




PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

December 16-23, 2016 | 16-23 Kislev, 5777
Parashat Vayishlach

Friday, December 16 16 Kislev				Parashat Vayishlach Saturday, December 17 17 Kislev		
Candle Lighting 4:12PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Jessica Hendel Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM PSJC Club 1320 8:00PM		
						
Sunday December 18 18 Kislev	Monday December 19 19 Kislev	Tuesday December 20 20 Kislev	Wednesday December 21 21 Kislev	Thursday December 22 22 Kislev	Friday December 23 23 Kislev	Saturday December 24 24 Kislev
Shaarei Mitzvah Trip 9:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM	PSJC Office Closed	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM	Art of the Ger 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 4:15PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Freddie Brooks 6:30PM	Shabbat Vayeshev Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM Erev Chanukkah 1 st Candle
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 **Jessica, Julie, Kenneth** and **Benjamin** on **Jessica's** Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah!

To **Julie** and **Kenneth Hendel** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Jessica's** Bat Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences to:

David and Debby Schwartz and their entire family on the death of their wife and mother, **Marlene Schwartz**, z"l.

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

Alan Palmer and his entire family on the death of his father, **Samson Edward Palmer**, z"l.

Yahrzeits: 17-23 Kislev:

Allen Lewis, father of Cynthia Lagdameo; **Amy Rosen**, friend of Jan Orzeck; **Anne Werner**, mother of Warren Spielberg; **Assunta Senese**, mother of Carmela Senese; **Benjamin Levy**, father of Joel Levy; **Eileen Marks**, mother of Erica Ptohos; **Ezra Joseph Gubbay**, father of Joseph Gubbay; **Jackie Pliskin**, sister of Karen Jacobson; **Juanita Miller**, mother of Richard Miller; **Michael David Safdie**, brother-in-law of Fredrica Brooks; **Mitchell Gordon**, father of Andrew Gordon; **Molly Neumann**, aunt of Marilyn Kardeman; **Paul Glatman**, father of Joan Glatman; **Paul Klotz**, father of Jay Klotz; **Sidney Blumenfeld**, grandfather of Barry Blumenfeld; **Theodore Boro**, father of Diane Buxbaum; **Walter Schnitzler**, father of Mona Schnitzler. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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



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Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, December 17 | 1:30PM | Hosted by Sharon Tepper and David Lefkowitz | 528 10th Street
Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Pot Luck Lunch (after the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services). Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share. The Shabbat Shmooze offers the chance to get to know some of the PSJC community and spend time with those you already know. It is a great way to keep the Shabbat vibe going all afternoon long.



Club 1320 Presents: Live Jazz with the Yotam Silberstein Group

Saturday, December 17 | Doors open 7:30PM

You deserve a fun night out -- right in the neighborhood! PSJC's Club 1320 presents Yotam Silberstein Group, opening with the Progress Notes.

Come out for a night of live jazz, food and drink, and great friends. Concert begins at 8:00 and everyone is welcome to stay for the after party. Tickets are \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students, and \$55 at the door. Please log on to ShulCloud to purchase your tickets. For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact club1320@psjc.org. Proceeds from this event will benefit PSJC.

International Migrants Day, the New York Immigration Coalition

Sunday, December 18 | 1:00PM | Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

Speak out in support of our immigrant communities with Rodfei Tzedek. Defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provides 50,000 New Yorkers (and 700,000 + nationally) with work permits and other essential resources; protect immigrant communities from deportation; prevent the creation of a Muslim registry; support refugee resettlement.

PSJC Office will be Closed | December 19, 26 and January 2

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, December 24 | 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

Light the Lights of Chanukkah

December 24 – 31

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. Mention PSJC at Community Books or Terrace Books to get a 10% discount on new copies of the book. And please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/LevTahorJan6> for the dairy/pareve pot luck -- thank you!

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.

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



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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 and shlep in support of their mission. Children over age 10, teens and adults welcome to roll up their sleeves and help feed our hungry neighbors. Questions? contact Helen Zelon: helen.zelon@psjc.org

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. Please RSVP to Rabbi Carter so she can be sure to have enough materials: rabbicarie@psjc.org

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 will be sent out by mail.

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.

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.

MLK Day of Service

Sunday, January 15 | 11:00AM

Members and friends of PSJC are warmly invited to roll up their sleeves for a morning of work at PSJC, in our 5th Annual MLK Day of Service. We'll be prepping soup kits, packing books and clothing, making PB&J sandwiches and Gorp, working at Masbia, knitting, crafting, and taking care of our glorious shul building -- among other projects. Please save the date and join us as we work to make our corner of this complicated world a little better. For info, or to help organize ahead of the event or on the day, contact Helen Zelon: hzelon@gmail.com.

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.

Torah Parashat Vayishlach

Triennial (Genesis 32:4-33:20): Etz Hayim p. 198-206; Hertz p. 122-127

Haftarah (Ovadia 1:1-21): Etz Hayim p. 221-225; Hertz p. 137-140

For want of a few small jars...

Preparing to meet his brother Esau, from whose wrath he had fled decades earlier, Yakov moves his family and property across the Yabok River. "So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak" (Gen 32:25). "He was left alone," Rashi explains: "he went back for some small jars [pachim katanim] he had forgotten." The Talmud (Hulin 91a) which Rashi quotes adds that from this we learn that for tsadikim, righteous people like Yakov, their money is dearer than their bodies, as Yakov's action had put his life in danger. The Talmud continues, lest we think that tsadikim are "driven" by a lust for material things, that their concern stems from their careful way of life - every penny is hard and honestly earned, no monkey-business, and of course, nothing that smells of theft (gezel).

So it turns out that the most important encounter with God in Yakov's life - from which he leaves transformed (with a new name [Yisrael], the blessing for prevailing in struggles with God and man, and a muscle sprain) - happens when (because?) he went back to retrieve a few small jars. Odd? Just coincidence?

Fast-forward to Exodus 3:1, where Moses, following in Jacob's footsteps, is shepherding his father-in-law's sheep, "and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness (achar ha'midbar) and came to Horeb, the mountain of God," where, in the very next verse, Moses sees the burning bush, his most important encounter with God. "To the far side of the wilderness" seems a superfluous detail here, or is it? Rashi, quoting the Midrash, says Moshe purposely led them there, "to keep far from theft (gezel) were they to graze in other people's fields." Moses, like Yakov, seems to have a particular sensitivity (compulsion?) to avoid even a whiff of financial impropriety. Both were evidently talmidav shel Abraham, disciples of our earliest forefather, who sent his servant off to seek a wife for Isaac with ten camels, "muzzled lest they commit gezel, theft, enroute" according to Rashi (Gen 24:10).

We can only speculate - would Jacob have encountered the mysterious figure with whom he wrestled had he not gone back for those jars? Would Moses have ever seen the burning bush had he not taken his sheep to graze in the most remote wilderness? There is a message here for leaders in all generations and at all levels of governance and organization.

For want of a nail, a shoe was lost...and so, in turn, were lost a horse, a knight, a battle and the kingdom, according to the proverb; just insert "pachim katanim" for "a nail." Rashi however, as indicated, omitted the Talmudic addition about the lesson of theft to be learned here. Maybe those small jars had their own meaning for Yakov; they might have represented something of importance from his past. Our lives are composed of big objects and small jars. As the people left homeless by the recent fires in Israel attested, sometimes the latter are the more important - furniture and appliances can be replaced, but not childhood albums, mementos from family occasions, grandma's candlesticks or an old wine-stained Haggadah. We all have pachim katanim in our closets and in our souls. The Baal Shem Tov said that we should go back for them from time to time. The story of Hanukkah coming up soon teaches that even one little jar may contain the oil needed to light the darkness of our lives.

Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, CY Faculty and Coordinator, Torah Sparks For more: <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>

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.