



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

August 31-September 8, 2018 | 20-28 Elul 5778
Parashat Ki Tavo

Friday, August 31 20 Elul				Parashat Ki Tavo Saturday, September 1 21 Elul		
Kabbalat Shabbat with David Rosen 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:12PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Selichot Service 9:30PM		
Sunday September 2 22 Elul	Monday September 3 23 Elul	Tuesday September 4 24 Elul	Wednesday September 5 25 Elul	Thursday September 6 26 Elul	Friday September 7 27 Elul	Saturday September 8 28 Elul
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM PSJC Faculty Orientation 5:30PM		Stoop Shabbat 3:00PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Elizabeth Schnur 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:00PM	<i>Parashat Nitzavim</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Rami & Noa Sadovnik Bnai Mitzvah 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)		

Yahrzeits observed 21-27 Elul:

Abe Baron, grandfather of Stuart Baron; **Annie Miller Zinn**, grandmother of Karen Louise Heau; **Bernard Tursky**, uncle of Marc Korashan; **Freida Cohen**, grandmother of Marc Cohen; **Gerald Robert Smith**, brother of Ann Smith; **Harold Herschel Lurie**, father of Loretta Lurie; **Hristo Moudrov**, father of Kalinka Moudrova-Rothman; **Irving Santo**, father of Helene Santo; **Jane Ruth Simon**, sister of Ellen Simon; **Maurice Siniawer**, cousin of Gavrielle Levine and Myron Levine; **Tzila Katz**, grandmother of Marilyn Kardeman.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊



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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.

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

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.

High Holy Days Tickets will be at our Welcome Table,
if your membership was renewed after Monday, August 20.

Deadline to register for babysitting has passed. Please email Aileen, if you still need to sign up.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, August 25 | 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.

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 1 | 9:30PM

9:30PM | Havdallah

10:00PM | Liturgy

11:30PM | Communal Singing

12:30AM | Conclusion

This poetic and reflective service prepares one's heart, mind, and spirit for the Days of Awe and Repentance. A beautiful beginning to the High Holy Days, the service will begin with Havdalah, followed by prayer, song, and study lead by local Rabbis and Cantors. This event is co-sponsored with other neighborhood synagogues and minyanim.

Stoop Shabbat

Saturday, September 7 | 3:00PM

Stop by the stoop to sing with Abe and Aileen, braid a challah, and sample a variety of apples and honey!

Opening Hebrew School Assembly & Picnic for all Families

Sunday, September 16 | 9:30AM

Join us for the opening of the Hebrew School year!

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, September 22 | 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.



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Erev Rosh Hashanah | Sunday, September 9

Ma'ariv | 6:30PM | Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Monday, September 10

Main Service | 8:30AM | Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Kulanu Service | 10:30AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service & Lounge | 11:30AM - 12:30PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tashlich | 5:45PM | Prospect Park Lake

Ma'ariv | 7:30PM | Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Tuesday, September 11

Main Service | 8:30AM | Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Jr. Congregation | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tween Service & Lounge | 11:30AM - 12:30PM | Lower Sanctuary

Kol Nidre | Tuesday, September 18

PSJC Service (for Members and Ticketed Guests) | 6:30PM | Sanctuary

Open Community Service | 6:40PM | Lower Sanctuary

Yom Kippur | Wednesday, September 19

Main Service | 8:30AM | Sanctuary

Mincha | 4:00PM

Yizkor | 5:30PM

Neilah | 6:00PM

Tot-Tefillah | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Kulanu Service | 10:30AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tween Service & Lounge | 10:15AM - 11:15AM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service & Lounge | 11:30AM - 12:30PM | Lower Sanctuary

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, September 15 | 1:30PM | Tent

Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please indicate which date(s) you prefer: **November 17, January 19, 2019, February 16** or **March 16**, please email shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with your preferred date (they occur on the 3rd Shabbat of the month). Members hosting homes needs to be walking distance from PSJC.

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.

Parashat Ki Tavo

Triennial: Deuteronomy 26:12-28:6 | Etz Hayim p.1142; Hertz p.860

Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22 | Etz Hayim p.1160; Hertz p.874

D'var Torah: Public vs. Private Piety

In Deuteronomy chapter 27 Moses describes an elaborate ceremony that the Israelites are to enact soon after crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land. As part of the ceremony a formal list of curses will be written on stones and declared from a local hilltop. There are twelve curses laid out in verses 15-26. In each case the declaration of the curse is to be followed by a public shout of consent: "Amen!"

15. Cursed be the man who makes an engraved or molten image...and sets it up in secret...
16. Cursed be he who dishonors his father or his mother...
17. Cursed be he who removes his neighbor's landmark...
18. Cursed be he who makes the blind to wander out of the way...
19. Cursed be he who perverts the judgment of the stranger, orphan, and widow...
20. Cursed be he who lies with his father's wife...
21. Cursed be he who lies with any kind of beast...
22. Cursed be he who lies with his sister...
23. Cursed be he who lies with his mother-in-law...
24. Cursed be he who strikes his neighbor secretly...
25. Cursed be he who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person...
26. Cursed be he who does not maintain all the words of this Torah to do them...

The Rashbam, Samuel ben Meir (France, 1085-1158), grandson of Rashi, proposes, in his commentary on Deuteronomy 27:15 that the common denominator between these twelve cases is that they are all sins that are commonly performed in private and which are thus unlikely to be discovered. For Rashbam this whole infrastructure of curses only pertains to people's private worlds of deviance and is meant to address private behavior. He refers us to a verse in next week's *parashah*, Deuteronomy 29:28: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

This famous verse, says Rashbam, teaches us that the curses were not required for public wrongdoing. Public sin is dealt with in public by the court system and the various official, and public, punishments; "the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever." The ritualized curses are required to create a common consent to some kind of unknown and ambiguous divine punishment in cases where sins are performed in private, beyond the scope of human courts: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God."

For many liberal Jews, Jewish practice really only makes sense in the public realm. I have many wonderful congregants in my community who come to synagogue "religiously" every shabbat and holiday and for whom that practice is extremely deep and meaningful. If I ask them whether they would consider shabbat davening on their own or en famille whilst away on their summer vacations they look at me with puzzlement; why would they do such a thing? Some might visit Jewish communities and pray with them on foreign holidays but that merely reinforces my claim here. One of the Achilles' Heels of liberal Judaism is that at its best it creates spaces for public practice but it very often fails to articulate any compelling reason for private piety.

Rashbam makes it clear that the court system, the "shoftim and shotrim", cannot really influence, let alone ensure, private practice. Other mechanisms must be in place in every society to inculcate private piety rather than just public compliance. Fear of punishment is nowhere near as effective, or as important, as true fear of God - a deep and abiding anxiety that one's behavior has made one cursed, unworthy and unable to receive divine blessing. In this month of Elul, as we gear up for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, Rashbam offers us both a question and a challenge. What will we do, what steps will we take, so that Judaism is more than a series of external norms, and is instead something that guides and sustains us, even (and especially) when we are alone? Our liturgy encourages us to imagine ourselves as sheep passing one-by-one under the penetrating gaze of our Shepherd. Will God see in our hearts only public compliance and conformity or will She also be aware of a deep personal commitment to Jewish observance that underpins and transcends mere membership of the flock?

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joel Levy**, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty & Rosh Yeshiva "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.