



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

October 27-November 4, 2017 | 7-15 Cheshvan 5778
Parashat Lech Lecha

Friday, October 27 7 Cheshvan				Parashat Lech Lecha Saturday, October 28 8 Cheshvan		
Candle Lighting 5:50PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Shaarei Mitzvah 2018 Service 6:30PM and Potluck Dinner 7:00PM				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 Niggun Share 5:45PM		
Sunday October 29 9 Cheshvan	Monday October 30 10 Cheshvan	Tuesday October 31 11 Cheshvan	Wednesday November 1 12 Cheshvan	Thursday November 2 13 Cheshvan	Friday November 3 14 Cheshvan	Saturday November 4 15 Cheshvan
Hebrew School 9:30AM Positive Aging Initiative 2:00PM	Etz Chaim Community Conversation 7:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM	Café Ivrit 7:00PM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 5:31PM Lev Tahor: Open-Hearted Singing, Challenging Questions 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Vayera</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Micah Fisher's Bar Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrator (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Peter Holmes** and **Elizabeth Schnur** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Abby Ingber, her husband Jeffrey Easton and their children, Alexandra and Rachel, on the death of Abby's father, **Joseph Sholom Ingber**, z"l.

Erik Lieber, Doreen, Julian, Isabelle and Oliver on the death of Erik's father, **Mischa Lieber**, z"l.

Lisa Albin and her children Anya and Elie on the death of Lisa's mother, **Beverly Gilda Albin**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 8-14 Cheshvan:

Abraham Sidman, father of Alan Sidman; **Anna Baron**, grandmother of Stuart Baron; **Elizabeth Quigley**, mother of Lawrence Quigley; **Finn Gregory Baseggio**, great-nephew of Cathy Monblatt; **Flora Latter**, great-aunt of Karen Barth; **Howard Buxbaum**, father of Audrey Buxbaum; **Jack Daffner**, great uncle of Stuart Baron; **Leon Weisman**, father of Marlene Weisman-Abadi; **Louis Meyerson**, father of Bruce Meyerson; **Louis Rosen**, grandfather of Iris Sheber; **Mary Rosenzweig**, aunt of Gavrielle and Myron Levine; **Maurice Gradman**, father of Steven Gradman; **Nicole Anderson**, sister-in-law of Richard Anderson; **Pauline Levine**, mother of Gavrielle Levine and Myron Levine; **Rex Wasserman**, cousin of Sue Harris; **Robert Groom**, father of Scott Groom.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Got announcements? Email by Monday 5:00PM (office@PSJC.org)



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Join us for the Capital Campaign Match Challenge!

Go right now to <https://www.jewcer.org/project/save-our-synagogue/>
We are grateful for every donation and pledge!
Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, October 27 | 6:30PM

Shaarei Mitzvah 2018 Potluck Dinner

Friday, October 27 | 6:30PM - Services and 7:00PM - Dinner and Program.

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, October 28 | 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, October 28 | 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.

Niggun Share

Saturday, October 28 | 5:45PM-7:15PM

Come savor the last hour of Shabbat by singing melodies, old and new, with PSJC Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins. We will conclude with Havdallah. Snacks will be served.

Positive Aging Initiative

Sunday, October 29 | 2:00PM

Please join us for the official launch of the Positive Aging Initiative for all members who are age 50 or better to engage in activities and events. For more information please contact Jan Orzeck, jkorzeck@gmail.com.

Jews in Trumpland I

Sunday, October 29 | 4:00PM | Congregation Mt Sinai, 250 Cadman Plaza W, 11201

Please join us as ILJB presents a new season: One People, Under Trump? The Impact on Jewish Pluralism, Solidarity, and Relations with Israel, JJ Goldberg, award-winning author and journalist. \$10 suggested donation for each event; prepay \$25 for whole series. For more info: www.iljb.org, or call 718 339-0230

Etz Chaim Community Conversation: Can We "Row in One Direction"?

Monday, October 30 | 7:30PM

Please plan to join the Community Conversation at shul to talk about real strategies to be a more aligned, inclusive and diverse community, sharing creative, concrete ideas for possible programs and ritual/educational/cultural offerings that will help our shul community thrive. All voices warmly welcome.



Café Ivrit - Mid-Level Hebrew with our Community Shaliach Noam Willner

Thursday, November 2, 16 and 30 | 7:00PM

Would you like to practice speaking Hebrew over coffee together with other Brownstone Brooklyn friends? If so, Café Ivrit is the right place for you. The group will discuss different issues in Hebrew and will practice new words and ways to express yourself better in Hebrew. All this in a non-judgmental and safe environment. Perfect for someone who can communicate in Hebrew, but is not yet fluent. To determine if this is the class for you, or to RSVP, please contact Noam at NoamW@jafi.org.



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Other Israel Film Center Festival

November 2 - 9 | JCC

Join PSJC at the 11th Annual Other Israel Film Festival. We encourage you to give particular attention to *A Land Without Borders* and *Muhi - Generally Temporary*. Use this special offer online at checkout for \$3 off our purchase, enter discount code **PSJCO117** at all general film screenings at JCC Manhattan. Catch a deep look into Israeli and Palestinian societies. Visit www.otherisrael.org, for more information and to purchase tickets.

Lev Tahor: Open-Hearted Singing, Challenging Questions

Friday, November 3 | 6:30PM

As Jews, our central texts urge commitment to the stranger in our midst, as we were once strangers ourselves. For many, this prompts questions about how to support political and social movements beyond the Jewish community. At the upcoming gathering of Lev Tahor, community organizer and political activist Yehuda Webster will ask, "Does supporting #BLM make you anti-Zionist or anti-semitic?" Webster will share his perspectives on why racial justice, the fight for black lives, and a commitment to the Movement for Black Lives should be a Jewish concern. Join PSJC in grappling with how to support Israel while working alongside social justice movements associated with anti-Zionist sentiments. Sign up for the dairy/pareve potluck dinner <http://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Nov-3-17>.



PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, November 3, 10 and 17 | 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.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, November 6 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

Book Club: Florence Gordon

Saturday, November 11 | 1:30PM

PSJCers and literature professor David Mikics will lead a discussion about *Florence Gordon* by Brian Morton. The title character is a 75 year old Jewish-American Women's Studies professor and author of mostly academic books who becomes an overnight celebrity when her latest book unexpectedly becomes a best seller. Unfortunately she doesn't get to enjoy her new fame for long as the lives of her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter begin to unravel. BPL has seven print copies as well as ebook and audiobook editions. Inexpensive copies are available from on-line vendors, and an audiobook can be purchased either as a CD or as a digital file.

Hebrew Cooking with the Shinshinim!

Sunday, November 12 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

Bring your family and join our Shinshinim to learn how to prepare delicious Israeli dishes using Hebrew! Last month we made lots of kinds of Israeli salads - This month we will bake some yummy Israeli desserts! 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 with some of our amazing Shinshinim (18 year old Israelis here for a year of service). 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 December 17; January 28, 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.

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.



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Triennial: Genesis 14:1-15:21 | Etz Hayim p.77; Hertz p.50

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16 | Etz Hayim p.94; Hertz p.60

In this week's portion we read: "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Avram in a vision, saying: 'Fear not, Avram! I am thy shield, thy reward shall be exceedingly great.'...And Avram said: 'O Lord GOD, what wilt Thou give me, seeing I go hence childless...?'" Avram is afraid that he will die without a child from Sarai. This is both a personal loss and perhaps an existential crisis: Avram's life has been about faith in God. God promised him an heir (Genesis 12:7). Was it all just illusion? In the end, God delivered Yitschak as promised, but to Avraham and Sarah, not Avram and Sarai. First God changed their names, adding one letter of the divine name - the letter Heh - to each of their names. Why? To answer this question, we need to ask another one: After Avram's complaint, we read, "And God brought him outside, and said: 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars, if thou be able to count them'; and God said unto him: 'So shall thy seed be.'" (Genesis 15:5). But we were not told before that Avram was *inside* any tent or building, so why does God suddenly bring him *outside*?! *Outside* of what!? Rashi explains:

"The simple meaning of the words, **God took him outside**, are that God took him outside his tent to see the stars. But the midrashic meaning is that God said to him, "Get out of your [belief in] astrology; you *think* that you have read in the stars that you will not have a son. [But the truth is that] Avram will not have a son, but Avraham will have one, and Sarai will not have a son, but Sarah will have one: I call you by a different name [by adding the letter Heh] and your "destiny" is altered!"

Rashi attributes to Avraham a belief common in his own days: that the stars control our fate. That might strike us as unfair: most people today think that astrology is nonsense, whereas the idea that Sarai was past childbearing age was not nonsense, but biology! However, astrology and modern science share something important: they both posit that our fate is determined by impersonal mechanistic forces. Following this logic, God said to Avram, "Transcend your belief in the mechanistic forces of nature and join Me in that dimension of reality where *free will overcomes physics*, there you will share one letter of My name, and together *we will choose to change* your so-called 'destiny'".

Since I believe in science, the modern-day mechanistic belief system that replaced astrology, this message is a challenge. I don't understand how any will, even God's, could make possible that which is biologically impossible. I even believe, in keeping with science as I understand it, that humans are bio-robo-computers wholly determined by the laws of nature like all material things.

And yet, bio-robo-computer that I am, I *choose* to seek life, spirit, love and justice and place my *faith* in serving what I recognize as God. Can we imagine a computer, even one made of flesh, *who chooses* or *has faith*? I cannot: Material things have causes, not ideals. Do you agree? If so, then perhaps God's words to Avram are directed at us! "Transcend your mechanistic belief system and join Me in that dimension where even you - chunks of matter spit out by the big bang, physics and evolution - *can choose life and seek transcendence*; and in the reality of your freedom, spirit and consciousness, you will share one holy letter of My divine name."

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz, Director of North American Engagement, 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. **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. **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.