



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

September 28- October 6, 2018 | 19-27 Tishrei 5779
Shabbat Chol Hamoed Sukkot

Friday, September 28 19 Tishrei				Parashat Chol Hamoed Sukkot Saturday, September 29 20 Tishrei		
Chol Hamoed Sukkot Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Carter & Eden Wofsey 6:30PM Potluck Dinner & Stories in the Sukkah 7:30PM Candle Lighting 6:37PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Simchah Shabbat Jr. Cong 11:15AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM		
Sunday September 30 21 Tishrei	Monday October 1 22 Tishrei	Tuesday October 2 23 Tishrei	Wednesday October 3 24 Tishrei	Thursday October 4 25 Tishrei	Friday October 5 26 Tishrei	Saturday October 6 27 Tishrei
Hoshanah Rabbah Services 8:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM Community BBQ 12:30PM Erev Shemini Atzeret	Shemini Atzeret Services 10:00AM Erev Simchat Torah 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:18PM	Simchat Torah Services 10:00AM Candle Lighting 7:17PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Board Meeting 7:15PM	Candle Lighting 6:13PM Lev Tahor with Fran Hawthorne 6:30PM Potluck Shabbat Dinner 7:30PM	<i>Parashat Bereshit</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat Mini-Minyan 11:15AM
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)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Freddie Brooks** for contributing to the Kiddush in honor of her parents' yahrzeit this Hoshanah Rabbah.
To **Freddie Brooks, Ruth Kaufman and Eli Wolfhagen** for contributing to the Kiddush this Simchat Torah.

Yahrzeits observed 20-26 Tishrei:

Benjamin Einhorn, husband of Torrene Einhorn; **Edwin L. Weisl, Jr.**, father of Angela Weisl; **Faygel Kahanowitch**, grandmother of Alan Palmer; **Goodman Rubin**, grandfather of Harolyn Cohen; **Henrietta Schultz**, grandmother of Rachel Goldstein; **Jack Bannett**, grandfather of Miriam Fleischmann; **Joan (Smith) Kaufman**, mother of Mark Schwartz; **Lois Holtzman**, mother of Susan Holtzman; **Muriel Brodziak Brooks**, mother of Fredrica Brooks; **Norman Minkin**, father of Rabbi Joshua Minkin; **Paul Brooks**, father of Fredrica Brooks; **Ruth Carol Harlow Berman**, mother of Jean Berman; **Stanka Moudrova**, mother of Kalinka Moudrova-Rothman.
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

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



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Kol Nidre Appeal 5779

Our annual Kol Nidre Appeal is an important part of our Shul's major fundraising effort during the course of the year. It is only with your continued support that we are able to maintain a high level of quality programming and services to meet the wide-ranging needs of our congregants.

Make your gift today: <https://www.psjc.org/form/KN2018>

Friday, September 28

Sing-a-long in the Sukkah | 10:00AM

Come sing and shake with Abe! Ages 0-3 and a grown-up

Kabbalat Shabbat Services | 6:30PM

Shabbat Dinner under the Stars | 7:30PM

Join us for this Vegetarian, Dairy, and Pareve Potluck Shabbat Dinner in the PSJC Sukkah.

Sunday, September 30

Hoshanah Rabbah Services | 8:00AM

Grab a lulav and etrog and shake, shake, shake!

Community BBQ | 12:00PM-4:00PM

Hot Dogs. Hamburgers. Veggie Burgers. Camaraderie. After all the holidays end, reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Check <https://www.psjc.org/event/annual-bbq2018.html> after Rosh Hashanah for details and to reserve your spot.

Shemini Atzeret Services

Monday, October 1 | 10:00AM

Simchat Torah

Monday, October 1 | 6:30PM

(followed by community participation in Simchat Torah across Brooklyn)

Come dance and sing with the Torah and join us as we unroll the entire Torah and recent PSJC bnai mitzvah read sections of their parshayot to hear the entire story in one night!

Simchat Torah Services

Tuesday, October 2 | 10:00AM

5779 first Lev Tahor with Fran Hawthorne

Friday, October 5 | 6:30PM

Join us for musical davenning, dining and schmoozing. Lev Tahor services blend the singing of the traditional liturgy with contemporary English readings and reflections. We start off the season with our own Fran Hawthorne, who will be doing a book reading and discussion of her new novel, "The Heirs" (available at Community Bookstore, or on Amazon.)

Book Club: The Heirs with Fran Hawthorne

Saturday, October 6 | 1:30PM

Come hear author and longtime PSJCer Fran Hawthorne discuss her debut novel *The Heirs*, after kiddish. You won't find *The Heirs* in local libraries. On the strength of Fran's non-fiction writing and since she is a dear friend probably quite a few PSJCers will purchase copies, and some of them may be willing to lend theirs after they have finished reading it.

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.



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Supplies Needed for Hurricane Florence Relief

PSJC is a drop off site for Relief for Hurricane Florence. Stop into the Shul to see how you can help.

Make your donation today

To help prepare packages, please sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/hfrelief2018>

PSJC Knitters

Monday, October 8 | 7:30PM

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

Café Ivrit is Back at PSJC

Beginning Thursday, October 11 | 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.com.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, October 12 | 6:30PM

Shabbat Kulanu

Saturday, October 13 | 11:00AM



Cocktails & Havdallah; Celebrate our Building & Supporters

Saturday, October 13 | 6:00PM

Celebrate the completion of our building project and join us for Cocktails & Havdallah to thank our many generous donors. Please RSVP to the invitation you received via email.

Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim

Sunday, October 14 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

Sunday, November 4

Sunday, February 3

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.

Shabbat Services

Saturday, October 20 | 10:00AM

To hear from and honor our Hatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit.

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



Parashat Chol Hamoed Sukkot

Annual: Shemot 33:12-34:26; Numbers 29:26-31 | Etz Hayim p. 538-544, 935; Hertz p. 362-367, 697
Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18 - 39:16 | Etz Hayim p. 1259; Hertz p. 979

D'var Torah: Return of the Clouds

The special Torah portion this week gives us a perfect opportunity to pick up where we left off last week. It deals with the giving of the Second Tablets and God forgiving Israel for the sin of the Golden Calf. Rashi (1040-1105) explains in his commentary on Shemot 32:1 and 33:11, that this event occurred on the 10th of Tishrei, thereby fixing that day forevermore as Yom Kippur, the national Day of Atonement. But why would this be the Torah portion read on Shabbat Chol HaMoed Sukkot? The obvious answer is that line 34:22 mentions Chag HaAsif, another name for Sukkot, but I think the real reason is that this Torah portion calls attention to the connection between Yom Kippur and Sukkot. Shemot 34:5 reminds us that "God came down in a cloud" when talking to Moshe. It is as a cloud that God provided protection for the entire camp during their travels. When Bnei Yisrael sinned with the Golden Calf, the Clouds of Glory departed. This Torah portion is about Moshe's efforts to bring them back. There is a well-known *machloket* (disagreement) in Tractate Sukkah 11b about the meaning of "sukkot" in the verse from VaYikra 23:42-43, "You shall dwell in sukkot for seven days...So that your generations will know that I made the Israelites dwell in sukkot..." Rabbi Eliezer says that "sukkot" means the Clouds of Glory, and Rabbi Akiva says it means "sukkot *mamash*" - *actual* sukkot - either the place called Sukkot or some kind of physical structure. Later commentators raised additional questions on their *machloket*. If we hold like Rabbi Akiva that it means *actual* sukkot, why is that something so important that God would command us to **know** it? And whether we hold like Rabbi Akiva or Rabbi Eliezer, why would we do this in Tishrei, when both the dwelling in sukkot and the appearance of the Clouds of Glory happened in the spring, shortly after they left Egypt?

Many years later, the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797) gave a powerful answer: the reason we observe Sukkot on the 15th of Tishrei is that it was the day the Clouds of Glory returned! On the 10th (Yom Kippur), God forgave them and gave the Second Tablets. On the 11th, God told them how to build the Mishkan. On the 12th the people started to bring their donations of the materials, and this continued through the 14th when Moshe told them to stop because they had enough. And then on the 15th, the day that would become the holiday of Sukkot, they started to build the Mishkan and *that is what made the Clouds of Glory return*. So Sukkot commemorates **both** the Clouds of Glory, as per Rabbi Eliezer, **and** the Mishkan - an *actual* physical structure - as per Rabbi Akiva!

Read this way, the *machloket* between Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Akiva is really about whether the Sukkah is to be supposed to remind us of what God did (the return of the Clouds of Glory) or what Bnei Yisrael did (building the Mishkan). Are we *primarily* commemorating/acting out what we *experienced* or what we *did*? That is a question worth asking about many holidays!

And now we can return (finally) to the idea from last week - that the progression from Rosh HsShanah to Yom Kippur to Sukkot to Shemini Atzeret reflects the water/cloud/rain cycle. During Rosh HaShanah/Tashlich we "gather" our sins so that we can cast them away from us into the depths of the sea. On Yom Kippur, we immerse ourselves in prayer, hoping the mikveh of God's mercy will dissolve the stain of our sins. We then rise above our physicality and ascend to God as pure souls, imitating how polluted water is purified through evaporation as it ascends to the heavens as water vapor.

The days following Yom Kippur are about coalescence. Our coming together to build Sukkot echoes Bnei Yisrael's building of the Mishkan, when they were unified and motivated by the opportunity to create a place where they and God could dwell together. And just as coalescing water vapor forms clouds, Bnei Yisrael's coalescing around the Mishkan caused the Clouds of Glory to return. For 7 days, we enjoy the clouds/cloud-like Sukkah as protective shade-cover during the last days of summer, as confirmation that God has forgiven our sins and dwells with us, and as a promise of life-sustaining rain. And then on Shemini Atzeret, once Sukkot is over, it is time for rain. So we add "*mashiv haruach u'morid hageshem*" - the one who causes the wind to blow and rain to fall - to the second *bracha* of the Amidah. As we approach the end of this intense period of personal and national growth, may we all merit to experience the rain of God's blessings!

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