



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

January 27-February 4, 2017 | 29 Tevet-8 Shevat, 5777
Parashat Vaera

Friday, January 27 29 Tevet				Rosh Chodesh Shevat/Parashat Vaera Saturday, January 28 1 Shevat		
Candle Lighting 4:50PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM				Shabbat Vaera Shacharit 10:00AM Mini Minyan 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Junior Congr 11:15AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday January 29 2 Shevat	Monday January 30 3 Shevat	Tuesday January 31 4 Shevat	Wednesday February 1 5 Shevat	Thursday February 2 6 Shevat	Friday February 3 7 Shevat	Saturday February 4 8 Shevat
Imagine Brooklyn 9:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Responding to... 6:30PM	Mussar Path of the Mensch 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 4:58PM It's Friday! 10:30AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Charlie Urich 6:30PM	Shabbat <i>Bo</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Family Torah 10:30AM Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Mishneh Torah Class - Laws of Teshuvah 1:30PM
Park Slope Jewish Center 1320 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718) 768-1453 Office hours: M-Th 9AM-5PM, F 9AM-2PM www.psjc.org email: office@psjc.org				Rabbi Carie Carter, PSJC's Rabbi (rabbi@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@psjc.org) Lena Roe, Interim Director of Youth Education (lena.roe@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Mazal Tov

To **Julie Hollar** and **Rebecca Steinfeld** and their daughter **Djuna** on the birth of their son and brother. To grandparents **Alvin** and **Deena Steinfeld** and to aunt **Amanda** and uncle **Ari**.

Todah Rabbah

To **Peter** and **Elisabeth Siroka** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of the naming of their daughter, **Maxine Violet**.

To **Andrew Ravin** and **Samantha Chan** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

Yahrzeits observed 1-7 Shevat:

Alan Harrison, father of Martha Harrison; **Anne Chernick**, mother of Howard Chernick; **Becky Levine**, grandmother of Myron and Gavielle Levine; **Belle Weiner**, mother of Barbara Wollman; **Daniel Danzing**, father of Rachel Danzing; **Esther Gmach**, mother of David Gmach; **Joseph Eisenstadt**, father of Eric Eisenstadt; **Leon Solomon Blaufarb**, father of Jonathan Blaufarb; **Liliana Briefel**, mother of Gary Briefel; **Martha Wolkoff**, wife of Steve Wolkoff; **Martha Wolkoff**, aunt of Andrew Ceresney; **Mollie Haut**, observed by the PSJC Community; **Rae Berman Green**, grandmother of June Zeitlin; **Sara Mlotek Rosenfeld**, mother of Fay Rosenfeld; **Suzanne Hill**, mother of Todd Friedman; **Walter Haase**, father of David Haase. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



Got announcements? Email by Monday 5:00PM (office@PSJC.org)



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Advanced Talmud

Saturday, January 28 | 1:30PM

This class is an on-going self-study group appropriate for people who are proficient in Hebrew and have some prior experience in Gemara study. New students are welcome! Email aronrhalb@gmail.com

Imagine Jewish Brooklyn: Let's Dream and Build Together | 26 Bridge Street, Brooklyn

Design: Sunday, January 29, 2017 | 9:00AM

North & Brownstone Brooklyn is becoming a hotbed of vibrant, creative, and diverse Jewish life. Imagine Jewish Brooklyn is an opportunity to come together to dream, design and build our Jewish future together. Everyone is welcome! Visit www.imaginejewishbrooklyn.org, or contact Michael Vilarello at vilarellom@ujafedny.org or 718.942.6800 to learn more. Dream was held on Sunday, December 4, 2016.

Responding to Anti-Semitic Sentiment on College Campuses and in the Community

Wednesday, February 1 | 6:30PM

In college? Getting ready to go to college or to send your child off? Struggling to respond to anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment in your community? Students, parents, friends: Join us at PSJC for a conversation with Nadya Drucker, Director of Tanger Hillel at Brooklyn College, about challenges facing Jewish students on campus and elsewhere, especially when they are challenged about their relationship with Israel. Nadya is experienced in helping students and guiding communities through challenging days, and we are thrilled she will be with us to guide this important conversation. Light dinner will be provided, please RSVP or for questions, please email rabbicarie@psjc.org.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, February 3, 10 and 17 | 10:30AM | \$12 per class

It's Friday! is a series of classes for children 3 and under and their caregivers. Join PSJC Tot Shabbat Leader, Abe, for hands on exploration of Shabbat and holidays. Visit www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html for more information.

Shabbat Kulanu

Saturday, February 4 | 11:15AM

Kulanu means "all together," so join us for our brand new, all-ages, musical service. We will meet once a month on Shabbat mornings during the school year and approximately eight times a year on Friday evenings. Abe and Aileen will lead an inclusive Shabbat service that will get you on your feet and in the Shabbat spirit. Shabbat morning services will include a short Torah service and as a community will join with the main service for concluding prayers and kiddush.

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, February 4 | 1:30PM

When it was written in the 12th Century, Maimonides' Mishneh Torah changed the landscape of Rabbinic literature, and has since served as one of the great authoritative codes of Jewish Law. This is a monthly study session with Rabbi Carter. Please <https://www.psjc.org/form/mishneh-torah.html> for this study group.

Masbia Needs PSJC!!

Sunday, February 5 | 12:00PM-2:00PM

Join other PSJC volunteers at Masbia, the kosher soup kitchen at 1372 Coney

Island Avenue, near Avenue J. Masbia's meals sustain hundreds of people in need; we have been working with them for five years to peel, chop, schlepp and do whatever's useful, in support of their mission. Children over age 10, teens and adults welcome to roll up their sleeves and help feed our hungry neighbors. Please contact Helen Zelon: hzelon@gmail.com for details or additional information.





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Save the Date: Scholar-In-Residence: Rabbi Amy Eilberg
Machlakot L'Shem Shamayim: The Jewish Art of Disagreement

February 10 – 12, 2017

Join us on **Friday night** for PSJC's all-sung, lay-led Lev Tahor Service followed by a sponsored catered **Shabbat Dinner** (meat, with vegetarian options) and study with Rabbi Amy Eilberg. **Saturday morning** services begin will include a **Dvar Torah by Rabbi Eilberg**. Following Kiddush, Rabbi Eilberg will offer a Dialogue Workshop where we can build skills necessary for successful dialogue with those with whom we disagree. **Sunday morning**, Rabbi Eilberg will be present to help us kick off our **Yom Iyyun Tzedek** that leads into our Hebrew School sponsored Tzedakah Fair. RSVP for dinner www.tinyurl.com/scholar2017.

Yom Iyyun Tzedek & Tzedakah Fair

Sunday, February 12 | 9:30AM-12:30PM

The entire PSJC Community is invited to join the Hebrew School for our winter Yom Iyyun Tzedek, a morning of learning and hands-on activities to connect with the Jewish value of Tzedek--Justice. We will be focusing on the Jewish concept of Machlakot L'shem Shamayim: The Jewish Art of Disagreement. This is the final event in PSJC's Scholar In Residence with Rabbi Amy Eilberg. Our Yom Iyyun Tzedek concludes with our annual Tzedakah Fair, led by the Kitah Vav class. Empty your tzedakah box from home and fill your pockets with nickels, quarters and dollars, and come prepared to learn about all of the places near and far where your money can be put to use! Email lena.roe@psjc.org with any questions or to volunteer.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, February 18 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together in the home of a PSJC member. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Pot Luck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve pot luck dish to share. If you are coming for the first time, don't feel like you need to bring anything. Just come!. Actual address will be given at services. Please contact shabbatshmooze@psjc.org if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze.



Download the PSJC app Today after Shabbat! It's powered through Shulcloud. When you are signed in, you have access to the member directory, the PSJC calendar and more. Available on Android and iOS smart phones, search for Park Slope Jewish Center.

G'mach, Hevra Kadisha welcome new members If you are able to cook, deliver meals, visit, attend shiva minyanim, do shmira or tahara for those who have died and support our members in good and bad times - please contact G'mach and Hevra Kadisha to add your name to the distribution list: gmach@psjc.org or hevrakadisha@psjc.org

All congregants and visitors (of all genders) are requested to wear a head covering in the Sanctuary. Cell phones and photography are not permitted in the synagogue during Shabbat. Please also refrain from applause during services. **To request an Aliyah or other honor**, email Rabbi Carter a week in advance (rabbicarie@psjc.org), or notify the usher if you arrive before the Torah Service begins; we honor requests whenever possible. **To usher services**, email Ira Drucker at ira.drucker@psjc.org **PSJC runs on community participation.** If you are interested in: **leading Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Services**, email freddie.brooks@psjc.org; **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at davening@psjc.org; **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at haftarah@psjc.org; **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at hevra.kadisha@psjc.org.

Parashat Vaera

Triennial (Exodus 6:2-7:7): Etz Hayim p. 351; Hertz p. 232

Haftarah (Isaiah 66:1-24, 23): Etz Hayim p.1219; Hertz p. 944

Technology in the Exodus from Egypt

In Parshat Va'era Operation Exodus from Egypt gets underway, beginning with the confrontation between Moses and Aaron on one side and Pharaoh and his team on the other. Seven of the Ten Plagues take place this week, and, as in the modern world, technology plays an important part in the struggle.

Before the Ten Plagues we have a “promo” – God tells Moses and Aaron to cast the rod before Pharaoh and it shall become a serpent (Ex. 7:8- 10). When they do, not only is Pharaoh unimpressed; he summons his wise men and sorcerers (chachamim u'mechashfim), and chartumei mitsraim, the Egyptian magicians, do the same thing (turn rods into serpents) “b'lahateihem, with their spells.” Moses and Aaron have the last word – “Aaron's rod swallowed their rods.” But Pharaoh evidently was not impressed; “his heart stiffened and he would not listen to them” (7:11-13).

The first plague is, of course, dam, blood – Aaron strikes the waters of the Nile when Pharaoh and his court (kol avadav) are watching, and the Nile turns to blood, the fish die and stink. But when the Egyptian magicians do the same, “with their spells” again, Pharaoh just stiffens his heart and goes home paying no heed – v'lo shat libo gam l'zot (7:20-23). He is satisfied with technological parity.

The second plague is tsfardeya, frogs, moving from the river and lakes into people's lives and homes, into their beds and ovens, no less (7:28). As before the chartumim use their spells, bringing their frogs upon the land of Egypt (8:3). Of course the Egyptian “technology” is counterproductive; it does not diminish the impact of the plague Moshe and Aaron are inflicting on Egypt. In fact it intensifies it and the misery of the Egyptian people, which is why Pharaoh calls on Moshe here to stop the plague. If the people on the home front are suffering, he has a real problem.

With the third plague, kinim (lice or vermin) there is a strategic development – the Egyptian magicians try their spells to produce kinim, as Aaron had done, “v'lo yachlu – but they couldn't do it” (8:13-14). At which point they tell Pharaoh, “etsba Elohim hu, this is the finger of God” (8:15). The chartumim, the professional rank, realize that the technology of Bnei Yisrael is not only better, but that it is Divine. However Pharaoh, the politician with the personal ego at stake, does not yet get it. “Don't confuse me with facts.” He proceeds ahead, despite the advice of his advisors, not the last time national leaders have so conducted themselves, with their people paying the price.

The chartumim are now out of the picture – Pharaoh's military technology is no match for God's finger. But we meet them one more time, in the sixth plague, schin (boils). “...boils broke out on man and beast.” But the magicians were unable even to stand before Moshe, because they, like the rest of the Egyptians, were suffering “from the inflammation breaking out in boils” (9:10-11). Not only could they not prevent the plague or even duplicate it themselves, they were powerless to protect themselves from it. Ramban (Nachmanides) adds another reason why they could not stand before Moses; “they were too ashamed and embarrassed even to leave their houses.” Their professional failure was likely a greater cause of shame to them than the skin inflammations.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion by Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, CY Faculty and Coordinator, the Conservative Yeshiva, is from the “Torah Sparks” series at <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>