



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

July 6-14, 2018 | 23 Tammuz-2 Av 5778
Parashat Pinchas

Friday, July 6 23 Tammuz				Parashat Pinchas Saturday, July 7 24 Tammuz		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Steve Gradman 7:00PM Candle Lighting 8:12PM				Shacharit 10:00AM		
Sunday July 8 25 Tammuz	Monday July 9 26 Tammuz	Tuesday July 10 27 Tammuz	Wednesday July 11 28 Tammuz	Thursday July 12 29 Tammuz	Friday July 13 1 Av	Saturday July 14 2 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Rosh Chodesh Av Minyan 7:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Mindi Wernick 7:00PM Candle Lighting 8:09PM	<i>Parashat Matot-Masei</i> Shacharit 10:00AM
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 **Ian and Ben Rubenstein** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of their mother **Ilene Rubenstein's** 65th birthday, on July 7, this Shabbat!

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Roberta Moskowitz and family on the death of her mother, **Libby Rosenfeld**, z"l.

Marshall Sohne and family on the death of his wife, **Ellen Fried**, z"l.

Elizabeth Schnur, Rosanne Milic and family on the death of their mother, **Harriet Schnur**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 24 Tammuz-1 Av:

Anna Urban, observed by the PSJC community; **Annette Nachumi**, aunt of Jan Orzeck; **Bessie Schulkin**, mother of Vivian Schulkin; **Charlene Greenspon**, mother of Julie Greenspon; **Charles Abramson**, grandfather of Steve Elworth; **David Palmer**, grandfather of Alan Palmer; **Edward Hawthorne**, father of Fran Hawthorne; **Evelyn Schnitzler**, mother of Mona Schnitzler; **Gabriel Brahm**, father of Laura Brahm; **Harold Zelko**, father of Gary Zelko; **Ida Schwartz**, grandmother of Eve Blatt; **Jennie Honig**, grandmother of Les Honig; **Josef Klein**, father of Oscar Klein; **Leon Smukler**, father of Chalo Smukler; **Merwin Levine**, father of Mindy Levine; **Morton Ruben**, father of Harolyn Cohen; **Paul Sokol**, grandpaul of Warren Schnur-Holmes; **Reva Zimmerman Gross**, mother of Bruce Lee Gross; **Robert Rubenstein**, father-in-law of Ilene Rubenstein; **Rose Harris**, grandmother of Beth Harris; **Sam Levine**, grandfather of Yehudit Moch; **Samuel Sturman**, uncle of Steve Elworth. *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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org.

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

For a Sweet New Year - Support PSJC with Honey From the Heart!

Order honey for your friends and family and support PSJC while doing it!

Your cost is **\$12.00 per jar** free shipping and handling until **Wednesday, July 11**.

We will gladly mail orders outside the United States for an additional fee.

For more information and to order at: <http://orthoney.com/psj>



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.

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.

PAI Walking Group

Friday, July 6 | 9:30AM

We will walk across the Brooklyn Bridge starting on the Manhattan side. We will meet at 9:30AM at the City Hall Park Path before it crosses Centre Street to become the Brooklyn Bridge Promenade. Our meeting spot is just outside the Brooklyn Bridge City Hall station for the 4, 5, and 6 trains. This is an easy 1.3-mile walk. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-walking-group1.html>.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, July 21 | 1:30PM | Prospect Park

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at Prospect Park during the summer months. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please email shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

Where was God in the Holocaust? with Avi Ulman

Saturday, July 21 | 7:00PM

This Saturday evening program will ask, where was God in the Holocaust? A question we ask over and over again. A question which hovers in the air every Yom Ha'Shoah. Is it possible at all to try answering such a question? Should we? Are we allowed to ask how could God have allowed the Holocaust to happen? In this lecture, Professor Ulman will discuss a number of issues: The existence of evil in the world; the question of when a tragedy such as the Holocaust can occur and why; and finally, framing an answer to the central question, where was God in the Holocaust.

Host an Israeli Shinshin

IsraelBKLYN is looking for host families for Israeli Shinshinim this summer and next fall.

A "shinshin" is an 18-year-old Israeli emissary to communities abroad with the goal of educating people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture. Shinshinim work with children at Jewish camps, schools and synagogues. Over the last five years, Shinshinim have added a lot to our PSJC community. If you are interested in hosting a shinshin, please contact rabbicarter@psjc.org.

Tisha B'Av Services

Saturday, July 21 | 9:00PM

Tisha B'Av (the 9th day of Av) is observed this year on Saturday evening, July 21. Please join us for a stirring and evocative service. Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of both the first and second Temples, but over time, other Jewish tragedies have become connected to this date. Tisha B'Av, traditionally a fast day (fasting from sunset to the appearance of 3 stars the next night), is observed on Saturday night by a relatively brief moving service in which we sit low or on the floor (like mourners) and read Eichah (Lamentations) - which is chanted to a particularly haunting melody. This is followed by the singing of kinot (similarly moving songs and elegies). We dim the lights and read by candles and flashlights. Tisha B'Av continues on Sunday morning, as a gesture toward *Klal Yisrael*, this year we encourage PSJC members who would like to attend morning services to join the service at Kane Street Synagogue (236 Kane Street). Their Sunday morning minyan begins at 9:00AM.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 28 | 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.

Book Club: The Extra

Saturday, August 4 | 1:30PM

Join us after kiddush as we discuss *The Extra* (תבצין), A. B. Yehoshua's novel of ideas whose themes include the title character's decision to not have children, eldercare, housing and real estate, relations between Haredi and secular Israelis, cinema, theater, and classical music. BPL has 9 English print copies and an ebook.

Lulav & Etrog Sale

Each set is already assembled together in a holder with the Lulav, Hadassim and Arovot as one.

Along with each set you will receive a basic guide as a complimentary gift to express our appreciation to you. It will contain a list of all the Brachot (blessings) and Halakha (laws) of the four species.

Order yours now: www.psjc.org/lulav-and-etrog-sale.html

Last day to order Wednesday, August 29



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 Pinchas

Triennial: Numbers 26:52 - 28:15 | Etz Hayim p.924; Hertz p.690

Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3 | Etz Hayim p.968; Hertz p.710

D'var Torah: Getting Your Just Deserts

One who wishes to see each parasha as a coherent whole will find Parashat Pinchas particularly challenging. Its disparate threads include the end of the Pinchas story, a census, an episode where we learn that daughters can inherit their father's property in the absence of a male heir, the ordination of Yehoshua as Moshe's successor, and a detailed list of the daily, Shabbat, and holiday sacrifices.

For me, it is the idea of 'just deserts' that holds the entire parasha together - the idea that sooner or later, good or bad, everyone gets what they deserve. This starts with God rewarding Pinchas, son of Elazar and grandson of Aaron, for exacting "atonement for the children of Israel" (Bamidbar 26:13) by slaying a Midianite woman, Cozbi, along Zimri, "a prince of a father's house," from the tribe of Simeon, as we read in Parashat Balak last week. This stayed the plague that broke out when the Israelites fell into harlotry with the Moabite and Midianitish women, and joined them in worship of their God, Ba'al Peor. This merited Pinchas "the covenant of an everlasting priesthood" (26:13) and the parasha is named after him for this most holy of tasks. And for their attempt to harm Bnei Yisrael, God commands Moses to: "harass the Midianites, and smite them" (26:17) to ensure they get their 'just deserts'. In order to assess the plague's cost and prepare to enter/conquer the Land, Moshe ordered another census, nearly forty years after the first one, done just after leaving Egypt and before the building of the Mishkan (Shemot 30:11-16). Leaving out the Levites, who had special Mishkan-related duties and would not be allotted land, the people numbered 601,730 men aged over 20. Seeing how only the men "counted" for apportioning the Land, the daughters of Tzelafchad approached Moses and stated that their father had died leaving behind only daughters and requested to receive their father's portion in the land of Israel. God accepts this entitlement, saying "if a man die and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter" (27:8). Thus Tzelafchad's daughters made sure that as long as they married within the tribe, their father and his descendants would get what they deserved. But was it 'just deserts' for Moshe to have to ordain a successor to lead the people into the Land? Of the entire generation to leave Egypt, is it fair that Yehoshua escapes God's punishment that Bnei Yisrael "shall surely die in the wilderness" (26:65) when Moshe does not? Both Moshe and Yehoshua have impressive records of service - Moshe to God, and Yehoshua to Moshe. But in the episode with the spies, Yehoshua particularly distinguishes himself when he and Calev maintain faith in both God and the people that they would succeed in conquering the Land.

Moshe's faith at this point seems less certain. In last week's parasha, Balak, it is inaction by Moshe in the face of the plague and Zimri's brazen behavior that necessitated Pinchas' act of zealotry. And of course there is the story from two weeks ago in Parashat Hukkat when Moshe angrily struck the rock to bring forth water. Some commentators even see in Moshe's decision to send spies to scout the Land some latent doubt, either in the Land, the People, or in God! What seems clear is that by this point in our narrative, Moshe's capacity for faithful, patient, and decisive leadership has already begun to erode. Looking at Moshe as an individual, it seems patently unfair that he only gets the tantalizing consolation of seeing the Land from the top of Mount Nebo before he dies. Surely after his many contributions and acts of self-sacrifice, he deserved to enter the Land? But the Torah's deeper message may be that the calculus of what is fair or not is different for leaders. The question is not whether an individual deserves to be the leader, it is whether this is the leader the people deserves. And the new generation that maintained their patience and faith even without witnessing the great miracles their parents had seen, deserved a leader who, even without speaking with God face-to-face as Moshe did, would maintain his patience and faith, and be able to represent the new generation's needs going forwards.

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This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Jason Lever**, Conservative Yeshiva Student, Winter-Spring 2018 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>