



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

August 9-17, 2019 | 9-16 Av 5779  
Parashat Devarim

Friday, August 9   8 Av				Shabbat Hazon Parashat Devarim Saturday, August 10   9 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Elizabeth Schnur</b>   7:00PM Candle Lighting   7:44PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Erev Tisha B'Av services   8:45PM		
Sunday August 11 10 Av	Monday August 12 11 Av	Tuesday August 13 12 Av	Wednesday August 14 13 Av	Thursday August 15 14 Av	Friday August 16 15 Av	Saturday August 17 16 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Susan Honig</b> 7:00PM  Candle Lighting 7:35PM	<i>Shabbat Nachamu Parashat V'etchanan</i>  Shacharit   10:00AM  Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM
<b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b> 1320 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718) 768-1453 Office hours: M-Th 9:00AM-5:00PM, F 9:00AM-2:00PM www.psjc.org   email: office@psjc.org				Rabbi Carie Carter, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Piper Panzeri, Synagogue Administrator (piper@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**HaMakom Yenachem:**

Our condolences go to:

**Pete Segal** and family the death of Pete's father, **Cyrus Segal**, z"l.

**Yahrzeits observed 9-15 Av:**

**Anna Urban**, observed by the PSJC community; **Annette Nachumi**, aunt of Jan Orzeck; **Arlene Daffner**, cousin of Stuart Baron; **Bessie Schulkin**, mother of Vivian Schulkin; **Charlene Greenspon**, mother of Julie Greenspon; **Charles Abramson**, grandfather of Steve Elworth; **David Palmer**, grandfather of Alan Palmer; **Edward Hawthorne**, father of Fran Hawthorne; **Evelyn Schnitzler**, mother of Mona Schnitzler; **Gabriel Brahm**, father of Laura Brahm; **Harold Zelko**, father of Gary Zelko; **Jennie Honig**, grandmother of Les Honig; **Josef Klein**, father of Oscar Klein; **Leon Smukler**, father of Chalo Smukler; **Merwin Levine**, father of Mindy Levine; **Morton Ruben**, father of Harolyn Cohen; **Paul Sokol**, grandpaul of Warren Schnur-Holmes and Joshua Ian Schnur-Holmes; **Reva Zimmerman Gross**, mother of Bruce Gross; **Robert Rubenstein**, father-in-law of Ilene Rubenstein; **Rose Harris**, grandmother of Beth Harris; **Sam Levine**, grandfather of Yehudit Moch; **Samuel Sturman**, uncle of Steve Elworth.  
*May their memories be for a blessing.*

**Summer Shabbat Services**

Our Friday night service times move to 7:00PM for July and August.

And Shabbat Services move to our air-conditioned downstairs for services in July and August.

Hebrew Free Burial Society is in need of tallitot to use for burial. If you have old tallitot you would like to donate, please consider bringing them to PSJC. We will collect them in the kiddush room this summer and send them to HFBS before Rosh Hashanah.

**Our Annual Honey Sale**

Once again, PSJC will be participating with ORT so you can send Honey to your friends and family in time for Rosh HaShanah.

This is a lovely gift and a PSJC fundraiser.

Order now [www.psjc.org/honey](http://www.psjc.org/honey).



### **Erev Tisha B'Av Services**

Saturday, August 10 | 8:45PM

Tisha B'Av (the 9th day of Av) is observed this year on Saturday evening, August 10, and Sunday morning, August 11. Please join us for a stirring and evocative service. Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of both the first and second Temples, but over time, other Jewish tragedies have become connected to this date (e.g., Kristallnacht, etc.). Tisha B'Av, which traditionally is a fast day (fasting from sunset to the appearance of 3 stars the next night), is observed on Saturday night with a brief and moving service, during which we sit low or on the floor (like mourners) and chant Eichah (Lamentations) to a haunting melody. This is followed by the singing of kinot (similarly moving songs and elegies). We dim the lights and read by candles and flashlights. On Sunday morning there is a Shacharit service, where Eichah and kinot are chanted once again.

Services on **Saturday evening, August 10** at PSJC will begin at **8:45PM**. On **Sunday morning, August 11** we will join with our friends at **Kane Street Synagogue** (236 Kane St, Brooklyn, NY) for services that begin at **9:00AM**.

### **Shabbat Shmooze**

Saturday, August 17 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at PSJC courtyard during the summer months. We will shmooze after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please indicate which date(s) you prefer: **September 21, November 16, December 21** (Chanukah starts December 22 at sundown), **January 18, 2020, February 15, March 21, April 18** (Pesach ends April 16), **May 16, June 20, July 18** or **August 15** please email [shabbatshmooze@psjc.org](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org), with your preferred date (they occur on the 3rd Shabbat of the month). Members hosting homes needs to be walking distance from PSJC.

### **Advanced Talmud**

Saturday, August 24 | 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](mailto:aronrhalb@gmail.com).

### **Annual Membership Renewal 2019-2020**

That means we have already begun planning for 5780! We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC!

We would love to get to 100% participation. No amount is too big or too small.

Renew your membership today! It's easy and can all be done online.

Visit [www.psjc.org](http://www.psjc.org) and log in to your account.

Please contact Peter by email [treasurer@psjc.org](mailto:treasurer@psjc.org) if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

### **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](https://www.psjc.org/hebrew_school_registration)



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Help is needed to cook, share dinner or stay overnight with a dozen or so guests who are experiencing homelessness. PSJC is partners with the CAMBA Respite Bed Program. During the summer the program is at Old First Reformed Church in Park Slope and St. George's Episcopal in Bed Sty. It's a hard time to get volunteers. Can you help at any time this summer? It's a nice thing to do with friends or family. Kids of any age can help serve dinner. Post B'nai Mitzvah kids can stay overnight with an adult.

The guests are screened and part of a program helping them move forward towards permanent housing. Overnighters sleep in a separate air conditioned room. Food could be dropped off or picked up. Please spread the word to your networks. Feel free to give me a call with any questions - Yehudit Moch 347-728-8247.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fa8af2eaafb6-volunteer44>

### Host an Israeli Shinshin

IsraelBKLYN is looking for host families for Israeli Shinshinim this year (especially beginning in the Fall). A "shinshin" is an 18-year-old Israeli emissary to communities abroad with the goal of educating people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture. Shinshinim work with children at Jewish camps, schools and synagogues. Over the last five years, Shinshinim have added a lot to our PSJC community. If you are interested in hosting a shinshin, please contact Rabbi Carter: 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 or hevrakadisha@psjc.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.

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

## Parashat Devarim

Triennial: Deuteronomy 2:31-3:22 | Etz Hayim p.981; Hertz p.736

Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27 | Etz Hayim p. 999; Hertz p.750

### D'var Torah: A Paradoxical Identity

Sefer Devarim (the Book of Deuteronomy) is filled with retellings of earlier stories, and Parashat Devarim begins by retelling one of the most famous and important episodes in Sefer Bereishit (the Book of Genesis): *Brit Bein HeBetarim*, the “Covenant Between the Parts,” when God made this famous promise:

(13) Then the Lord said to Avram, “Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be *gerim* (strangers) in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; (14) but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. . . (16) And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**. . . “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, (19) the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, (20) the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, (21) the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.” (Bereishit 16)

In these few verses, we have an abridged version of the beginning of Jewish history, from Avraham through Egypt and into the Land of Israel.

When Parashat Devarim nods to this text, we are meant to understand that **now** is the moment we have been waiting for:

(6) The Lord our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain. (7) Resume your journey, and go into **the hill country of the Amorites.** . . the land of the Canaanites and the Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. (8) See, I have set the land before you; go in and take possession of the land that I swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their descendants after them.” (Devarim 1)

Here the mysterious “iniquity of Amorites” has apparently been resolved, and it is now time for the offspring of Avraham, Yitzhak, and Yaakov to claim the land of the Canaanites.

One of the key features of our story, as told here, in Bereishit, and elsewhere in the Torah, is that we are on the move. On the one hand, we are told that this is our land, the land of our ancestors. On the other hand, we are told that our forefathers came from elsewhere and that our inhabitation of the land will happen after a long period of time; we will first be slaves, wander in the desert, and only later will we enter and settle. Thus at the core of the Jewish narrative, and therefore Jewish identity, we find a paradox. We are native and conqueror, from here and from there, all at the same time.

Enough of the wandering says Moshe here, you have sat here at Horev too long, it is time to enter and settle the land. And yet our formative experiences as a people, in Aram, in Egypt, and at Sinai, all happened when we were wandering strangers.

What does it mean to live with this paradox of native and conqueror? Our dual identity can allow us to be honest about our own power while keeping it in check. Yes, we Jews, in Israel and in the United States, have a lot of power and a strong sense of belonging, but our other role as former slaves reminds us that this power must be balanced with a strong commitment to justice and looking out for those less powerful. As wanderers, we remember what it was like to be weak and on the outside of society, but part of our survival as a people was an ability to stay true to a textual tradition and narrative that never let us let go of a sense that we were one people bound together.

It is critical that we look deeply at these core elements of what it means to be Jewish. It means leveraging our power and sense of security for the sake of those less secure and it means doubling down on our commitment to our language and textual tradition that has kept us together, creative and thriving throughout our generations.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Shoshana Cohen**, *Conservative Yeshiva Faculty* “Torah Sparks” series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.