



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

December 7-15, 2018 | 29 Kislev - 7 Tevet 5779
Parashat Miketz

Friday, December 7 29 Kislev				Parashat Miketz Saturday, December 8 30 Kislev		
<i>Hanukkah 6th Candle</i> Candle Lighting 4:10PM Lev Tahor with Brad Lander 6:30PM				<i>Hanukkah 7th Candle</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah Services 10:00AM Benjamin "Banjo" Sande Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Kulanu 11:00AM <i>Honoring 5th grade families</i> Tot Shabbat 11:15AM		
Sunday December 9 1 Tevet	Monday December 10 2 Tevet	Tuesday December 11 3 Tevet	Wednesday December 12 4 Tevet	Thursday December 13 5 Tevet	Friday December 14 6 Tevet	Saturday December 15 7 Tevet
<i>Hanukkah 8th Candle</i> Rosh Hodesh Minyan 8:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM Social Action Sunday 12:00PM Hanukkah Art Fair at Hannah Senesh 1:00PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM	PSJC Knitters 7:30PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM Hebrew School Committee Meeting 7:00PM Shir Chadash Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM HIAS Training (Offsite)	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM	Café Ivrit 7:00PM Biblical Hebrew 7:30PM	PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 4:11PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Shaarei Mitzvah 6 Friday Night Dinner 7:00PM	<i>Parashat Vayigash</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Simcha Shabbat Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 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)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Banjo, Ellen, Michael and Jonah** on Banjo's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Ellen and Michael Sande** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of Banjo's Bar Mitzvah.

Yahrzeits observed 30 Kislev-6 Tevet:

Barbara Stein, mother of Stephen Stein; **Clara Apfelberg**, observed by the PSJC Community; **David Miller**, grandfather of Reva Grossberg; **Elaine Ritter Kramer**, cousin of Yehudit Moch; **Eleanor Honig**, mother of Les Honig; **Henry Holtzman**, father of Susan Holtzman; **Hilda Baron Liff**, aunt of Stuart Baron; **Ida Grosser Kalish**, grandmother of Karen Louise Heau; **Ida Halberstam**, mother of Aron Halberstam; **Irving Drucker**, grandfather of Ira Drucker; **Libby Kubzansky**, grandmother of Paul Cohen; **Lois Sharon Degenhardt**, daughter of Iris Sheber; **Marvin Bashner**, father of Richard Bashner; **Maurice Rahmey**, father of Eileen Rahmey; **Rosalie Roberts Sklar**, mother of Marc Sklar; **Sophie Dorlester Shore**, mother of Jane Dorlester.

May their memories be for a blessing.

The Members of the PSJC Board of Directors have made a collective donation of \$5000 to a newly created fund to enhance our building security. Over the Hanukkah holiday, we are seeking member donations to help multiply the Board's initial donation to fund this critically important initiative. As you bring the light of Hanukkah into your homes and our community, we hope that you will contribute to our collective security at whatever level is possible. *Your donation is deeply appreciated:* <https://www.psjc.org/form/hanukkahsecurityfund>



Sunday, December 9

Rosh Chodesh Tevet Minyan | 8:00AM

Hanukkah Art Fair | 1:00PM-4:00PM | Hannah Senesh Community Day School, 342 Smith Street

Visit the PSJC spot at the annual Community Chanukkah Art Fair. It will be filled with Art, Music and more; designed for children 2-10 years old.

Social Action Sunday: Free Minds poetry feedback | 12:00PM

Join other PSJC tweens and our partner Repair the World fellow for this great program where we will be reading poetry of youth inmates and providing our feedback. The program, Free Minds, helps empower inmates to help write the new chapter of their lives.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, December 10 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

HIAS Training for Attorneys Interested in Pro Bono Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Employment Authorizations and Adjusting Status for Asylees, Refugees, and Special Immigrant Juveniles

Tuesday, December 11 | HIAS is offering a CLE training for pro bono attorneys in NYC

Learn about pro bono opportunities with HIAS, techniques for best representing clients, and earn CLE credit. Space is limited, and registration is required to attend these training. For more information and to register:

<https://www.hias.org/events/upcoming>

Café Ivrit

Thursday, November 13 | 7:00PM-9:00PM

Friday, December 14

PAI Walking Group | 9:30AM

Join us every Friday at the entrance to Prospect Park at 15th Street and Prospect Park West. Please register so we can let you know if a walk must be canceled: <https://www.psjc.org/event/positive-aging-initiative-walking-group.html>

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

We'll join together for services with Aileen and Abe at PSJC, followed by dinner and a sing-a-long. You provide the vegetable sides and dessert, we'll provide the entree. RSVPs are not required, but are helpful to ensure enough food. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

Shaarei Mitzvah 6 Friday Night Dinner with Rabbi Carter | 7:00PM

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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Saturday, December 15

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

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

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 David and Shoshana Cooper

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.

Tuesday, December 18

PAI Aging Issues Group - Topic: Grief and Loss

Tuesday, December 18 | 6:30PM-8:00PM

The holiday season can be especially hard for those who are grieving significant losses. Take time to take care of yourself by joining a discussion (with others who are experiencing similar challenges) of what to expect and how to cope. This discussion group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at PSJC, \$5 fee* A different topic is covered each month. The group is led by Jan Orzeck and Richard Glassman, both PAI members and licensed clinical social workers. Join us!

Board Meeting | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Young Professionals - ATID* Potluck Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 21 | 7:30PM

Join young professionals for a vegetarian potluck dinner with PSJC's ATID*! We'll provide a few entrees and some wine. Come for services at 6:30pm; join us for dinner starting at 7:30pm. Come by PSJC (1320 Eighth Ave) to say hello and get to know someone new! We'd love to meet you. For more information, please contact Cornelia Dalton (cornelia.dalton@gmail.com), *ATID is the PSJC group for 20s and 30s

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

Sunday, January 20 | 11:00AM-2:00PM

This year, PSJC's annual MLK Day of Service marks its first decade – and launches its second. We've made thousands of shelf-stable soup meals, PB&J sandwiches, and snack kits; filled our shul's freezer for congregants in need; gathered gently-used books, clothing, toiletries and more. Please plan to join this multi-generational project – and if you can help us set up, clean up, or shlep after the event, be in touch: Helen Zelon (hzelon@gmail.com).

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.

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.

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

Parashat Miketz

Triennial: Genesis 43:16-44:17; Numbers 28:9-15 | Etz Hayim p.265; Hertz p.163; Plaut p.275

Maftir | Numbers 7:42-47 | Etz Hayim p.809; Hertz p.599; Plaut p.1072

Haftarah | Zechariah 2:14-4:7 | Etz Hayim p.1269; Hertz p.987; Plaut p.1259

D'var Torah: Interpretation to Solution

"Pharaoh told them his dreams, but none could interpret them (וְאִין־פִּוֶּתְרָ אֹתָם) for Pharaoh." (Genesis 41:8)

The rabbinic tradition takes a somewhat skeptical stance toward dreams. Though we are told in Brachot 57b that dreams are 1/60th of prophecy, we read in Brachot 55b that "dreams follow the mouth." What happens depends entirely on how one interprets them. And we read in Brachot 55a that "a dream not interpreted is like a letter not read." As long as it is not interpreted it cannot be fulfilled. So a dream may be 1/60th prophecy, but it is mostly, or even entirely, self-fulfilling.

Given that, it has always bothered me that Pharaoh could not find anyone to interpret his dreams. If all of the dreams' power lays in their interpretation, then why wouldn't his servants, magicians, and advisors have just made something up to give them some positive spin?

It turns out that numerous commentators, similarly bothered, reread the verse to mean that interpretations *were* offered, but Pharaoh found none of them convincing. Sforno suggests that the proffered interpretations mistakenly treated the two dreams separately. But Pharaoh rejected these interpretations because he had already intuited that the dreams were really the same.

Rashi, summarizing Midrash Rabbah on this verse, says that Pharaoh's magicians interpreted the dreams to be about daughters Pharaoh would father or cities he would build or conquer sometime in the future. But Pharaoh intuited that his dreams were really a message with immediate relevance to him, so these unconvincing interpretations failed to "enter his ears."

But the view I find most compelling is that of Shadal, Shmuel David Luzzatto (Italy 1800-1865) that many interpretations were offered Pharaoh, but none provided any benefit to him or his nation. Shadal says:

Because that is what Pharaoh desired, that they will understand from his dream the future thing that would befall his nation so that the Egyptians would know it before it happened, because he believed that it was not for nothing the God sent him these dreams...for if you don't say thus, what prevented them from saying to him any interpretation that occurred to them? And based on this it will be understood why Yosef got into giving advice to the king, for what was indeed desired was not to know the future, but to know how to guard against it.

In other words, Pharaoh wanted more than an interpretation - he wanted a solution. Could this be why the Biblical word for dream "interpretation" (וּרְתַפּ) in modern Hebrew means "solution?" On some basic level, dream interpretation is like solving a riddle or breaking a code. But on a deeper level "solving" the dream means more than just figuring it out - it means figuring out what to do about it to make a different outcome possible.

So I find it remarkable that the Aramaic translation of interpreted dream, "סולח רשפ" is "אמלח רשפ." Peh Taf Resh (רתפ) in Hebrew becomes Peh Shin Resh (רשפ) in Aramaic. And Peh Shin Resh has two other meanings besides "interpret." The first is "to melt/thaw" and the other is "to compromise." The connection between the two may be that when something melts, it is now in the middle between cold and hot, neither frozen nor boiling. And when two parties reach a compromise (הרשפ) both sides feel "lukewarm" about it. And lastly, רשפ is also connected to the word רשפא, which means "possible!"

By reading all of this back into the story, we see that this is about so much more than dream **interpretation**.

When we, like Pharaoh, are faced with a troubling vision of the future, the goal is not only to understand it, but also to come to grips with it without being paralyzed. This requires making a **compromise** between idealism and pessimism, between the future we hoped for and the dark truth in front of us. In that space, we may be blessed to find a **solu**tion that transforms what had appeared to be **frozen** and immutable, and makes possible a different future.