



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

November 2-10, 2018 | 24 Cheshvan-2 Kislev 5779
Parashat Chayei Sarah

#SHOWUPFORSHABBAT

Friday, November 2 24 Cheshvan				Parashat Chayei Sarah Saturday, November 3 25 Cheshvan		
Candle Lighting 5:33PM Lev Tahor with Liz Wollman 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Phoebe Franklin Bat Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM Learn about Shmira 1:15PM Shalom L'Shabbat: Bring Peace Back to Shabbat 5:00PM		
Sunday November 4 26 Cheshvan	Monday November 5 27 Cheshvan	Tuesday November 6 28 Cheshvan	Wednesday November 7 29 Cheshvan	Thursday November 8 30 Cheshvan	Friday November 9 1 Kislev	Saturday November 10 2 Kislev
Hebrew School 9:30AM Art & Values Shaarei Mitzvah 6/7 Grades 11:00AM Cooking with Shinshinim 4:00PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM	PSJC Knitters 7:30PM	Shir Chadash Choir 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Rosh Chodesh Kislev Minyan 7:00AM Café Ivrit 7:00PM Tahara Training at Shomrei HaChomos 7:30PM Biblical Hebrew 7:30PM	Rosh Chodesh Kislev Minyan 7:00AM PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 4:25PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Reflections on Kristallnacht & Potluck Dinner 7:30PM	<i>Parashat Toldot</i> Simcha Shabbat Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Why Pray? Why Prayer? 1:15PM
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 **Phoebe**, her parents **Ruth Franklin, Joseph Braude** and **Daniel Franklin, Erica Guyer** and siblings **Samuel, Anna** and **Ariel** on **Phoebe's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah!

To **Ruth, Joseph, Daniel** and **Erica** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Phoebe's** Bar Mitzvah.

We mourn those who lost their lives in the devastating attack at Tree of Life Synagogue last Shabbat:

Joyce Fienberg; Richard Gottfried; Rose Mallinger; Jerry Rabinowitz; Cecil Rosenthal; David Rosenthal; Bernice Simon; Sylvan Simon; Daniel Stein; Melvin Wax; Irving Younger.

Yahrzeits observed 25 Cheshvan-1 Kislev:

Annette Kaplan, sister of Lynda Kaplan; **Arnold Elfont**, uncle of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Jack Zirotsky**, father of Harvey Zirotsky; **Jesse Korn**, family friend of Diane Burhenne and Judy Ribnick; **Rhoda Lubow**, mother of Amy Downs; **S. Edward Palmer**, father of Alan Palmer; **Stanley Leess**, step-father of Marla Kessler.

May their memories be for a blessing.



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Learn about Shmira with PSJC Hevra Kadisha

Saturday, November 3 | 1:15PM - 2:15PM

Have you ever wondered if joining the Park Slope Jewish Center Hevra Kadisha is for you? Interested in learning more? Please join us for a workshop on Shmira (guarding the bodies of the deceased from the time of death until the funeral): Why do we do Shmira? How do we do Shmira? How does it feel to do Shmira? Experienced hevra kadisha members will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about this holy activity. Please join us even if you are just curious to learn more. There is no obligation to sign up, though we would love to have you.

Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim

Sunday, November 4 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

We will use our Hebrew to cook delicious food and then share those treats at a meal. It is a great way to hang out with friends, meet new people, hone your cooking skills, practice your Hebrew and have a great time with our shinshinim. Great for children and adults alike. Contact Rabbi Carie Carter at rabbicarie@psjc.org to let us know you are coming. Future date February 3.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, November 5 | 7:30PM

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

Thursday, November 8

Café Ivrit | 7:00PM-9:00PM

Are you “moderately fluent” in Hebrew? Do you want to practice your Hebrew in a casual, supportive environment? Do you want a nice kos café with friends at the end of the evening? Join our Shaliach, Noam, for Café Ivrit. For more information email: naomW@jafi.org. Future dates: November 8 and December 13.

Tahara Training at Shomrei HaChomos | 7:30PM

Are you curious about how the Hevra Kadisha (holy society) performs tahara (preparing a body for burial)? Are you thinking of joining the Hevra? Are you currently a member who would like a refresher on the practice? Or do you just want to learn a bit more about this sacred ritual? Please join us for a teaching and learning session on the ritual, look together through the tahara manual, and conduct a brief overview of aspects of the practice at the Shomrei HaChomos memorial chapel (4218 Fort Hamilton Avenue). RSVP to hevra.kaddisha@psjc.org.

MLK Day of Service 2019: 10th Year Anniversary Celebration/Transition

Every January for the past decade, volunteers of all ages have converged at PSJC to prepare thousands of shelf-stable meals; assemble snack and toiletry packages for families fleeing domestic violence; construct hundreds of PB&J sandwiches for donation to CHIPS; gather and sort children’s books and all-ages clothing donations; knit and crochet baby blankets and chemo caps; cook dozens of fresh-made meals for PSJC’s freezer; create beautiful crafts for elders; and write letters on behalf of immigrants and Dreamers. With over 1200 participants in a decade, MLK Day has become a PSJC institution. **But no institution can thrive without new ideas and creativity.** The core team that created the Day of Service actively seeks new hands (and hearts, and brains) in this new decade of service. The work is not overwhelming - it’s all set up, year to year – and the satisfaction is tremendous. Plus, it’s a lot of fun. We can share the nuts-and-bolts of how to produce the Day of Service - and can partner/coach interested volunteers. If you, your family, and your friends have enjoyed being part of MLK Day of Service, please consider stepping up to help us plan for the future. For details and information, contact Helen Zelon (hzelon@gmail.com).

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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Friday, November 9

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM

Reflections on the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht with our Shaliach, Noam Willner | 7:30PM

1938 marked a turning point in Nazi policy against Jews. Today, 80 years since Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass), Noam Willner will reflect on the events that led to Kristallnacht and the development of "The Final Solution". Noam worked for many years as senior educator at Yad Vashem and led many educational trips to Poland prior to coming to Brooklyn as our Community Shaliach. RSVP for the Vegetarian Potluck Shabbat Dinner here: www.tinyurl.com/Kristallnacht11-09

Saturday, November 10

Simcha Shabbat

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

Parashat Hashavua with Cornelia Dalton, Rabbinic Intern | 9:30AM

Why Pray? Why Prayer? | 1:15PM

An exploration of the intimate ways we create and communicate with God and with ourselves, from Tanakh up to the present day. Learning with Rabbinic Intern, Cornelia Dalton

New Members' Shabbat

Friday, November 16 | 6:30PM

Saturday, November 17

New Members' Shabbat | 10:00AM

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.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, November 24 | 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.

Lev Tahor: Save the Date

Friday, December 7 | 6:30PM

Lev Tahor welcomes City Council Member Brad Lander.

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, 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.

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

Parashat Chayei Sarah

Triennial: Genesis 24:53-25:18 | Etz Hayim p.137; Hertz p.86; Plaut p.165

Haftarah: 1 Kings 1:1-31 | Etz Hayim p.142; Hertz p.90; Plaut p.338

D'var Torah: Sarah's Absence

This parashah is all about Sarah; Avraham's wife and Yitzhak's mother. Spoiler: despite its title, the story opens with her death. But it is her death that forces her husband Avraham to finally buy land, and her absence stands behind the marriage story of Yitzhak.

Sarah is Avraham's steadfast partner. She is the one about whom God said to Avraham "in all that Sarah says to you, hearken to her voice" (21:12). In an unusual move, the Torah gives Sarah's death and burial great coverage. Her death becomes the catalyst that arouses Avraham from his routine. He now takes the two actions that represent steps in fulfilling his destiny of becoming a great nation in the land of Canaan - acquiring land and ensuring his continuity.

While Avraham manages the purchase of land and the burial on his own, he turns to his senior servant to find a wife for Yitzhak. At first glance, the death of Sarah has no connection to Avraham's move to find a wife for Yitzhak. However, both human nature and local culture tie her, or, rather, her absence, to this story. On the human level, the correlation is not difficult to understand. The loss of his life-partner, the end of an era for Avraham, becomes a wakeup call for him. The chapter of his generation is coming to an end. If he wants the story that he and Sarah began to continue, he has to make sure that Yitzhak marries as a first step towards becoming a great nation. Avraham, painfully aware by his loss of the significance of a spouse who is a partner, looks for a suitable wife in the land he came from. He is perhaps hoping to find a young woman with a hint of Sarah's flavor, something that Yitzhak could recognize and connect to.

Why does Avraham not carry out this task by himself? His advanced age might well have been a consideration in avoiding the travel. However, recently I came to understand this parashah in a new, cultural light thanks to Muatasem, a local young Arab man who teaches my daughter Arabic.

Muatasem explained how marriage works in his society: When the young man seems ready for marriage, his mother starts to inquire among her friends if any of them have a daughter who might be eligible. After the mother finds a girl whom she believes would be suitable for her son, the two young people meet. If they are interested in each other, then the fathers get involved and settle the business end of things.

Now let us look at the marriage of Avraham's sons. When Ishmael, Avraham's son from Hagar, gets married, he marries a woman from Egypt, the land his mother hails from. We are told (21:21) that it is his mother who finds him a wife.

In our parashah (24:28) Rebecca runs to tell her mother about the arrival of the messenger from Avraham. The mother seems to have a significant role in arranging the marriage in 24:53-58.

What will happen to Yitzhak now that Sarah is gone? Avraham no longer has at his side the woman who knows Yitzhak well enough to find a woman suitable for him. (It is interesting that none of the matriarchs seem to have met their daughters-in-law.) Instead, Avraham entrusts the task to someone else who knows Yitzhak well - in this case, his most trusted servant. The rabbis note that the name of this important character is not mentioned, stressing that he is acting entirely as a messenger, with only Avraham's family needs in mind.

While debating if this reading is assigning too much significance to the role of the mother in her son's future in biblical times, I looked again at this week's haftarah. While it opens with the old age of David (that might parallel that of Avraham), the main story is that of Bat Sheva arranging for Solomon to be placed on the throne. That story offers an alternative situation, one where the mother is present and active. It suggests to us the significant role a mother can play when she is not absent.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Vered Hollander-Goldfarb**, 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>.