



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

October 19-27, 2018 | 10-18 Cheshvan 5779
Parashat Lech Lecha

Friday, October 19 10 Cheshvan				Parashat Lech Lecha (National Refugee Shabbat) Saturday, October 20 11 Cheshvan		
Candle Lighting 5:51PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Shaarei Mitzvah 7 Friday Night Dinner with Rabbi Carter 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM		
Sunday October 21 12 Cheshvan	Monday October 22 13 Cheshvan	Tuesday October 23 14 Cheshvan	Wednesday October 24 15 Cheshvan	Thursday October 25 16 Cheshvan	Friday October 26 17 Cheshvan	Saturday October 27 18 Cheshvan
Hebrew School 9:30AM 5 th Grade Art & Text 11:00AM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM Shir Chadash Choir 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM	BBYO Chapter Meeting 6:30PM Café Ivrit 7:00PM Biblical Hebrew 7:30PM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 5:42PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Vayera</i> Simcha Shabbat Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM 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)		

Yahrzeits observed 11-17 Cheshvan:

Anna Baron, grandmother of Stuart Baron; **Eda Herszkorn**, grandmother of Fran Hawthorne; **Howard Buxbaum**, father of Audrey Buxbaum; **Jennie Bannett**, grandmother of Miriam Fleischmann; **John Brinley**, friend of Alan Sidman; **Louis Rosen**, grandfather of Iris Sheber; **Pauline Burstein**, observed by the PSJC community; **Rex Wasserman**, cousin of Sue Harris; **Robert Groom**, father of Scott Groom; **Samuel Blank**, uncle of Gavrielle Levine and Myron Levine; **Scott Ugoretz**, brother of Joseph Ugoretz; **Shlomo Klein**, father of Tova Klein.
May their memories be for a blessing.

Kol Nidre Appeal 5779

Our annual Kol Nidre Appeal is an important part of our Shul's major fundraising effort during the course of the year. It is only with your continued support that we are able to maintain a high level of quality programming and services to meet the wide-ranging needs of our congregants.

Make your gift today: <https://www.psjc.org/form/KN2018>

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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org



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Friday, October 19

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM

Shaarei Mitzvah 7 Friday Night Dinner with Rabbi Carter | 6:30PM

Saturday, October 20

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush | 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 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Ruth Kaufman | 113 Sterling Place #7 between 6th & 7th Avenues

Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch (after the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services). Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share. The Shabbat Shmooze offers the chance to get to know some of the PSJC community and spend time with those you already know. It is a great way to keep the Shabbat vibe going all afternoon long.

PAI Book Club

Wednesday, October 24 | 7:30PM

This month we are reading House Made of Dawn by N. Scott Momaday.

Café Ivrit

Thursday, October 25 | 7:00PM-9:00PM

Are you "moderately fluent" in Hebrew? Do you want to practice your Hebrew in a casual, supportive environment? Do you want a nice kos café with friends at the end of the evening? Join our Shaliach, Noam, for Café Ivrit. For more information email: naomW@jafi.org. Future dates: November 8 and December 13.

Friday, October 26

It's Friday Music Class | 10:00AM

Come sing and play with Abe every week for a fun-filled music class that combines your favorite Shabbat and children's songs, with a story, movement and more. Taught by a professional music instructor, our open-space, informal class allows children ages 0 - 3 and their grownups to explore music and Shabbat! Each class ends with a snack and open-play so that caregivers can connect with each other. We look forward to having you join us! \$15/drop-in class* or \$120 for a 10-class series (paid in advance) RSVP: https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect

Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe and Aileen. Then we'll head downstairs for a communal dinner. Everyone is welcome! Main entrees will be provided. **RSVPs are strongly encouraged**, <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu1.html>. Please bring a generous sized salad/veggie side or dessert to share. **If you have food allergies or dietary needs, please be sure to bring something you can eat, as we are unable to take special food requests for this meal. ** Special invitation to families of 3rd and 4th graders!

Saturday, October 27

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

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

Advanced Talmud | 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.

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



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PSJC Davening Workshop

Sunday, October 28 | 2:00PM - 4:00PM

Have you always wanted to lead a part of the service? Come to Avodah's Davening Workshop and work one-on-one with an experienced davener who can help get you up to Speed. There will be snacks to boost your energy, and a chance to sign up to lead services after you've boosted your skills. Let us know what you want to learn, from Shacharit to Musaf, the Torah Service to Hallel, and we'll find you a buddy to work with. **RSVP by October 22 to Angela Weisl, angela.weisl@shu.edu.**

Connecting the Dots: The Immigrant Experience on Broadway, at Lev Tahor

Friday, November 2 | 6:30PM

What does *Hamilton* have to do with *Annie Get Your Gun*? Join Lev Tahor, PSJC's monthly community-led, all-sung Kabbalat Shabbat service in November to find out! We'll learn how immigrants, from George M. Cohan to Lin-Manuel Miranda, shaped Broadway and the American musical theatre, with CUNY professor and ethnomusicologist Elizabeth L. Wollman, whose work explores American pop music, mass media, musical theatre, sexuality/gender and the cultural history of New York City. RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Nov2-2018> for the vegetarian/dairy pot luck dinner. **Save the Date!** On December 7, Lev Tahor welcomes City Council Member Brad Lander.

Learn about Shmira with PSJC Hevra Kadisha

Saturday, November 3 | 1:15PM - 2:15PM

Have you ever wondered if joining the Park Slope Jewish Center Hevra Kadisha is for you? Interested in learning more? Please join us for a workshop on Shmira (guarding the bodies of the deceased from the time of death until the funeral): Why do we do Shmira? How do we do Shmira? How does it feel to do Shmira? Experienced hevra kadisha members will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about this holy activity. Please join us even if you are just curious to learn more. There is no obligation to sign up, though we would love to have you.

Vegetarian Potluck Shabbat Dinner & Reflections on the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht with our Shaliach, Noam Willner

Friday, November 9 | 7:30PM

1938 marked a turning point in Nazi policy against Jews. Today, 80 years since Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass), Noam Willner will reflect on the events that led to Kristallnacht and the development of "The Final Solution". Noam worked for many years as senior educator at Yad Vashem and led many educational trips to Poland prior to coming to Brooklyn as our Community Shaliach. RSVP for the potluck here: tinyurl.com/Kristallnacht11.09

MLK Day of Service 2019: 10th Year Anniversary Celebration/Transition

Every January for the past decade, volunteers of all ages have converged at PSJC to prepare thousands of shelf-stable meals; assemble snack and toiletry packages for families fleeing domestic violence; construct hundreds of PB&J sandwiches for donation to CHIPS; gather and sort children's books and all-ages clothing donations; knit and crochet baby blankets and chemo caps; cook dozens of fresh-made meals for PSJC's freezer; create beautiful crafts for elders; and write letters on behalf of immigrants and Dreamers.

With over 1200 participants in a decade, MLK Day has become a PSJC institution. **But no institution can thrive without new ideas and creativity.** The core team that created the Day of Service actively seeks new hands (and hearts, and brains) in this new decade of service. The work is not overwhelming - it's all set up, year to year - and the satisfaction is tremendous. Plus, it's a lot of fun.

We can share the nuts-and-bolts of how to produce the Day of Service - and can partner/coach interested volunteers. If you, your family, and your friends have enjoyed being part of MLK Day of Service, please consider stepping up to help us plan for the future. For details and information, contact Helen Zelon (hzelon@gmail.com).



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Triennial: Genesis 16:1-17:27 | Etz Hayim p.69-93; Hertz p.45-60
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5 | Etz Hayim p.64; Hertz p.41; Plaut p.326

D'var Torah: The Father of Human Rights

In this week's Torah portion, Avraham is commanded to leave his homeland and father's house to journey to a foreign land. Why did Avraham need to leave? It is often assumed that Avraham needed to be removed from a corrupt environment. But what if it was the opposite? What if something needed to be removed from Avraham? God chose Avraham to get humanity back on track. After a string of disasters - the exile from Eden, the first murder, the flood and the Tower of Babel – God needed a new strategy to redeem humanity. R. Ovadia Sforno, in his introduction to the Chumash, explains it like this: "...when it was apparent that there was no longer any hope that the human race as a whole would repent...God then chose a pious man from among the entire species, Avraham, and his seed, to attain through them the goal intended by God from the moment humanity had been placed on earth." The idea was, in the words of R. Shimshon Rafael Hirsch (on Shemot 19:6), that "...there be one nation unique among all nations that will not live for her own glory...but rather to establish the Kingdom of Heaven...This nation will not seek greatness in power, but rather in the absolute rule of law – divine morality – for this is the meaning of 'holiness'".

But why would Israel be different? God knew that Avraham would teach his children to do justice and righteousness (Bereshit 18:19), but also took precautions. R. Hirsch explains (Shemot 22:20) that one pitfall is "the view of the nations" that national minorities have no rights. God sent us into slavery to rid us of this idea: "Therefore be you careful – this is the language of legal warning – lest you establish human rights in your state on anything other than pure humanity, which rests in the heart of every human being as human being. Any discrimination against human rights opens the gate to arbitrariness and the victimization of humans; It is the root of the abomination of Mitsrayim." Slavery in Mitsrayim was designed by God to engender a radical new self-understanding among Avraham's seed. R. Hirsch explains further (Shemot 1:14): "The quality of the law in the state is measured...by the justice that is meted out to the defenseless stranger. Total equality between the stranger and the citizen is a foundational element of Jewish law. In Jewish law, it is not the state that bestows human rights, but rather human rights that bestow the state!...This principle separates human dignity from the accidents of birth and fate..."

Paradoxically, many anti-Semitic European nationalists in the 19th century shared R. Hirsch's analysis, but from the opposite end. They believed that not shared humanity but rather *Blut und Boden* – blood and soil - are the basis of state power. Since they believed that their homeland is owned by those who share their blood, they believed in "the view of the nations" that minorities - who have the 'wrong blood' - also have no rights. And they fully agreed with R. Hirsch that Jewish identity is the very antithesis of this idea.

As ideologies of blood and soil again raise their ugly heads across the globe, we gain further insight into the deep meaning of **Lekh Lekha**: "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house..." God's mission required that Avraham remove himself from his "natural" context of blood and soil. His community would be built not on "blood" but on a shared commitment to human dignity. And God's promised land would not be 'national property' from which minorities are excluded but rather *holy* - consecrated - to educating humanity that "...it is not the state that bestows human rights, but rather human rights that bestow the state." Only thus, teaches R. Hirsch, can we be faithful to the divine mission of Avraham our father.

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

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