care Coordinator  
Westchester Jewish Community Services

845 North Broadway  
www.wjcs.com  
White Plains, NY 10603

914-761-0600 x149

[pwax@wjcs.com](mailto:pwax@wjcs.com)

(Note from Emma Reisman : continued from page 5)

My parents raised me and my three siblings in an ardently Zionist home. We were fortunate enough to make fairly frequent trips to Israel touring the country, visiting family on kibbutzim and trying to keep up with our mother who would follow any tour guide anywhere despite security warnings and the lack of confidence we all felt in the tour guide's ability to actually use the weapon he had casually thrown into the back of his sedan, if G-d forbid, he actually had to use it. A teen tour to Israel at 16 on a Rabbi led NFTY tour deep in the Sinai desert, poised to ascend Mt. Sinai, is the place I identify as the beginning of a Jewish spiritual awakening. A profound moment that was the culmination of a Jewish self awareness and a connection I felt to something greater. I knew I would ultimately share my life with someone that felt similarly, and fortunately, met Dave at that great Jewish mecca, the State University of New York at Albany.

Raising our children in a vibrant Jewish community was paramount to Dave and me. After more than a decade of membership at a local conservative shul in Briarcliff, Dave and I felt very little connection to our spiritual Judaism. A family friend suggested we visit PCS and after attending our first Friday night service, it was love at first sight - for all of us. The children, in particular, would distinguish PCS from other synagogues by describing it as the "happy shul". From Rabbi Mark's inspirational service filled with music and discussion to the welcoming warmth of the highly devoted community members - we knew something special was happening at this shul in Pleasantville and wanted to be a part of it.

Inspired by Rabbi Mark's Shabbat services and engaging weekly sermons, I took steps towards learning more about Judaism in general. I first took Rabbi Mark's highly informative Introduction to Judaism 101 class, then Phil Paris's trope class to learn how to chant Torah, becoming part of the Torah reader's circle chanting Torah on Saturday mornings once a month for about three years. Two years ago for about two years, I studied monthly with Rabbi Paley at a UJA sponsored course.

It's been a pleasure to be the Bnei Mitzvah community service project coordinator working with our Bnei Mitzvah kids and their families find community service activities that are meaningful to them and I'm happy to help Michal, our Hebrew School principal, by being a class parent in our children's classes.

I am truly humbled to accept the honor of this year's Chattan Torah. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my story with you and thank you to the community to which I am eternally grateful for being such a warm, welcoming, vibrant congregation that has opened the door to my Jewish heart.

(see notes from Diana Benattar on page 18)

## Note from Diana Benattar (Our Kallat Bereshit)

I am truly honored that PCS has chosen me to be the Kallat Bereshit this year. Sharing this honor with Emma is very special, as without her encouragement learning to read Torah would never have been as fun.

I grew up in an observant Conservative home in Westchester. My father was a Cantor and attending services was an integral part of my childhood memories. As a young child I remember looking up with pride and awe as my dad chanted the prayers, leading the entire congregation in song. Soon I joined in and sang with the temple children's choir, and eventually with the adult choir during the High Holy Days. I became a Bat Mitzvah at age 12, chanted the Haftarah and led the Shabbat services. I didn't quite understand why I wasn't allowed to read from the Torah like my brother.

My parents were both passionate Zionists, and instilled in all three of their children a strong love for Israel. I began at an early age to imagine myself living in Israel. Making Aliyah became my focus in my teenage years. During the summers of my college years I worked in Israel, first as an au pair and then on a kibbutz where I met a new immigrant from France, David, who became my husband and road mate. I learned to speak Hebrew, relishing in recognizing words from the prayers I chanted in my father's temple. I made aliyah after I finished college, and my brother and sister followed soon after.

Looking back over the years I lived in Israel, I feel immense pride in what I achieved. I studied in a new immigrant retraining program at Bar Ilan University, received my degree in Social Work and began working as a community social worker. Working in the "schunot mitzukah", low income neighborhoods of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, I became passionate about Tikkun Olam. I was faced almost right away with the inequities of the Israeli society of the late 1970's, and felt drawn to help organize the residents to make their voices heard by the establishment. Working hand in hand with the community activists, it became evident to me that many Jews from Arab countries were at a socioeconomic disadvantage, through no fault of their own. These experiences will be forever etched in my mind as one of the most gratifying periods of my life.

Upon return to the States, David and I felt secure in our Jewish identity. Our most important task was to provide our children with a rich Jewish cultural environment but living up in Brewster we found this difficult. We speak Hebrew at home, celebrated Shabbat every week as a family, and our children found a home in Habonim Dror (a youth Zionist movement) summer camps. I was happy we could provide these experiences for our children, but still felt that I had not found my own Jewish spiritual home. Over the years, we were members at several area synagogues, but never found the perfect fit.

Six years ago we moved to Pleasantville, and while unpacking I unearthed the 2003 NY Times article about PCS. We visited, and were immediately drawn in by the music and warmth that filled the sanctuary. A few years later, I was struck by the Rabbi's High Holy Day sermon about finding and exploring one aspect of Judaism over the coming year as a way to reconnect. I decided that my exploration would be to finally learn how to chant from the Torah.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to learn in a "chavurah" atmosphere, and under the patient guidance of Phil Paris. It was in this class that I met my "Torah Buddy", Emma. We've been good friends ever since, and continue to practice our Torah portions together, often at Jean Jacques over cups of tea. Several years ago, I was asked to be PCS's first female gabbait, an enormous honor. Now, every time I step up to the bimah, I feel both the memory of my father's legacy, and the continuation of my own Jewish journey.

I truly feel that PCS has become my spiritual home, a place where I feel welcomed and fulfilled. I always leave services feeling a bit more connected and grounded. I am very grateful to this warm congregation who welcomed me with open arms. Thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you.

# ***ARE YOU RAISING JEWISH CHILDREN BUT YOU'RE NOT JEWISH?***

**Join The Mothers Circle to learn about Jewish rituals, ethics and the how-to's of creating a Jewish home. FREE courses starting soon.**

**The Rosenthal JCC  
600 Bear Ridge Road  
Pleasantville, NY**

**For information call Nicole Nevarez at  
The Rosenthal JCC (914) 741-0333x29**

**Visit [www.rosenthaljcc.org](http://www.rosenthaljcc.org)**

**A program of the Jewish Outreach Institute sponsored by the Marcus Foundation**



## **PCS CLASSIFIEDS**

Going forward, as a free service to our community, I will be happy to publish personal ads for our members seeking non-commercial social networking opportunities, help from other members, and so on. If you're looking to start a book club, find other musicians (anyone looking for a decent amateur French horn player?!), need babysitting, etc., feel free to email me your ad and I'll place it in the next monthly bulletin.

Judy Chinitz: [judyhope@optonline.net](mailto:judyhope@optonline.net)



## **JOB FAIR**

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**10:30-2:30**

**GREENBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**MEET TALENTED, SKILLED PEOPLE EAGER TO FILL YOUR POSITIONS  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOB FAIR CONTACT LENORE ROSENBAUM  
761-0700 EXT. 308 OR [LROSENBAUM@WJCS.COM](mailto:LROSENBAUM@WJCS.COM)**

**THIS FREE EVENT IS A COLLABORATION OF WJCS WOMEN-HELPING-WOMEN,  
GREENBURGH TOWN SUPERVISOR PAUL FEINER& THE GREENBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY**



## WJCS TO HOST SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DD

WJCS Havorah will host programs for persons with developmental disabilities during the upcoming holidays. All are welcome and admission is free. For more info, contact Gail Oliver at 845 565-8610 or [gailao777@aol.com](mailto:gailao777@aol.com). The schedule is as follows:

- A Rosh Hashanah Celebration for Persons with DD -- September 15 at 7:00 PM at Temple Shaaray Tefila, 89 Baldwin Road, Bedford.
- A Yom Kippur Service for Persons with DD -- September 20 at 7:00 PM Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Avenue, Tarrytown.
- A Sukkot Celebration for Persons with DD – September 28 at 7:00 PM at Congregation Sons of Israel, 1666 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor.

New PCS Adult Education Committee

seeks ideas for exciting

programming on a wide range of subjects that include, but are not limited to, the spiritual, philosophical & historical to enliven & enrich our lives

Discussions, Presentations, Films, Books...

Please contact Committee Chair, David Felder at [davfelder@yahoo.com](mailto:davfelder@yahoo.com)

to present your ideas, volunteer to lead a program,

or express interest in joining the committee or attending programs.