



**PARK  
SLOPE  
JEWISH  
CENTER**

September 15-23, 2017 | 24 Elul 5777-3 Tishrei 5778  
Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayelech

Friday, September 15   24 Elul				Shabbat Ki Tavo Saturday, September 16   25 Elul		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Fredrica Brooks</b>   6:30PM Candle Lighting   6:46PM				Shabbat Morning Services   10:00AM <b>Laila Fieldman Bat Mitzvah</b> Family Torah/ Shabbat Kalanu   10:30AM Selichot Across Brooklyn   9:30PM		
Sunday September 17 26 Elul	Monday September 18 27 Elul	Tuesday September 19 28 Elul	Wednesday September 20 29 Elul	Thursday September 21 1 Tishrei	Friday September 22 2 Tishrei	Saturday September 23 3 Tishrei
Shaarei Mitzvah 7 to Dorot   9:00AM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	<b>Rosh Chodesh Minyan 7:00AM</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah Day I</b> All service times are listed in the newsletter	<b>Rosh Hashanah Day II</b> All service times are listed in the newsletter	<i>Shabbat Nitzavim- Vayelech</i>
Hebrew School 9:30AM		Hebrew School Committee Meeting 7:15PM	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah 6:30PM</b>		Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Alan Palmer</b> 6:30PM	Shacharit 10:00AM
Kadima Trip to Ample Hills 12:30PM					Candle Lighting 6:35PM	<i>Simcha Shabbat</i>
						Tot Shabbat/Mini- Minyan   11:15AM
						Advanced Talmud 1:30PM
<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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrator (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

### Mazal Tov!

To **Laila, Martha, Eric** and **Zoe** on **Laila's** Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

### Todah Rabbah

To **Martha Harrison** and **Eric Fieldman** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Laila's** Bat Mitzvah.

### HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

**Ellen Straus** and her family on the death of her mother, **Betty Straus**, z"l.

### Yahrzeits observed 18-24 Elul:

**Abe Baron**, grandfather of Stuart Baron; **Barbara Fortsch**, observed by the PSJC community; **Bernard Tursky**, uncle of Marc Korashan; **Caleb Mazal Sande**, son of Ellen Hollander-Sande and Michael Sande, brother of Banjo and Jonah; **Ellen Grossman**, sister of Neil Cohen; **Harold Herschel Lurie**, father of Loretta Lurie; **Irving Santo**, father of Helene Santo; **Joseph Marker**, father of Rabbi Jeffrey Marker; **Maurice Siniawer**, cousin of Gavrielle and Myron Levine. *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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## Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

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. We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC! We would love to get to 100% participation. Please contact Eli Wolfhagen by email [treasurer@psjc.org](mailto:treasurer@psjc.org), if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

### Selichot Across Brooklyn

Saturday, September 16 | 9:30PM

FREE ADMISSION - This annual community collaboration is co-sponsored by Altshul, Brooklyn Jews, Congregation Beth Elohim, East Midwood Jewish Center, Flatbush Jewish Center, Kane Street Synagogue, Kolot Chayeinu, Mishkan Minyan, Park Slope Jewish Center, Shir HaMaalot, and Union Temple of Brooklyn.

9:30PM | Havdallah

10:00PM | Liturgy

11:30PM | Communal Singing

12:30AM | Conclusion

### Erev Rosh Hashanah | Wednesday, September 20

Ma'ariv | 6:15PM | Main Sanctuary

### Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Thursday, September 21

Morning Service | 8:30AM | Main Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah (ages 2-5, accompanied by an adult) | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan (K-2nd grade, accompanied by an adult) | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Jr. Congregation (3rd-6th grade) | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service | 11:00AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tashlich | 5:45PM | Prospect Park Lake

Maariv | 7:30PM | Main Sanctuary

### Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Friday, September 22

Morning Service | 8:30AM | Main Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah (ages 2-5, accompanied by an adult) | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan (K-2nd grade, accompanied by an adult) | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Jr. Congregation (3rd-6th grade) | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service | 11:00AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

### Advanced Talmud

Saturday, September 23 | 1:30PM

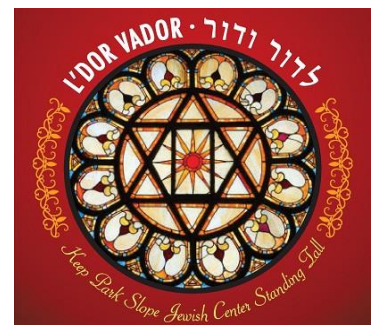
This class is an on-going self-study group appropriate for people who are proficient in Hebrew and have some prior experience in Gemara study. New students are welcome! Email [aronrhalf@gmail.com](mailto:aronrhalf@gmail.com).

## Please Consider Making Your Contribution Today!

We now call upon all members to join our **\$750,000** Capital Campaign to provide **immediate repairs** and to ensure that PSJC continues to stand strong well into the 21st century! Please stand up and generously donate to maintain and preserve our cherished spiritual home for this and future generations.

We are grateful for every donation and pledge!

Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>





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**In Search Of A Few PSJCers to Help Organize the Fall Music Concert.**

While it's not exactly "plug & play," the concert is not a complicated event to put together. As one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, it can be incredibly fulfilling....and fun to plan. In the past, we've had David Broza and the expert jazz sounds of Yotam Silberstein. Help make this year's concert enjoyable and profitable. Contact [rfsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:rfsnyder@gmail.com) for more information.

**Kol Nidrei | Friday, September 29**

PSJC Service (for Members and Ticketed Guests) | 6:10PM | Main Sanctuary  
Free Community Service | 6:25PM | Lower Sanctuary

**Yom Kippur | Saturday, September 30**

Main Service | 8:30AM | Main Sanctuary  
Mincha (afternoon service) | 3:40PM | Main Sanctuary  
Yizkor (memorial service) | 5:10PM | Main Sanctuary  
Neilah (concluding service) | 5:40PM | Main Sanctuary  
Tot-Tefillah (ages 2-5, accompanied by an adult) | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent  
Mini-Minyan (K-2nd grade, accompanied by an adult) | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent  
Jr. Congregation (3rd-6th grade) | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary  
Teen Service | 11:00AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

**Sukkah Build Volunteers are needed**

Sunday, October 1 | 8:30AM

If you build it they will come...so please come! Be part of building our bigger and better sukkah this year at PSJC! Please join us on Sunday to build our new sukkah that will be enlarged to spread over many, many more of us. Everyone is welcome to help, but folks with cordless drills are particularly welcome. This is a chance to literally help build our community! Questions?! Contact [Peter Holmes](mailto:pholmes177@gmail.com), [pholmes177@gmail.com](mailto:pholmes177@gmail.com) or [Patrick Francis](mailto:Patrick.francis@psjc.org), [Patrick.francis@psjc.org](mailto:Patrick.francis@psjc.org)

**PSJC Knitters**

Monday, October 2 | 7:30PM

For more information contact [marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com).

**PSJC BBQ. Save the date for Sunday, October 15**

Hot Dogs. Hamburgers. Veggie Burgers. Camaraderie. After all the holidays end, reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Check [www.psjc.org](http://www.psjc.org) after Rosh Hashanah for details and to reserve your spot.

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊



When logged in members can see...

**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). **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).

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



## Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayelech

Triennial (Deuteronomy 29:9-30:14): Etz Hayim p. 1165; Hertz p. 878; Plaut p. 1537

Haftarah (Isaiah 61:10-63:9): Etz Hayim p. 1180; Hertz p. 883; Plaut p. 1618

### Choose Life!

“I cause heaven and earth to witness upon you today. I put life and death before you, blessing and curse. And you shall choose life, in order that you shall live, you and your offspring” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

This choice presented in parshat Nitzavim is a seemingly straightforward one, choose life and you shall live. Yet it is the statement a verse later (30:20) which is key to the actual process. Choose life “by loving the Lord your God, listening to His commands, and cleaving to Him.” The act of “choosing life” involves loving God, and following His rules, and drawing near to Him. What seems to be a seemingly straightforward command becomes significantly more complex when considered in the context of these three commitments.

One of the most well-known pieces of the High Holiday liturgy is the Unetaneh Tokef prayer. It is a prayer that asks the questions of who shall live and who shall pass onto death, and, for the latter, what form such death will take. “Who by fire, and who by water? Who by sword, and who by beast?” But at its end this prayer contains a three-fold formula that is meant to enable us to avert the decrees of death. The three things that can save from death are teshuvah (repentance), tefilah (prayer), and tzedakah (giving charity). The end result of engaging in prayer, repentance, and giving is the same as by engaging in the acts prescribed in verse 30:20 above, for the person who chooses life.

Although seemingly distinct passages, one can find alignment between these two sets of three. Teshuvah, the act of repentance, does seem like a way to demonstrate a love of God (especially relating to repentance directed towards God). Listening to God’s commands or voice has an interesting juxtaposition with tefilah, or prayer, which often involves using our voices to call out to a listening God. And the act of tzedakah, reaching out our hand to help another, certainly sounds like cleaving to an “other,” and cleaving to God.

By choosing to emulate God in the world, we choose life. Teshuvah, tefilah, and tzedakah are all acts of God, as evidenced by many examples in Jewish tradition. For instance, in Genesis God does teshuvah and promises not to destroy the world again (8:21). The Talmud speaks of how God engages in tefilah and even has His own set of tefillin containing passages about the Jewish people (Berachot 6a). And God gives tzedakah, giving Avraham and his descendants the land of Israel as an inheritance because of His love for His future people.

These are Godly acts, but they are also available to people. They are the methods by which we may be godly and choose life.

At times, we must be willing to humble ourselves before others and ask forgiveness, and do teshuvah. At times, we must be willing to cry out in prayer and supplication, and do tefilah. And at times, we must go above and beyond in taking care of one another, and give tzedakah.

To strive to do any less is to choose curse instead of blessing. To choose death instead of life.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Ben Richards, from the “Torah Sparks” series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Ben Richards, Student, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, and CY Alumnus. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva 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.