



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

November 11-18, 2016 | 10-17 Cheshvan, 5777  
Parashat Lech Lecha

Friday, November 11   10 Cheshvan				Parashat Lech Lecha Saturday, November 12   11 Cheshvan		
<b>VETERANS DAY</b>						
<b>Candle Lighting</b>   4:23PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM <b>Alex and Ryan Weintraub Bnai Mitzvah</b> Mini Minyan   Tot Shabbat   JC   11:15AM Mishneh Torah Class - Laws of Teshuvah   1:30PM		
Sunday November 13 12 Cheshvan	Monday November 14 13 Cheshvan	Tuesday November 15 14 Cheshvan	Wednesday November 16 15 Cheshvan	Thursday November 17 16 Cheshvan	Friday November 18 17 Cheshvan	Saturday November 19 18 Cheshvan
Hebrew School 9:30AM  Communal Gathering 11:30AM  Learn About Engage 2:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM  Board Meeting 7:15PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Gesher   6:15PM  Etz Chaim Project: Build Our Shul and Our Community 7:00PM	Mussar Path of the Mensch 7:00PM	PJ Library Music Class: It's Friday! 10:30AM  <i>Candle Lighting</i> 4:17PM  Kabbalat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b> 6:30PM followed by Shaarei Mitzvah Dinner	Shabbat Vayera  Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM  Shacharit   10:00AM  Family Torah   10:30AM  Learners Minyan 10:45AM  Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM
<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, 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 **Alexander, Ryan, Julie, Neil** and **Benjamin** on **Alexander and Ryan's** B'nai Mitzvah this Shabbat! To **Isaac Josephson, Oren Efrati** and **Michelle Krochmal** on completing the New York City Marathon last Sunday! To **Tracy Sandseth** and **Stephen Rothburg** on the birth of their daughter Hannah!

**Todah Rabbah** To **Julie** and **Neil Weintraub** for sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat in honor of **Alexander and Ryan's** B'nai Mitzvah. To PSJC members who served our country.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

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

**Yahrzeits: 11-17 Cheshvan:**

**Anna Baron**, grandmother of Stuart Baron; **Eda Herszkorn**, grandmother of Fran Hawthorne; **Herman Appelbaum**, father of Marilyn Appelbaum; **Howard Buxbaum**, father of Audrey Buxbaum; **Jennie Barnett**, grandmother of Miriam Fleischmann; **John Brinley**, friend of Alan Sidman; **Louis Rosen**, grandfather of Iris Sheber; **Maurice Gradman**, father of Steven Gradman; **Pauline Burstein**, observed by the PSJC community; **Rex Wasserman**, cousin of Sue Harris; **Robert Groom**, father of Scott Groom; **Samuel Blank**, uncle of Gavrielle and Myron Levine; **Scott Ugoretz**, brother of Joseph Ugoretz; **Shlomo Klein**, father of Tova Klein; **Sylvia Gruber**, mother of Carolyn Gruber. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

**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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### **Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah**

Saturday, November 12 | 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.

### **Communal Gathering**

Sunday, November 13 | 11:30AM

PSJC Communal gathering to reflect on the events of the past week and to consider together how we might work as a community to create the world we most want to see.

### **Learn About Engage**

Sunday, November 13 | 2:00PM

Are you in your 50s, 60s, 70s or beyond, and ready to give back? Would you like to meet volunteers in Brooklyn and learn about community-building and service opportunities with Holocaust survivors, the elderly, refugees, people living in poverty and others in need from diverse communities? Lunch will be served. Contact Susan to RSVP [skranberg@jccmanhattan.org](mailto:skranberg@jccmanhattan.org) or call 347.415.0943 or 646.505.4408. Engage Jewish Service Corps is generously supported by UJA-Federation of New York.

### **PSJC Board Meeting**

Tuesday, November 15 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

### **PSJC Etz Chaim Project: Speak Out for Your Community!**



Wednesday, November 16 | 7:00PM

Add your voice to the community conversation 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 meeting was 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 want to hear from ALL members who have a stake in PSJC's future. Join us and share your ideas, opinions and dreams for PSJC. And please reach out to the working group: [hzelon@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Path of the Mensch**

November 17 - March 30

The World of Mussar is opening before you and you are invited to enter. Come join in small group study, led by Rabbi Carie Carter, as we embark on a program of study and practice in the Jewish spiritual tradition of Mussar (Jewish Spiritual Ethics). Using Alan Morinis' book, *Everyday Holiness* and a curriculum developed by The 10 session course: Thursdays 7:00PM | Nov 17, Dec 1, 15, Jan 5, 19, Feb 2, 16, Mar 2, 16, and 30. If you would still like to register please contact the office: 718-768-1453. This program is appropriate for all.

### **PJ Library Class: It's Friday!**

Friday, November 18 | 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](http://www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html) for more information.

**Bringing Your Can to Shul:** The PSJC Food Drive continues with donations expected in the bins around the building. Send any questions to [caroldiamond@optonline.com](mailto:caroldiamond@optonline.com).

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



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**Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick  
followed by Shaarei Mitzvah Dinner**

Friday, November 18 | 6:30PM

**Parashat Hashavua**

Saturday, November 19 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with our Rabbinic Intern, Rina Bergman. It's a great lead in to the Shabbat morning services.

**Learner's Minyan**

Saturday, November 19 | 10:45AM

Exploring the hows and whys of prayer, this is a class for adults who want to know more about the Shabbat morning service, with Rina Bergman.

**Shabbat Shmooze**

**Hosted on Prospect Avenue**

Saturday, November 19 | 1:30PM

Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Pot Luck Lunch (after the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services). Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share. The Shabbat Shmooze offers the chance to get to know some of the PSJC community and spend time with those you already know. It is a great way to keep the Shabbat vibe going all afternoon long. Hosts needed, if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze please contact [Gavrielle.levine@psjc.org](mailto:Gavrielle.levine@psjc.org) for more details.

**Wedding of Roberta Newman and Daniel Soyer**

Sunday, November 20 | 2:45PM Tish | 3:00PM Badekn | 3:30PM Huppah, followed by a reception in the community room. All are cordially invited.

**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 [Aron](mailto:Aron) for information.

**10th Anniversary Other Israel Film Festival December 1-8**

**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](http://www.imaginejewishbrooklyn.org), or contact Michael Vilarello at [vilarellom@ujafedny.org](mailto:vilarellom@ujafedny.org) or 718.942.6800 to learn more.

**To usher services**, email Ira Drucker at [ira.drucker@psjc.org](mailto:ira.drucker@psjc.org) **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); **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at [hevra.kadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevra.kadisha@psjc.org).



### **Torah Parashat Lech Lecha**

Triennial (Genesis 12:1-13:18): Etz Hayim p.70; Hertz p.45; Plaut p.91  
Haftarah (Isaiah 40:27-41:16): Etz Hayim p.95; Hertz p.60; Plaut p.330

### **Not Exactly What I was Taught in Yeshiva**

**Rabbi Moshe Levin**, *Congregation Ner Tamid, San Francisco, in honor of his Bar Mitsva not so long ago (1954). This is excerpted from longer commentary to the Parashah which can be obtained from <http://nertamidsf.org/> or from Rabbi Levin ([sfrebbe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfrebbe@sbcglobal.net)).*

Lekh Lekha is considered the source of many of our fundamental beliefs about ourselves, our religion, and our land. It is regarded as the birth of monotheism; our connection to the land that became known as Eretz Yisra'el; a male's identification through circumcision; and the election of the Jews as the Chosen People.

But a careful reading of the text demonstrates that such conclusions are not so simple. Avraham's journey to Canaan was not begun by him but by his deceased father; there are those who claim that Avraham was still a polytheist who recognized other gods and worshipped at their holy places. The statements about a Chosen People were questioned even by Jewish scholars centuries ago, and many in our time find the concept of a divinely-ordained right to the Land at odds with a desire to live in peace with Israel's neighbors. By the same token, we should note with pride that Lekh Lekha portrays our patriarch as human, and the circumstances surrounding his career as true-to-life, versus mythological. Here Avraham is faced with a moral dilemma in offering his wife to a harem to save himself from death (Do you remember "Sophie's Choice?"). The story of taking Hagar as a concubine to produce a son raises issues for us of mistreatment in the household, of surrogate motherhood, of offspring from mixed racial or ethnic parents, and of our treatment of those in lower classes. The traditional commentators have taken Avraham and Sarah to task for these actions. Nahmanides (Ramban, Spain 12th cent.) says "Avraham committed a grievous sin in offering his righteous wife lest he be killed." And Maimonides says Sarah herself sinned in her abusive treatment of Hagar.

We are startled to see our "bearded, pious first Jew" enter a nine-nation war as a competent military leader who deals the enemy a decisive blow and returns not only his nephew but indeed all hostages to their freedom. And, in a display of regal character, he refuses to accept the spoils of victory so as not to allow anyone to claim that his material success comes from another.

Finally, we are introduced to circumcision as a covenantal ritual but we know that it is not necessarily original to the Jews. The Muslim practice of circumcision at puberty is often traced to Lekh Lekha since Ishmael, Hagar's son, was circumcised at age 13. In fact, contemporary scholars trace it to pre-Abrahamic times. And indeed today there is a marginal but passionate element in the Jewish community that calls for its cessation, due to issues of infant rights and its similarity to female circumcision, a practice the civilized world has already prohibited.

So...Lekh Lekha gives us much to ponder. It enables us to realize that our most revered ancestors were human and therefore imperfect. Yet it is only from such real figures in our history that we can learn to face the challenges of real life. And how proud we can be that the characters of those who birthed our nation are recorded in our sacred texts somewhat unedited, not sanitized, so that the Torah shares with us their humanity and fallibility and thus their example.

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](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org)), or notify the usher if you arrive before the Torah Service begins; we honor requests whenever possible.