



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

September 7-15, 2018 | 27 Elul 5778-6 Tishrei 5779
Parashat Nitzavim

Friday, September 7 27 Elul				Parashat Nitzavim Saturday, September 8 28 Elul		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Elizabeth Schnur 6:30PM Potluck Shabbat Dinner 7:30PM Candle Lighting 7:00PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Rami & Noa Sadovnik Bnai Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM		
Sunday September 9 29 Elul	Monday September 10 1 Tishrei	Tuesday September 11 2 Tishrei	Wednesday September 12 3 Tishrei	Thursday September 13 4 Tishrei	Friday September 14 5 Tishrei	Saturday September 15 6 Tishrei
Erev Rosh Hashanah 6:30PM	Rosh Hashanah Day I All service times are listed in the newsletter	Rosh Hashanah Day II All service times are listed in the newsletter	Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Freddie Brooks 6:30PM Candle Lighting 6:48PM	<i>Parashat Vayelech Shabbat Shuvah</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Leila Dickman Bat Mitzvah Tot Shabbat Mini-Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 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 **Rami, Noa, Carrie and Nir** on **Rami's** and **Noa's** Bnai Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Nili** and **Ari Sadovnik** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Rami's** and **Noa's** Bnai Mitzvah.

Yahrzeits observed 28 Elul-5 Tishrei:

Barbara Fortsch, observed by the PSJC community; **Caleb Mazal Sande**, son of Ellen Hollander-Sande and Michael Sande and brother of Banjo and Jonah Sande; **Elisabeth Pick**, grandmother of Michele Bonan; **Ellen Grossman**, sister of Neil Cohen; **Herman Epelbaum**, father of Susana Honig; **Joseph Herszkorn**, grandfather of Fran Hawthorne; **Joseph Marker**, father of Jeffrey Marker; **Philip Diamond**, father-in-law of Carol Diamond; **Phillip Selig**, father of Gregory Selig. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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.

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



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Erev Rosh Hashanah | Sunday, September 9

Ma'ariv | 6:30PM | Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Monday, September 10

Main Service | 8:30AM | Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Kulanu Service | 10:30AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service & Lounge | 11:30AM - 12:30PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tashlich | 5:45PM | Prospect Park Lake

Ma'ariv | 7:30PM | Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Tuesday, September 11

Main Service | 8:30AM | Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Jr. Congregation | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tween Service & Lounge | 11:30AM - 12:30PM | Lower Sanctuary

Kol Nidre | Tuesday, September 18

PSJC Service (for Members and Ticketed Guests) | 6:30PM | Sanctuary

Open Community Service | 6:40PM | Lower Sanctuary

Yom Kippur | Wednesday, September 19

Main Service | 8:30AM | Sanctuary

Mincha | 4:00PM

Yizkor | 5:30PM

Neilah | 6:00PM

Tot-Tefillah | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Kulanu Service | 10:30AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tween Service & Lounge | 10:15AM - 11:15AM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service & Lounge | 11:30AM - 12:30PM | Lower Sanctuary

Potluck Shabbat Dinner

Friday, September 7 | 1:00PM

Come celebrate Peter and Elizabeth's anniversary! Elizabeth is leading services on Friday night, September 7, which is Peter and her 38th anniversary. They thought it would be fun to have an informal celebratory potluck after services. The happy couple will bring a few substantial dishes, but welcome you and your pot-luck donations as well. So, come for services and stay for dinner! Please shoot Elizabeth an email (davenning@psjc.org) if you plan to attend, so they know how much to make.

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, September 15 | 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.



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Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, September 15 | 1:30PM

Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please indicate which date(s) you prefer: **November 17, January 19, 2019, February 16 or March 16**, please email shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with your preferred date (they occur on the 3rd Shabbat of the month). Members hosting homes needs to be walking distance from PSJC.

Opening Hebrew School Assembly & Picnic for all Families

Sunday, September 16 | 9:30AM

Join us for the opening of the Hebrew School year!

Sukkot Build Part 1 & 2

Sunday, September 16 | 12:30PM

Sunday, September 23 | 9:30AM

If you build it, they will come...so please come! Be part of building our bigger and better sukkah this year at PSJC! Everyone is welcome to help. Power screwdrivers welcome. This is a chance to literally build our community! Questions? Contact Peter Holmes: pholmes177@gmail.com or Patrick Francis: patrick.francis@psjc.org.

Sukkah Decorating Party

Sunday, September 23 | 12:30PM

Come decorate the sukkah for the holiday! Paper chains, pumpkins, and social justice themed ushpizin art projects will all be provided, as well as snacks and music!

PAI Book Club

Wednesday, September 26 | 7:30PM

This month we are reading *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. Sign up: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-book-club.html>. There is no charge for this group.

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

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.

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.

**High Holy Days Tickets will be at our Welcome Table,
if your membership was renewed after Monday, August 20.**

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.



Parashat Nitzavim

Triennial: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20 | Etz Hayim p.1169; Hertz p.880-883, 887-888; Plaut p.1537
Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9 | Etz Hayim p.1180; Hertz p.883; Plaut p.1618

D'var Torah: Those Not Present

Following last week's parsha, which enumerated the blessings if Israel heeds God's word and the curses if they do not, Parashat Nitzavim begins with a statement that, despite our taking it for granted, is actually quite shocking/troubling. Moshe, speaking for God, says: "I make this covenant, with its sanctions, not with you alone, but both with those who are standing here with us this day before the LORD our God and with those who are not with us here this day." (Devarim 29:13-14) Given that Devarim 29:10 says, "You stand this day, **all of you**, before the LORD your God" this simply cannot be referring to Israelites who lagged behind, took a vacation, or called in sick. Thus many classical commentators (see Rashi on 29:14) explain that "those who are not here with us this day" refers to the future generations of Israelites.

But many commentators were also troubled by this answer. How can children be party to a covenant that they did not, themselves, agree to? How can parents sign a contract that obligates their children? Although our Torah is replete with notions of collective responsibility (see the Shema) and even inter-generational responsibility (Devarim 5:9-10 - "For I the LORD your God am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children..."), it also has strong notions of individual responsibility (Devarim 23:16 - "Parents shall not be put to death for children, nor children be put to death for parents: a person shall be put to death only for his own crime.") And over time, the notion of individual responsibility became an even more established tenet of "Jewish justice."

One answer, articulated by Rav Ashi in Talmud Shabbat 146a, is that in addition to all those standing there, the souls of all future Israelites, both descendants and converts alike, were also present. The "opening" for this interpretation is that Devarim 14 refers to those present as "those **standing** here with us" and those not present as "those who are not with us." Since "standing" is something that only bodies do, the verse hints that despite their **bodies** not being present, future Israelites were there, literally, **in spirit**.

The Malbim (Volhynia, 1809-1879) takes this idea further. He explains that there is no "connection" between the soul of a parent and the soul of a child - each individual soul is distinct and unique. Thus we **must** say that the souls of future Israelites were present, as one soul cannot be bound or obligated by another. But, he asks, if only their souls were present, how could the covenant's blessings and curses apply to **both** their soul **and** their body? If the covenant is only with the **souls** of future Israelites, the physical punishments tied to the covenant should not apply. To this he answers that although there is no connection between the souls of children and their parents, there is a connection between their bodies. Our souls are distinct, but our bodies are produced from the material of our parents' bodies. So not only were we there as disembodied souls, our bodies were **also** there in the bodies of our ancestors! We are indeed party to the covenant, body and soul.

Even without accepting the metaphysics, there is here a profound, timeless, and timely wrestling with the blurry lines between individual and group identity, privilege, and responsibility. Despite our awareness of ourselves as a singularity, we are the products of our parents' DNA and the particular history, circumstances, and decisions of our family, tribe, and nation. That we were born at all is itself a consequence of both our ancestors' choices and even forces beyond their control. So much is placed under our feet, and so much is placed on our shoulders, without our having a say in the matter. And yet, despite all of that, we are held responsible as individuals, experiencing the blessings and curses that flow from our own behavior. I find this both deeply true and deeply unsatisfying.

Perhaps this is why the Malbim brings a second justification. In Jewish law there is a principle that even though one cannot obligate someone, "one can accept a privilege for someone even if he is not present." According to the Malbim, we should understand the curses as merely being the "corrective communications" that return us to the path of blessing - the choice of life. It is a privilege to be a party to a covenant with God, so our ancestors decision is binding upon us!

May we, and all our descendants, merit to experience it this way!

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz**, Conservative Yeshiva Director of Engagement "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.