

Friday, February 17 21 Shevat				Parashat Yitro Saturday, February 18 22 Shevat		
Candle Lighting 5:15PM Kabbalat Shabbat with David Rosen 6:30PM				Shabbat Yitro Shacharit 10:00AM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM		
Sunday February 19 23 Shevat	Monday February 20 24 Shevat	Tuesday February 21 25 Shevat	Wednesday February 22 26 Shevat	Thursday February 23 27 Shevat	Friday February 24 28 Shevat	Saturday February 25 29 Shevat
No Hebrew School	Office Closed	No Hebrew School	Morning Minyan 7:15AM No Hebrew School		Candle Lighting 5:24PM It's Friday! 10:30AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Anna Chapman 6:30PM	<i>Mishpatim</i> Shabbat Shekalim Shacharit 10:00AM Mini Minyan 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Advanced Talmud 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 (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Todah Rabbah!

To **David Nachman** for his contribution to the Kiddush Fund in memory of his mother, **Rachel Nachman**, z'l.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to **Tyndall Arrasmith** and her entire family on the death of her mother, **Anne Arrasmith**, z'l.

Yahrzeits observed 22-28 Shevat:

Celia Kalet, mother of Adina Kalet; **Esther Cohen**, mother of Marc Cohen; **Esther Rose Mehlman**, cousin of Angela Weisl; **Frieda Krasner**, mother of Bonnie Ullman; **Hyman Elworth**, uncle of Steve Elworth; **John Robinson Holmes**, uncle of Peter Holmes; **Joseph Katarivas**, father of Paulie Katarivas; **Lillian Hawthorne**, mother of Fran Hawthorne; **Louis Fishman**, father of Reba Snyder; **Mary Sandler**, grandmother of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Mildred Drucker**, grandmother of Ira Drucker; **Milton Alter**, father of Daniel Alter; **Mischa Zimmerman**, cousin of Esther Schwalb; **Moe Pollack**, grandfather of David Pollack; **Shirley Zeitlin**, mother of June Zeitlin; **Sidney Rosen**, father of David Rosen; **Warren Lionel Schnur**, father of Elizabeth Schnur and Rosanne Milic; **Zara Diamond**, mother-in-law of Carol Diamond. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

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HAMANTASCHEN BAKING CONTEST
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ALL NEW PURIM CARNIVAL

BBQ + BEER GARDEN

KOSHER

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FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Sunday, March 12, 11:30 AM - 2 PM
1320 8th Ave, Brooklyn
 For more info visit: www.psjc.org

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

Club 1320 needs your help. Everyone has a way to contribute. Donate goods, services/experiences, solicit local businesses and people in your network. Some possible donations: behind-the-scenes tour of a business/museum, tickets to sporting events or theater, a weekend at your vacation home, cooking lessons, or help us discover unique items. Use your imagination and solicit auction items and/or become a sponsor to help raise money for PSJC.

And don't forget to buy your tickets for this fresh, fun and festive fundraising fete! **Early bird price \$36 until February 22.**

Visit www.psjc.org/auction or email auction@psjc.org for more information.



Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, February 18 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Loretta Lurie and family | 474 5th Street | near 7th Avenue

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.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 | 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.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, February 25 | 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

No Hebrew School

Sunday, February 26

Rosh Hodesh Adar Minyan

Sunday, February 27 | 9:00AM

Welcome in the new month with us. We will be holding Rosh Hodesh Minyan Sunday only. Happy Adar!

PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 28 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Lev Tahor and Purim Debate

Friday, March 3 | 6:30PM

Join us for our somewhat-annual Latke-Hamantaschen debate, following our all-sung lay-led Lev Tahor service (beginning at 6:30PM). First enjoy a delicious "fake treif" potluck dinner (parve, dairy, kosher fish, and vegetarian interpretations of all those forbidden foods). Then sit back and enjoy the scholarship of some of our most illustrious members as they provide exegeses on the relative merits (and flaws) of the lovely latke and the heroic hamantaschen. Past PSJC scholarship explored the archaeological roots of the latke, the psychosocial



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development of hamantaschen, and a mathematical proof that the two foods are equivalent! RSVP requested, **sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/LevTahorMar3-PurimDebate>**.

Tzedakah Fair

Sunday, March 5 | 9:30AM-11:00AM

The entire PSJC Community is invited to join the Hebrew School for 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 aileen.heiman@psjc.org with any questions or to volunteer.

Attention lawyers: Would you like to use your legal skills to protect asylum seekers in the New York area?

Sunday, March 5 | 1:30PM - 5:00PM | Kane Street Synagogue

Please join HIAS and our Rodfei Tzedek team to learn how to apply your legal skills pro bono to protect vulnerable asylum seekers seeking protection in our community. The training will be open to congregants from various synagogues in Brooklyn. To find out more and to fill out an online volunteer application, click on the flyer attached. Contact Rachel Danzing, rachdanzing@yahoo.com or Laura Wolff, laurarscf@aol.com with questions.

Shacharit Institute's Lecture Series on Israeli Diversity and Politics: Out Of Many Voices, A Common Future

Join us as PSJC co-sponsors a 5-Part Conversation Lecture Series in Brownstone Brooklyn on March 8, March 29, April 6, May 10 and May 25. Visit www.psjc.org for more details.

Purim is coming on Saturday night - Come to hear the Megillah and stay for the party!

Saturday, March 11 | 6:30PM

Purim 5777 Megillah will be read and interspersed with musical Purimspeil ripped from the Broadway stage. Following services, we will continue the celebration, dancing to the music of our fantastic local rock band, starring Marc Rentzer, Nir Sadovnik, Steve Herskovitz and others! And if that's not enough, come back at 10:00AM Sunday morning, before the Purim Carnival, for Shacharit Services and to hear the Megillah read a second time before the Carnival. If you would like to participate in the Purimspeil, and can carry a tune, please contact Elizabeth Schnur: esschnur@gmail.com.

Come hear our PSJC HaZamir teens sing at THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE!

Sunday, March 26 | 4:00PM

HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir is holding a gala concert at Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House. HaZamir, a pluralistic Jewish musical youth movement with 35 choral chapters in the US and Israel, brings together teens from all streams of Jewish life to perform Jewish choral music at the highest musical standard. Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience as hundreds of HaZamir singers perform a program of contemporary and classical Jewish choral works celebrating the city of Jerusalem. We have strong PSJC representation from our HaZamir Brooklyn chapter, with 7 of our teens (Shoshie Brickman, Talia Goldstein, Ayden Holzkenner, Anya Kaufmann, Shayna Klainberg, Elana Nussbaum-Cohen, and Leora Singer) performing as part of the ensemble!



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.

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

Parashat Yitro

Triennial (Exodus 18:1-20:22/3): Etz Hayim p. 432-450; Hertz p. 288-301

Haftarah ((Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6): Etz Hayim p.451-455; Hertz p. 302-305

Sin: The Upside

Of the Ten Commandments, only four will land you in jail if you are convicted of violating them.

The winners: 1. You shall not swear falsely by God's name (assuming you are under oath). 2. You shall not murder. 3. You shall not steal. 4. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (assuming, again, some court proceeding) All this leaves us a lot of wiggle room to sin. If we want to create a sculptured image and worship it, no one will stop us. If we want to dishonor a parent, we may. If we want to spend the Sabbath day laboring away at some menial task, let's shvitz to our heart's delight. It's a free world. The opportunities for sin abound, and ironically, it is in such an environment that the possibility for living the sacred life is greatest.

The reason is simple. In a world where no one can sin, no one can know the downside to sin. One may do good, but doing good would be a mechanical, instinctual act. There would be no depth to it. But in a world where the choice to sin is ours to make, we can witness firsthand what a difference a mitzvah rendered—or not rendered—can make.

In parashat Yitro, God reminds the Jewish people that “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians...” (Exodus 19:4). And Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhak of France (Rashi, 1040-1105) comments that the “you have seen” is critical, because God did not send the Jewish people a written account or third party witnesses to report back. Rather, the Israelites saw what happened to sinners with their own eyes. The Israelites were given a visual demonstration of what happens to a people who believe in idols, who have no sense of the sacred, who abuse others and so forth. In a sense, these slaves were the luckiest people ever, for in seeing what happens to such people, they could begin to appreciate the depth of wisdom borne in the Ten Commandments.

Will observing Shabbat make you a better person? It depends. It depends on why you are observing Shabbat and what its observance means to you. To close your business only because the law demands it is rather shallow. But to close your business because one out of seven days should be devoted to something greater than yourself—that is the start of creating the sacred. As for those whose only goal is to amass wealth daily—what a pity. However much money they earn, it will never be enough. In a world of freedom, which is the world in which we reside, we can see—with our own eyes—the deleterious effects of sin. We can see the hurt and distrust in a family where adultery has taken place; we can see the wasted energy and time of those devoted to the idols of money and power; we can see diminished self-esteem of those who covet what is not theirs. In granting us the freedom to witness firsthand the corrosive effects of sin, God blesses us deeply, for we can only then begin to fathom the wisdom of God's cosmic and life-sustaining guidance.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion by Rabbi Perry Raphael Rank is the rabbi of Midway Jewish Center, Syosset, Long Island, and a former President of the Rabbinical Assembly. 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/>

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.