



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

May 11-19, 2018 | 26 Iyar-5 Sivan 5778
Parashat Behar Behukotai

Friday, May 11 26 Iyar				Parashat Behar Behukotai Saturday, May 12 27 Iyar		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Dinner and Learning with Leora - Revelation at Sinai: Who Said What to Whom 7:30PM Candle Lighting 7:44PM				Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Simcha Shabbat Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Program with Leora 1:30PM		
Sunday May 13 28 Iyar	Monday May 14 29 Iyar	Tuesday May 15 1 Sivan	Wednesday May 16 2 Sivan	Thursday May 17 3 Sivan	Friday May 18 4 Sivan	Saturday May 19 5 Sivan
Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Closing Assembly & Hebrew School Picnic 9:30AM		Rosh Chodesh Minyan 7:00AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:51PM	<i>Parashat Bemidbar</i> Erev Shavuot Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM Tikkun Leil Shavuot 8:30PM Congregation Beth Elohim
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)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Barbara** and **Stan Hopard** on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Leo Hopard!

Todah Rabbah

To **Ruth Kaufman** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of her birthday.

To **Martha** and **Benjamin Luft** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Anna Luft** and **Adam Berley's** marriage.

Yahrzeits observed 27 Iyar-4 Sivan:

Casey Young, neighbor of Jenna Mandel-Ricci; **Eva Blustein**, mother of Jeffrey Blustein; **Ida Melet Schwartz**, mother of Torrene Einhorn; **Joel Rosenberg**, brother of Dale Rosenberg; **Lincoln and Miles Mildenberg**, sons of Jonathan and Sandy Mildenberg; **Milo Sklar**, father of Marc Sklar; **Rachel Spruchman**, great-grandmother of Jan Orzeck; **Stuart Winston**, friend of Carol Diamond. *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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A Taste of India at PSJC Scholar In Residence: Rahel Musleah

Friday, June 1 | 6:30PM

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

Join us for a special Shabbat with Rahel Musleah, as she shares melodies, customs and history of the Jewish communities of Calcutta and Bombay. Beginning with Lev Tahor and a kosher, catered Indian dinner Friday night. **RSVP for dinner is required: <https://www.psjc.org/form/sir-6-1-18.html>** It will include a special Torah reading, d'var torah Shabbat morning, and a unique "Masala Havdallah" and seudah shli'shit on Saturday night. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rahelsjewishindia.com>, gather at 300 11th Street at 7:30PM.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, May 11 | 6:30PM

Goodbye Potluck Dinner and Learning with Rabbinic Intern, Leora | 7:30PM

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, May 12 | 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.

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, May 12 | 10:00AM

Join us as we acknowledge our members who are celebrating their May birthdays & anniversaries. They will receive a special blessing during the Torah service and we'll enjoy a lovely Simcha Shabbat Kiddush (cake included)! Please update your PSJC account, add your birthdays and anniversaries and we will send you a personal invitation in the future.

Learn and Sing with Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins

Saturday, May 12 | 1:20PM

A fascinating form of literature is the Shabbat zemer (type of song traditionally sung on Shabbat during meals). Packed with biblical and other allusions, these poems have been sung by countless people to many different tunes over the centuries. Together, we'll read and unpack a zemer, and, of course, sing it as well!

Rosh Chodesh Sivan Minyan

Tuesday, May 15 | 7:00AM

Music Class: It's Friday!

Friday, May 18 & June 1, 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 Kulanu

Friday, May 18 | 6:30PM

We'll join together for services with Aileen and Abe at PSJC, followed by dinner and a sing-a-long. You provide the vegetable sides and dessert, we'll provide the entree. RSVPs are not required, but are helpful to ensure enough food. **RSVP <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu1.html>.**

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, May 19 | 1:00PM

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us the third Shabbat of the month 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.



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Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, May 19 | 1:30PM

Our community is invited for a vegetarian pot-luck lunch following service and Kiddush. This is a child-friendly home, so families with children are most welcome. The kishkush Hebrew conversation can continue at the Shmooze.

Communal Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Saturday, May 19 | 8:30PM | CBE

A night of learning with your fellow Brooklynites at the start of Shavuot.

Shavuot Services at PSJC

Sunday, May 20 | 10:00AM

Monday, May 21 | 10:00AM

Family Torah - Shavuot Style

Sunday, May 20 | 11:30AM

An interactive exploration of the Torah and ice cream!

Shavuot Potluck Picnic

Sunday, May 20 | 1:30PM

After services let's walk together over to Prospect Park and have a picnic. Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 30 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

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

Thursday, May 31 | 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. 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 NoamW@jafi.org.

PAI Walking Group

Friday, June 1 | 9:30AM

Meet at entrance to Prospect Park at Bartel Pritchard Square (15th Street and Prospect Park West). RSVP now: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-walking-group.html>

Israel Film Center Festival

Tuesday, 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: IFCPJSC18 at checkout, visit <https://www.psjc.org/event/israel-film-center-festival-.html>.

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

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 Behar Behukotai

Triennial: Leviticus 25:39-26:46 | Etz Hayim p.744; Hertz p.536
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 | Etz Hayim p.762; Hertz p.551

D'var Torah: Channels of Connection

This week, we find ourselves in the sixth week of *Sefirat HaOmer*, the seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot when we, like Bnai Yisrael at Mt. Sinai, prepare ourselves to receive the Torah. We look inwards and examine the ways we manifest Godliness in the world, each week guided by a different kabbalistic *sefirah* - or divine emanation. This week's *sefirah* is *yesod* - the foundation - the manifestation of creating channels of connection. This joint Torah portion this week, Behar-Behukotai, marks the end of the book of Leviticus with laws governing ownership of land and of people. We are also reminded to walk in the way of God's rules and mitzvot and are told of the blessings we will receive if we follow God, or the curses that will fall upon us if we do not. What can we learn from it about building channels of connection?

Imagine a close friend comes to you in despair: She lost her job and has been unable to pay her bills. She offers to do any job you need, in the hopes of getting back on her feet. What do you do?

The Torah refers to this situation as "וְיָמֹּחַ אֶחֱיכָא" - *v'chi yamuch achicha*. The root of *yamuch*, the letters *mem*, *vav*, *chaf*, is found only in this Torah portion, where it appears four times. What it actually means, and how that relates to other kinds of poverty, may give us some insight.

The first time, in Vayikra 25:25, our fellow has been forced to sell his or her land holdings. The second time, in VaYikra 25:35, our fellow has somehow come under our power. The third time, VaYikra 25:39, our fellow has been sold to us as a kind of indentured servant. And the fourth time, VaYikra 25:47, our fellow has become an indentured servant to a resident alien - someone who is not part a member of the extended Israelite family.

A careful reader of text, Vayikra Rabba, the midrashic anthology of Leviticus, explains: "There are eight names for a poor person: *ani*, *evyon*, *misken*, *rash*, *dal*, *dach*, *mach*, *helech*...*Mach* [trampled upon] because he is lowly before everyone, like a kind of lowest threshold." (Vayikra Rabba 34:6) The "*mach*" is one who has dropped below some kind of poverty threshold such that others gain power over them, and can trample them. There is more to do here than just give a little *tzedaka* or leave the corners of your fields un-harvested.

The Torah commands us to redeem our fellow's lost holdings, returning that which provides financial security, and we are forbidden to take accrued interest on the support we give. They are not to become our slaves, nor are we to let them become slaves to others. The medieval French commentator, Rashi (1040-1105 CE), explains that when one is faced with a fellow who has fallen on hard times: "You shall support him: Do not allow him to fall down and collapse altogether, in which case it would be difficult to pick him up again [from his dire poverty]. Rather, "support him" while his hand is still faltering [for then it is easier to help him out of his trouble]. To what can this be compared? To a load on a donkey-while it is still on the donkey, one person can grasp it and hold it in place. Once it falls to the ground, however, [even] five people cannot pick it up."

Rashi tasks us with building relationships where we are attuned to the needs and struggles of those around us, including ourselves. When your friend comes to you, desperate for a job, you are to give her a fair job with a fair wage, treat her with kindness and not take advantage of her position. It is your obligation to strengthen her as she falters and to pick her up before she sinks too low.

This week, guided by both our parasha and *Sefirat HaOmer*, we should reflect on the foundation of the relationships we have built with those around us. Are we able to know when our family and friends need a strengthening hand? Are they able to know when we need a strengthening hand? If the answer is no, we must open a channel of connection. And if the answer is yes, we should reinforce the channel of connection with expressions of gratitude.

יָמֹּחַ אֶחֱיכָא - Be strong, be strong, and we shall be strengthened

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rachel Schwartz**, *Conservative Yeshiva Student & Lishma Fellow* 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/> **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.