



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

May 19-27, 2017 | 23-2 Sivan, 5777
Shabbat Behar-Behukotai

Friday, May 19 23 Iyar				Shabbat Behar-Behukotai Saturday, May 20 24 Iyar		
Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:52PM				Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM (Judy Ribnick will be leading Musaf and giving the D'var Torah) Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM		
Sunday May 21 25 Iyar	Monday May 22 26 Iyar	Tuesday May 23 27 Iyar	Wednesday May 24 28 Iyar	Thursday May 25 29 Iyar	Friday May 26 1 Sivan	Saturday May 27 2 Sivan
Hebrew School Picnic 9:30AM Ross Brann 1:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM		PJ Library - It's Friday! Music Class 10:30AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Mishkan Minyan 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:59PM	Shabbat <i>Bamidbar</i> Shacharit 10:00AM 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 **Steve Elworth** for his contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of his mother, **Elaine** this Shabbat.
To **Angelica Condon** for her years of service at Park Slope Jewish Center and we wish you good fortune on your future endeavors.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:
Carol Diamond and her family on the death of her brother in law, **Ernie Schimel**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 24-1 Sivan:

Casey Young, neighbor of Jenna Mandel-Ricci; **Eva Blustein**, mother of Jeffrey Blustein; **Ida Frankelman Steinberg**, aunt of Sandra Linenschmidt; **Ida Melet Schwartz**, mother of Torrene Einhorn; **Joel Rosenberg**, brother of Dale Rosenberg; **Lincoln and Miles Mildenberg**, sons of Jonathan and Sandy Mildenberg; **Ludwig Fleischmann**, father of David Fleischmann; **Morris Apfelberg**, observed by the PSJC Community; **Paul Gotler**, father of Marcia Gotler; **Sue Desheh**, friend of Elizabeth Schnur and Peter Holmes. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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

Tuesday, June 20 | 7:00PM (Gates open at 5:30PM) **Deadline Monday, June 5**
PSJC goes to the Cyclones Opening Day opening game. Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees. We will be sitting behind home plate. Tickets are \$15.00 each, and an additional donation to would be appreciated. It's the Brooklyn Cyclones Opening Day! Buy tickets now! Visit: <http://www.psjc.org/form/brooklyn-cyclones-2017.html>.



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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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#>



Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu

Friday, May 19 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe and Aileen. Everyone is welcome! Main entrees will be provided. Please bring a substantial salad/veggie side or desert to share. RSVPs are encouraged but not required <https://www.psjc.org/form/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>.

The Jews of Spain: Alba Toscano

Friday, May 19, 2017 | 8:00pm

Following Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu services led by Abe and Aileen, please join us all for a vegetarian/dairy potluck and a dessert discussion about The Jews of Spain, with our special guest, Alba Toscano.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, May 20 | 1:30PM | Hosted by Les and Susana Honig | 459 7th 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 Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share.

End of Year Hebrew School Picnic

Sunday, May 21 | 9:30AM

We join together to honor and celebrate our teachers, students, and families, and then head to the park for a picnic!

Balfour at 100, Six-Day War Plus 50, and Trump at 4 months: the Implications for the Jewish community Here and Worldwide with Cornell Professor, Ross Brann

Sunday, May 21 | 1:00PM

Ross Brann returns to PSJC as part of the ILJB to once again share his impressive insight and understanding of world affairs, particularly of Israel and the Middle East, to help us understand this serious historic moment in which we find ourselves. Suggested Donation \$10.

PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 23 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Dr. Eilon Schwartz: Towards a New Vision for Israeli Society. (Shaharit Institute Series Conclusion)

Thursday, May 25 | 7:00PM | Congregation Mount Sinai

Dr. Eilon Schwartz is the CEO of Shaharit and the visionary behind its work across the communities of Israeli society.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, May 26 | 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.



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Advanced Talmud

Saturday, May 27 | 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

Shavuot - Communal Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Tuesday, May 30 | 8:00PM | CBE

Please join PSJC for Shavuot Across Brooklyn as we come together for an all-night celebration for the holiday of Shavuot commemorating the giving of the Ten Commandments. Please RSVP and see the full schedule at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1159039490872508>

Shavuot Services

Wednesday, May 31 | 10:00AM

Thursday, June 1 | 10:00AM

Shavuot Potluck Picnic

Thursday, June 1 | 1:00PM

PSJC Families and Friends after services let's walk together over to Prospect Park and have a picnic. Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share.

Office Closed

Wednesday, May 31

Thursday, June 1

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, June 3 | 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.

Israel Film Center Festival

May 21 - June 13 | JCC

Join PSJC at the 5th Annual Israel Film Center Festival 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.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, June 5 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

Rodfei Tzedek Meeting

Tuesday, June 8 | 7:15PM

Please join us as a community sit down together to consider how we as PSJC can expand our efforts and become a community that truly is RODFEI TZEDEK - Pursuers of Justice. RSVP to rabbicarie@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. **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.



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Triennial (Leviticus 25:1-38): Etz Hayim p. 738; Hertz p. 531

Haftarah (Jeremiah 16:19-17:14): Etz Hayim p. 762; Hertz p. 551

What's Shmita have to do with Mount Sinai?

"And the Lord spoke to Moshe at Har Sinai," Parshat Behar begins, enumerating the laws of shmita, the release of the land every seven years. That sounds quite simple, but Rashi here makes perhaps the most famous of all his comments on the Torah - Mah inyan shmitah etsel Har Sinai? "What is the connection of the laws of shmita to Mount Sinai?" Rashi's comment has become a coin of Hebrew parlance for a non-sequitur, "what does this have to do with that?" But Rashi did not mean it in a casual fashion, and he answers himself – just as the laws and rules about Shmita came from Har Sinai, so did all the mitsvot come from Har Sinai (i.e. from God).

At the risk of sounding presumptuous, I suggest that Rashi's question might be better than his answer. The book Vayikra, which we finish this Shabbat, begins 9 months after the revelation at Mount Sinai. Vayikra opens with God speaking to Moshe me'ohel mo'ed, at the Tent of Meeting (the Tabernacle) which the children of Israel built at the end of the book of Shmot (Exodus). So Rashi is calling attention to a discrepancy of time/place in the text - why does the Torah note that the shmita laws were given at a location the people had left almost a year earlier? But he himself does not address this chronological issue.

Ibn Ezra (12th Spain) does. He says shmita was actually told before what's told in Vayikra, and that this verse shows that events in the Torah are not told in chronological order (ein mukdam u'me'uchar b'torah), a matter about which the commentators have heated debates. Rashbam (12th C, Ashkenaz, Rashi's grandson) agrees, it was given "before the Tent of Meeting was erected." These commentators focus on the literal meaning of the text in the verses which mention locations when God speaks.

Rashi, who said (in his comment on Gen 3:8) that he was just explaining "the simple meaning of the text" (v'ani lo bati eleh l'pshuto shel mikra - sounds like "I'm just a country lawyer..."), is commenting here on the level of authority – the Torah was given at Sinai complete, and shmita is the classical example of this. Ramban (Spain 13th century), citing other cases where a law was given expressly at Sinai and then expanded on later, takes sharp issue with Rashi on this. After quoting Rashi's comment in full, he says v'eino nachon b'einai clal - "I think this is all wrong."

I'll suggest two possible reasons for Rashi's focus on the ideological importance. Historically, since Rabbinic times, the rabbis have had to deal with factions which denied the Divine authority of Torah sh'bichtav, the Oral Torah. The Pharisees, our rabbinic ancestors, were challenged by the Sadducees on this issue, and the Karaites claimed that only the Written Torah was authoritative, with significant success in the Middle Ages, so Rashi comment here could be related to that. Yehuda Nachshoni, a Torah commentator in the 20th Century (Studies in the Weekly Parashah) says Rashi's choice of shmita as the classic example of the essential character of the Divine Revelation to Moses at Sinai is conceptual and tied to the special character of Shmita. Shmita, he says, was revolutionary – it introduces to the world the concepts of tikun olam, social equality, and faith and confidence in God. In Nachshoni's view, there is no other mitzva as "value packed" as shmita, and this is why Rashi chose it. Nothing better represents the Sinai legacy.

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. 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.

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