



Friday, January 19   3 Shevat				Parashat Bo Saturday, January 20   4 Shevat		
Candle Lighting   4:40PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Anna Chapman</b>   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Family Torah/ Shabbat Kulanu   11:15AM Tot Shabbat   11:15AM		
Sunday January 21 5 Shevat	Monday January 22 6 Shevat	Tuesday January 23 7 Shevat	Wednesday January 24 8 Shevat	Thursday January 25 9 Shevat	Friday January 26 10 Shevat	Saturday January 27 11 Shevat
6th Grade Shaarei Mitzvah Trip 9:00AM  Hebrew School 9:30AM  Bnai Mitzvah Date Selection 11:00AM  PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustee 4:00PM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 12:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:00AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM		It's Friday Music Class   10:00AM  Candle Lighting 4:48PM  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Leora, Abe and Aileen</b> 6:30PM  Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner 6:30PM	<i>Beshalach Shabbat Shira</i>  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  <b>Julia Gottesman Bat Mitzvah</b>  Niggun Share Melave Malka 6:00PM
<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)		

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Malkie Grozalsky** and **Mindi Wernick** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in memory of Malkie's father's yahrzeit, **Hirsch Grozalsky**, z"l

To the B'not Mitzvah Class Anniversary of January 2009 for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Jenny Peters, Samantha Chan, Louise Heit-Radwell, Liz Mazel, Jan Orzeck** and **Fran Hawthorne**, and their leyning this Shabbat.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**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.

**Gary** and **Ellen Briefel** on the death of Gary's brother, **Dennis Briefel**, z"l.



January 19-27, 2018 | 3-11 Shevat 5778  
Parashat Bo

### **Yahrzeits observed 4-10 Shevat:**

**Belle Weiner**, mother of Barbara Wollman; **David Koltenuk**, great-uncle of Alan Palmer; **Erica Glidden**, friend of Eve Blatt; **Joseph Eisenstadt**, father of Eric Eisenstadt; **Leon Solomon Blaufarb**, father of Jonathan Blaufarb; **Liliana Briefel**, mother of Gary Briefel; **Martha Wolkoff**, wife of Steve Wolkoff and aunt of Andrew Ceresney; **Morris Lazarus Steinberg**, father of Sandra Linenschmidt; **Ron Dixon**, observed by the PSJC Community; **Sam Kayman**, friend of Rabbi Jeffrey Marker and godfather of Rena Freedman-Marker; **Sara Mlotek Rosenfeld**, mother of Fay Rosenfeld; **Walter Haase**, father of David Haase; **Willie Marker**, grandfather of Rabbi Jeffrey Marker. *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! Please contact **Elizabeth** if you would like to participate in chanting Megillah.

### **Shabbat Shmooze**

Saturday, January 20 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Andrew Ravin and Samantha Chan and their children

354 10th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues

Shabbat Shmooze is a fun get-together after services, in the home of a PSJC member. Everyone is asked to bring a dairy or pareve potluck dish to share. For those participating in the Kishkush Acharei Kiddush first, we look forward to continuing the conversation at the Shabbat Shmooze afterwards. As usual, the Shabbat Shmooze is open to the PSJC community. Please join us!

### **2020 Bnai Mitzvah Date Selection Meeting**

Sunday, January 21 | 11:00AM

Are you expecting to celebrate your child's Bnai Mitzvah @PSJC in 2020? If so, please join us in the PSJC Sanctuary to learn about Bnai Mitzvah at PSJC and the Shaarei Mitzvah program and to begin the process of selecting Bnai Mitzvah dates for 2020. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/2020-bnai-mitzvah-date-selection-meeting.html>. We look forward to seeing you and taking the first step in your journey to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

### **PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees**

Sunday, January 21 | 4:00PM

We hope you will join us for Park Slope Jewish Center's Annual Meeting in the PSJC sanctuary. The meeting will consist of updates from synagogue leadership, Etz Chaim updates, thank yous to the outgoing Board of Trustees, a vote for the new Board of Trustees, minor synagogue business, Q&A.

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

Monday, January 22 and 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. As we study, we'll learn more 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.

### **PJ Library Class: It's Friday!**

Friday, January 26 | 10:00AM | \$12 per class (\$10 per members)

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. For more information, [www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html](http://www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.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](mailto:gmach@psjc.org) or [hevrakadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevrakadisha@psjc.org)



January 19-27, 2018 | 3-11 Shevat 5778  
Parashat Bo

### **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! We invite you to bring Shabbat friendly games your family enjoys. Families are also welcome to bring wine for dinner. Contact Aileen to see if it still have space available.

### **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 aronhalb@gmail.com.

### **Hebrew Cooking with the Shinshinim!**

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

Join our Shinshinim (18 year old Israelis here for a year of service)! 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.

### **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 on Friday, February 3d. 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>.

### **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!



**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). **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).

## Parashat Bo

Triennial: Exodus 11:4-12:28 | Etz Hayim p.379; Hertz p.252

Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28 | Etz Hayim p.395; Hertz p.263

This week's parasha tells the story of the last three plagues (locusts, darkness, and the slaying of the first born), Moses' instructions regarding the Passover sacrifice, and Pharaoh ultimately granting permission for the Israelites to leave. While some see this as Pharaoh and Egypt getting their just desserts after the years of harsh slavery and child-murder imposed on the Israelites, I am nevertheless troubled.

The parasha opens with two verses that sum up the story of the Exodus nicely: "Then God said to Moses: 'Come to Pharaoh for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his courtiers, in order that I may display these My signs among them. And that you may recount in the hearing of your sons and of your sons' sons how I dealt harshly of the Egyptians and how I displayed My signs among them in order that you may know that I am the Lord'" (Exodus 10:1-2). The medieval French commentator, Rashi (1040-1105 CE), explains that the Hebrew phrase, "הַתַּעַלְלֵתִי בַמִּצְרַיִם," translated above as, "I dealt harshly with the Egyptians," should be read as "שַׁחֲקֵתִי" - meaning, "I have made a mockery."

So according to the medieval French commentator Rashi (1040-1105), God hardens Pharaoh's heart, and the heart of his courtiers, so that we can see God making a mockery of the Egyptians? Could it be that God wants us to experience *schadenfreude* - to laugh, cheer, and take pleasure in the suffering of our oppressors?

Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapiro (1889-1943 CE), also known as the Piacezna Rebbe, takes issue with this in his book the *Aish Kodesh*, written in the Warsaw Ghetto during the horrors of the Shoah. Writing under conditions reminiscent of the Egypt, and facing Nazi oppressors as arrogant and cruel as Pharaoh, the Piacezna Rebbe was nevertheless bothered by the idea that God would make the punishment of the wicked some kind of entertainment.

He brings a story from the Talmud that discusses the drowning of the Egyptians in Sea of Reeds: "At that time the ministering angels requested to recite a song before the Holy One, Blessed be God. The Holy One, Blessed be God, Said to them: 'My handiwork are drowning in the sea, and you are reciting a song before Me?!'" (Sanhedrin 39b). The Piacezna Rebbe sees a contradiction: God makes a show of punishing the Egyptians with the plagues, but then scolds the angels for enjoying the show when the Egyptians drown in the sea!

According to the Piacezna Rebbe, there are only two reasons to celebrate the downfall of the Egyptians, and the suffering of the wicked in general. The first is that it leads to knowledge of God. The plagues were done so that WE would know God, as it says in 10:2: "In order that you may know that I am the Lord." And the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea so that THEY would know God, as it says in Exodus 14:4: "and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord". Evil and falsehood must be defeated so that God and truth can be known.

The second reason is to alleviate the suffering of the innocent. Presumably the ministering angels were just as happy about the plagues as the drowning of the Egyptians in the sea, but God *only scolds them* for celebrating the drowning. The Piacezna Rebbe explains that: "in truth Israel was not suffering at that exact moment [when the sea ceased to part and the Egyptians were drowned] so the Holy One, Blessed be He was not happy from their [the Egyptians] downfall" (*Aish Kodesh*). Celebrating the Egyptians' drowning was gratuitous. The suffering of some is often necessary to alleviate the suffering of others, but that makes it no less tragic.

As we look forward to the casting down of false idols and the defeat of wicked oppressors, may we all remember the Piacezna Rebbe's example and message. We are all God's handiwork. Shabbat Shalom.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Matthew Nelson**, 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.