



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

May 31 - June 8, 2019 26 Iyyar-5 Sivan 5779
Parashat Behukotai

Friday, May 31 26 Iyyar				Parashat Behukotai Saturday, June 1 27 Iyyar		
Lev Tahor: Game Night! 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:02PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Book Club 1:30PM		
Sunday June 2 28 Iyyar	Monday June 3 29 Iyyar	Tuesday June 4 1 Sivan	Wednesday June 5 2 Sivan	Thursday June 6 3 Sivan	Friday June 7 4 Sivan	Saturday June 8 5 Sivan
		Rosh Chodesh Minyan 7:00AM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Leora Singer/ Shoshie Brickman 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:07PM	Shabbat Bemidbar Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Reading Group 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, 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)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Samantha Chan** and **Andrew Ravin** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Aviyah being Bat Mitzvah this year!

Yahrzeits observed 27 Iyyar – 4 Sivan:

Casey Young, neighbor of Jenna Mandel-Ricci; **Eva Blustein**, mother of Jeffrey Blustein; **Ida Melet Schwartz**, mother of Torrene Einhorn; **Joel Rosenberg**, brother of Dale Rosenberg; **Lincoln and Miles Mildenberg**, sons of Jonathan and Sandy Mildenberg; **Miguel Michalovitz**, uncle of Diana Duchowny; **Morris Apfelberg**, observed by the PSJC community; **Rachel Spruchman**, great-grandmother of Jan Orzeck; **Stuart Winston**, friend of Carol Diamond. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



Save the Date! PSJC goes to the Cyclones
 Sunday, June 23 | 4:00PM - **Deadline Wednesday, June 5**
 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>

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



PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER

May 31 - June 8, 2019 26 Iyyar-5 Sivan 5779
Parashat Behukotai

Book Club - *Waking Lions* (Leha'ir Areyot)

Saturday, June 1 | 1:30PM

Join us when Fairleigh Dickinson University anthropology professor and longtime PSJC member David Rosen and writer and book critic David Cooper will co-lead a discussion of *Waking Lions* (Leha'ir Areyot) by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen, a novel about Eritrean illegal migrants and the Israelis whose lives intersect with them in Beersheba. BPL has ten print English copies and both English and Hebrew ebook editions. An audiobook version is available from audible.com.

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/>.

Rosh Hodesh Sivan Minyan

Tuesday, June 4 | 7:00AM

It's Friday Music Class - Summer

Friday, June 7 | 10:00AM

Saturday, June 8

Kishkush Reading Group | 8:00 PM

Shavuot June 8-10

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

Saturday, June 8

A night of learning with your fellow Brooklynites at the start of Shavuot.

Nathan Englander Keynote Speaker | 8:00PM

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

Monday, June 10 | **Shavuot II**

Shavuot Services | 10:00AM (Main Sanctuary)

Sunday, June 9

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



PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER

May 31 - June 8, 2019 26 Iyyar-5 Sivan 5779
Parashat Behukotai

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

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

Friday, June 14

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

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM

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 for more details.

Shabbat Shmooze | 1:30PM

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

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; **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at davening@psjc.org; **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at haftarah@psjc.org, reading Torah, email Rabbi Sue Oren at leyning@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.

Parashat Behukotai

Triennial: Leviticus 27:1-27:34 | Etz Hayim p.753; Hertz p.547
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 | Etz Hayim p.763; Hertz p.551

D'var Torah: What is Our Path

The word **chok** ("law") with which our parashah (*Bechukotai*) begins has a complicated nuance for modern Jews. Since Saadya Gaon (Babylonia, 9th C), **chukim** have been identified with the commandments of the Torah which we follow even if we are unable to understand the rationale behind them. This is an idea that runs against the grain of the modern democratic ethos, in which individuals consent to laws and ideas precisely because they understand them. In a brilliant tour de force, Rabbi Ephraim of Luntschitz (Poland, 16th C.), in his commentary *Keli Yakar*, uproots this traditional meaning and connects it to the word that follows "*im bechukotai telekhu*" "if you are to **walk** (literally) in my laws."

For the *Keli Yakar* the first step in the ladder to perfection is to train (and in the beginning maybe even *force*) our legs, literally, to take us to the house of study and to the performance of *mitzvot*. The repetition of good habits, proper routines and correct actions will develop a "second nature" in which *mitzvot* will become part of our regular behavior. This is something that we know to be true both in our physical development (muscle memory is a key to any successful physical training) and in our intellectual growth (neural pathways that are repeated grow stronger with time). The same can be said of our religious and spiritual life. As the masters of Musar have claimed throughout the ages: repeated virtuous action leads to virtuous habits and, eventually, to a virtuous life.

This revised vision of the meaning of *chukim* might be more palatable, but still not fully harmonious with modern sensitivities. We are suspicious of rote and repetition in the areas of the mind and of the spirit. Spontaneity and authenticity are the watchwords of the age. And yet, the same people who refuse rote in their *religious* lives will gladly work out for hours on an exercise machine or mindlessly repeat functions on a computer to succeed at work. The difference is that the fitness and professional worlds have succeeded in creating a more vivid picture of the end goal of these repetitive actions. We are surrounded by posters and stories of how you will look at the end; how these concrete and even uncomfortable actions play a role in getting that ripped body, that degree, or that corner office.

Parashat Bechukotai offers a vivid description of such an endgame for Biblical Israel: bountiful harvests, rain in its due season, and uncontested military dominion over our land. The Talmudic rabbis, living in an age of vulnerability and precariousness, shifted the endgame metaphysically to the world to come. In later centuries, Jewish sages continued trying to find compelling frameworks for halacha that transcend it but do not do without it. The philosophers set the goal of intellectual enlightenment. The Kabbalists strove for the mystical reconnection of the world to the Godhead. The masters of Musar aimed for a life of ethical perfection. The Hasidim sought to frame Jewish Law in simple devotion and joy. In our days of sovereign selves, what would the final product look like? In what specific ways is Torah supposed to make us flourish? This urgent agenda must be addressed, individually and collectively, so that the forest is not lost among the trees.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Juan Mejia**, *Conservative Yeshiva Alumni ('02-'04)* "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.