

Friday, July 5   2 Tammuz				Parashat Korach Saturday, July 6   3 Tammuz		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Charlie Urich</b>   7:00PM Candle Lighting   8:12PM				Shacharit   10:00AM		
Sunday July 7 4 Tammuz	Monday July 8 5 Tammuz	Tuesday July 9 6 Tammuz	Wednesday July 10 7 Tammuz	Thursday July 11 8 Tammuz	Friday July 12 9 Tammuz	Saturday July 13 10 Tammuz
			Morning Minyan 7:00AM  Hebrew Reading for Adult beginners 7:00PM		Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Mindi Wernick</b> 7:00PM  Candle Lighting 8:10PM	<i>Shabbat Chukkat</i>  Shacharit   10:00AM  Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM
<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, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@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:

**Adine Schuman Pusey** and her family on the death of Adine's father, **Joseph Schuman**, z"l.

### Yahrzeits observed 3-9 Tammuz:

**Abraham Baumann**, uncle of Fredrica Brooks; **Abraham Rothberger**, father of Harriet Baron; **Bernard Phillips**, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Catherine Siegel**, mother of Colleen Siegel; **Flora Radlow**, aunt of Reba Snyder; **Isidore Kessler**, father of Marla Kessler; **Janet Stone Holmes**, mother of Peter Holmes; **Jeffrey Mattison Warsaw**, cousin of Elizabeth Schnur; **Lucyle Kalish**, observed by PSJC community.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊



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When logged in members can see...

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

### Summer Shabbat Services

Our Friday night service times move to 7:00PM beginning in July.  
 And Shabbat Services move to our air-conditioned downstairs for services in July and August.



PARK  
SLOPE  
JEWISH  
CENTER

July 5-13, 2019 | 2 - 10 Tammuz 5779  
Parashat Korach

### Hebrew Reading for Adult beginners @ Park Slope Jewish Center

Wednesdays | 7:00PM-8:30PM | July 10, 17, 24, 31; Aug 7, 14, 21, 28

Instructor: Rabbi Sue Oren | Fee: \$275 (includes course materials)

For adults interested in learning to read Hebrew (or refreshing their rusty skills!) Learn to read the Hebrew “alefbet” (aka alphabet) on Wednesdays this summer! This course provides a systematic approach to recognizing and sounding out the Hebrew writing system. In class and at home, you’ll reinforce this learning through practical exercises and introduction to basic vocabulary from Jewish prayer. For registration and questions, contact Rabbi Oren: [slopehebrew@earthlink.net](mailto:slopehebrew@earthlink.net) or 917.539.1334. Co-sponsors: East Midwood Jewish Center, Flatbush Jewish Center, Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, Park Slope Jewish Center, Union Temple

### Lights for Liberty - NYC

Friday, July 12 | 7:00PM | Foley Square

To travel with a group from PSJC, meet at the stoop at 5:30PM. For those who want to attend services or to start Shabbat in Brooklyn, please join Rabbi Carter at PSJC at 7pm. We are going to light long-lasting candles at the start of Shabbat services and leave them visible throughout the service. Please contact Rabbi Carter for more details about the special additions to our service on July 12.

### Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, July 13 | 1:00PM

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us after services and kiddush where we have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Those who aren't sure if they are “fluent” or not are all welcome! Contact Michal: [Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com](mailto:Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com) for more details.

Saturday, July 20 | 1:00PM

### Difduf/Kishkush Reading Group

Read and discuss short stories in Hebrew. Contact Michal: [Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com](mailto:Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com) for more details.

### Shabbat Shmooze | 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 email [shabbatshmooze@psjc.org](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org), with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

### Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 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 [aronrhalb@gmail.com](mailto:aronrhalb@gmail.com).

### 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).

Get your orders in before Monday, August 5 so you can get free shipping





July 5-13, 2019 | 2 - 10 Tammuz 5779  
Parashat Korach

### **Kishkush Acharei Kiddush**

Saturday, August 3 | 1:00PM - Final for the Summer

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us after services and kiddush where we have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Those who aren't sure if they are "fluent" or not are all welcome! Contact Michal: Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

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

Saturday, August 10 | 8:45PM

### **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.

### **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)

**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), reading Torah, email Rabbi Sue Oren at [leyning@psjc.org](mailto:leyning@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).

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

## Parashat Korach

Triennial: Numbers 17:25-18:32 | Etz Hayim p.869; Hertz p.645  
Haftarah: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22 | Etz Hayim p.876; Hertz p.649

### D'var Torah: When God is Not God

Religion cannot escape the human condition. Its enterprise is not exclusively to be found in the Beit Knesset nor the Beit Midrash. It must be involved in the nitty-gritty of real life, sometimes even with things most of us would rather avoid. The episode of Korah and his challenge to Moshe's leadership is a case in point. Who would have thought that someone would come along to challenge the authority of Israel's preeminent prophet and leader? To challenge his character and sincerity of his motivations? And worst yet, to do so in the name of the people he had led out of slavery at great personal cost?

This episode as found in the Torah is sparsely related. Korah gives one short speech, saying: "You take too much upon yourselves, for the entire congregation are all holy, and the Lord is in their midst. So why do you raise yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" (Bemidbar 16:3) This leaves the rabbinic sages a fantastic opportunity to expound upon the story and make it their own. In a famous midrash from the Tanhuma, the sages connect Korah's rebellion to the Torah verses that came before it - the command to put *tzitziyot* (special fringes with a blue thread in them) on one's four-cornered garments:

Korah said to Moses, "Does a *talit* which is entirely blue (*talit she'kulo techelet*) require *tzitziyot* (ritual fringes) or not?" Moses said to him, "[Such a talit] certainly requires *tzitziyot*." Korah replied: "Wouldn't such a talit which is all blue exempt itself when four [blue] threads exempt it?" He continued: "And what about a house filled with Torah scrolls, would not such a house be exempt from requiring a mezuzah?" [Moses] responded: "[Such a house] requires a mezuzah." [Korah] said to him, "Since the whole Torah has two hundred and seventy-five *parashiot* in it - and they do not exempt the house [from having the mezuzah] - [how] would the two *parashiot* which are in the mezuzah exempt the house!?" You, Moshe, have invented these laws. They are not God-given!" (adapted from Tanhuma Korah 2)

There is a certain logic to his thinking. Why should a totally blue garment need a single blue thread to render it kosher? And why should a house full of Torah scrolls require that two paragraphs from the Torah be affixed to the doorpost? If a little is good, then more is better! Why have only one "holy person" in charge when everyone is holy? Surely everyone should be in charge!

But while we may concede that Korah had a point - having a point is not enough, and it is disingenuous to pretend that it is. Our tradition requires one to carefully consider the merits of both sides of an argument, something Korah does not even attempt. It also requires us to treat an opposing argument, and the opposition itself, as being at least as sincere as our side. Leaders make mistakes and people go through hard times, and popular demagogues like Korah seize on peoples' natural frustration to take power. They want people to think that only they know all the answers; only they can be trusted. Everyone else is either evil or naive.

Based on this story, the idiom "*Talit she'kulo techelet* (a *talit* that is entirely blue) has come to represent, in an ironic sense, something or someone who purports to be absolutely true and pure. These days, when dangerous panaceas abound, this story offers us a warning about having too much, or too little, trust in our leadership. It calls upon us to evaluate with open minds opposing points of view that are rooted in competing, but often legitimate, core values. But it mostly calls upon us to steer clear of those, like Korah, who undermine deliberative processes and basic norms of respect, tolerance, and critical thought.

May our tradition help us recognize "*talit she'kulo techelet*" when we see it and give us the tools to live successfully in a complicated world where scrutiny and vigilance are as much religious values as faith.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein**, *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>.

**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.