



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

May 25-June 2, 2018 | 11-19 Sivan 5778
Parashat Naso

Friday, May 25 11 Sivan				Parashat Naso Saturday, May 26 12 Sivan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Mishkan Minyan 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:57PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Shoshannah Silberger Baby Naming Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday May 27 13 Sivan	Monday May 28 14 Sivan	Tuesday May 29 15 Sivan	Wednesday May 30 16 Sivan	Thursday May 31 17 Sivan	Friday June 1 18 Sivan	Saturday June 2 19 Sivan
	 Office Closed	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Café Ivrit 7:15PM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Lev Tahor with Scholar In Residence Rahel Musleah 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:03PM	<i>Parashat Beha'alotecha</i> Scholar In Residence Rahel Musleah at Shabbat services Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Scholar in Residence 7:30PM
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, 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)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Randi Scherman** and **Daniel Silberger** for contributing the Kiddush Fund this Shavuot in honor of their daughters' baby naming, **Shoshannah**.

Yahrzeits observed 12-19 Sivan:

Anne Taibel, mother of Chava Newcombe; **Annette Fried Gissinger Schwartz**, mother of Julie Hendel; **Ben Goodman**, father of Robert Goodman; **Benjamin Cohen**, father of Barbara Hopard; **Bill Hoffer**, father of Sue Herskovits; **Carrie Septimus**, mother of Matthew Septimus; **David Schwartz**, father of Torrene Einhorn; **Ethel Sinkoff**, mother of Michal Tamuz; **Fanny Katarivas**, mother of Stephanie Katarivas; **Ida Floman**, great-grandmother of Ellen Simon; **Irene Goldstein**, mother of Ezra Goldstein; **Mae Wolkoff**, mother of Steve Wolkoff; **Norman Zeitlin**, father of June Zeitlin; **Pauline Grebel**, grandmother of Marla Kessler; **Pauline Wollman**, mother of Michael Wollman; **Rose Robins**, grandmother of Susan Robins; **Ruth Singer**, mother of Naomi Singer; **Walter Grossberg**, father of Reva Grossberg.

May their memories be for a blessing.

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.

A Taste of India at PSJC Scholar in Residence: Rahel Musleah

Friday, June 1 | 6:30PM

Saturday, June 2 | 10:00AM and 7:30PM

Journalist, educator, singer, scholar and seventh generation of a Calcutta family with roots in Baghdad, Rahel Musleah will share her knowledge of the ancient Indian Jewish community's history, customs and melodies during this Scholar in Residence Shabbat. Our Friday night program begins with **Lev Tahor services at 6:30PM**, followed by a kosher, catered Indian dinner (vegetarian), **RSVP required** and Rahel's first presentation, "Jewish Calcutta through Music and Memory".

RSVP for dinner is required: <https://www.psjc.org/form/sir-6-1-18.html>

At **Shabbat morning services** you will experience the distinctive Shabbat rituals, customs and liturgy of the Calcutta Jewish community, as Rahel leads the Torah service, chanting Torah and haftarah using the Baghdadi-Indian nusach and tropes.

Saturday evening at 7:30PM Rahel will speak on the Jews of Bombay and Cochin in her presentation, "From Shipwrecks to Maharajas", rounding out the evening with a "Masala Havdalah" and a "Malida", the traditional "Bene Israel" taste of thanksgiving, offering blessings for life's gifts.

Please join us for this array of enchanting programs!



Advanced Talmud

Saturday, May 26 | 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.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 30 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Café Ivrit - Mid-Level Hebrew with our Community Shaliach Noam Willner

Thursday, May 31 | 7:00PM

Would you like to practice speaking Hebrew over coffee together with other Brownstone Brooklyn friends? If so, Café Ivrit is the right place for you. Perfect for someone who can communicate in Hebrew, but is not yet fluent.

Music Class: It's Friday!

Friday, June 1, 8 and 15 | 10:00AM | \$12 per class (\$10 per members)

It's Friday! is a series of classes for children 3 and under and their caregivers. Join PSJC Tot Shabbat Leader, Abe, for music and stories each week. For more information, www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html

PAI Walking Group

Friday, June 1 | 9:30AM

Meet at entrance to Prospect Park at Bartel Pritchard Square (15th Street and Prospect Park West). RSVP now: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-walking-group.html>

PSJC Knitters

Monday, June 4 | 7:30PM

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



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Israel Film Center Festival | June 5 - 12

This year PSJC is partnering with the Israel Film Center Festival at the JCC on the Upper West Side. PSJC members can enjoy a 20% discount by using code: IFCPSJC18 at checkout, visit <https://www.psjc.org/event/israel-film-center-festival-.html>.

PAI - Time for Planning: It's Never too Soon!

Wednesday, June 6 | 7:00PM

Whether you are planning for yourself or dealing with aging parents. Join us for this comprehensive session on how to plan ahead. Recognized practitioners Fern J. Finkel and Julie Stoil Fernandez will provide an overview of Financial and Health Care Advance Directives, Financing Long Term Care, Benefits, and Assets protection. Discussion includes strategies for maintaining independence, protecting assets and maximizing benefits, including: Powers of Attorney, Health Care Proxies, Medicaid Rules, Trusts, Deed Transfers, Titling Accounts, Last Wills and Testaments and Avoiding Probate. **RSVP** now: <https://www.psjc.org/form/PAIplanning>, \$5.00/person

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, June 8 | 6:30PM

Book Club: Modern Girls

Saturday, June 9 | 1:30PM

Fiddler on the Roof scholar Jan Lisa Huttner will lead us in a discussion of Modern Girls by Jennifer S. Brown, a warm, heimishe and very accessible beach or airplane book. Imagine one of Tevye's daughters and granddaughters living in NYC a quarter century after leaving Anatevka.

PSJC at Brooklyn Cyclones

Tuesday, June 19 | 7:00PM (Gates open at 5:30PM)

PSJC goes to the Cyclones, it's Jewish Heritage Day!

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00AM

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

Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2018-2019

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 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.

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.

Parashat Naso

Triennial: Numbers 5:11-6:27 | Etz Hayim p.796; Hertz p.589

Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25 | Etz Hayim p.812; Hertz p.602

D'var Torah: People & Counting

In this week's *parasha*, we learn about two additional powers/responsibilities of the *kohanim* (priests) - one a curse and one a blessing. Verses 5:11-31 tell us of the *sota* - a woman whose husband suspects her of adultery. She goes before the *kohen*, who makes her drink a potion that literally contains the words: "May the LORD make you a curse and an imprecation among your people..." But further on, in verses 6:22-27, we get *Birkat Kohanim*, the Priestly Blessing: "Thus shall you bless the people of Israel. Say to them: 'The LORD bless you and protect you! The LORD deal kindly and graciously with you! The LORD bestow His favor upon you and grant you peace!'" As a *bat kohen*, the daughter of a modern-day descendant of Aaron, this juxtaposition is doubly meaningful, as what was a source of pride for my father was for me a source of pain.

From the age of two I sat next to my father in the men's section of our orthodox minyan, first in Silver Spring, MD and then on the West Side of Los Angeles. I followed along with the Shema, tracing with my finger the Hebrew letters my father taught me to read, well before I had learned to read English. Drawn to the language, and savoring those precious moments with my learned father, my connection with Torah deepened. By the age of eight I learned to chant Torah trope and read Rashi on the *parasha*.

Until the age of nine or so I continued to sit in the men's section, participating in what was "really going on" at shul. But there were two moments when I would get a glimpse of what was coming as an Orthodox woman. The first was at age five, when my male friends, having just learned to read Hebrew, got up and led the congregation in *Anim Zemirot*. And the second was *Birkat Kohanim*, when my brothers and my father would remove their shoes and go up to bless the congregation.

In late-80's / early-90's Modern Orthodoxy, there were no roles for girls or women in public rituals, even in our relatively liberal shul. But my parents had made a choice, despite their progressive leanings, to remain part of an Orthodox synagogue so as to have a Shabbat observing community and the kind of social and religious life that comes with it. The world has changed since then, and my own religious path led me eventually toward egalitarianism and Conservative Judaism. Over the years I have served as *shelichat tzibur* (prayer leader) - first for *Kabbalat Shabbat*, then *Ma'ariv*, and ultimately *Shacharit* and *Musaf*. There is still a part of me that is uncomfortable, but in many ways I have healed the wound of *Anim Zemirot*.

Birkat Kohanim is a different story. I have not been able to let go of the feeling I had when my father and little brothers went up to bless the congregation and I played with their shoes. It was a club that wouldn't have me as a member, and I don't want to belong. Egalitarian congregations vary in how they handle a *bat kohen* and *Birkat Kohanim*. Some say that she is not permitted because as a continuation of a Temple ritual, the blessing should be performed only by those who were authentically eligible to do so in the Temple. Other congregations treat a *bat kohen* as a *kohen* in every way. And others do away with the distinction altogether.

As for me, despite pressure from my students and colleagues to do *Birkat Kohanim*, I have dug my heels in deeper. As with the *Sota*, patriarchy is too intertwined with the priesthood; the priesthood IS patriarchy. A *bat kohen's* status come from her father and her few "rights" are revoked upon marriage to a non-*kohen*. But far more problematically, if a *bat kohen* has sex with someone before marriage - she gets a punishment far worse than the other daughters of Israel. She is burned. With this, rather than the priestly blessing, echoing in my head, I cannot wear my *bat kohen* status as an adornment and stand proud before my congregation.

Perhaps this is the unfinished corner in my own spiritual house, where I remember that in many ways the full redemption, the full release from gender oppression, has yet to come. My daughter will grow up, God willing, with me as her role model of a fully educated and active Jew, and maybe she will be able to reclaim the *kohen* identity that has thus far remained foreign to me.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Shoshana Cohen**, *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/> **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.