



**PARK  
SLOPE  
JEWISH  
CENTER**

August 4 - 10, 2018 | 23-29 Av 5778  
Parashat Ekev Shabbat Mevarekhim

<b>Friday, August 3   22 Av</b>				<b>Parashat Ekev Saturday, August 4   23 Av</b>		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi <b>Carter/Eden Wofsey</b>   7:00PM Candle Lighting   7:51PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Book Club   1:30PM   “The Extra (ניצבת)”		
Sunday August 5 24 Av	Monday August 6 25 Av	Tuesday August 7 26 Av	Wednesday August 8 27 Av	Thursday August 9 28 Av	Friday August 10 29 Av	Saturday August 11 30 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Movie Under the Stars in Prospect Park 6PM		Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Daniella Risman</b> 7:00PM  Candle Lighting 7:43PM	<i>Parashat Re'eh</i>  Shacharit 10:00AM
<b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b> 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)		

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

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

**Stan and Barbara Hopard** on the death of Stan’s brother and Barbara’s brother in law, **David Hopard**, z”l.



**Amy Lowenthal** and **Dale Rosenberg** on the death of Amy’s mother, **Ellen Louise Lowenthal**, z”l.

**Yahrzeits observed 23-29 Av:**

**Barbara Ettliger**, sister-in-law of M. Allan Ettliger; **Jean Cohen**, mother of Neil Cohen; **Leora Lewis**, sister of Roland Lewis; **Martha Wald**, grandmother of Judith Ullman; **Max Schuman**, grandfather of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Merryl Koren**, sister of Andrew Auslander; **Nancy Monblatt**, mother of Cathy Monblatt; **Philip Zinn**, grandfather of Karen Louise Heau; **Sol Tursky**, uncle of Marc Korashan.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊

When logged in members can see...

**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)



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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](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](http://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](mailto:treasurer@psjc.org) if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

### **Book Club: The Extra**

Saturday, August 4 | 1:30PM

Join us after kiddush as we discuss *The Extra* (תבצינ), 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.

### **Movie Under the Stars in Prospect Park**

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*. Bring a blanket to sit on. Rain cancels. Email/text [ruthj.kaufman@gmail.com](mailto:ruthj.kaufman@gmail.com) / 917.603.1665 to find us.

### **Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan**

Saturday, August 11 | 10:00AM

### **Kishkush Acharei Kiddush**

Saturday, August 18 | 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](mailto:Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com) for more details.

### 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](http://www.psjc.org/lulav-and-etrog-sale.html)

Last day to order Wednesday, August 29

### Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, August 18 | 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](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org), with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

### Selichot Service

Saturday, September 1 | 9:00PM

### Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Sunday, September 9

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Tuesday, September 11

### Yom Kippur

Kol Nidrei | Tuesday, September 18

Yom Kippur Day | Wednesday, September 19

### PAI Book Club

Wednesday, September 26 | 7:30PM

This month we are reading *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. Sign up: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-book-club.html>. There is no charge for this group.

### For a Sweet New Year - Support PSJC with Honey From the Heart!

Order honey for your friends and family and support PSJC while doing it!

Your cost is **\$12.00 per jar** and \$5.00 per jar shipping and handling.  
We will gladly mail orders outside the United States for an additional fee.  
For more information and to order at: <http://orthoney.com/psj>





### Parashat Ekev Shabbat Mevarekhim Hahodesh

Triennial: Deuteronomy 9:4-10:11 | Eitz Hayim p.1042

Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3 | Eitz Hayim p.1056

#### D'var Torah: Make it Rain

The most familiar part of Parashat Ekev comes toward the end, in chapter 11, verses 13-14 when Moshe, speaking in God's voice, tells the Israelites: "If, then, you obey the commandments that I enjoin upon you this day...I will grant the rain for your land in season." This is, of course, the second paragraph of the Shema, recited twice daily to fulfill the command to recite them when we lie down and rise up, and written on parchment and stuffed into tefillin and mezuzot so that we can fulfill the command to impress them on our hearts, bind them on our hands, let them be symbols on our forehead, and inscribe them on our doorposts.

But what is the larger context here? And why this emphasis on rain?

The Israelites are about to take a major developmental step as they enter the Land. In the desert, God was ever-present and miracles were obvious - whether in defeating enemies or providing manna. In the Land of Israel, the Israelites have to fight their enemies, establish settlements, and work to produce their own food. This is an important step - a good one, one that God desires. But it is fraught with peril. In the desert, Israelite dependence made them faithful - faithful enough to take this next step (unlike their parents who perished in the desert). But in the Land of Israel, with God taking a step back, the Israelites can easily come to the mistaken belief that they are entirely responsible for their success and comfort. And they will break faith with God and Torah.

Whenever they stepped out of line in the desert, the punishment was swift and painful. Fire consumed them. The earth swallowed them. Snakes bit them. Illness befell them. As Moses tells them in Devarim 8:5, "Bear in mind that the LORD your God disciplines you just as a man disciplines his son." But in the Land, just as there will be no obvious and direct miracles, there will be no obvious and direct punishments. And there won't be a leader with singular clear access to God's thoughts and desires who can lay out the right path so clearly.

In the Land, all the Israelites will have to know if God is happy with them is rain - the key to any long-term success. As they are told in Devarim 11:10-12:

For the land that you are about to enter and possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come. There the grain you sowed had to be watered by your own labors, like a vegetable garden; but the land you are about to cross into and possess, a land of hills and valleys, soaks up its water from the rains of heaven. It is a land which the LORD your God looks after, on which the LORD your God always keeps His eye, from year's beginning to year's end.

The Land of Israel is special to God because it is rain-land. Faith-land. It has no river like the Nile or the Tigris and Euphrates to power the irrigation necessary for a mass civilization. Those dwelling in the Land of Israel have to put in the work, but it is all for naught if forces beyond their control do not cooperate. And the only hope to influence those forces is to be humble in the face of them, and to appreciate them.

Modern Jewish thinkers have rejected this idea that mitzvah performance can influence the weather. The Reform Movement removed this paragraph from their prayer book many years ago. But I personally find the message both powerful and important. Security and abundance lead to overconfidence in our merit, our skill, and the solidity and reliability of the world around us. And this overconfidence can quickly lead to arrogance, callousness, and eventually cruelty. So much of the good in our lives is on account of people being more loving, kind, and decent than they have to be. That is God at work. And only by keeping faith with that will we last long on this land.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz**, *Conservative Yeshiva Director of NA 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>.

**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.