



June 9-17, 2017 | 15-23 Sivan, 5777
Shabbat Beha'alotecha

Friday, June 9 15 Sivan				Shabbat Beha'alotecha Saturday, June 10 16 Sivan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 7:00PM Shaarei Mitzvah Dinner 7:30PM Candle Lighting 8:08PM				Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM Family Torah 10:30AM Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Book Club 1:30PM		
Sunday June 11 17 Sivan	Monday June 12 18 Sivan	Tuesday June 13 19 Sivan	Wednesday June 14 20 Sivan	Thursday June 15 21 Sivan	Friday June 16 22 Sivan	Saturday June 17 23 Sivan
Community Conversation about PSJC's Future and Status Report on the North Wall 11:00AM -1:00PM			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Anna Chapman 7:00PM Candle Lighting 8:12PM	Shabbat <i>Shelach Lecha</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Shabbat Shmooze 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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrative Assistant (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Todah Rabbah

To the **Birnbaum, Brickman and Hellerstein-Singer** families for sponsoring *kiddush* in honor of **Josh, Shoshie** and **Leora's** graduation from high school, as well as **Leora's** graduation from Prozdor.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Carol Diamond and her family on the death of her friend, **Stuart Winston, z"l**.

Allen Brafman and his family on the death of his wife, **Edith Brafman, z"l**.

Carol Diamond and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, **Ernie Schimel, z"l**.

Yahrzeits observed 16-22 Sivan:

Benjamin Cohen, father of Barbara Hopard; **Carrie Septimus**, mother of Matthew Septimus; **David Schwartz**, father of Torrene Einhorn; **Deborah Coquillon**, friend of Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk; **Elias Berliner**, father of Sophie Weber; **Fanny Katarivas**, mother of Paulie Katarivas; **Isidor Oren**, father of Sue Oren; **Joel Youner**, grandfather of Steven Radwell; **Kenneth Brodziak**, cousin of Fredrica Brooks; **Meir Itskovitch**, grandfather of Nir Sadovnik; **Phil Smith**, father of Ann Smith; **Robert Cooper**, brother of David Cooper; **Rose Robins**, grandmother of Susan Robins; **Ruth Singer**, mother of Naomi Singer; **Shirley Korashan**, mother of Marc Korashan; **Yetta Levine**, grandmother of Yehudit Moch. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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.



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

You're Invited: Community Conversation about PSJC's Future and Status Report on the North Wall

Sunday, June 11 | 11:00AM -1:00PM

Join PSJC friends and members at a **Community Meeting** to hear the recommendations of the Etz Chaim working group, developed over months of conversations with hundreds of PSJC members, and learn about the scope and progress of PSJC's building reinforcement and restoration project and related L'dor V'dor Capital Campaign. We'll provide a light nosh and plenty of coffee: Please save the date to have a voice in the future of our community.



Israel Film Center Festival

June 8-13 | JCC

Join PSJC at the 5th Annual Israel Film Center Festival which runs June 8-13. Catch the most exciting new films from Israel as part of New York's largest celebration of Israeli cinema. For more information and to purchase tickets click please visit www.israelfilmcenter.org/festival2017.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, June 9 | 7:00PM

Shaarei Mitzvah 2017-2018 Classes Friday Night Potluck Dinner

Saturday, June 9 | 7:30PM

Shabbat Kulanu

Saturday, June 10 | 11:15AM

Kulanu means "all together," so join us for our brand new, all-ages, musical service. We will meet once a month on Shabbat mornings during the school year and approximately eight times a year on Friday evenings. Aileen will lead an inclusive Shabbat service that will get you on your feet and in the Shabbat spirit. Shabbat morning services will include a short Torah service and as a community will join with the main service for concluding prayers and kiddush.

Book Club: Between Friends

Saturday, June 10 | 1:30PM

We will discuss Amos Oz's *Between Friends* (חברים בין), a book of linked short stories (or a novel in stories) set on a kibbutz in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The 2013 hardcover edition and the 2014 paperback are each 192 pp., so it should not take long to read. BPL has eight copies of the hardcover and six of the paperback as well as an ebook edition. Place separate holds on both the hard cover and paperback editions and take whichever comes in first.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, June 17 | 1:30PM | near 10th Avenue

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together in the home of a PSJC member. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. Please contact shabbatshmooze@psjc.org if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze.

PSJC at Brooklyn Cyclones Opening Day with T-Shirt Promo Giveaway!

Tuesday, June 20 | 7:00PM (Gates open at 5:30PM)

PSJC goes to the Cyclones Opening Day opening game. Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees. We will be sitting behind home plate. It's the Brooklyn Cyclones Opening Day!

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.

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 winter 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#>



Stoop Shabbat

Friday, June 23 | 4:30PM

Come stop by the stoop for stories, songs, and some ice cream to celebrate the start of summer!

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Minyan

Wednesday, June 24 | 10:00AM

Thursday, June 25 | 10:00AM

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, June 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

PSJC Knitters

Monday, July 10 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com

Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2017-2018
https://www.psjc.org/hebrew_school_registration

Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

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

Visit www.psjc.org and log in to your account.

That means we have already begun planning for 5778!

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 by email treasurer@psjc.org if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

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. **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.



Shabbat Beha'alotecha

Triennial (Numbers 8:1-9:14): Etz Hayim p. 816; Hertz p. 605

Haftarah (Zecharia 2:14-4:7): Etz Hayim p. 836; Hertz p. 620

What's Preferable - Freedom or Free Fish?

The story is told of a young monk who joins a silent monastery. The rules are simple, the abbot tells him. "You can speak two words every ten years." After ten years the young monk says "Bed hard." Ten years later, "Food bad." After 30 years he tells the abbot, "I quit." The senior monk looks at him and says, "I'm not surprised. You've been complaining ever since you got here." We can pretty safely assume the monk in the story was not Jewish – his first complaint is not about the food. For me Baha'alotecha is the saddest parashah in the Torah. It begins gloriously - the Menorah is prepared, the silver trumpets readied for the departure from Sinai, the Fiery Cloud is in place to lead them to the land "the Lord spoke of." The first ten chapters of Numbers have the air of a new beginning, all running to plan. The Divine plan, according to Rashi (10:29 and 10:32), was to bring them to Israel "in three days."

But then it all collapsed, like a giant soufflé. While the 39 year delay in the desert is usually attributed to the episode of the spies next week in Shlach lecha (ch 14), Rashi (quoting the Midrash) says it began with the mitonanim, the "complainers" (11:1). The people then demand meat and recall, with the tone of "the good old days," "the fish which we ate free in Egypt, the cucumbers and melons, the leeks, onions and garlic" (11:5). Actually they had made similar complaints shortly after leaving Egypt (Ex. 16:3): "In Egypt we had plenty of meat and bread." Complaining about the food, early and often, is a very old Jewish custom; no waiting ten or twenty years.

The recollection of the time in Egypt is astonishing; the experience there – slavery, avodat parech (hard labor), brutal taskmasters – is reduced to food in abundance or even free. Nostalgia is memory after the facts have been deleted. Psychologists say that the tendency to "brighten" the past is actually positive for our emotional wellbeing. But one word is particularly striking – "the fish we ate hīnam – free." Several commentators explain it literally: fish were plentiful in Nile; the Egyptians would feed the slaves fish so they'd be strong for work.

Rashi rejects that idea – if the Egyptians didn't give them straw for bricks it was hardly likely they would let them eat fish free. Hīnam for Rashi means hīnam min hamitsvot, free from the commandments (11:5). At Sinai the children of Israel received the Torah, the commandments upon which the life and conduct of the Jewish people are based. The Midrash tells how the Israelites "departed from Sinai" – they fled from the message of Sinai, Torah and mitzvot, like children running from school when the bell rings. Am Yisrael in those days was subservient to the material side of life – slaves to bread and circuses, or, perhaps, to Sushi and the football games. We're happy, let's go back to Egypt; don't bother us with Torah. Are things so different today?

Rebbe Elazar Ben Azaria articulates the equilibrium at the heart of Judaism (Pirkei Avot 3:21) – im ein kemach ein torah, if there is no flour (material sustenance) there is no Torah, and vice versa. We have to include and appreciate both. Judaism is neither ascetic, as some religions, ancient and modern, nor pleasure-obsessed, as so much of western culture today. Striking that balance is the challenge the Jews faced at Sinai and that we face today.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb. Torah Sparks, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb is a CY Faculty and Coordinator, 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.