

Friday, January 13 15 Tevet				Parashat Vayechi Saturday, January 14 16 Tevet		
Candle Lighting 4:33PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM				Shabbat <i>Vayechi</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat and Mini Minyan 11:15AM Mishneh Torah – Laws of Teshuvah 1:15PM PJ Library Havdalah 5:00PM		
Sunday January 15 17 Tevet	Monday January 16 18 Tevet	Tuesday January 17 19 Tevet	Wednesday January 18 20 Tevet	Thursday January 19 21 Tevet	Friday January 20 22 Tevet	Saturday January 21 23 Tevet
MLK Day of Service 11:00AM	Office Closed	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Path of the Mensch 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 4:41PM It's Friday! 10:30AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM	Shabbat <i>Shemot</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Bar Mitzvah of Max Grozalsky-Wernick Mini Minyan 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Junior Congr 11:15AM
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 (rabbicarie@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)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Jan Huttner** and **Rich Miller** for contributing to the Kiddush fund this Shabbat.

To **Marilyn Kardeman** for sponsoring flowers this Shabbat in loving memory of her mother, Claire Kardeman, z"l on this 5th yahrzeit.

From **Alan & Cynthia Palmer and Gavrielle Levine**: We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our PSJC community for the generous care and support given to our family during the mourning period for S. Edward Palmer.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Ilene Rubenstein and her family on the death of her mother, **Charlotte "Cookie" Zazik**, z"l.

David Schwartz and his family on the death of his wife, **Marlene Schwartz**, z"l.

Mindy Levine and her family on the death of her mother, **Gerry Levine Mendelsohn**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 8-15 Tevet:

Frederic Kerr, father of Grace Kerr; **Helen Rubin**, grandmother of Harolyn Cohen; **Robert Mark Peters**, father of Jenny Peters; **Herbert Loewenthal**, father of Rabbi Amy Loewenthal; **Sabina Goldstein**, mother of Leon Goldstein; **Leonard Singer**, father of Ira Singer; **Riva Korashan**, sister of Marc Korashan; **Marilyn Rothberger**, cousin of Harriet Baron; **Daniel Taibel**, father of Chava Newcombe; **Samuel Sloan**, father of Sara Sloan; **Oscar Person**, uncle of Sarah Person. *May their memories be for a blessing.*





January 13-21, 2016 | 15-23 Tevet, 5777
Parashat Vayechi

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, January 14 | 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.

PJ Library Havdalah

Saturday, January 14 | 5:00PM

At this fun pajama party we will wake a Havdalah Candle; enjoy snacks, stories, music and new friends!

COUNTDOWN to MLK Day of Service

Sunday, January 15 | 11:00AM with 'Learn-in' from 2-3

Please help us gather gently-used children's books; kids, infants, women's and men's clothing; coats; new socks; toiletries and your energy for a busy, productive MLK Day of Service at PSJC. We're aiming to top last year's work -- that means more than 2,000 soup-kit servings, for starters -- AND we're adding **two informal workshops**, on local politics (how to navigate and get involved) and talking with young people about the political landscape. These workshops will be informal and led by friends and members of the PSJC community. Simple snacks will be provided; RSVPs strongly encouraged (so we know how much to order) to hzelon@gmail.com. **Thank you for your dedication and hard work!**

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, January 20 and 27 | 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 Shmooze

Saturday, January 21 | 1:30PM

Not sure what a Shabbat Shmooze is? 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! This Shmooze is located near 10th Street and 4th Avenue. Actual address will be given at services. Please contact shabbatshmooze@psjc.org if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze.

Shir Chadash Community Choir Concert

Sunday, January 22 | 4:00PM

Shir Chadash, the Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus, is presenting their winter concert on Sunday, January 22nd at 4pm at PSJC. The concert, which will feature Cantors Rachel Brook, Natasha Hirschhorn, and Lisa B. Segal, has the theme of "B'chol Dor vaDor" ("in every generation"), and shares beautiful music by composers ranging in age from their early 20's to almost 100. PSJC members make up about a fifth of the chorus, so come support your friends! Ticket prices: Adults \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; Children (under 12) \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door.

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

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



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Parashat Vayechi

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! The more voices, the better! 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.

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.



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 Iyun Tzedek that leads into our Hebrew School sponsored Tzedakah Fair. Stay tuned for more details.



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 Vayechi

Triennial (Genesis 47:28-48:22): Etz Hayim p. 293-298; Hertz p. 180-183
Haftarah (1 Kings 2:1-12): Etz Hayim p. 312-314; Hertz p. 191-192

Families as Complex Organisms

Parashat Vayhi, “and Jacob lived,” closes the book of Bereishit and the lives of Jacob and his son Joseph. Hayyei Sarah, seven weeks ago, was similar – another parashah with a title of life and a subject of death of two major figures – Sarah and Abraham. Hayyei Sarah ended on a “happy” note; Isaac and Ishmael bury Abraham together, suggesting that they had reconciled their differences.

“Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way,” so begins Anna Karenina. The sibling situation at the end of Vayhi is less idyllic; closer to Tolstoy. On returning from Jacob’s funeral, the Torah tells us, When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said: “What if Joseph still hates us and pays us back for the wrong we did to him?” (50:15). It’s a poignant moment – forty years after they had cast Joseph into the pit; seventeen years since they had been reunited in Egypt, the brothers are still worried and anxious.

What is it that “the brothers saw that their father was dead” that caused this angst? Rashi brings the Midrash that Joseph no longer invited them to eat with him as he did when Yakov had been alive. No big surprise here – how many families maintain the same degree of sibling cohesion after the parents are gone?

Another Midrash tells that on the way back from Jacob’s funeral in Hevron, Joseph “halach v’hetzitz betoch ha’bor” – he went to look into the pit into which he’d been cast four decades earlier. The Midrash says he did it to thank God for the miraculous outcome of that incident. But when the brothers saw Joseph looking into that pit, different thoughts ran through their minds: amru: lu yist’menu, maybe he’ll hate us. That’s not the childhood video they want to show at family gatherings. The heavy burden of deep-seated, unresolved guilt did not originate with Freud.

The saddest moment of this little episode is when the brothers say: ‘Before he died your father left this instruction: Forgive your brothers’ (50:16-17). Were they telling the truth? Rashi says no, Jacob never gave such an instruction; shinu dvar mipnei ha’shalom – they told a lie for the sake of peace. And most of the commentators agree. It’s not such a strange human tendency – fudge the truth to improve relations or a situation. We all do it. “So good to see you again”... “such a delicious dinner.”

Yet there is data to suggest that, davka (indeed), it was true. Jacob knew very well of precedent in the family of sibling hostility deferred till father dies: after Rivka and he had plotted to get Isaac’s blessing, the Torah says (27:41) “And Esau hated Jacob...and said in his heart, As soon as mourning for my father is over, I’ll kill my brother Jacob.”

And more recently Jacob himself – in his “blessings” to his children in the immediately preceding chapter – cursed Shimon and Levi for their murderous acts against the people of Shechem following the rape of Dina decades earlier. Jacob was a person who shamar et hadavar (37:11), remembered things; kept accounts. No seven or twelve year Statute of Limitations for him.

Family relations in the Torah three thousand years ago, between generations and within generations, could be complex, painful, bitter, sweet; often “all of the above.” Just like they are today.

This weekly Haftarah Commentary by **Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, CY Faculty and Coordinator, Torah Sparks** may be found at: <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>