



June 22-30, 2018 | 9-17 Tammuz 5778
Parashat Chukkat

Friday, June 22 9 Tammuz				Parashat Chukkat Saturday, June 23 10 Tammuz		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:13PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM Lena Gutman Bat Mitzvah – Mincha 4:00PM		
Sunday June 24 11 Tammuz	Monday June 25 12 Tammuz	Tuesday June 26 13 Tammuz	Wednesday June 27 14 Tammuz	Thursday June 28 15 Tammuz	Friday June 29 16 Tammuz	Saturday June 30 17 Tammuz
		Board Meeting 7:15PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM PAI Book Group 9:30AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Shayna/Sari Klainberg/Freddie 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:13PM	<i>Parashat Balak</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Isaac Tepper Bar Mitzvah
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 **Lena, Ellen, David** and **Talia** on Lena's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Ellen Simon** and **Loretta Lurie** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Fran Hawthorne's** first publication "*The Heirs*".

To **Ellen Umansky** and **David Gutman** for sponsoring Seudah Shlishit in honor of **Lena's** Bat Mitzvah during Mincha Services this Shabbat!

From **Elizabeth Schnur** and her family, **Peter Holmes, Warren** and **Josh Schnur-Holmes** and **Rosanne Milic**: I would like to thank the entire PSJC community for its love and support before, during and after Rosanne and my mother, Harriet Natalie Frank Schnur, z"l died. The concrete support (food, shiva minyans, etc.) was amazing and the emotional support, through the funeral, shiva and beyond has been outstanding. We thank Rabbi Carie for her extraordinary help in getting us through this painful time, and the anonymous members of the chevra kadisha, who provided taharah and shmira, and helped prepare and accompany our mother on the way to her final resting place. The pain of losing such an amazing soul has been softened by the love of this community.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Elizabeth Schnur, Rosanne Milic and family on the death of their mother, **Harriet Schnur**, z"l.

Ben Kligler and family on the death of his mother, **Deborah Kligler Krasnow**, z"l.

Lynda Kaplan and family on the death of her mother, **Betty Kaplan**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 10-16 Tammuz:

Abraham Heffler, grandfather of Barry Blumenfeld; **Dora Schuman**, grandmother of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Eileen Baron**, sister of Jeffrey Baron; **Fannye Roberts Smith**, mother of Ann Smith; **Isidore Blatt**, father of Ralph Blatt; **Jerome Rolnick**, father of Josh Rolnick; **Lawrence Lieberman**, father of Geoff Lieberman; **Mary Hoffert**, grandmother of Pamela Kaplan; **Max Elfont**, grandfather of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Pauline Pollack**, grandmother of David Pollack; **Rabbi Howard Kummer**, father of Daniel Kummer; **Sarah Zelko**, mother of Gary Zelko.

May their memories be for a blessing.



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Hebrew School Registration is Live!

Registration for 2018-2019 Hebrew School is OPEN!
Join us for another year of Jewish learning!

https://www.psjc.org/hebrew_school_registration

Deadline to avoid \$100 late fee is **Friday, June 22, 2018**

Annual Membership Renewal 2018-2019

Renew your membership today! It's easy and can all be done online.

Visit www.psjc.org and log in to your account.

That means we have already begun planning for 5779!

We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC!

We would love to get to 100% participation. No amount is too big or too small.

Please contact Peter by email treasurer@psjc.org if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00AM

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

Big One Day Collective Drive

Sunday, June 24 | 9:30AM-4:00PM | Congregation Beth Elohim - 274 Garfield Place

CBE's Refugee Task Force is holding a Big One Day Collection Drive for refugees and for people in immigrant detention. Welcome Home, a group that helps resettle refugees in NJ, needs adult and kid bikes, air conditioners, televisions and home computers.

First Friends, a group that visits people in immigrant detention and helps them communicate with the outside world can use two-pocket folders (no metal clips), writing paper (5x8), envelopes (plain white, sz 10), forever stamps, greeting cards and Spanish books (for adults). THANK YOU for your support: this is a Brownstone Brooklyn effort that invites and welcomes all participants.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 26 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PAI Book Group

Wednesday, June 27 | 9:30AM

This month we are reading Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan. Join us for a fun, engaging conversation about this book, which is a 2018 One Book/One New York choice! Sign up: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-book-club.html>. There is no charge for this group.

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.

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

Host an Israeli Shinshin

IsraelBKLYN is looking for host families for Israeli Shinshinim this summer and next Fall.

A "shinshin" is an 18-year-old Israeli emissary to communities abroad with the goal of educating people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture. Shinshinim work with children at Jewish camps, schools and synagogues. Over the last five years, Shinshinim have added a lot to our PSJC community. If you are interested in hosting a shinshin, please contact rabbicarter@psjc.org.

PAI Walking Group

Friday, July 6 | 9:30AM

We will walk across the Brooklyn Bridge starting on the Manhattan side. We will meet at 9:30AM at the City Hall Park Path before it crosses Centre Street to become the Brooklyn Bridge Promenade.

Our meeting spot is just outside the Brooklyn Bridge City Hall station for the 4, 5, and 6 trains. This is an easy 1.3-mile walk. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-walking-group1.html>.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, July 21 | 1:30PM | Prospect Park

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at Prospect Park during the summer months. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

Tisha B'Av Services

Saturday, July 21 | 9:00PM

Tisha B'Av (the 9th day of Av) is observed this year on Saturday evening, July 21 and Sunday morning July 22. Please join us for a stirring and evocative service. Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of both the first and second Temples, but over time, other Jewish tragedies have become connected to this date. Tisha B'Av, traditionally a fast day (fasting from sunset to the appearance of 3 stars the next night), is observed on Saturday night by a relatively brief moving service in which we sit low or on the floor (like mourners) and read Eichah (Lamentations) - which is chanted to a particularly haunting melody. This is followed by the singing of kinot (similarly moving songs and elegies). We dim the lights and read by candles and flashlights.

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat!



When logged in members can see...

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.

Parashat Chukkat

Triennial: Numbers 20:1-21:10 | Etz Hayim p. 883; Hertz p. 655; Plaut p.1152

Haftarah: Judges 11:1-33 | Etz Hayim p. 909; Hertz p. 664; Plaut p.1268

D'var Torah: Positive Leadership

In Parshat Chukkat, we read an instance of a familiar trope: the Israelites are without water, and they register their complaints with Moses and Aaron who bring the predicament before God. God tells them to “take the rod and assemble the community, and before their very eyes order the rock to yield its water...” (Numbers 20:8) Then, a pivotal moment occurs:

[9] Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as He had commanded him. [10] Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock; and he said to them, “Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?” [11] And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. [12] But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them.”

In a fleeting instant, Moses loses the opportunity to see his life’s most significant work through to its completion. In the verses, the reason that God gives for the punishment is that Moses and Aaron did not trust God enough. Commentators of all generations, sensing that the punishment may not have fit the crime, saw fit to supplement this reason with other possibilities. The Hasidic Master, Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev (Belarus & Ukraine, 1740–1809), in his signature work *Kedushat Levi*, cites the opinions of medieval commentators Rashi (France, 1040-1105) and Rambam (Spain, Morocco & Egypt, 1135-1204). Rashi claims that Moses’ sin was his direct violation of God’s order. God told Moses to command the rock and Moses struck it. Alternatively, Rambam claims that Moses’ transgression stems from the way he spoke to the people ([10] “Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?”). (see *Kedushat Levi* on Parshat Hukkat, Comment #4)

Rabbi Levi Yitzhak asserts that Rashi and Rambam’s conclusions are not different - rather, one causes the other. He explains by identifying two kinds of leaders: one who leads through encouragement and aspiration, and another who leads through force, negative pressure, and embarrassment. While Moses could have encouraged the Israelites to live up to their potential by pointing out their Godly mission and inherent goodness, he chose to call them “rebels,” fixating on their worst tendencies. According to Rabbi Levi Yitzhak, Moses should have spoken to the rock and said “since you were created for Israel, and they are on such a high level, you need to do that for which you were created--namely to bring forth water for the Jewish people.” But since Moses could not find it in himself to speak of the Israelites meritoriously, the rock had no motivation to fulfill its obligation to them. Thus, the only way to get the rock to release its water was to strike it, which lost Moses his privilege to accompany the Israelites into Canaan. As Rabbi Levi Yitzhak says, Rambam’s climactic moment led to Rashi’s climactic moment.

Should Moses have been punished so severely for his words and actions? Given the past conduct of the Israelites, rife with complaining and faithlessness, Moses’ verbal treatment of them seems justified. But Rabbi Levi Yitzhak’s reading of this event illustrates a challenge that a leader of a difficult group will inevitably face, and that which Moses ultimately failed to meet. When the people began to complain, Moses had a choice: push them by degrading and pressuring them, or by lifting them up to a better future. When he chose the former, he showed that he had lost his faith in the people. And when the leader - the person responsible for pushing the people toward a better future - loses faith, how can anyone else (or a rock) have it? When we lead people and ask them to strive toward new goals and heights, we can only do so if we believe in them.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Jonathan Wasserman**, *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>