



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

January 26-February 3, 2018 | 10-18 Shevat 5778  
Parashat Beshalach Shabbat Shira

Friday, January 26   10 Shevat				Parashat Beshalach Shabbat Shira Saturday, January 27   11 Shevat		
Candle Lighting   4:48PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Leora, Abe and Aileen</b>   6:30PM Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner   6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat   9:30AM Parashat Hashavua   9:30AM Shacharit   10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   11:15AM Jr. Congregation   11:15AM Advanced Talmud   1:30PM <i>Mincha</i> - <b>Julia Gottesman Bat Mitzvah</b>   3:30PM Niggun Share Melave Malka   6:00PM		
Sunday January 28 12 Shevat	Monday January 29 13 Shevat	Tuesday January 30 14 Shevat	Wednesday January 31 15 Shevat	Thursday February 1 16 Shevat	Friday February 2 17 Shevat	Saturday February 3 18 Shevat
Hebrew School 9:30AM  Hebrew Cooking with Shinshinim 4:00PM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 12:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Gesher 6:15PM  Board Meeting 7:15PM		It's Friday Music Class   10:00AM  Candle Lighting 4:48PM  Lev Tahor welcomes NYS Assembly Member <b>Robert (Bobby) Carroll</b> 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Yitro</i> Shacharit   10:00AM  <b>Sam Lauricella Bar Mitzvah</b>  Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM  Jr. Congregation 11:15AM  Mishneh Torah   1:20PM
<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) 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)		

**Mazal Tov!**

To **Julia Gottesman** and her entire family on **Julia's** Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat!

To **Doris Sperber**, and to her PSJC family, her son **Joel Sperber**, granddaughter **Anna** and great-grandson **Jonah** on Doris' 110th birthday on Sunday.

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Andrew Gottesman** and **Julia Spivack** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Julia's** Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

To **Andrew Ravin**, **Samantha Chan** and their children for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Steven Marks** and family on the death of his father, **Leroy Nelson Marks**, z"l.

**Eli Wolfhagen** and family on the death of his grandmother, **Adele Youdin**, z"l.

**Miriam Fleischmann** and family on the death of her mother, **Florence B. Sinow**, z"l.

**Lenore Arons** and family on the death of her brother, **Bernard Arons**, z"l.

**Robert Saffer** and his family on the death of his mother, **Pearl Saffer**, z"l.

**Alexandra Aron** and her family on the death of Alexandra's father, **Alan Milford Aron**, z"l.

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



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**Yahrzeits observed 4-10/11-17 Shevat:**

**Aaron Karol**, student of Angela Weisl; **Albert Arons**, father of Lenore Arons; **Boris Novick**, father of Eve Blatt; **Emma Lee Minkin**, daughter of Betsy Minkin and Rabbi Joshua Minkin; **Frank Catabilotta**, student of Angela Weisl; **Gloria Spivak**, mother of Ellen Umansky; **John Giunta**, student of Angela Weisl; **Linda Cohn Speaks**, mother of John Speaks; **Margaret Palmer**, grandmother of Alan Palmer; **Maria Hart**, grandmother of Steven Mazie; **Melvin Stein**, father of Amy Stein-Milford; **Murray Ehrlich**, father of Todd Ehrlich; **Rachel Nachman**, mother of David Nachman; **Sidney Shapiro**, father of Mike Shapiro; **Sol Yoffie**, father of Sharman Yoffie-Sidman; **Solomon Cohen**, father of Neil Cohen.

**Abe Abadi**, father of Michael Abadi; **Alan Harrison**, father of Martha Harrison; **Alan Laska**, friend of Pamela Kaplan and William Miller; **Alba Prengler Neuman**, mother of Barry Neuman; **Anne Chernick**, mother of Howard Chernick; **Becky Levine**, grandmother of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine; **Bernard Altshuler**, father of Lisa Altshuler; **Betty Wollin**, grandmother of Les Honig; **Daniel Danzing**, father of Rachel Danzing; **David Rabinowitz**, father of Richard Rabinowitz; **Esther Gmach**, mother of David Gmach; **Harold Cohen**, brother of Barbara Hopard; **Hirsch Grozalsky**, father of Malkie Grozalsky; **Jacob Lustig**, father of Carol Diamond; **Mollie Haut**, observed by the PSJC community; **Rae Berman Green**, grandmother of June Zeitlin; **Suzanne Hill**, mother of Todd Friedman; **Sylvia Wax**, mother of Ronnie Wax. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

**Purim 2018 is near!**

Can you chant Megillah? Would you like to chant at PSJC this year? Purim will be here sooner than you think - Erev Purim Megillah reading is on the evening of February 28! If you would like to participate in chanting Megillah please contact Elizabeth Schnur [esschnur@gmail.com](mailto:esschnur@gmail.com).

**PSJC Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner**

Friday, January 26 | 6:30PM

The Hebrew School Shabbat dinner is one of the highlights of the year, as we join together as a community to welcome Shabbat together. We will begin with a song-filled Kabbalat Shabbat service together in the sanctuary and then move downstairs for a catered dinner! Following dinner we will join together for a sing-a-long and games, and the ever popular babka table for dessert!

**Parashat Hashavua**

Saturday, January 27 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with our Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling Perkins. It's a great lead in to the Shabbat morning services.

**Advanced Talmud**

Saturday, January 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 [aronrhalf@gmail.com](mailto:aronrhalf@gmail.com).

**Hebrew Cooking with the Shinshinim!**

Sunday, January 28 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

Join our Shinshinim and learn to prepare delicious Israeli dishes using Hebrew! Whether you are fluent or don't know Alef from Bet, this will be a great opportunity to pick up some Kitchen-Hebrew and have a great time cooking. This experience is **open to all**, but it is **geared toward elementary and middle school aged children and their families**. And it ends with dinner together, eating "the fruits" of our labor. We will also meet on March 18. A donation of \$5/family/session is requested - just to cover materials. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Rabbi Carter at [rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org).

**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 [hevra kadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevra kadisha@psjc.org)



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### **The Rabbi Who Killed His Purim Guest: An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year**

Monday, January 29 | 12:00PM

Join Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling Perkins, as we follow the Jewish year by reading selections of the Talmud related to Jewish holidays. We'll learn about who the rabbis were, and what they were doing when they created the Talmud. This class will be taught primarily using English translations, and is aimed at beginning to advanced learners.

### **Board Meeting**

Wednesday, January 31 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

### **Lev Tahor Welcomes NYS Assembly Member Robert (Bobby) Carroll**

Friday, February 2 | 6:30PM

Lifelong Brooklyn local Bobby Carroll - grad of PS 230 and Xaverian HS - represents the 44th District in the New York State Assembly and will be our guest at Lev Tahor. He'll share his thoughts on New York's future - and hear what's on local voters' minds. Carroll serves on Assembly committees on Environmental Conservation and Election Law, among others. Bring your questions, the issues you're passionate about, and a hearty appetite, too! RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Feb-2-18>.

### **Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah**

Saturday, February 3 | 1:20PM

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 email [rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org) for information about this study group.

### **PSJC Tzedakah Fair**

Sunday, February 4 | 10:00AM-2:00PM

Start saving your quarters today for our Tzedakah Fair, put on by our 6th grade Shaarei Mitzvah students at the beginning of their bnai mitzvah journey. This means it is a great time to start getting into the habit (or continuing it!) of putting a little change in a tzedakah box each week. Then your student will have a bag of coins to bring to the fair to donate to over a dozen organizations!



### **Community Conversation III: Social Action**

Wednesday, February 7 | 7:30PM

As part of our ongoing discussions, we're dedicating an evening to exploring our current and future social action projects. If you have ideas, projects or suggestions for how our social action work can thrive and grow, please join this important conversation. Details? Email [hzelon@gmail.com](mailto:hzelon@gmail.com).

### **New Members' Shabbat**

Saturday, February 10

PSJC warmly welcomes members who joined the community in 2017 at Shabbos morning services on February 10, followed by a festive kiddush. We'd love to celebrate your presence and honor your commitment to the PSJC community. RSVP at [office@psjc.org](mailto:office@psjc.org); look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Praying for our Country**

Saturday, February 10 | 1:20PM

Jews have been living in and praying for countries with oppressive regimes for much longer than we have lived under democracy. Come and explore what prayers for our country have looked like over the ages and in the present, and what this means for how we might relate to governments we do- or don't- agree with. Taught by PSJC Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins.

### Parashat Beshalach Shabbat Shira

Triennial: Exodus 14:15-16:10 | Etz Hayim p.403; Hertz p.272; Plaut p.480

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31 | Etz Hayim p.423; Hertz p.281; Plaut p.703

In this week's parasha, the Exodus story reaches its climax. Following a multitude of plagues, culminating with the slaying of the firstborn, Pharaoh is finally persuaded to permit his team of slaves to leave. Moshe leads the Israelites out of Egypt and into the desert, where they find themselves trapped between the waters of Yam Suf (the Sea of Reeds) and Pharaoh's pursuing army. At this point, literally poised between freedom and death, Moshe turns to the people and proclaims "Stand still and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only be silent" (Ex. 14: 13).

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former Chief Rabbi of the (Orthodox) United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, contrasts this with Moshe's message at the end of the parasha, when the Israelites are attacked by the Amalekites. As they approach, Moshe says to Joshua, "Choose men for us, and prepare for battle against Amalek" (Ex. 17:9). In the first story, Moshe's message is simple: "God will save us." But in the second story, we must take up arms to defend ourselves. In the first, we are passive observers; in the second, we are active participants.

Some might see this as demonstrating Moshe's growth as a leader. Taking into account the impact of slavery, Moshe (and God) initially take full responsibility for the Israelites. But knowing the challenges they will face ahead, Moshe starts to empower those he leads to be an intrinsic part of their own redemption story. But was this not an overly risky move on Moshe's part? What evidence is there that the Israelites were ready for such a challenge? At the Sea they were completely passive, and it worked! It would be more reasonable to think that this experience had just reinforced their slave-like passivity.

The answer comes from a story in the Babylonian Talmud Tractate Sotah 37a. Although they were told that God would do all the work, the Israelites were in fact *not* complete bystanders (or at least not all of them). A man by the name of Nachshon ben Aminadav made the first courageous steps into the Sea of Reeds, *before* God divided the waters. His faith and initiative, we are taught, are what triggered the miracle.

But what of the rest of the Israelites who just passively watched Nachshon? The great Lithuanian scholar, the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797), provides some insight. He observes that in Exodus 14:22, after God parts the waters, the waters are referred to as being like a wall: "the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left." But the word for wall (חֹמָה) appears missing a vav, and can thus be read not as 'choma' but as 'chaima,' which means anger. The Vilna Gaon explains that this is to tell us that when the rest of the Israelites saw Nachshon make those first few steps, they were angry and disappointed in themselves that they had lacked the courage to do the same. Moshe knew that they wanted to a chance to redeem themselves, so when the Amalekites attacked, Moshe was, in essence, giving them their chance.

The Vilna Gaon here, shows great insight into the human psyche. When we witness acts of courage and leadership, our reaction can often be anger - anger at the brave leader who, by comparison, makes us look bad, and anger at ourselves for not seizing the moment. But as we can see in the Torah, and in life, opportunities for brave leadership abound. Just because we have been bystanders before does not mean that we are incapable of growth and change. Challenged by others and inspired by others, victims can indeed become warriors.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Yoni Stone**, *Conservative Yeshiva Student & Lishma Fellow* from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks/>

**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. **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). **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).