



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

June 14-22, 2019 | 11-19 Sivan 5779
Parashat Naso

| Friday, June 14 11 Sivan | | | | Parashat Naso Saturday, June 15 12 Sivan | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Final Teen Shabbat Dinner 7:30PM Candle Lighting 8:10PM | | | | Simcha Shabbat Shacharit 10:00AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM | | |
| Sunday June 16 13 Sivan | Monday June 17 14 Sivan | Tuesday June 18 15 Sivan | Wednesday June 19 16 Sivan | Thursday June 20 17 Sivan | Friday June 21 18 Sivan | Saturday June 22 19 Sivan |
| | | | Morning Minyan 7:15AM | Shinshinim Farewell Party 7:00PM Union Temple | It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:13PM | <i>Shabbat Beha'alotecha</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM |
| 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, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Elana Ayalon, Director of Administration (office@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org) | | |

Todah Rabbah

Thanks to PSJC and the Board for sponsoring kiddush in honor of our phenomenal Shinshinit, **Michal**. Todah Rabbah for all you've done for us this year!

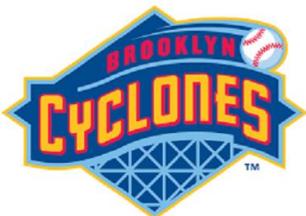
HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

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

Yahrzeits observed 12-18 Sivan:

Annette Fried Gissinger Schwartz, mother of Julie Hendel; **Benjamin Cohen**, father of Barbara Hopard; **Betty Kaplan**, mother of Lynda Kaplan; **Bill Hoffer**, father of Sue Herskovits; **Carrie Septimus**, mother of Matthew Septimus; **David Schwartz**, father of Torrene Einhorn; **Deborah Kligler Krasnow**, mother of Ben Kligler; **Ethel Sinkoff**, mother of Michal Tamuz; **Ida Floman**, great-grandmother of Ellen Simon; **Irene Goldstein**, mother of Ezra Goldstein; **Norman Zeitlin**, father of June Zeitlin; **Pauline Grebel**, grandmother of Marla Kessler; **Pauline Wollman**, mother of Michael Wollman; **Rose Robins**, grandmother of Susan Robins; **Ruth Singer**, mother of Naomi Singer; **Walter Grossberg**, father of Reva Grossberg. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



Save the Date! PSJC goes to the Cyclones
 Sunday, June 23 | 4:00PM - **Deadline Saturday, June 15**
 Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees

Tickets are \$18.00 each includes a Kosher Hot Dog and soft drink as well as the fashionable Cyclones cap, and an additional donation to would be appreciated.

Buy tickets now! Visit: <http://www.psjc.org/event/bklyn-cyclones.html>



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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

Deadline to avoid \$100 late fee is **Friday, June 30, 2019**

Saturday, June 15

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

Join us as we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their June birthdays & anniversaries.

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush | 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 for more details.

Shabbat Shmooze | 1:30PM

Home of Elizabeth Schnur and Peter Holmes - 177 Windsor Place between Prospect Park West and 10th Avenue
Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck 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.

Shinshinim Farewell Party

Thursday, June 20 | 7:00PM | Union Temple - 17 Eastern Parkway

Join us as we celebrate and appreciate the incredible work of our community's Shinshinim! Kosher dinner will be served. RSVP to noamw@jafi.org

Friday, June 21

It's Friday Music Class | 10:00AM

Come sing and play with Abe every week for a fun-filled music class that combines your favorite Shabbat and children's songs, with a story, movement and more. Taught by a professional music instructor, our open-space, informal class allows children ages 0 - 3 and their grownups to explore music and Shabbat! Each class ends with a snack and open-play so that caregivers can connect with each other. We look forward to having you join us! \$15/drop-in class* or \$50 for a 4-class series in June (paid in advance) RSVP: https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect

Ready for Camp! Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu | 6:30PM

Grab your favorite camp shirt and join Aileen and Abe for a picnic-style Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu in the yard!

RSVP today <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, June 22 | 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.

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 hevradkadisha@psjc.org

PSJC goes to the Cyclones

Sunday, June 23 | 4:00PM - **Deadline Monday, June 5**

Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees. Tickets are \$18.00 each includes a Kosher Hot Dog and soft drink as well as the fashionable Cyclones cap, and an additional donation to would be appreciated. Buy tickets now! Visit: <http://www.psjc.org/event/bklyn-cyclones.html>

Board Meeting

Thursday, June 25 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz Minyan

July 3 & 4 | 7:00AM

PAI Walking Group

Sunday, July 7 | 9:30AM

Join us every Sunday at the entrance to Prospect Park at 15th Street and Prospect Park West. Please register so we can let you know if a walk must be canceled: <https://www.psjc.org/event/positive-aging-initiative-walking-group.html>

PAI Book Club - "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead

Wednesday, July 10 | 7:00PM

Coming Soon!

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.

Notices will be going out as soon as they open their website.

Get your orders in early so you can get free shipping



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 Naso

Triennial: Numbers 7:1-89 | Etz Hayim p.805; Hertz p.596

Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25 | Etz Hayim p.813; Hertz p.602

D'var Torah: What Women Want

Parshat Naso contains the detailed Sotah ordeal, the law of the “wayward woman.” This title is a bit of a misnomer since the ritual is performed in a situation where the husband is gripped by a spirit of jealousy. Unsure whether his wife has strayed or not, he brings her to the Temple so that she can endure a harrowing ritual meant not only to ascertain her guilt or innocence but also to assuage his feelings of jealousy. If during the ritual the woman is proven guilty then her insides, perhaps a reference to her womb, will grotesquely fall. If however, she is innocent then that womb will be filled with a child - she will become pregnant. This dichotomy lies at the foundation of this conception of sexuality and femaleness. No one actually asks this woman what happened - the ordeal will tell whether she has strayed. And if she hasn't she receives pregnancy as a reward - also without anyone asking whether that is what she wants.

Throughout Biblical literature, the overarching assumption is that women want nothing more than to become pregnant. Almost all of our matriarchs have difficulty becoming pregnant (they are “barren” in the words of the Bible.) The majority of these women are bothered greatly by this fact. Rachel cries to Yaakov that she will die without a child (Gen 30:1), Yitzhak prays on behalf of Rivka when she has trouble conceiving and she herself goes to speak to God to figure out what is going on (Gen 25:21-23). This trope repeats itself in the story of Hannah at the beginning of the book of Samuel.

However, if we look a bit more carefully we can see that not all women saw pregnancy as a reward. In the story of the Shunammite Woman in the book of II Kings (4:11-17) we are told that she has no children but it is Gehazi and the prophet Elisha who decide to reward her with a child. She herself pushes back several times and says basically that she is fine without a child.

Sara, unlike Rachel, Rivka or even Leah, never expresses any desire for a child. When she is told she will have one she laughs (Gen 18:12). If she had been pining her whole life for a child her reaction would have been different, perhaps she would have smiled or burst into tears of joy. Instead, she laughs. The Talmud in Yevamot (64b) claims that Sara the matriarch was an *aylonit* that is a woman who never reached sexual maturity and therefore could not bear a child. This is partly a way for the Rabbis to highlight the miraculous nature of the birth of Yitzhak but it can also give us an opportunity to think about the event from Sara's perspective. Perhaps she had always understood herself as someone who would not have children and suddenly that part of her identity shifted and she laughed in discomfort and shock.

While the parashah of Sotah contains the popular assumption that all women want babies, there is precedent in the Bible to think about women who might not. The relationship between this woman and her husband may very well have deteriorated at this point and it is not hard to imagine that this woman might not want to be pregnant at all, such that the “good” part of the ceremony could be just as “bad” as the bad part.

In light of current events regarding reproductive rights, it is critical that we bear in mind the simple truth that society cannot make assumptions that it is better for a woman to be pregnant than not to be pregnant. Only a woman herself, with her own perspective on her body and circumstances, can determine whether a pregnancy is wanted or not and whether it should continue. This week's parashah falls short in asking this woman what she wants but it gives us an opportunity to do better, to ask and to listen and to accept the authority of women over their own bodies.

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>.

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.