



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

February 1-9, 2019 | 26 Shevat - 4 Adar I 5779
Parashat Mishpatim

Friday, February 1 26 Shevat				Parashat Mishpatim Saturday, February 2 27 Shevat		
Candle Lighting 4:55PM Lev Tahor with Cornelia Dalton 6:30PM				Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Meital & Dafna Breyette B'not Mitzvah Tot Shabbat 11:15AM		
Sunday February 3 28 Shevat	Monday February 4 29 Shevat	Tuesday February 5 30 Shevat	Wednesday February 6 1 Adar I	Thursday February 7 2 Adar I	Friday February 8 3 Adar I	Saturday February 9 4 Adar I
PSJC Yom Iyyun Tzedek 9:30AM Tzedakah Fair 11:00AM Davening Workshop with Avodah 1:00PM Cooking with Shinshinim 4:00PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM		Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Biblical Hebrew 7:00PM	PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 5:04PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Terumah</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Pearl Marks Bat Mitzvah Family Torah 10:30AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Book Club 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 **Meital, Dafna, Dahlia** and **Thierry** on Dafna & Meital's Bnot Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Dahlia Kaufman** and **Thierry Breyette** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Meital & Dafna B'not Mitzvah** during this Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Eden Wofsey, Rabbi Carie, Noa and family on the death of Eden's father, **David Wofsey, z"l**.

Yahrzeits observed 27 Shevat - 3 Adar I:

Elaine Alexander, grandmother of Robin Alexander; **Ella Drucker-Spivak**, cousin of Esther Schwalb; **Geraldine Aaront Simon**, mother of Ellen Simon; **Gertrude Rosen**, mother of David Rosen; **Harold Brooks**, father of Lia Brooks; **Hyman Elworth**, uncle of Steve Elworth; **Jack Bornstein**, father of Peter Bornstein; **Jack Kamen**, father of Julia Kamen Birnbaum; **Lauria Wiener**, mother of Carol Wiener; **Lily Cohen**, grandmother of Paul Cohen; **Louis Fishman**, father of Reba Snyder; **Moe Pollack**, grandfather of David Pollack; **Peggy Potts**, mother of Tori Rosen; **Rose Rosenzweig**, grandmother of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine; **Shirley Zeitlin**, mother of June Zeitlin. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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



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Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, February 2 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with Cornelia Dalton, PSJC Rabbinic Intern. It's a great lead into the Shabbat morning services.

Sunday, February 3

Hebrew School Yom Iyyun Tzedek | 9:30AM

2019 Shaarei Mitzvah Tzedakah Fair | *Programming begins at 9:30AM, fair runs from 11:00AM - 11:45AM*

The PSJC Annual Tzedakah Fair happens each February as part of a morning of learning about Tzedek (justice) and Tzedakah. Our 6th grade Shaarei Mitzvah, b'nai mitzvah cohort, students each choose an organization to research and raise money for. PSJC community members of all ages and their friends bring their tzedakah boxes from home and contribute to a wide range of causes. Read below for organizations supported in past years.

Davening Workshop | 1:00PM

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 to Angela Weisl:

angela.weisl@shu.edu

Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim | 4:00PM-6:00PM

We will use our Hebrew to cook delicious food and then share those treats at a meal. It is a great way to hang out with friends, meet new people, hone your cooking skills, practice your Hebrew and have a great time with our shinshinim. Great for children and adults alike. Contact Rabbi Carie Carter at rabbicarie@psjc.org to let us know you are coming.

Rosh Hodesh Adar I Minyan

Tuesday, February 5 | 7:00AM

Wednesday, February 6 | 7:00AM

Friday, February 8

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 Abe and Aileen for a musical Friday night service, followed by a supplemented potluck dinner. This month we are celebrating with the 5th grade families! Everyone is invited to join for a relaxing, all-ages service and meal. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

Saturday, February 9

Family Torah | 10:30AM

Book Discussion - *Call It Sleep* | 1:30PM

Join us when Hunter College English professor and longtime PSJC member Sarah Chinn leads us in a discussion of ***Call It Sleep*** by Henry Roth, a classic of immigrant fiction and the story of David Schearl, the "dangerously imaginative" child coming of age in the slums of the 1930s Lower East Side of Manhattan.

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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Saturday, February 16

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

Join us as we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their January 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

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.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, February 23 | 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.

PAI Benefits and Entitlements for Seniors

Sunday, February 24 | 1:30PM

Do you or your aging parents know: How to reduce costs in retirement or obtain financial assistance? The options for care in or outside of the home and how much they cost? What senior discounts there are beside the movies? There is a FREE plan to supplement the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan? There are workarounds for low-income seniors who are not eligible for food stamps? A speaker from LiveOn NY, the foremost advocacy group for seniors in NYC, will educate us about what benefits to which you or your loved ones may be entitled, and when and how to apply. If you think you may already know everything you need to, you may be surprised! Please register: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-benefits-and-entitlements-for-seniors.html#>.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 26 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PAI Book Club - "In The Time Of The Butterflies" By Julia Alvarez

Wednesday, February 27 | 9:30AM

Rabbi Rachel Isaacs And Melanie Weiss

Friday, March 1

PSJC alum Rabbi Rachel Isaacs and Mel Weiss come back to Brooklyn to share their experiences of "diaspora" Judaism in the US, via their work at the Maine Center for Small Town Jewish Life.

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.



Parashat Mishpatim

Triennial: Exodus 23:20-24:18 | Etz Hayim p.474; Hertz p.319; Plaut p.589

Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26 | Etz Hayim p.1276; Hertz p.992; Plaut p.714

D'var Torah: Choosing Responsibility

Just last week, we were standing at the foot of Mount Sinai for the experience of the revelation of God's Torah. Following this grand and auspicious event, Parashat Mishpatim finds us deep in the intricate minutia of laws governing civil society, some of which seem relevant, some irrelevant, some concerting and some deeply disconcerting.

The parashah opens with the laws of the *eved ivri* (Hebrew slave), a thief or debtor who became indentured to another in order to work off what they owe. They work for however long it takes, but no more than six years, because in the Sabbatical year all debts are forgiven and Hebrew slaves are freed. But, the Torah tells us, when the time came for manumission, the *eved Ivri* could *choose to remain a slave in perpetuity*: "But if the servant declares: I love my master, my wife, and my children; I do not wish to go free; **his master shall take him before God. He shall be brought to the door, or the door-post; and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl, and he shall remain his slave for life.**" (Exodus 21:5-6)

The rabbinic sages found the very idea that someone might want to remain a slave highly distasteful. In the Babylonian Talmud, we find two midrashim which examine the religious and philosophic significance of the ear-piercing ceremony: "Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai used to interpret this verse as something quite precious. [He asked:] Why was the ear singled out from all the other limbs of the body? The Holy One blessed be He said: This ear, which **heard** My voice on Mount Sinai when I proclaimed: 'For it is to Me that the children of Israel are servants' (Leviticus 25:55) - they are my servants, and not servants of servants, and yet this [man] went and acquired a master for himself? — let it (his ear) be pierced! Rabbi Shimon ben Rabbi [Yehudah HaNasi] [also] expounded this verse as something precious. Why were the door and doorpost singled out from all other parts of the house? The Holy One blessed be He said: The door and the doorpost, which were **witnesses** in Egypt when I passed over the lintel and the doorposts and proclaimed: 'For it is to Me that the children of Israel are servants' - they are My servants, and not servants of servants, and so I brought them forth from bondage to freedom, yet this [man] went and acquired a master for himself? - Let him (his ear) be pierced in their presence (the doorpost and the door)!" (Kiddushin 22b)

The sages connect the two symbols - the ear and the lintel - to our two primary ways of knowing - hearing and seeing - and the two seminal moments in Israelite history - the Sinaitic revelation and the Exodus from Egypt. The ear knows that God is our one true master; the doorpost knows that God wants us to be free. The absolute wrongness of the *eved Ivri* should be obvious to us all, and yet, paradoxically, we have the God-given freedom to enslave ourselves to another. It is not forbidden, and one who chooses it is not punished; the piercing ceremony is just a lesson to drive home the stunning significance of the choice.

On a certain level, all choices mean relinquishing some of our freedom. The deeper question is whether we are relinquishing our freedom just to be comfortable, or to make a more just, caring, and peaceful world. Are we abdicating responsibility or embracing it? For a people who experienced Sinai and the Exodus, the choice should be clear.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein**, *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.