

Friday, August 23 22 Av				Shabbat Parashat Ekev Saturday, August 24 23 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Shayna Klainberg/ Freddie Brooks 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:25PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday August 25 24 Av	Monday August 26 25 Av	Tuesday August 27 26 Av	Wednesday August 28 27 Av	Thursday August 29 28 Av	Friday August 30 29 Av	Saturday August 31 30 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Charlie Urich 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:14PM	<i>Parashat Re'eh</i> Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Elul Shacharit 10:00AM
Park Slope Jewish Center 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:

Stewart Pravda and family the death of Stewart's father, **Morris Pravda**, z"l.

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

Yahrzeits observed 23-29 Av:
Barbara Ettlinger, sister-in-law of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Celeste Schnur Stone**, aunt of Elizabeth Schnur; **Jean Cohen**, mother of Neil Cohen; **Leora Lewis**, sister of Roland Lewis; **Martha Wald**, grandmother of Judith Ullman; **Max Schuman**, grandfather of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Merryl Koren**, sister of Andrew Auslander; **Nancy Monblatt**, mother of Cathy Monblatt; **Philip Zinn**, grandfather of Karen Heau; **Randy Geer**, brother of Karen Geer; **Ruth Sachs**, aunt of Michael Snyder; **Sol Tursky**, uncle of Marc Korashan.

May their memories be for a blessing.
Lulav & Etrog Sale

Each set is already assembled together in a holder with the Lulav, Hadassim and Arovot as one. Along with each set you will receive a basic guide as a complimentary gift to express our appreciation to you. It will contain a list of all the Brachot (blessings) and Halakha (laws) of the four species.



**Order yours now: www.psjc.org/lulav-and-etrog-sale.html
 Last day to order Friday, September 13**

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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org

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.



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.

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Elul

Saturday, August 31 | 10:00AM

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 and log in to your account.

Tickets can be picked up at the office if you renewed your membership after **Friday, August 16**

Please contact Peter by email 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

Book Club - *The Prague Cemetery*

Saturday, September 7 | 1:30PM

Join us as we explore modern anti-Semitism's underlying ideology via the fictional memoir of the fictional author of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as conveyed in the novel *The Prague Cemetery* by Umberto Eco (translated from the Italian by Richard Dixon). BPL has six print. Used hardcover copies are available on Amazon for \$5 (including shipping). An audiobook version is available from Audible.

Hebrew School Parent Happy Hour

Sunday, September 8 | 4:30PM

If you're like us, you're equal parts looking forward to shipping the kids back off to school and activities and dreading all the scheduling gymnastics involved. It's exhausting-we get it. That's why we'd like to buy you a drink. We're throwing a happy hour at PSJC just for you. It's an opportunity for all the Hebrew School parents to mingle and get to know each other without kids in tow. Come meet a few fellow parents, make some connections and most importantly, kick back and relax with some liquid therapy. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/hs-parent-happyhour>



PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER

August 23-30, 2019 | 22-30 Av 5779
Shabbat Parashat Ekev

Kabbalat Shabbat Potluck dinner and song with Judy Ribnick

Friday, September 13 | 6:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, September 21 | 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, with your preferred date (they occur on the 3rd Shabbat of the month). Members hosting homes needs to be walking distance from PSJC.

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.

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. Overnights 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>

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.

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.

Shabbat Parashat Ekev

Triennial: Deuteronomy 5:1-7:11 | Etz Hayim p.1015; Hertz p.765

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26 | Etz Hayim p.1032; Hertz p.750

D'var Torah: Finding Consolation

Moshe prays many times in the Torah — for God to forgive the people after the sin of the golden calf, to allow God's spirit to rest on others and devolve some of Moshe's authority; for the healing of his sister — and in every instance, his prayers are for the wellbeing of others. Only once in the Torah — in Parashat Va'etchanan — does Moshe pray for himself.

In point of fact, Moshe doesn't exactly pray. He begs. "At that time," Moshe tells the assembled Jewish people, all of them destined for the land of promise, "I begged God, saying. . . 'please, let me cross over and see this goodly land across the Jordan, this good hill country and the Lebanon.'" (3:23, 25)

But, for the first time in their long relationship, God refuses his faithful servant's plea: "*Rav lach*" God replies to Moshe, "you ask too much. Speak no more to me of this thing. Go up to the top of Mt. Pisgah, raise your eyes to the west, the north, the south, and the east and look with your eyes — but you shall not cross this Jordan River." (3:27) It is especially painful to hear God use the same words to chastise Moshe as did the rebel Korah, who also said *rav lachem*. After all, what did Moshe ever seek for himself? And still he's told it's too much.

Of all the Jews gathered in the plains of Moab, Moshe alone is barred from entering the land. This is almost unbearable, for the reader and for Moshe alike. His entire life has been devoted to the service of God and the Jewish people. He has sacrificed all he had, forsaking his home and position. And now he has nothing: his parents are gone; his beloved sister and brother have died, he is without friend or peer. He wants only one thing: To enjoy, if only for a little while, the fruits of his life's labor.

And yet, the pathos here is only an extreme instance of the human condition. Kohelet, that extended meditation on the absurdity of life, says this plainly: When one realizes that all one's toil will be at best for the benefit of others, and at worse for no one at all, one can come to despise life. Indeed, Devarim Rabba (2:2) tells us that one name for Moshe is simply "*ish*", human being. And God's "no" to Moshe is the same as God's "no" in the Garden of Eden, from which humanity was driven "lest they stretch forth their hand, and take from the Tree of Life, and eat, and live forever."

It is an astounding irony, then, that the Shabbat on which we read Parashat Va'etchanan is known as Shabbat Nahamu, the Shabbat of Consolation. Even the Prophet Isaiah, whose words we read this Shabbat, tells us that "all flesh is grass, all its goodness like the flowers of the field." How are we to find consolation in any of this? R' Ovadia Sforno offers us a hint of how we can move from despair at the futility of life to consolation. He writes that when God instructed Moshe to climb Mt. Pisgah, it was so that Moshe would *bless* the land and the people who would live in it.

The final lesson that God has to teach Moshe is that the way we can rescue ourselves from the mood of disappointment and despair that mortality can provoke — is to bless. To behold the green vistas we will never enter, consider the grandchildren we will never know, imagine the joys we will never taste doesn't have to fill us with regret. It could do the opposite. We could smile upon it.

And, indeed, Moshe learns this lesson. It is with the text of Moshe's blessing (V'zot Habracha) that the Torah ends.

Even for the greatest of us, it is not an easy thing to accept our death. And it is not an easy thing to bless. But if we can turn despair to blessing, if we can find a way not only to accept, but to embrace that the world will continue without us, there may be, in the end, a reward for our labors, and consolation.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joe Schwartz**, *Conservative Yeshiva Alumnus (2010-11)* "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.

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