



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

May 18-26, 2018 | 4-12 Sivan 5778
Parashat Bemidbar

Friday, May 11 4 Sivan				Parashat Bemidbar Saturday, May 19 5 Sivan		
Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:51PM				Erev Shavuot Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Tikkun Leil Shavuot 8:30PM - Congregation Beth Elohim		
Sunday May 20 6 Sivan	Monday May 21 7 Sivan	Tuesday May 22 8 Sivan	Wednesday May 23 9 Sivan	Thursday May 24 10 Sivan	Friday May 25 11 Sivan	Saturday May 26 12 Sivan
Shavuot I Shavuot Services 10:00AM Family Torah 11:30AM Shavuot Picnic 1:30PM	Shavuot II Shavuot Services 10:00AM Office Closed	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Mishkan Minyan 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:57PM	<i>Parashat Nasso</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, 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 **David Kuperhand** for contributing the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in memory of his father, **Saul Kravitz Kuperhand, z"l**.

To **Hope** and **Melanie Levav** for contributing the Kiddush Fund this Shavuot to thank Rabbi Carter for all of her support, in honor of Melanie's ordination and 44th birthday.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Carrie Sadovnik and family on the death of her stepfather **Leo Gorenstein**.

Yahrzeits observed 5-11 Sivan:

Ann Levy, mother of Joel Levy; **Edith Abrams**, grandmother of Rabbi Jeffrey Marker; **Ellen Klein**, mother of Lonnie Klein; **Golda Handfinger**, aunt of Merrie Handfinger; **James Hammon**, father of Kate Hammon; **Lillian Calem**, aunt of Fran Hawthorne; **Marianne Santo**, mother of Helene Santo; **May Pollack**, mother of Diane Burhenne; **Michael Wallen**, uncle of Ira Singer; **Ove Erichsen**, father of Karin Ulman; **Reyna McGowen**, mother of Angela Weisl; **Richard Pick**, grandfather of Michele Bonan; **Saul Kravitz Kuperhand**, father of David Kuperhand; **Steven Buchbinder**, cousin of Marla Kessler; **Sylvia Sheber**, mother of Iris Sheber; **William Abramson**, uncle of Steve Elworth. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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.

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, **RSVP required** and Rahel's first presentation, "Jewish Calcutta through Music and Memory".

RSVP for dinner is required: <https://www.psjc.org/form/sir-6-1-18.html>

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!



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.

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.



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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.

Music Class: It's Friday!

Friday, 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

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>

PSJC Knitters

Monday, May 7 | 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/PAIplanning>, \$5.00/person

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, heimische and very accessible beach or airplane book. Imagine one of Tevye's daughters and granddaughters living in NYC a quarter century after leaving Anatevka.

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00AM

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

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.

Parashat Bemidbar

Triennial: Numbers 2:1-3:13 | Etz Hayim p.774; Hertz p.572

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22 | Etz Hayim p.786; Hertz p.581

D'var Torah: D'var Torah: People & Counting

The book of Numbers begins with a great census listing the numbers of all the male Israelites of military age according to their tribes. Parshat Bemidbar continues by describing the tribes arrayed on the plain, a great army of Israelite warriors in precise formation around the tent of meeting, each tribe around its fluttering ancestral banner (2:2).

בְּאֵשׁ עַל-דְּגָלוֹ בָּאתָת לְבַיִת אֲבוֹתָם, 2 'The children of Israel shall pitch by their fathers' houses; every man with his own standard, according to the ensigns; a good way off shall they pitch round about the tent of meeting.

Rashi (France, 1040-1105) comments that this great act of counting comes to demonstrate God's love for Israel and to establish the significance of each and every Israelite. Anyone who has ever accompanied a group of children on a school trip and who has feverishly counted them over and over again will know the deep anxiety of losing even one precious child. But sadly, instead of marching into Canaan, this great cohort of warriors perishes in the desert - every last one of them except for Caleb and Joshua! Following the sin of the spies, God delivers their sentence:

D'var Haftarah: Finding the Meaningful

כֹּס 29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness, and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, ye that have murmured against Me.

In his commentary on the verse above, Rashi picks up beautifully and brutally on the role the "numbering" plays in their fate: "Anyone who was included in any census in which you were counted, like the military census or the shekalim census, anyone included in any of these numbers will die..." It is precisely those gloriously arrayed and carefully numbered ranks from Parshat Bemidbar who will be lost forever, their ashes blended imperceptibly into the desert sands.

And yet, when Bnei Yisrael enters the land 40 years later, there is still a full complement of soldiers. How can this be? Herodotus writes about the "ten thousand immortals" of the ancient Persian army who were so called because their unit's strength was kept constantly at exactly 10,000 men; every killed, seriously wounded or sick member was immediately replaced. They were "immortal" precisely because of their facelessness and replaceability. This is how the Netziv, Naftali Zvi Yehuda Berlin (Poland, 1816-1893) reads Bemidbar in his great work *Ha'Emek Davar*: the number of soldiers remained constant through the 40 years because they were utterly replaceable. Counting people, it turns out, cuts both ways - either expressing the absolute significance of each individual, or erasing it. In this day and age, we are profoundly invested in the idea that each individual is a being of infinite value who has a unique and important role to play in the world. Indeed our tradition calls individuals an "olam katan" - a small universe. Religion plays an essential role in impressing upon us the sanctity and infinite worth (Tzelem Elokim) of human life.

But it is also religion's role to give us a sense of the bigger picture, so that we can see how we are pieces of the whole, not the whole itself. Some may even find it calming, or even comforting, to know that we are cogs in a machine - expendable in the extreme. Our immortality, so to speak, lies in our participation in the broader scheme of things, a scheme that we can barely glimpse. As Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Peschischa taught: In our pockets, we should carry two notes, one that says: "For my sake was the world created" and one that says: "I am but dust and ashes." The trick is in knowing which to take out when.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joel Levy**, *Rosh Yeshiva, Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem* 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.