



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

July 7-15, 2017 | 13-21 Tammuz, 5777  
Shabbat Balak

Friday, July 7   13 Tammuz				Shabbat Balak Saturday, July 8   14 Tammuz		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Charlie Urich</b>   7:00PM Candle Lighting   8:12PM				Shabbat Morning Services   10:00AM Mishneh Torah Class - Laws of Teshuvah   1:30PM		
Sunday July 9 15 Tammuz	Monday July 10 16 Tammuz	Tuesday July 11 17 Tammuz	Wednesday July 12 18 Tammuz	Thursday July 13 19 Tammuz	Friday July 14 20 Tammuz	Saturday July 15 21 Tammuz
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Elizabeth Schnur</b> 7:00PM  Candle Lighting 8:08PM	Shabbat <i>Pinchas</i>  Shacharit   10:00AM  Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM
<b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b> 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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrative Assistant (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Mo Weissfellner, Ellen Spilka** and their children, **Charlie, Harry** and **Paul** on the death of **Mo's** mother, **Irene Rachel Weissfellner**, z"l.

The family of our former PSJC member, **Myra Rosenbaum**, z"l.

**Yahrzeits observed 14-20 Tammuz:**

**Abraham Heffler**, grandfather of Barry Blumenfeld; **Carol Brahm**, mother of Laura Brahm; **Eileen Baron**, sister of Jeffrey Baron; **Marge Palmer**, mother of Alan Palmer; **Mary Hoffert**, grandmother of Pamela Kaplan; **Roberta Weiner**, friend of June Zeitlin; **Sarah Zelko**, mother of Gary Zelko. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

For a Sweet New Year - Support PSJC with Honey From the Heart!	
<p>Order honey for your friends and family and support PSJC while doing it!</p> <p>Your cost is <b>\$11.00 per jar</b> which includes shipping and handling within the United States.</p> <p>We will gladly mail orders outside the United States for an additional fee.</p> <p>Order by <b>Monday, July 24</b> for free shipping! For more information and to order at: <a href="http://orthoney.com/psj">http://orthoney.com/psj</a></p>	

**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

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

## Please Consider Making Your Contribution Today!

We now call upon all members to join our **\$750,000** Capital Campaign to provide **immediate repairs** and to ensure that PSJC continues to stand strong well into the 21st century!

Please stand up and generously donate to maintain and preserve our cherished spiritual home for this and future generations.

We are grateful for every donation and pledge!

Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



**PSJC Knitters** is on hiatus during July and August and will resume in September. For more information contact [marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com)

### Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, July 8 | 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.

### Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, July 15 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at Prospect Park during the summer months. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a dairy or pareve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please email [shabbatshmooze@psjc.org](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org), with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

## Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2017-2018  
Email [aileen.heiman@psjc.org](mailto:aileen.heiman@psjc.org) for more information.

## Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

Renew your membership today! It's easy and can all be done online.

Visit [www.psjc.org](http://www.psjc.org) and log in to your account.

We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC!

We would love to get to 100% participation. No amount is too big or too small.

Please contact Eli Wolfhagen by email [treasurer@psjc.org](mailto:treasurer@psjc.org), if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

**To request an Aliyah or other honor**, email Rabbi Carter a week in advance ([rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ira.drucker@psjc.org).



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### Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 22 | 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 [aronrhalf@gmail.com](mailto:aronrhalf@gmail.com)

### PSJC Trip to the Center for Jewish History

Tuesday, July 25 | 6:00PM | 15 West 16th Street, Manhattan

Joel Levy invites interested PSJC members to visit an extraordinary exhibition presented by Corpus Christi College, Oxford; the Center for Jewish History; & Yeshiva University Museum. The free special tour is followed by a talk by Gerard Baker, editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal (media sponsor of the exhibition) who will speak at 6:30PM on "News and Journalism in the Age of Trump." A reception will follow.

**To RSVP or for more information send an email to [jkaplan@cjh.org](mailto:jkaplan@cjh.org).**

The exhibition, "500 Years of Treasures from Oxford" showcases in America for the first time an extraordinary array of ancient manuscripts, books, and silver, including what has been called "the most important collection of Anglo-Jewish manuscripts in the world."

The 50 works include a late 12th-century Ashkenazi siddur, thought to be the oldest extant anywhere, that was owned by a Sephardic Jew from the Iberian Peninsula who emigrated to England and wrote notes on his business dealings in Judeo-Arabic, a 13th-century manuscript of Samuel and Chronicles that was used by Christians to learn Hebrew, and two of the oldest manuscripts of Rashi.

### Tisha B'Av Services

Monday, July 31 | 8:45PM

Tuesday, August 1 | 7:00AM

The month of Av is almost upon us. We are deep in the midst of this season of reflection and semi-mourning, this low-point in the annual calendar of the Jewish people. Tisha B'Av The 9th of Av, the fast day on which we commemorate the destruction of the first and second Temples, will be observed this year on Monday night, July 31. We will begin together at 8:45PM with the chanting of Eicha (the Book of Lamentations) while sitting on low chairs or on the floor in the lower sanctuary. On Tuesday morning, we come together again for services at 7:00AM.

### Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan

Wednesday, August 23 | 7:00AM

### A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah

August 21-25 | 9:00AM-3:00PM

Ha'Sadnah (Hebrew for "The Workshop") is a boutique children's art program run by designer, Jordyn Jacobs, and artist, Reut Asimini. Ha'Sadnah art programs are designed to spark each child's creativity and to encourage curiosity and a handmade approach. Our craft program will focus on textile arts, including sewing, embroidery, and knitting. Registration is required. Please visit: <https://www.psjc.org/event/a-back-to-school-hasadnah.html#>



**PSJC runs on community participation.** If you are interested in: **leading Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Services**, email [freddie.brooks@psjc.org](mailto:freddie.brooks@psjc.org); **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at [davening@psjc.org](mailto:davening@psjc.org); **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at [haftarah@psjc.org](mailto:haftarah@psjc.org).

## Shabbat Balak

Triennial (Numbers 22:2-22:38): Etz Hayim p. 894; Hertz p. 669

Haftarah (Micah 5:6-6:8): Etz Hayim p. 914; Hertz p. 682

### There Has Never Been Another Prophet in Israel Like Moses

The wandering Israelites repeatedly reach out to the local Middle-Eastern kingdoms to ask for safe passage through their lands and then defeat them in battle once those peace overtures have been rejected (the exception - their ignominious retreat from the Edomites in Numbers 20:21). By the time they reach the border with the Moabites the local tribes are thoroughly rattled. Balak, the king of Moab, realises that the Israelites cannot be defeated militarily and that maybe spiritual force could succeed where physical force cannot. He summons the most prestigious regional prophet, Bil'am, son of Be'or, to come and curse the Israelites for him.

What follows is a highly unsettling series of encounters between Bil'am and Balak, recounted at great length in Parshat Balak. If we had previously thought that the Israelites had an exclusive line of communication with YHVH, creator of the universe, this parashah shatters that illusion. Bil'am seems to have a degree of intimacy and constancy in his relationship with God that we may not even see amongst our own prophets. He calls God by the intimate name, YHVH, that we might have thought was reserved for the exclusive relationship between the Israelites and God; a name whispered to Moses at the burning bush. Each time that he is asked to come and curse the Israelites, Bil'am requests time to check in with God, receives clear guidance from YHVH and seems to follow it to the letter. Bil'am repeatedly and unswervingly says that he is not capable of casting powerful blessings or curses upon anyone, for he is merely a vehicle for transmitting God's will: "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold I cannot go beyond the word of YHVH my God, to do less or more" (22:18) "Have I now any power to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that shall I speak!" (22:38) "How will I curse when God has not cursed?" (23:8)

In his dealings with Balak, a local source of military and coercive political force, Bil'am seems direct and honest. In modern terms we might say that he has the courage to "talk truth to power". Despite repeated attempts at bribery and intimidation he sticks to his guns. In the end he emerges unscathed from the encounter, "returning to his place" (24:25).

The midrash (Bemidbar Rabbah 14:19) acknowledges Bil'am's greatness. Basing itself on the final verses of the Torah that emphasise Moses' stature as a leader and prophet, "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like Moses" (Deut. 34:10, a verse immortalised in the piyut "Yigdal Elohim Chai") the midrash adds, "...in Israel there arose not, but in the nations of the world he did arise, in order that the nations not be encouraged to open their mouths and say 'If only we had had a prophet like Moses then we too would have become worshipers of the Holy Blessed One'. And who was their prophet 'like Moses'? Bil'am ben Be'or." The midrash goes on to analyse the differences between Moses' prophetic skills and Bil'am's and suggests that Bil'am exceeded Moses' prophetic capacities in three distinct areas, focussing on the constancy and predictability of Bil'am's line of communication with God, an idea that seems to emerge directly from the story in the parashah.

What is the Torah teaching us here about who has access to knowledge of the will of Holy Blessed One? One of the consequences of being a monotheist is that you have to learn to share your God with everyone!

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Joel Levy, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Rabbi Joel Levy, Rosh Yeshiva, the Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem. 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.