



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

January 6-14, 2016 | 8-16 Tevet, 5777
Parashat Vayigash

Friday, January 6 8 Tevet				Parashat Vayigash Saturday, January 7 9 Tevet		
Candle Lighting 4:26PM Lev Tahor 6:30PM				Shabbat Vayigash Shacharit 10:00AM Bat Mitzvah of Tamar Greenberg Family Torah 10:30AM Shabbat Kulanu 11:00AM Book Club 1:30PM		
Sunday January 8 10 Tevet	Monday January 9 11 Tevet	Tuesday January 10 12 Tevet	Wednesday January 11 13 Tevet	Thursday January 12 14 Tevet	Friday January 13 15 Tevet	Saturday January 14 16 Tevet
Hebrew School 9:30AM B'nai Mitzvah Meeting 11:00AM Annual Meeting 4:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Israel: It's Future, Hope, and Politics 7:00PM at Cong Mount Sinai	Office Closed Candle Lighting 4:33PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30PM	Shabbat Vayechi Shacharit 10:00AM Mini Minyan 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 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)		

Mazal Tov

To **Tamar Greenberg**, her parents **Cindy and Dan**, her brothers **Ilan and Matan** and her entire family on Tamar's bat mitzvah.

Todah Rabbah

to **Cindy and Dan Greenberg** for sponsoring Kiddush in honor of Tamar's Bat Mitzvah.

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:

Esther Sammartano friend of PSJC Community; **Fred Eisenstadt**

brother of Eric Eisenstadt; **David Kligler** father of Ben Kligler;

Joseph Pollack father of Diane Burhenne; **Claire Kardeman** mother of Marilyn Kardeman and grandmother of

Lianna Su Liping Kardeman; **Trudy Tursky** aunt of Marc Korashan. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



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



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Lev Tahor: PSJC's All-Sung, Lay-Led Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, January 6 | 6:30PM

Join us for the first Lev Tahor service and program of the (secular) New Year, when our own David Mikics will give a talk on his most recent book, *Bellow's People*, which explores Saul Bellow's relationships with the mostly Jewish real-life friends and acquaintances who were the foundation for many of his fictional characters.

Book Discussion - Ravelstein

Saturday, January 7 | 1:30PM

Professor Mikics will lead a discussion of Bellow's last novel *Ravelstein*, based on events in the life of the scholar (and Bellow's colleague at the University of Chicago) Allan Bloom. *Ravelstein* is included in Library of America edition *Novels 1984-2000/Saul Bellow*; James Wood, editor, of which BPL has 11 copies. An audiobook version is available from audible.com.

Attention B'nai Mitzvah Families of 2019

Sunday, January 8 | 11:00AM

Calling all families with children turning 13 in 2019. It is time to talk about Bar and Bat Mitzvah! This conversation with Rabbi Carter is an essential first step in the selection of B'nai Mitzvah dates.

Masbia Needs PSJC!!

Sunday, January 8 | 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.



PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees

Sunday, January 8 | 4:00PM

This meeting is for PSJC members to hear about our year in review, elect our new board of directors, ask questions, and share your thoughts and ideas over wine and a nosh. Hope to see you there. Ballots and agenda have been sent out by mail. If you did not receive yours please call the office.

Israel: It's Future, Hope, and Politics

Thursday, January 12 | 7:00PM | Congregation Mount Sinai: \$10 Suggested Contribution

Don't miss this special opportunity for an evening dialogue on Israel, politics, and hope for the future. Noah Efron chairs the Graduate Program in Science, Technology and Society at Bar Ilan University in Israel and is the creator of the *Promised Podcast*, one of the top Jewish podcasts of 2016. The podcast offers an inside view of Israel that tackles the latest in Israeli politics, culture and society. It's a podcast that will show how Israel can warm your heart and make your blood boil. Co-sponsored by Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Park Slope Jewish Center, Congregation Beth Elohim, Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue, and Israelbkl: The Brownstone Brooklyn.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, January 13, 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.



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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.

COUNTDOWN to MLK Day of Service

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

Please help us gather gently-used childrens' books; kids, infants, womens' and mens' 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!**

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, January 21 | 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! 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.



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 Vayigash

Triennial (Genesis 44:18-45:27): Etz Hayim p. 274-279; Hertz p. 169-172; Plaut 281
Haftarah (Ezekiel 37:15-28): Etz Hayim p. 290-292; Hertz p. 178-179; Plaut 357

The End of Genesis?

Parshat Vayigash is the next-to-last parashah in Bereishit, but it could indeed be the last. The drama of Joseph and his brothers is resolved, and the parashah concludes (47:27): *Vayeshev Yisrael b'erezt mitsrayim – And Israel settled down in Egypt, in the region of Goshen; they acquired holdings there and were fruitful and increased greatly.*

Sound familiar? Fast forward to Exodus 1:7: *And the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.*

The Torah's story could have continued from end of Vayigash straight into Exodus 1:8, *And there arose a new king over Egypt...without a stitch or a hitch.*

In Vayigash, through a series of revelations, movements and dramatic meetings, all the threads come together. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and then meets his father, both very dramatic moments. He introduces his father and brothers to Pharaoh and the family is settled in Goshen with the encouragement and assistance of Pharaoh. They prospered there, as the closing verse indicates, almost as if it's "happily ever after." Not quite.

Perhaps the most moving moment of closure in Vayigash is the meeting of Joseph and his father, Jacob. Immediately upon revealing his true identity to his brothers Joseph had asked "Is my father still alive," a question burning inside him for two decades. Yet, surprisingly, he does not head straight off to see Jacob in Eretz Yisrael; he waits until Jacob comes to Egypt with the family. This cannot be for political reasons – Pharaoh himself invites Jacob and the family to come live in Egypt. It might be post-trauma stress; Joseph had been through several very harrowing experiences in those two decades. Or perhaps it reflects the fact that Jacob himself, when he had returned to Eretz Yisrael after twenty years with Lavan in Haran, had delayed quite a while before going to visit his aging father, Itzhak. *Mida keneged mida*, measure for measure? Perhaps. But when Josef is ready to go, he does so with vigor, (46:29) *And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went to meet Israel his father in Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. One day, five verbs, twenty-two years of separation overcome in one intensive verse.*

Vayigash is a grand finale to Sefer Bereishit, it brings us to where we need to be for Sefer Shmot. But that final verse, *And Israel settled down in Egypt...has other echoes as well, ironic and foreboding.* "Israel" is another name for Yakov, and we are reminded of 37:1, *Vayeshev Yakov b'erezt m'gurei aviv, eretz C'nan*, "And Jacob settled down in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Caanan," which Rashi had explained: "Jacob yearned to live in tranquility (*bikesh le'shev b'shalva*), but the terrible incident of Joseph came upon him." Ironically Joseph now finds peace and quiet, for the last seventeen years of his life, in Egypt. Little could he know what a terrible future awaits his descendants there. Sefer Bereishit ends, either at the end of chapter 47 or the end of chapter 50, with Bnei Israel "living happily ever after." On the deck of the Titanic.

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/>