



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

June 8-16, 2018 | 25 Sivan-3 Tammuz 5778
Parashat Shelach Lecha

Friday, June 8 25 Sivan				Parashat Shelach Lecha Saturday, June 9 26 Sivan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Carie 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:08PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Sidney Blumenfeld Bar Mitzvah Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Book Club 1:30PM		
Sunday June 10 27 Sivan	Monday June 11 28 Sivan	Tuesday June 12 29 Sivan	Wednesday June 13 30 Sivan	Thursday June 14 1 Tammuz	Friday June 15 2 Tammuz	Saturday June 16 3 Tammuz
			Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Minyan 7:00AM	Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Minyan 7:00AM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:11PM	<i>Parashat Korach</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat 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, 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)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Cantor Judy Ribnick** and **Diane Burhene** on the birth of their grandchild **Ethan Maccabee**.
To **Sidney, April, Barry** and **Ezra** on Sidney's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **April Cantor** and **Barry Blumenfeld** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Sidney's Bar Mitzvah**.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

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

Ben Kligler and family on the death of his mother, **Deborah Kligler Krasnow**, z"l.

Lynda Kaplan and family on the death of her mother, **Betty Kaplan**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 26 Sivan-2 Tammuz:

David G. Gottesman, father of Andrew Gottesman; **Edward Wollman**, father of Michael Wollman; **Frances Schnur**, grandmother of Elizabeth Schnur and Rosanne Milic; **Gerald Schwartz**, father of Mark Schwartz; **Jean Thomases**, wife of Matt Thomases; **Julia Tursky**, aunt of Marc Korashan; **Kate Blatt**, mother of Ralph Blatt; **Nettie Hopard**, mother of Stanley Hopard; **Rabbi Max Ticktin**, teacher and mentor of Rabbi Jeffrey Marker; **Rolla Carrel**, father of Carrie Sadvnik; **Rose Siniawer**, cousin of Myron Levine and cousin of Gavrielle Levine. *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.



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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>.

Book Club: Modern Girls

Saturday, June 9 | 1:30PM

Join us for Fiddler on the Roof scholar Jan Lisa Huttner who 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.

African Asylum Seekers: The History of Refugees in the Land of Israel

Monday, June 11 | 7:00PM | Congregation Beth Elohim

We are co-sponsoring "African Asylum Seekers: The History of Refugees in the Land of Israel", join us to hear from Dawit Demoz a refugee from Eritrea, and Tamara Newman, Director of International Relations at Israel's Hotline for Refugees and Migrants. Dawit will share the story of his escape from the oppressive Eritrean regime in 2009. Tamara will speak on the current refugee situation in Israel and the work of the Hotline, which assists and represents refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking, and advocates for government policies consistent with a just, equal and democratic Israel.

Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Minyan

Wednesday, June 13 | 7:00AM

Thursday, June 14 | 7:00AM

Music Class: It's Friday!

Friday, June 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

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, June 15 | 6:30PM

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

Deadline to avoid \$100 late fee is **Friday, June 22, 2018**

Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

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.

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



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Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, June 16 | 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

Saturday, June 16 | 1:30PM

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).

PSJC Goes to the Cyclones! Jewish Heritage Day

Tuesday, June 19 | 7:00PM

A fun and casual time with your whole family (nuclear and PSJC). **Tickets have sold out.**

Shinshinim Farewell Party

Thursday, June 21 | 7:00PM | Union Temple - 17 Eastern Parkway

Join us as we celebrate and appreciate the incredible work of our community's Shinshinim! Kosher dinner will be served. RSVP to noamw@jafi.org

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00AM

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

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 26 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PAI Book Group

Wednesday, June 27 | 9:30AM

This month we are reading Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan. Join us for a fun, engaging conversation about this book, which is a 2018 One Book/One New York choice! Sign up: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-book-club.html>. There is no charge for this group.

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 rabbicarer@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. **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 (rabbicarer@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 Shelach Lecha

Triennial: Numbers 14:8-15:7 | Etz Hayim p.845; Hertz p.626; Plaut p.1110

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24 | Etz Hayim p.856; Hertz p.635; Plaut p.1262

D'var Torah: Conquering our Rage

This week's parasha contains a fascinating and disturbing interaction between God and Moshe. The background is that the people have sinned again, and God is furious: "How long will this people despise Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, for all the signs which I have wrought among them?! I will smite them with the pestilence and destroy them!" (Ibid. 14:11-12). Just like after the sin of the Golden Calf, Moshe is faced with a God who wants to destroy the People of Israel.

But this time, Moshe has new tools at his disposal. After the Golden Calf, God and Moshe reached an agreement that the next time God is overcome by wrath, Moshe will evoke the thirteen principles of mercy, and God will forgive Israel (Shemot 34:6-9). Now, after the sin of the spies, God is again irate, and Moshe evokes the thirteen principles as they agreed: "And now, I pray Thee, let the power of the Lord be great, according as Thou hast spoken, saying: The LORD is slow to anger, and plenteous in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression... Pardon, I pray Thee, the iniquity of this people..." (Ibid. 14:17-19). God keeps God's word: "And the LORD said: 'I have pardoned according to thy word'" (Ibid. 14:20).

It would seem that we are witnessing conflicting desires in God. On the one hand, God flies into a rage and wants to kill us all. But in parallel, God provides Moshe with the tools to arouse God's own powers of forgiveness to overcome that desire. How are we meant to understand this theologically? In a part of the Zohar called the Idra Rabba, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his students delve into this question. In a nutshell, they teach that God – like the human beings created in God's image - has a complex personality. And complex personalities have many faces.

To understand Rabbi Shimon's teaching, let's begin on the human end. The Zohar teaches (Tetsaveh 182a) that human beings are constructed from different parts such as the Nefesh (the force of life, the vital principle) and Ruach (which emerges later on in life and which might be understood as sexual and intellectual maturity). The highest aspect of ourselves is called Neshama, and it involves our ability to grasp spiritual truths and to act as a vessel through which God's energy flows into the world. The Zohar teaches that when we are lost in rage, we actually tear out our Neshama, our highest self, and replace it with a "foreign god" who is called rage. The Zohar further teaches that in this state we are not B'tselem Elohim – in the Image of God - but rather B'tselem elohim Acherim – in the image of false gods. In English, we say that a person is "lost in rage." The Zohar takes that literally: the higher self is truly lost and replaced by rage. The rest of the parts of the self-become like slaves to that rage.

In the Idra Rabba, Rabbi Shimon teaches that this dynamic is also at play in the divine realm. When Moshe encounters the face of God who wishes to destroy Israel, he encounters something less than God's highest self. That "lower self" of God, as it were, is all about punishment. When God gave Moshe the thirteen principles of mercy after the Golden Calf, God gave him the tools necessary to evoke God's higher self, which includes forgiveness. And so Israel was saved.

There is no doubt that God had every right to be angry. After all that had been done for them, rejecting God should have been unforgivable. Nevertheless, God does not want to be alone, and being in a real relationship sometimes necessitates transcending justifiable anger.

Instructed as we are to "walk in God's ways" - the parasha should direct our attention to how this dynamic plays out in ourselves. When are we slaves of our own rage, so focused on our hurt that we close ourselves off? And when are we our better/higher selves, letting go of the hurt and opening ourselves up to be channels for divine energy? Psychological research has shown how personal health and happiness are closely tied to one's ability to forgive, but I would suggest that our survival and flourishing as a species does as well.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Dr. Shaiya Rothberg**, *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/>