



Friday, January 11 5 Shevat				Parashat Bo Saturday, January 12 6 Shevat		
Candle Lighting 4:30PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Susana Honig 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Ronit Nolte Bat Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM Teen Torah 11:15AM		
Sunday January 13 7 Shevat	Monday January 14 8 Shevat	Tuesday January 15 9 Shevat	Wednesday January 16 10 Shevat	Thursday January 17 11 Shevat	Friday January 18 12 Shevat	Saturday January 19 13 Shevat
Hebrew School 9:30AM 5th Grade Art & Text 11:00AM Bnai Mitzvah Date Selection 11:00AM PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees 4:00PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM PAI - Aging Issues Group 6:30PM Shir Chadash Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM PAI Book Club 9:30AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Hebrew School Faculty Meeting 6:00PM		PAI Walking Group 9:30AM Candle Lighting 4:38PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Cornelia Dalton 6:30PM ATID Dinner 7:30PM	<i>Shabbat Shira</i> <i>Parashat Beshalach</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 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)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Ronit, Ilana** and family on Ronit's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To Ronit's Savta, **Rikki Abrahams** for her contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of Ronit's Bat Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Alex Aron and family on the death of her mother, **Sarah Aron**, z"l.

Eve Blatt and family on the death of her husband, **Ralph Blatt**, z"l.

Ira Singer and family on the death of his mother, **Jackie Singer**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 6-12 Shevat:

Abe Abadi, father of Michael Abadi; **Alan Laska**, friend of Pamela Kaplan and William Miller; **Albert Arons**, father of Lenore Arons; **Anne Chernick**, mother of Howard Chernick; **Becky Levine**, grandmother of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine; **Bernard Altshuler**, father of Lisa Altshuler; **Betty Wollin**, grandmother of Les Honig; **Daniel Danzing**, father of Rachel Danzing; **David Rabinowitz**, father of Richard Rabinowitz; **Esther Gmach**, mother of David Gmach; **Harold Cohen**, brother of Barbara Hopard; **Hirsch Grozalsky**, father of Malkie Grozalsky; **Jacob Lustig**, father of Carol Diamond; **Leroy Nelson Marks**, father of Steven Marks; **Mollie Haut**, observed by the PSJC Community; **Murray Ehrlich**, father of Todd Ehrlich; **Suzanne Hill**, mother of Todd Friedman; **Sylvia Wax**, mother of Ronnie Wax. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



January 11-19, 2019 | 5-13 Shevat 5779
Parashat Bo

MLK Day of Service Countdown: Can We Count On YOU?

Sunday, January 20 | 11:00AM-2:00PM

Hope you're planning to join the mob of volunteers at PSJC's 10th Annual MLK Day of Service. Activities suitable for all ages; join friends familiar and new as we work together to strengthen our community and the wider community we share. For info, or to volunteer on the day (or as a hero-shlepper after the event), contact hzelon@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Sunday, January 13

5th Grade Art & Text | 11:00AM

2021 Bnai Mitzvah Date Selection Meeting | 11:00AM

Are you expecting to celebrate your child's Bnai Mitzvah @PSJC in 2021? If so, please join us in the PSJC Sanctuary to learn about Bnai Mitzvah at PSJC and the Shaarei Mitzvah program and to begin the process of selecting Bnai Mitzvah dates for 2021. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/2021-bnai-mitzvah-date-selection-meeting.html>. We look forward to seeing you and taking the first step in your journey to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees | 4:00PM

We hope you will join us for Park Slope Jewish Center's Annual Meeting in the PSJC sanctuary. The meeting will consist of updates from synagogue leadership, Etz Chaim updates, thank yous to the outgoing Board of Trustees, a vote for the new Board of Trustees, minor synagogue business, Q&A.

Tuesday, January 15

Aging Alone - PAI Aging Issues Group | 6:30PM-8:00PM

As we get older, our need to rely on others may increase. This can be problematic for people who don't have children and/or a partner or have children/partners unwilling or unable to help. Share the challenges, as well as possible coping strategies, with others in similar situations. This discussion group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at PSJC, \$5 fee*. A different topic is covered each month. The group is led by Jan Orzeck and Richard Glassman, both PAI members and licensed clinical social workers.

Friday, January 18

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 \$120 for a 10-class series (paid in advance) RSVP: https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect

Young Professionals - ATID* Potluck Shabbat Dinner | 7:30PM

Join young professionals for a vegetarian potluck dinner with PSJC's ATID*! We'll provide a few entrees and some wine. Come for services at 6:30PM; join us for dinner starting at 7:30PM. Come by PSJC to say hello and get to know someone new! We'd love to meet you. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/atid-potluck-dinner-with-rabbinic-intern-cornelia-dalton.html>. For more information, please contact Cornelia Dalton (cornelia.dalton@gmail.com),*ATID is the PSJC group for 20s and 30s

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. **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

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



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Saturday, January 19

Parashat Hashavua | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with Cornelia Dalton, PSJC Rabbinic Intern. It's a great lead into the Shabbat morning services.

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

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.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 22 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Saturday, January 26

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

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

Advanced Talmud | 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.

Looking at the Torah

Sunday, January 27 | 3:30PM

The Torah is an object of monumental significance to the Jewish people, but it is rarely examined as a physical object. Join Rabbi Carie Carter and Art Conservator Reba Snyder as they discuss the meaning and making of a Torah. Each of our experts will present their understanding of the Torah as a human-made object. Participants will work with some of the materials of a Torah, including writing with a quill pen on parchment. The class is limited to 30, please RSVP today: <https://www.psjc.org/event/looking-at-the-torah.html> and a materials fee (\$10 for members) will be charged.

PAI Book Club: "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward

Thursday, January 31

Sign up here: https://www.psjc.org/dashboard/event_setup.php?id=737274&ret=page

Lev Tahor with Rabbinic Intern Cornelia Dalton

Friday, February 1 | 6:30PM

Conversation and learning with our rabbinic intern, Cornelia Dalton.

2019 PSJC Shaarei Mitzvah Tzedakah Fair

Sunday, February 3 | *Programming begins at 9:30AM, fair runs from 11:00AM - 11:45AM*

The PSJC Annual Tzedakah Fair happens each February as part of a morning of learning about Tzedek (justice) and Tzedakah. Our 6th grade Shaarei Mitzvah, bnai mitzvah cohort, students each choose an organization to research and raise money for. PSJC community members of all ages and their friends bring their tzedakah boxes from home and contribute to a wide range of causes. Read below for organizations supported in past years.

Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu

Friday, February 8 | 6:30PM

Join Abe and Aileen for a musical Friday night service, followed by a supplemented potluck dinner. This month we are celebrating with the 5th grade families! Everyone is invited to join for a relaxing, all-ages service and meal. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

Parashat Bo

Triennial: Exodus 12:29-13:16 | Etz Hayim p.387; Hertz p.258; Plaut p.461

Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28 | Etz Hayim p.395; Hertz p.263; Plaut p.700

D'var Torah: Who are Bnei Yisrael?

Parashat Bo continues the story of the exodus from Egypt, a profound story of identity transformation. The opening of book of Exodus (or in Hebrew, *Shemot*, "Names"), presents Israelite identity as it existed when Yaakov and sons entered Egypt, that is to say, a single family consisting of a patriarch, his sons, and their households. Out of gratitude for Yosef's contribution to Egypt, his small family has been invited to dwell with Pharaoh's much larger family.

But immediately after listing their names, we are told that there arose a new king in Egypt who did not know Yosef. The identities and relationships that had been painstakingly established in Genesis have been erased. Bnei Yisrael - the sons of Israel, have, in Pharaoh's eyes, been orphaned. And in Pharaoh's Egypt, foreign orphans are at best a source of cheap labor, and at worst an existential threat. Exodus opens with Pharaoh's attempt to rid himself of this threat by murdering all male Hebrew newborns.

The establishment of a new Israelite identity begins in Exodus 4:22-23. HaShem says to Moses, "And you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus said HaShem, "My son, my firstborn, is Israel. And I say to you, let my son go so that he may serve me, but you refuse to let him go. Behold I am killing your son, your firstborn.'" God is saying to Pharaoh, that you may have looked at the Israelites as orphans, but they are in fact MY children - my FIRSTBORN and most valued children. They have a status at least equal to the that of Egypt's firstborn. This new identity is ascribed from the outside. It's function is to raise Israel's standing to facilitate communication and negotiation with Pharaoh. The identity described here is that of possession. Israel is a "*b'chor*" - a chosen *belonging* of HaShem, and the role of the *b'chor* is to serve HaShem. At least, that is how HaShem sees Israel. At this stage Israel is being defined from the outside and acted upon. It is also not entirely clear whether God relates to ALL of Israel this way. Pharaoh might well assume that only Israel's firstborn sons have this status. So in our parashah, Moses pushes for an increasingly expansive definition of who is included in the group Israel, the group that is to go serve HaShem. In Exodus 10:9, Moses explains: "With our young and with our old we will go. With our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our cattle we will go, for it is a festival of HaShem for us." In short, this firstborn of HaShem is EVERYONE who belongs to his group, regardless of age, gender, or birth order. Bnei Yisrael is no longer just the name of a patriarch and his sons; it is the name of a nation.

But the patriarchal DNA of this nation is ever present. In Exodus 12, we are told triumphantly of the six hundred thousand men who journeyed out of Egypt, never mind the number of women and children. What is counted tends to communicate what counts. Furthermore, although a great multitude of people leaves with them, these people are not numbered among the Israelites. But these "uncounted" non-Israelites may nevertheless partake of the Passover sacrifice if they have been circumcised and live among the Israelites. Exodus 12:49 begins to delineate when these national differences matter and when they can be transcended, advocating "one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns with you." Ultimately, the Israelite nation is transformed by its laws, and the shared observance of those laws, into a single people. This is an Israel that acts, and thereby defines itself.

Our parashah closes with a return to the now transformed idea of Israel as HaShem's firstborn. Israel has left Raamses. When firstborns are described in Exodus 13, they are described as a "*petter rechem*" - those who break the womb. And they must be dedicated back to HaShem. There could not be a greater contrast with their identity at the beginning of Exodus. No longer the passive orphaned babies enslaved or murdered unrightfully by Pharaoh and needing the protection of HaShem, these firstborns are womb-breakers and it is up to empowered Israelites to bring them back to HaShem in remembrance of HaShem's rightful murdering of Pharaoh's babies. Though the formation of Israelite identity is far from complete, here they become empowered to define their own identities through their own actions. As we reflect on our own lives, may we be blessed to take identities given to us by others and transform them, via individual and collective action, into expansive identities we can proudly own.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Bex Stern Rosenblatt**, *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.