



**PARK  
SLOPE  
JEWISH  
CENTER**

June 7-15, 2019 | 4-12 Sivan 5779  
Parashat Bamidbar

Friday, June 7   4 Sivan				Parashat Bamidbar Saturday, June 8   5 Sivan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Leora Singer/Shoshie Brickman</b> 6:30PM Candle Lighting   8:07PM				<b>Erev Shavuot</b> Shacharit   10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   11:15AM Kishkush Reading Group   1:30PM Shavuot Across Brooklyn Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot @ CBE   8:00PM		
Sunday June 9 6 Sivan	Monday June 10 7 Sivan	Tuesday June 11 8 Sivan	Wednesday June 12 9 Sivan	Thursday June 13 10 Sivan	Friday June 14 11 Sivan	Saturday June 15 12 Sivan
Shavuot Services 10:00AM  Tot Sing-a-long 11:00AM  Shavuot Family Torah 11:00AM  Shaarei Mitzvah (6th & 7th Grade) Art & Text Siyyum 11:30AM  Community Kiddush and Potluck Picnic 12:45PM	Shavuot II Services 10:00AM		Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Geshet & Madrichim Celebration 6:15PM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM  Pop Up Shabbat in the Park! 4:30PM  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b> 6:30PM  Final Teen Shabbat Dinner 7:30PM  Candle Lighting 8:10PM	Shabbat Nasso  <b>Simcha Shabbat</b>  Shacharit   10:00AM  Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM  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, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Elana Ayalon, Director of Administration (office@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**Today Rabbah**

To **Mindi Wernick** and **Malkie Grozalsky** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Mindi's mother, **Ahuva Wernick, z"l!**

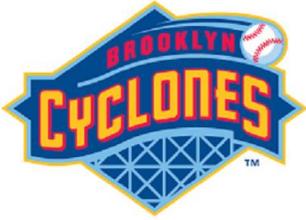
**Yahrzeits observed 5-11Sivan:**

**Ann Levy**, mother of Joel Levy; **Edith Abrams**, grandmother of Jeffrey Marker; **Golda Handfinger**, aunt of Merrie Handfinger; **James Hammon**, father of Kate Hammon; **Lillian Calem**, aunt of Fran Hawthorne; **Marianne Santo**, mother of Helene Santo; **May Pollack**, mother of Diane Burhenne; **Michael Wallen**, uncle of Ira Singer; **Ove Erichsen**, father of Karin Ulman; **Reyna McGowen**, mother of Angela Weisl; **Richard Pick**, grandfather of Michele Bonan; **Saul Kravitz Kuperhand**, father of David Kuperhand; **Steven Buchbinder**, cousin of Marla Kessler; **Sylvia Sheber**, mother of Iris Sheber; **William Abramson**, uncle of Steve Elworth.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*



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**Save the Date! PSJC goes to the Cyclones**

Sunday, June 23 | 4:00PM - **Deadline Saturday, June 15**

Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees

Tickets are \$18.00 each includes a Kosher Hot Dog and soft drink as well as the fashionable Cyclones cap, and an additional donation to would be appreciated.

Buy tickets now! Visit: <http://www.psjc.org/event/bklyn-cyclones.html>

**7th Annual Israel Film Center Festival | June 3 - 12**

This year PSJC is partnering with the Israel Film Center Festival at the JCC on the Upper West Side. Purchase your tickets today enter code **psjc19** for 25% off general admission: <https://jccmanhattan.org/film/israel-film-center-festival/>.

Saturday, June 8

**Kishkush Reading Group** | 1:30 PM

**Shavuot June 8-10**

Saturday, June 8

**Shavuot Across Brooklyn Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot @ CBE** | 8:00PM

A night of learning with your fellow Brooklynites at the start of Shavuot. Nathan Englander Keynote Speaker.

Sunday, June 9 | **Shavuot I**

**Shavuot Services** | 10:00AM (Main Sanctuary)

**Shaarei Mitzvah** (6th & 7th Grade) Art & Text Siyyum | 11:30AM (as part of services)

Celebrate with our B'nai Mitzvah families as they share the glass art they created through a study of Jewish values with Rabbi Carie and PSJC member Aura Shahaf Wolfe.

**Tot Sing-a-long** | 11:00AM (Downstairs)

A Torah themed sing-a-long with Abe!

**Shavuot Family Torah** | 11:00AM (Downstairs)

An interactive exploration of receiving Torah and the Ten Commandments with Aileen. Following the program we will have Torah topping ice cream sundaes!

**Community Kiddush and Potluck Picnic** | 12:45PM

**Shavuot Services** | 10:00AM (Main Sanctuary)

Monday, June 10 | **Shavuot II**

**Gesher & Madrichim Celebration**

Wednesday, June 12 | 6:15PM

*Come for sushi and celebrate a year of teen learning and leadership at PSJC! Plus help guide the planning for next year and dessert making!*

**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. **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), reading Torah, email Rabbi Sue Oren at [leyning@psjc.org](mailto:leyning@psjc.org). **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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### Hebrew School Registration is Live!

Registration for 2019-2020 Hebrew School is OPEN!

Join us for another year of Jewish learning!

[https://www.psjc.org/hebrew\\_school\\_registration](https://www.psjc.org/hebrew_school_registration)

Deadline to avoid \$100 late fee is **Friday, June 30, 2019**

Friday, June 14

#### **It's Friday Music Class | 10:00AM**

Come sing and play with Abe every week for a fun-filled music class that combines your favorite Shabbat and children's songs, with a story, movement and more. Taught by a professional music instructor, our open-space, informal class allows children ages 0 - 3 and their grownups to explore music and Shabbat! Each class ends with a snack and open-play so that caregivers can connect with each other. We look forward to having you join us! \$15/drop-in class\* or \$50 for a 4-class series in June (paid in advance) RSVP: [https://www.psjc.org/sing\\_play\\_connect](https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect)

#### **Pop Up Shabbat in the Park! | 4:30PM**

Join us near Harmony Playground (near the 11th street entrance) for popsicles and music!

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM**

#### **Final Teen Shabbat Dinner | 7:30PM**

Celebrate with Tsivya at her final Teen Shabbat dinner with PSJC! RSVP for location.

Saturday, June 15

#### **Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM**

Join us as we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their June birthdays & anniversaries.

#### **Kishkush Acharei Kiddush | 1:00PM**

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us after services and kiddush where we have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Those who aren't sure if they are "fluent" or not are all welcome! Contact Michal:

[Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com](mailto:Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com) for more details.

#### **Shabbat Shmooze | 1:30PM**

Home of Elizabeth Schnur and Peter Holmes

Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck 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.

#### **Shinshinim Farewell Party**

Thursday, June 20 | 7:00PM | Union Temple - 17 Eastern Parkway

Join us as we celebrate and appreciate the incredible work of our community's Shinshinim! Kosher dinner will be served. RSVP to [noamw@jafi.org](mailto:noamw@jafi.org)

#### **Ready for Camp! Shabbat Kulanu**

Friday, June 21 | 6:30PM

Grab your favorite camp shirt and join Aileen and Abe for a picnic-style Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu in the yard!

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](mailto:gmach@psjc.org) or [hevrakadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevrakadisha@psjc.org)

**Have announcements?** Email by Monday 5:00PM ([office@psjc.org](mailto:office@psjc.org))

## Parashat Bamidbar

Triennial: Numbers 3:14-4:20 | Etz Hayim p.779; Hertz p.576

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22 | Etz Hayim p.786; Hertz p.581

## D'var Torah: Becoming Ownerless

The fourth book of the Torah, Bamidbar, begins: "And YHVH spoke to Moshe Bamidbar Sinai (In the wilderness of Sinai), in the Ohel Moed (Tent of Meeting)... saying..." This is the first time that God is described as speaking to Moshe in the wilderness of Sinai in the Ohel Moed. From here on the communication between God and Moshe takes place solely Bamidbar Sinai, in the human plane, at ground level, in the Tent of Meeting.

It might be supposed that talking to God and receiving Torah in a tent in the middle of a vast encampment would be a very different experience from encountering the creator of the universe high on a mountain amidst thunder and fire.

Midrash Rabbah, however, tries to link these two places for receiving Torah as follows:

Why does the Torah say "Bamidbar Sinai"? From here the rabbis taught that the Torah was given in/through/by three things: in fire, in water, and in the desert. How do we know in fire? (From Exodus Chapter 19) "And Har Sinai smoked in every part because YHVH descended upon it in fire." How do we know in water? (From Judges 5:4-5) "The earth trembled and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water...that Sinai before YHVH the God of Israel." And how do we know in the desert? (From Bamidbar 1:1) "And YHVH spoke to Moshe Bamidbar Sinai." And why was it given through these three things? Just as these things are free for all inhabitants of the earth, so words of Torah are free, as is written: (Isaiah 55:1) "Let everyone who is thirsty come to the water..."

Despite the fact that God's revelation on Mount Sinai takes place amidst spectacular displays of fire and water, whereas the desert revelation proceeds privately in a tent, the Midrash suggests that there are commonalities between the Fire/Water God of the Mountain and the Desert God of the Tent of Meeting. The Midrash asks why the Torah was given through fire, water and desert; and answers that, like these three things, Torah is absolutely elemental and so cannot be claimed by any one person or group. It is as foolish to claim that you own the word of God as it is to claim that you own fire!

The Midrash continues as follows: 'A different thing: "And YHVH spoke to Moshe Bamidbar Sinai": this teaches that anyone who does not make themselves like a desert (Kemidbar) – *hefker* (ownerless) - is not capable of acquiring Wisdom and Torah. Hence it teaches "Bamidbar Sinai".' This section of the Midrash is playing with the close visual similarity between the phrase in the Torah "Bamidbar" (in the desert) and the word "Kemidbar" (like a desert). Now it is the recipients of the Torah who must themselves become "like a desert". To receive the Torah we must also be like the wilderness: "*hefker*" or ownerless. The Torah is accessible to all, owned by none and it can only be acquired by one who makes themselves ownerless in turn.

The great challenge for those of us who wish to "acquire" the Torah is to figure out what does it mean to make oneself "*hefker*" or ownerless? In what way are we not "*hefker*"? By what, or by whom, are we owned? How does this ownership prevent us from acquiring wisdom?

At the Conservative Yeshiva we see four types of students who most easily make the leap into immersive Torah study: 1) recent college graduates, 2) people making a career change, and 3) those given a sabbatical, and 4) retirees. What all have in common is a schedule that gives them more than 2 or 3 weeks of vacation. With only short vacations here and there, most of us either fulfill family obligations or flee from all obligation. But when one is truly "ownerless" and stops relating to one's "free" time as "vacation" it is natural to seek out new experiences that require commitment, but enrich one's life intellectually, socially, and spiritually. (Over 100 students coming to the CY this summer already know this.)

The challenge for our graduates, and for all Jews who don't have the time to go to yeshiva, is how to set aside "ownerless" time each week, to engage in deep Torah study, and be reminded to whom we are most truly obligated.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joel Levy**, *Conservative Yeshiva Faculty & Rosh Yeshiva* "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.