



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

June 15-23, 2018 | 2-10 Tammuz 5778
Parashat Korach

Friday, June 15 2 Tammuz				Parashat Korach Saturday, June 16 3 Tammuz		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Shaarei Mitzvah Siyyum Dinner 7:00PM Candle Lighting 8:11PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM Bobbi Meyerson Bat Mitzvah – Mincha 6:30PM		
Sunday June 17 4 Tammuz	Monday June 18 5 Tammuz	Tuesday June 19 6 Tammuz	Wednesday June 20 7 Tammuz	Thursday June 21 8 Tammuz	Friday June 22 9 Tammuz	Saturday June 23 10 Tammuz
		Brooklyn Cyclones 7:00PM Gate opens 5:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM	Shinshinim Farewell Party 7:00PM Union Temple	Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:13PM	<i>Parashat Chukkat</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM Lena Gutman Bat Mitzvah Mincha-4:00PM
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 **Bobbi, Elyse, Bruce, Abraham and Coby** on Bobbi's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Tsivya Miller** and **Eric Kirschner** for contributing Kiddush in honor of their Aufruf this Shabbat!

To **Daniella Shlomit Risman** and **Eric Alexander Hoffman** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Zehava Lillian Risman-Hoffman** baby naming.

To **Elyse** and **Bruce Meyerson** for sponsoring Seudah Shlishit in honor of Bobbi's Bat Mitzvah during Mincha Services this Shabbat!

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 3-9 Tammuz:

Abraham Baumann, uncle of Fredrica Brooks; **Abraham Rothberger**, father of Harriet Baron; **Bernard Phillips**, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Flora Radlow**, aunt of Reba Snyder; **Isidore Kessler**, father of Marla Kessler; **Jacob Balick**, father of Lawrence Balick; **Jeffrey Warshaw**, cousin of Elizabeth Schnur; **Lucyle Kalish**, observed by the PSJC community. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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

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

Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

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.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, June 15 | 6:30PM

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, June 16 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Les and Susana Honig | 459 Seventh Street between 6th & 7th Avenues

We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at Prospect Park during the summer months. 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).

PSJC Goes to the Cyclones! Jewish Heritage Day

Tuesday, June 19 | 7:00PM

A fun and casual time with your whole family (nuclear and PSJC). **Tickets have sold out.**

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.



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Shinshinim Farewell Party

Thursday, June 21 | 7:00PM | Union Temple - 17 Eastern Parkway

Join us as we celebrate and appreciate the incredible work of our community's Shinshinim! Kosher dinner will be served. RSVP to noamw@jafi.org

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00AM

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

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.

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.

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. **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 Korach

Triennial: Numbers 16:20-17:24 | Etz Hayim p.863; Hertz p.641; Plaut p.1128
Haftarah: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22 | Etz Hayim p.876; Hertz p.649; Plaut p.1265

D'var Torah: The Original Troll

There's something rhythmically striking about verses 3-4 of Parashat Korach. "[Korach and his followers] gathered together against Moses and Aaron," we're told, "and said to them, 'It is too much for you! For the entire assembly — all of them — are holy and God is among them; why do you exalt yourselves over the congregation of God?'" At which point, "Moses heard and fell on his face."

We've all had moments in which someone— perhaps on the Internet or at a family gathering— presents us with an argument so absurd, or so abhorrent, that we just don't know where to begin. But Korach's question, at least to the modern, democratic reader, doesn't seem so wild. There's even something beautiful about his construction that "the entire assembly...are holy." Heschel quotes this pasuk unironically in "God in Search of Man." So how come Moses doesn't engage?

"Every argument that is for the sake of heaven (*l'shem shamayim*) is destined to endure," say the sages in Pirkei Avot. "But if it is not for the sake of heaven it is not destined to endure. What is an example of an argument for the sake of heaven? The argument of Hillel and Shammai. What is an example of an argument not for the sake of heaven? The argument of Korach and all of his congregation."

This last phrase is an odd construction. Hillel argued with Shammai. They were the two parties of the *makhloket*. Korach and his congregation, on the other hand, together make up only one side of the dispute. The Mishnah does not say "Korach and all of his congregation and Moses," or "Korach and all of his congregation and Aaron," or perhaps "Korach and all of his congregation and God." The construction of the argument demonstrates what makes it not *l'shem shamayim*. A proper *makhloket* is relational, it's a social encounter between one person and another. But Korach wasn't arguing *with* anybody, he was only arguing for himself.

This stands in contrast to the relationship Moses has with God, of which Korach is so envious— God talks with Moses, according to Parashat Ki Tisa, "face to face." Moses even argues with God in this way, although usually it is not Moses defending himself personally, but rather using his influence with God to protect Israel from His wrath. This is the case shortly before the above quoted verse, in Moses' standoff with God on Mount Sinai after the sin of the Golden Calf. By the time Korach comes along with his leading question, Moses has already had to defend his people three times. This, according to Rashi, is why Moses falls on his face. How will he plead our case this time? But maybe Moses also falls on his face because he can't approach this *makhloket* with Korach "*face-to-face*" as he would a *makhloket* with God. Korach says to Moses "*Rav l'chem!*" It is too much for you! He speaks as though divine service is a commodity to which a person is entitled, to be bought with some sort of inherent holiness. Moses, knowing that his service to God is a relationship, not a job title, can't respond to Korach's incoherent premise. All he can do is call on the real party with whom Korach disagrees— God himself, who *chose* Moses and Aaron to be his servants and did not choose Korach any more than Moses or Aaron chose themselves— to intervene.

At first glance, it might be hard to see why Korach is the villain in this story. We don't run our societies on hereditary priesthoods or prophecy on mountaintops anymore. We elect representatives, and we encourage our fellow citizens— members of the holy congregation— to challenge those leaders, and often to run in contentious elections to replace them. But we still must remember that the office of President or Prime Minister, like that of Moshe or the *kohen gadol*, are offices of public (and divine) service— not some glamorous position to which any individual is entitled. And now it is our job, in a time when the Earth does not open up to swallow bad actors as soon as they advocate their cause, to distinguish between a servant and an opportunist, an activist and a troll, a *makhloket l'shem shamayim* and a *makhloket* that is nothing of the sort.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Dr. Shaiya Rothberg**, *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/>