



June 1-9, 2018 | 18-26 Sivan 5778
Parashat Beha'alotecha

Friday, June 1 18 Sivan				Parashat Beha'alotecha Saturday, June 2 19 Sivan		
Lev Tahor with Scholar In Residence - Rahel Musleah 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:03PM				Shacharit with Scholar In Residence 10:00AM Scholar In Residence Masala Havdalah 7:30PM		
Sunday June 3 20 Sivan	Monday June 4 21 Sivan	Tuesday June 5 22 Sivan	Wednesday June 6 23 Sivan	Thursday June 7 24 Sivan	Friday June 8 25 Sivan	Saturday June 9 26 Sivan
NY Israel Parade	PSJC Knitters 7:00PM		Morning Minyan 7:15AM Geshet 6:15PM PAI Time for Planning 7:15PM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:08PM	<i>Parashat Shelach</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Sidney Blumenfeld Bar Mitzvah Book Club 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, PSJC's 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

To **Helene Santo, Matthew Eilenberg, Howard and Ruth Eilenberg** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Mitchell Eilenberg** and **Gabrielle Schechter's** Aufruf.

To **Ann Smith** and **Richard Glassman** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Sophie Glassman** and **Seth Golob's** Aufruf.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Ben Kligler and family on the death of his mother, **Deborah Kligler Krasnow**, z"l.

Lynda Kaplan and family on the death of her mother, **Betty Kaplan**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 19-25 Sivan:

Deborah Coquillon, friend of Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk; **Elias Berliner**, father of Sophie Weber; **Erwin Herskovits**, father of Steve Herskovits; **Isidor Oren**, father of Sue Oren; **Joel Youner**, grandfather of Steven Radwell; **Joseph Schulkin**, father of Pauline Friedland; **Julius Reiss**, observed by the PSJC community; **Kenneth Brodziak**, cousin of Fredrica Brooks; **Louis Schwartz**, father of Barbara Wollman; **Margaret Rolnick**, mother of Josh Rolnick; **Meir Itskovitch**, grandfather of Nir Sadovnik; **Phil Smith**, father of Ann Smith; **Robert Cooper**, brother of David Cooper; **Shirley Korashan**, mother of Marc Korashan; **Susan Nutes**, observed by the PSJC community; **Yetta Levine**, grandmother of Yehudit Moch. *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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org.

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

A Taste of India at PSJC Scholar In Residence: Rahel Musleah

Friday, June 1 | 6:30PM

Saturday, June 2 | 10:00AM and 7:30PM

Journalist, educator, singer, scholar and seventh generation of a Calcutta family with roots in Baghdad, Rahel Musleah will share her knowledge of the ancient Indian Jewish community's history, customs and melodies during this Scholar in Residence Shabbat. Our Friday night program begins with **Lev Tahor services at 6:30PM**, followed by a kosher, catered Indian dinner, and Rahel's first presentation, "Jewish Calcutta through Music and Memory".

At **Shabbat morning services** you will experience the distinctive Shabbat rituals, customs and liturgy of the Calcutta Jewish community, as Rahel leads the Torah service, chanting Torah and haftarah using the Baghdadi-Indian nusach and tropes.

Saturday evening at 7:30PM Rahel will speak on the Jews of Bombay and Cochin in her presentation, "From Shipwrecks to Maharajas", rounding out the evening with a "Masala Havdalah" and a "Malida", the traditional "Bene Israel" taste of thanksgiving, offering blessings for life's gifts. Please join us for this array of enchanting programs!

Gather | 7:30PM | 300 11th Street (near 5th Avenue) for Seudah Sh'lishit.

Presentation | 8:15PM, Masala Havdalah | 9:15PM



PSJC Knitters

Monday, June 4 | 7:30PM

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

Israel Film Center Festival | June 5 - 12

This year PSJC is partnering with the Israel Film Center Festival at the JCC on the Upper West Side. PSJC members can enjoy a 20% discount by using code: IFCPSJC18 at checkout, visit <https://www.psjc.org/event/israel-film-center-festival-.html>.

PAI - Time for Planning: It's Never too Soon!

Wednesday, June 6 | 7:00PM

Whether you are planning for yourself or dealing with aging parents. Join us for this comprehensive session on how to plan ahead. Recognized practitioners Fern J. Finkel and Julie Stoil Fernandez will provide an overview of Financial and Health Care Advance Directives, Financing Long Term Care, Benefits, and Assets protection. Discussion includes strategies for maintaining independence, protecting assets and maximizing benefits, including: Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, Medicaid Rules, Trusts, Deed Transfers, Titling Accounts, Last Wills and Testaments and Avoiding Probate. RSVP now: <https://www.psjc.org/form/PAlplanning>, \$5.00/person

Music Class: It's Friday!

Friday, June 8 and 15 | 10:00AM | \$12 per class (\$10 per members)

It's Friday! is a series of classes for children 3 and under and their caregivers. Join PSJC Tot Shabbat Leader, Abe, for music and stories each week. For more information, www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, June 8 | 6:30PM

Book Club: Modern Girls

Saturday, June 9 | 1:30PM

Join us for Fiddler on the Roof scholar Jan Lisa Huttner who will lead us in a discussion of Modern Girls by Jennifer S. Brown, a warm, heimishe and very accessible beach or airplane book. Imagine one of Tevye's daughters and granddaughters living in NYC a quarter century after leaving Anatevka.



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African Asylum Seekers: The History of Refugees in the Land of Israel

Monday, June 11 | 7:00PM | Congregation Beth Elohim

We are co-sponsoring "African Asylum Seekers: The History of Refugees in the Land of Israel", join us to hear from Dawit Demoz a refugee from Eritrea, and Tamara Newman, Director of International Relations at Israel's Hotline for Refugees and Migrants. Dawit will share the story of his escape from the oppressive Eritrean regime in 2009. Fleeing first to Ethiopia then Sudan, Egypt, and Israel. In Israel he became a social and political activist, working for the rights of his community, before receiving sponsorships to move to Canada in 2016. Tamara will speak on the current refugee situation in Israel and the work of the Hotline, which assists and represents refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking, and advocates for government policies consistent with a just, equal and democratic Israel.

Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Minyan

Wednesday, June 13 | 7:00AM

Thursday, June 14 | 7:00AM

PSJC Goes to the Cyclones! Jewish Heritage Day

Tuesday, June 19 | 7:00PM

A fun and casual time with your whole family (nuclear and PSJC). Tickets have sold out.

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00AM

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

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 26 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PAI Book Group

Wednesday, June 27 | 9:30AM

This month we are reading Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan. Join us for a fun, engaging conversation about this book, which is a 2018 One Book/One New York choice! Sign up: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-book-club.html>. There is no charge for this group.

Hebrew School Registration is Live!

Registration for 2018-2019 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 22, 2018**

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.

Parashat Beha'alotecha

Triennial: Numbers 9:15-10:34 | Etz Hayim p.821; Hertz p.609

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7 | Etz Hayim p.836; Hertz p.620

D'var Torah: Real Unity, Real Inclusion

The process of building the Mishkan and setting up the Israelite camp comes to a close with Parashat Beha'alotecha, whose first three stories deal with questions of unity and difference, inclusion and exclusion. It opens with God telling Moshe about how Aharon is to light the 7-branched Menorah. But then in verse 8:4, seemingly out of the blue, we are told: "Now THIS is how the Menorah was made: it was hammered work of gold, hammered from base to petal." But we already knew this from the detailed plans for the Menorah given in Shemot (Exodus)! What does this add and why is it here? The Sifrei, an early collection of Midrash on Bamidbar (Numbers), notes the odd use of the word "Zeh/This" in 8:4 and explains that despite the detailed plans, Moshe was still confused about how the Menorah should look. In response, God pointed to an image of it and said "ZEH" - THIS is how should make it. With this, Moshe finally understood, as we see from the rest of 8:4: "According to the pattern that the LORD had shown Moshe, so was the Menorah made."

The Torah and the Midrash seem to be emphasizing a point. Despite its distinct parts with their different functions, the Menorah was a single unit made from the same valuable substance. Distinctions, but no hierarchy. Differences, but no disunity. It is as if they want us to have this in mind when reading the next piece of the parasha about the consecration of the Levites for Mishkan service.

The Tribe of Levi occupies a strange position. As we see in Shemot 28, the Kohen Gadol's breastplate had 12 inlaid gemstones, one for each tribe, with Levi explicitly mentioned as one of the 12. And yet, here in Bamidbar when the tribes are counted, the tribe of Joseph is counted as two - Ephraim and Manasseh - and Levi isn't counted at all. Instead, Levi is given a special role in the Mishkan and a central location in the camp. But lest one learn from this that the Levites are a separate entity, either above or below the rest of the Israelites, the Menorah reminds us that even when something has distinct parts that look different or perform special functions - they are still part of a unified whole.

But the rubber meets the road, so to speak, in the next piece of the parasha - that of Pesach Sheni. Everyone (or so we think) does as Moshe commands, making the Pesach sacrifice on the one year anniversary of their redemption from Egypt. But suddenly we learn of a group that, having become ritually impure through contact with a dead body, was barred from offering the sacrifice. They turn to Moshe and say, essentially: What about us? Moshe could have said: Don't make such a big deal of it; next year you'll have another chance. But instead he hears their pain at being excluded and turns to God for the answer. On the flipside, God could have said: The Pesach sacrifice is so important that ritual impurity doesn't matter; let everyone offer it. But instead, God maintains the distinction and finds a way to overcome it. Those ritually impure on Pesach will have Pesach Sheni one month later - a day on which they can perform the sacrifice just as it had been done by everyone else one month earlier. We see from this that inclusion is not only about the privilege to perform a meaningful ritual - it is ALSO about the responsibility to do it, and do it right. So even though Pesach Sheni isn't "really" Pesach, God requires the same strictures be observed. And lest one think that anyone can get this second chance, God makes clear that one who COULD perform the Korban Pesach at the preferred time, but chooses not to, is NOT included in Pesach Sheni. In fact, they "bear their guilt" and are to be "cut off from their kin!" The message is clear: *include* those who, despite their different circumstances, want both the privilege AND the responsibility of being included, but *exclude* those who, by dishonoring their privilege and shirking their responsibility, exclude themselves.

Pesach Sheni's radical vision bases inclusion on active participation and responsibility, not ethnicity and personal history. All can participate in the unifying act of the Pesach sacrifice, even those neither present for the redemption, nor descended from those who were. God drives this home in verse 9:14 with perhaps the most Jewish expression of inclusion and unity: "There shall be one law for you, whether stranger or citizen of the country." May we continue to strive to realize this vision, not only where we are strangers, but also where we are citizens, not only in countries where we are the minority, but also where we are the majority. Shabbat Shalom.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz**, Director of Engagement, Conservative Yeshiva from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks/>