



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

November 25-December 2, 2016 | 24 Cheshvan-2 Kislev, 5777
Parashat Chayei Sarah

Friday, November 25 24 Cheshvan				Parashat Chayei Sarah Saturday, November 26 25 Cheshvan		
Candle Lighting 4:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Steve Gradman 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Joshua Lechtzin Bar Mitzvah Advanced Talmud 1:30PM Welcoming Baby Boy Heiman Fink Seudat Mitzvah 4:15PM Havdallah 5:15PM Welcoming Ceremony 5:30PM		
Sunday November 27 26 Cheshvan	Monday November 28 27 Cheshvan	Tuesday November 29 28 Cheshvan	Wednesday November 30 29 Cheshvan	Thursday December 1 1 Kislev	Friday December 2 2 Kislev	Saturday December 3 3 Kislev
		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Rosh Chodesh Minyan 7:00AM	Candle Lighting 4:11PM PJ Library: It's Friday Music Class 10:30AM Lev Tahor 6:30PM	Shabbat <i>Toledot</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Samuel Franklin Bar Mitzvah Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat JC 11:15AM
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 & Family Programming (Aileen.Heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Joshua, Amy, Jeremy, Eva and Yael** on **Joshua's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.
To **Aileen Heiman** and **Brian Fink** on the birth of their son.

Todah Rabbah!

To **Amy Klein** and **Jeremy Lechtzin** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Joshua's** Bar Mitzvah.
To **Jan Huttner** and **Richard Miller** for their contribution to the flowers fund this Shabbat in memory of Jan's mother **Helene Huttner**, z"l.
To **David** and **Shoshana Cooper** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences to **Bob** and **Dan Tinkelman** and their families on the death of their mother, **Natalie Tinkelman**, z"l.

Yahrzeits: 24 Cheshvan-2 Kislev:

Annette Kaplan, sister of Lynda Kaplan; **Arnold Elfont**, uncle of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Barbara Weisl**, stepmother of Angela Weisl; **Dorothy Handfinger**, mother of Merrie Handfinger; **Harold J. Berman**, father of Jean Berman; **Irving Wolkoff**, father of Steve Wolkoff; **Jesse Korn**, family friend of Diane Burhenne and Judy Ribnick; **Julian Katzenberg**, father of Bruce Katzenberg; **Stanley Leess**, stepfather of Marla Kessler; **Stanley Lewis Saffer**, father of Robert Saffer. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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. **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



**Chanukkah begins Saturday, December 24...
Let the PSJC Hebrew School shop for you!**

Get ready for the holiday and support the PSJC Hebrew School by ordering your candles, gelt, dreidels, and Chanukkah wrapping paper. Orders should be placed by **Friday, December 2**. Complete the form to plan your order and calculate your total at <https://www.psjc.org/form/chanukkah-fundraiser-2016.html>. Paper Order forms available in front of the Education Director's Office.

Orders will be available for pick up before and after Hebrew School the weeks of **December 5 and 12**. For further information, please contact Jenna Mandel-Ricci at jmandelricci@hotmail.com.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, November 26 | 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 for information.

Lev Tahor: Tikkun Olam, via the Gowanus Conservancy

Friday, December 2 | 6:30PM

Please save the date and plan to join Lev Tahor, PSJC's all-sung, lay-led Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Services will be followed by a dairy/pareve pot luck dinner -- RSVP to <http://tinyurl.com/levTahorDec2> -- and a presentation by the Conservancy, a 10-year-old local nonprofit that aims to transform a onetime Superfund site into a clean, safe, accessible Brooklyn waterway. Learn how they moved from idea to reality -- and bring your questions about grass-roots projects that lead to real change. Please be sure to sign up!

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, December 2, 9 and 16 | 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.

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, December 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.

PSJC Etz Chaim Project: Speak Out for Your Community!

Sunday, December 4 | 10:00AM

Add your voice to the community conversations in PSJC's Etz Chaim project, which aims to identify ways to grow and sustain our community, develop new leadership and insure our financial integrity. Our first two meetings were productive and provocative, considering questions about what it means to grow (and how to define growth); how we develop the myriad talents within our midst; how we can fulfill our mission to serve (and attract) a robust, committed, engaged 21st century community. We truly want to hear from ALL members who have a stake in PSJC's future.



Join us on **Sunday, December 4 at 10:00AM** to share your ideas, opinions and dreams for PSJC. This meeting is scheduled to be convenient for Hebrew School families and community members who have time on Sunday mornings -- please don't be shy to join! And please reach out to the working group: hzelon@gmail.com if you have thoughts to share or want to host/participate in an additional conversation: [The more voices we hear, the stronger we become.](#)



November 25-December 2, 2016 | 24 Cheshvan-2 Kislev, 5777
Parashat Chayei Sarah

Babysitting Basics: CPR/First Aid Class for Teens and Tweens

Sunday, December 4 | 1:00PM

We are happy to announce that *Baby Be Safe*, a local CPR/First Aid training group, will be teaching a CPR/First Aid class geared toward our teen and tween members. Topics covered in this class include: Basic CPR (for kids and adults over 1yr old), choking prevention and remedy, first aid 101, preventing injuries, how to use a first aid kit. **Cost:** \$36 per person for the first 12 people to sign up and can be paid through Shul Cloud, or by bringing a check. Space is limited! We can only accommodate 15 kids total. **Deadline to register is Wednesday, November 30** at 6:00PM. **Questions?** Email Sharon Tepper at sharon.tepper@psjc.org

10th Anniversary Other Israel Film Festival | Nazareth Cinema Lady - Sponsored by PSJC

Monday, December 5 | 7:30 PM (Film | 8:30 PM) | JCC Manhattan

Dir. Nurit Jacobs Yinon | 2015 | 52 min | Documentary

Join PSJC for a pre-screening discussion of Nazareth Cinema Lady. The story of Safaa Dabour, an observant Muslim woman from Nazareth, who struggles to take charge of her own fate and freedom and to establish and maintain the first and only Arab cinematheque in Israel. Purchase tickets <https://www.otherisrael.org/>. Enter discount code PSJC at online checkout for \$3 off all general film screenings at JCC Manhattan.

Imagine Jewish Brooklyn: Let's Dream And Build Together | 26 Bridge Street, Brooklyn

Dream: Sunday, December 4, 2016 | **Design:** Sunday, January 29, 2017

North & Brownstone Brooklyn is becoming a hotbed of vibrant, creative, and diverse Jewish life. Imagine Jewish Brooklyn is an opportunity to come together to dream, design and build our Jewish future together. Everyone is welcome! The more voices, the better! Visit www.imaginejewishbrooklyn.org, or contact Michael Vilarello at vilarellom@ujafedny.org or 718.942.6800 to learn more.

Chanukkah party and Bananukah Concert

Sunday, December 11 | 12:30PM

You may know the story of Chanukkah, but do you know the story of Bananukah?

Join for a Chanukkah party at PSJC and an intergenerational program that tells the story of the Festival of Lights through original songs, games, and audience participation, starring kids' favorite, Danna Banana! \$18/family, which includes Pizza, sufganiyot, crafts, and a performance. RSVPs encouraged by signing up www.tinyurl.com/PSJC-Chanukah.

PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Club 1320 presents: Live Jazz with the Yotam Silberstein Group

Saturday, December 17 | Doors open 7:30PM

You deserve a fun night out -- right in the neighborhood! PSJC's Club 1320 presents Yotam Silberstein Group. Come out for a night of live jazz, food and drink, and great friends. Concert begins at 8:00 and everyone is welcome to stay for the after party. Tickets are \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students, and \$55 at the door. Please log on to ShulCloud to purchase your tickets. For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact club1320@psjc.org. Proceeds from this event will benefit PSJC.

MLK Day of Service

Sunday, January 15 | 11:00AM

Members and friends of PSJC are warmly invited to roll up their sleeves for a morning of work at PSJC, in our 5th Annual MLK Day of Service. We'll be prepping soup kits, packing books and clothing, making PB&J sandwiches and Gorp, working at Masbia, knitting, crafting, and taking care of our glorious shul building -- among other projects. Please save the date and join us as we work to make our corner of this complicated world a little better. For info, or to help organize ahead of the event or on the day, contact Helen Zelon: hzelon@gmail.com.



Torah Parashat Chayei Sarah

Triennial (Genesis 23:1-24:9): Etz Hayim p. 127; Hertz p. 80; Plaut p.156

Haftarah (1 Kings 1:1-31): Etz Hayim p. 143; Hertz p. 90; Plaut p. 338

Kissin' Cousins - and more

Esther Israel, CY Talmud and Bible Faculty

Marrying within the family can be logical - assuming you like the family. You know what you're getting, both genetically and value-wise, and you're not adding many new relatives (in whom you may not be interested). This week's parashah, Hayyei Sarah, is named after the "recently" deceased Matriarch Sarah. You may have missed the announcement of her marriage to Avram three weeks ago, at the end of Parshat Noah.

Gen. 11:29 reports the marriages of the brothers, Avram and Nahor, sons of Terah: the first to Sarai, and the latter to Milka. Milka, incidentally, is the daughter of their deceased brother, Haran. In other words, Nahor marries his niece. Funny thing, the Torah calls her "Milka, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milka and Yiscah". The Midrash equates Yiscah with Sarai, thereby having the brothers marry their two nieces, sisters. That would explain the funny repetition above - it's coming to point out something about Yiscah.

Further on, in Gen. 20:12 (Parashat Vayera), Avraham tells the Philistine king, Avimelekh, that his wife Sarah is actually his sister - by father, but not by mother. If she were indeed his brother's daughter, that might be what Avraham meant by referring to her, albeit very loosely, as his paternal sister! In our parashah Avraham sends his servant to find a wife for his son, Yitzhak. The right wife, according to Avraham, must be from his family in the "old country," even if one has to travel weeks to find her. Indeed, the bride found is Rivka, the granddaughter of Avraham's brother, Nahor. Therefore, she is Yitzhak's first cousin once-removed.

A generation later Yitzhak sends his son, Ya'akov, to Lavan, the brother of his wife Rivka. Why? To find a wife, of course! And, outdoing the others, Ya'akov marries not one relative, but two - the two sisters, his first cousins Rachel and Leah. When Ya'akov is sent to Haran to find a wife, Esau realizes he erred by marrying "foreign" Canaanite women. He tries to make amends by taking another wife, from the family this time: he marries his paternal Uncle Yishma'el's daughter Mahalat. However, he misunderstood: in this story, the boys from Avraham's line must be matched with girls from Nahor's line.

Avraham and the carriers of "Avraham's blessing" - granting the right to the eventual inheritance of the land and the blessing of offspring - are those who need to continue the family by "innermarrying". By that point in the story it is already clear that it is Ya'akov who bears "Avraham's blessing", and Esau probably need not "innermarry". Similar analysis tells us that marrying into Yishma'el's line will not advance the plot. The Children of Israel are the blend of Avraham and Nahor: we are full B'nei Terah. Rashi quotes Midrash to explain Leah's "soft"/weak eyes: they were damaged by her crying over what she understood to be her fated marriage, to her elder cousin Esau (whereas younger Rachel would marry the younger Ya'akov). This Midrash considers the possibility that Esau, too, might have married into Nahor's line.

The Torah does not express concern with possible genetic complications (of which information was lacking) of repeated marriages within one extended family. Strangely, there is not even concern for those relations that will later in the Torah, not yet given, be defined as incest. It is not within the scope of this blurb to try and work that out. However, points to ponder...

The weekly Haftarah Commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, Senior CY Faculty in Talmud and Midrash, 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. **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 **PSJC runs on community participation.**