



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

August 24-September 1, 2018 | 13-21 Elul 5778  
Parashat Ki Tetze

|   |                                |                                 |                                   |  |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Friday, August 24   13 Elul</b>  |                                |                                 |                                   | <b>Parashat Ki Tetze<br/>Saturday, August 25   14 Elul</b>   |  |   |
| Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>David Rosen</b>   7:00PM<br>Candle Lighting   7:23PM   |                                |                                 |                                   | Shacharit   10:00AM<br>Advanced Talmud   1:30PM  |  |   |
| Sunday<br>August 26<br>15 Elul  | Monday<br>August 27<br>16 Elul | Tuesday<br>August 28<br>17 Elul | Wednesday<br>August 29<br>18 Elul | Thursday<br>August 30<br>19 Elul   | Friday<br>August 31<br>20 Elul   | Saturday<br>September 1<br>21 Elul  |
|   |                                |                                 | Morning<br>Minyan<br>7:15AM       |  | Kabbalat Shabbat with<br><b>Charlie Urich</b><br>7:00PM<br><br>Candle Lighting<br>7:12PM | <i>Parashat Ki Tavo</i><br><br>Shacharit 10:00AM<br><br><b>Selichot Service</b><br>9:30PM |
| <b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b><br>1320 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215<br>(718) 768-1453<br>Office hours: M-Th 9AM-5PM, F 9AM-2PM<br>www.psjc.org   email: office@psjc.org |                                |                                 |                                   | Rabbi Carie Carter, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org)<br>Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org)<br>Elana Ayalon, Director of Administration (office@psjc.org)<br>Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org)<br>For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org) |  |   |

**Todah Rabbah**

To **David & Shoshana Cooper** and **David Rosen** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of the Cooper's 36th anniversary.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Stan Hopard** and family on the death of Stan's brother, **David Hopard**, z"l.

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

**Yahrzeits observed 14-20 Elul:**

**Albert N Seittelman**, father of Joan Seittelman; **Carol Frances**, cousin of Ellen Simon; **David Alperin**, father of Brad Alperin; **Gertrude Spruchman**, grandmother of Jan Orzeck; **Joseph David Hurwitz**, father of Jonathan Hurwitz; **Karl Tursky**, grandfather of Marc Korashan; **Martin Bert Fried**, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Martin Dorlester**, father of Jane Dorlester; **Selma Heffler**, grandmother of Barry Blumenfeld; **Shirley Blumenfeld**, grandmother of Barry Blumenfeld; **Victor Feiman**, uncle of Steve Elworth.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

**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)

**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.

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

**Deadline to register for babysitting is Friday, August 31.**

**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](mailto: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.

**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**



**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>



**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!

**Rosh Hashanah**

**Erev Rosh Hashanah** | Sunday, September 9

**Rosh Hashanah Day 1** | Monday, September 10

**Rosh Hashanah Day 2** | Tuesday, September 11

**Opening Hebrew School Assembly & Picnic for all Families**

Sunday, September 16

Join us for the opening of the Hebrew School year!

**Yom Kippur**

**Kol Nidrei** | Tuesday, September 18

**Yom Kippur Day** | Wednesday, September 19

**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](mailto:Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com) for more details.

**Shabbat Shmooze**

Saturday, September 22 | 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: **September 22, November 17, January 19, 2019, February 16 or March 16**, please email [shabbatshmooze@psjc.org](mailto: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.

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat!



When logged in members can see...

## Parashat Ki Tetze

Triennial: Deuteronomy 23:8-24:13 | Etz Hayim p.1123; Hertz p.847

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10 + 54:11-55:5 | Etz Hayim p.1137; Hertz p.857

### D'var Torah: A Rabbinic #metoo Moment

This week's *parashah* begins with the law of the *eishet yefat to'ar* - the "beautiful woman" captured in war. According to Devarim 21:10-14, if a man is at war and he sees among the captives a woman whom he desires, he may take her into his home and make her his wife or, perhaps more precisely, his concubine. Nevertheless, he may not fulfill his desire for her immediately - she is to cut her hair and nails and mourn her parents for a month. And if, after having sex with her, he decides not to continue their relationship, he is prohibited from selling her to anyone else and must release her. Even the earliest interpreters of this text debated whether this text is: a) a totally legitimate way for foreign woman to enter the Jewish people, b) a way of channeling and limiting what the authors see as an almost uncontrollable male sexual desire, or c) institutionalized rape. These interpretations are not mutually exclusive, but interpretations tend to divide along the line of those who see this text a concession vs. those who see it as an ideal.

It is important to note here that the Torah does not seem to have any notion of what we would today call rape. The story of the "rape of Dinah" in Bereishit is actually quite ambiguous. It is unclear whether Dinah and Shechem's relationship was consensual. The response is complicated - Shechem himself seems to think he should be able to marry Dinah, Jacob consents to the union and Shimon and Levi exact vengeance. When the laws of adultery and rape are given later in our *parashah* in Devarim 22:22-29, the major offense is having sex with a woman who is connected to another man. If the woman is married then both the woman and the man die (22). If the woman is completely unattached then the man must pay her father, but they can be together (28-29). The question of consent is only raised when the connection to another man is not strong, as in the case of the betrothed virgin (23-27). The only text in the Bible where it is clear that the authors see the event as what we nowadays call rape is the story of Tamar, the daughter of David. Towards the end of David's reign, as his household begins to unravel, his first born son, Amnon, rapes his sister, Tamar (II Samuel 13). Tamar suffers greatly from the actions of Amnon and he is condemned for his cunning and cruelty in the way he entraps and violently rapes her. Tractate Sanhedrin (21a) suggests that Tamar is the daughter of an *eishet yefat to'ar* taken by David in war! This is significant in two ways. First, the Talmud suggests Tamar, as an outsider without strong family connections on her mother's side, and with the stigma of being a foreign woman, was predictably vulnerable to sexual violence. Second, the Talmud may be suggesting that a predilection toward sexual violence runs in the family - like father, like son. In any case, the Talmud, by drawing this connection, renders the story of the beautiful [captive] woman in Devarim 21:10-14 far less ambiguous. It directs us to see what happens to her as a forced sexual encounter, one whose trauma will reverberate in the family for years.

The Biblical story of Tamar ends with her alone for the rest of her life. Though she is ultimately avenged by her brother Absalom, his reasons for killing Amnon have more to do with his own pursuit of the throne than concern for his sister's honor. The Talmud, however, claims that this incident spurred a moment of textual activism on the part of the Rabbis. After that incident, the Rabbis legislated that it is forbidden for a man to be alone with a woman at all, whether she is someone technically available to him or not. The prohibition of *yihud* (literally "being alone") originally applied only to a man and a woman for whom sexual relations would be halachically prohibited, the clearest example being a man and another man's wife. Its purpose was only to prevent halachically prohibited sex. But after the Tamar incident, claims the Talmud, there was an expansion of the prohibition of *yihud* to include a *pnuya* (an available woman), with whom sexual relations would not be prohibited.

In effect, we may read the treatment of the Tamar incident as a #metoo moment for the Rabbis, in which they acknowledge the existence of sexually predatory behavior, and seek to protect victims. Though *yihud* carries with it its own issues, and the core concerns of the Rabbis as to what makes "good sex" maybe be different than ours, these "protections" can be seen as akin to leaving the door open when meeting with a student or colleague. We are pushed to think about ways in which legislation, in addition to a shift in cultural norms must be used to protect victims of sexual violence and impropriety.

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