



July 20-28, 2018 | 8-16 Av 5778
Parashat Devarim

Friday, July 20 8 Av				Parashat Devarim Saturday, July 21 9 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Freddie Brooks 7:00PM Candle Lighting 8:04PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM Where was God in the Holocaust? with Avi Ulman 7:00PM Erev Tisha B'Av Tisha B'Av Services 9:00PM		
Sunday July 22 10 Av	Monday July 23 11 Av	Tuesday July 24 12 Av	Wednesday July 25 13 Av	Thursday July 26 14 Av	Friday July 27 15 Av	Saturday July 28 16 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM BBG Members' Night for Children & Sunset Picnic 6:00PM Prospect Park		Kabbalat Shabbat with Susana Honig 6:30PM Tu B'Av Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner 6:30PM Prospect Park Candle Lighting 7:58PM	<i>Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu</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, 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 **Sally Brown**, **Steve Elworth** and **Seth Sternberg** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Charlie Urich's** 65th birthday this Shabbat!

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Roberta Moskowitz and family on the death of her mother, **Libby Rosenfeld**, z"l.

Marshall Sohne and family on the death of his wife, **Ellen Fried**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 9-15 Av:

Anna Elfont, grandmother of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Bernard Klainberg**, father of Joshua Klainberg; **Carl Brandes**, uncle of Rabbi Sami Barth; **Charles Sommer**, observed by the PSJC community; **Fred Thomases**, father of Matt Thomases; **Helen Sturman**, aunt of Steve Elworth; **Helene Selter**, sister of Bruce Gross; **Irving Spahn**, grandfather of Fran Hawthorne; **Marilyn Iris Rubenstein**, mother-in-law of Ilene Rubenstein; **Michael Dorlester**, brother of Jane Dorlester; **Mollie Spahn**, grandmother of Fran Hawthorne; **Norman Stanley Smith**, brother of Ann Smith; **Ray Abrahams**, father of Ilana Abrahams Nolte. *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, 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.

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



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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

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.

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, June 16 | 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

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 email shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

Where was God in the Holocaust? with Avi Ulman

Saturday, July 21 | 7:00PM

This Saturday evening program will ask, where was God in the Holocaust? A question we ask over and over again. A question which hovers in the air every Yom Ha'Shoah. Is it possible at all to try answering such a question? Should we? Are we allowed to ask how could God have allowed the Holocaust to happen? In this lecture, Professor Ulman will discuss a number of issues: The existence of evil in the world; the question of when a tragedy such as the Holocaust can occur and why; and finally, framing an answer to the central question, where was God in the Holocaust.

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. 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. Tisha B'Av continues on Sunday morning. As a gesture toward *Klal Yisrael*, this year we encourage PSJC members who would like to attend morning services to join the service at Kane Street Synagogue (236 Kane Street). Their Sunday morning minyan begins at 9:00AM.

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BBG Members' Night for Children & Sunset Picnic

Wednesday, July 25 | 6:00PM | Prospect Park

Pot Luck dinner for those members who are also Brooklyn Botanic Garden Members. For details visit https://www.bbg.org/visit/event/members_night_for_children.

Tu B'Av Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner

Friday, July 27 | 6:30PM | Prospect Park

Tu B'Av Pot Luck Shabbat dinner in Prospect Park (For those who plan to attend Kabbalat Shabbat at PSJC, services will start early - at 6:30PM - and those who want to join the group will walk over together).

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 28 | 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 aronrhalf@gmail.com.

Book Club: The Extra

Saturday, August 4 | 1:30PM

Join us after kiddush as we discuss *The Extra* (תבצין), A. B. Yehoshua's novel of ideas whose themes include the title character's decision to not have children, eldercare, housing and real estate, relations between Haredi and secular Israelis, cinema, theater, and classical music. BPL has 9 English print copies and an ebook.

Space Jam

Wednesday, August 8 | 6:00PM | Long Meadow North - Prospect Park

Hang out together before Summer Movie Under the Stars in Long Meadow North in Prospect Park: *Space Jam*.

Lulav & Etrog Sale

Each set is already assembled together in a holder with the Lulav, Hadassim and Arovot as one.

Along with each set you will receive a basic guide as a complimentary gift to express our appreciation to you. It will contain a list of all the Brachot (blessings) and Halakha (laws) of the four species.



Order yours now: www.psjc.org/lulav-and-etrog-sale.html

Last day to order Wednesday, August 29

Parashat Devarim

Triennial: Deuteronomy 2:2-2:3 | Etz Hayim p.990; Hertz p.743

Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27 | Etz Hayim p.999; Hertz p.750

D'var Torah: Settling

Most of the book of Devarim consists of Moses's speeches to Israel full of history, law, promises and warnings. But ask someone what the first thing Moses tells the people of Israel, and my guess is that they will be stumped. The first five verses of D'varim situate the book, and the first thing Moses says is found in verse 6. He says "לכם רב שבת בהר שבת," which translates literally as "Much to you dwelling at this mountain." But the ambiguity of the phrase "Much to you" there are several ways we can read the verse.

Sifre Deuteronomy, a midrashic composition on the book of Deuteronomy reads, "'Much to you dwelling at this mountain': Much **reward has accrued** to you by dwelling at this mountain [Mt. Horev - seen here as another name for Mt. Sinai]. Upon it you accepted the Torah upon yourselves, I appointed for you seventy elders, officers of thousands, officers of hundreds, officers of fifties, and officers of tens, I made for you the *mishkan* and its vessels — You benefited greatly by your dwelling in this mountain!" For the Sifre, "much" refers to their transformation into a nation, with the Laws and moral system found in the Torah; a political and judicial system devoid of the tyranny of a single leader; and the establishment and construction of the *mishkan*, a centralized place and mode of worship. But Midrash Tannaim, another composition on Deuteronomy, goes a different way. After quoting a teaching similar to the Sifre, it reads, "'Much to you dwelling at this mountain': It is **very bad** for you, your dwelling on this mountain." Dwelling - *staying* - at the mountain is "very bad." With all that they gained there, and the closeness to God they felt, it would be tempting to stay forever. But staying in place, no matter how good that place is, leads to stagnation and to complacency.

The *p'shat* (plain) reading of the verse, as found in most translations, is "You have dwelt at this mountain long enough" (an odd way to begin one of the longer speeches in history!) Yes, in the place where God was revealed there is a feeling of unparalleled closeness. And yes, in the place where laws, beliefs, rituals, and prohibitions were given, they were transformed. But the mountain is in the midst of an uninhabitable wilderness, a place owned by no nation, and ultimately this is not what God wants from Israel. As Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Berlin, known at the Netziv, writes, "God was troubled by their delay, even though it was at this chosen and elevated mountain, for God wanted to bring them quickly into the land of Israel." According to this reading, which could also be called the Zionist reading, Israel was destined to bring God's message to the world not as a wandering people, but as one settled in its own land - bringing the Torah to bear on the real challenges of building and living an individual and collective life. The mountain was good, great even, but it was time to move on.

Being in a good place is a mixed blessing. On the one hand, there is the sacred sense of appreciation, of תרכה eht dna ,nwonknu eht gnicafor morf semoc taht lliht eht ,ecneirepxe wen eht fo ssol eht si ereht ,rehto eht nO. הטוב growth that results from facing new challenges. I write these words on my 48th birthday, having spent almost half of my years studying, teaching and administrating at the same institution, the Conservative Yeshiva. No heavenly voice or human boss has come to me and said, "Enough Josh, you've been sitting at your desk in the corner of that room for too long." But it is a challenge for me, and I think for many at my stage in life, to answer the question: Is this the mountain where I have "dwelled long enough" or is this the "promised land" where I am supposed to enjoy the security and build my legacy?

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Dr. Joshua Kulp**, *Rosh Yeshiva & Conservative Yeshiva Faculty* 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>.

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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.