



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

December 28, 2018 - January 5, 2019 | 20-28 Tevet 5779
Parashat Shemot

Friday, December 28 20 Tevet				Parashat Shemot Saturday, December 29 21 Tevet		
Candle Lighting 4:18PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Steve Gradman 6:30PM				No Hebrew School Winter Break Shacharit 10:00AM		
Sunday December 30 22 Tevet	Monday December 31 23 Tevet	Tuesday January 1 24 Tevet	Wednesday January 2 25 Tevet	Thursday January 3 26 Tevet	Friday January 4 27 Tevet	Saturday January 5 28 Tevet
No Hebrew School Winter Break		No Hebrew School Winter Break	Morning Minyan 7:15AM PAI Book Club 9:30AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Biblical Hebrew 7:30PM	PAI Walking Group 9:30AM Candle Lighting 4:23PM Lev Tahor with YAFFED's Naftuli Moster 6:30PM	Parashat Vaera Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM PSJC Services 101 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Alison Heffez Bat Mitzvah Family Torah 10:30AM Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM
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)		

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Ira Singer and family on the death of his mother, **Jackie Singer**, z"l.

Pam Kaplan and family on the death of her father, **Asa Kaplan**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 21-27 Tevet:

Ann Weinfeld Schulman, mother of Amy Schulman; **Bernard Simon**, father-in-law of Merrie Handfinger; **Ellen Kamil**, mother of Seth Kamil; **Florence Sinow**, mother of Miriam Fleischmann; **HB Daffner**, great-grandfather of Stuart Baron; **Irving Samuel Phillips**, father of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Marilyn Rothberger**, cousin of Harriet Baron; **Marvin Weiner**, father-in-law of Zev Kindler; **Oscar Person**, uncle of Sarah Person; **Riva Korashan**, sister of Marc Korashan; **Ron Dixon**, observed by the PSJC Community; **Samuel Sloan**, father of Sara Sloan; **Willie Marker**, grandfather of Jeffrey Marker. *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



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MLK Day of Service: Seeking Knitters, Crafters, Shleppers

Sunday, January 20 | 11:00AM-2:00PM

Join PSJC's year-round knitters making blankets and preemie caps for Methodist Hospital; help make tissue-paper bouquets and greeting cards for God's Love We Deliver; help us shlep the fruits of our collective labors to their destinations, the week following MLK Day of Service. For details or more information, hzelon@gmail.com

Friday, January 4

PAI Walking Group | 9:30AM

Join us every Friday at the entrance to Prospect Park at 15th Street and Prospect Park West. Please register so we can let you know if a walk must be canceled: <https://www.psjc.org/event/positive-aging-initiative-walking-group.html>

Separate but Equal? Not Exactly. Learn more with YAFFED's Naftuli Moster at Lev Tahor | 6:30PM

Join Lev Tahor, PSJC's community-led, all sung Kabbalat Shabbat service, for a spirited conversation about the secular and the sacred in K-12 education. Naftuli Moster, Executive Director of YAFFED/Young Advocates for a Fair Education, will talk about his experiences in higher-ed and the ongoing controversy about the secular (and legal) obligations of religious schools, including yeshivot. Sign up <https://tinyurl.com/ycmzybfc> for the dairy/pareve pot luck dinner that follows services.

Saturday, January 5

PSJC Services 101 | 9:30AM

Explore the Musaf service with Aileen and become more familiar with the concluding parts of the service.

Celebrate at Shabbat Kulanu! | 10:30AM-12:15PM

We'll begin with fun and learning at Family Torah, followed by our all ages Shabbat Kulanu service. Students will be leading parts of the service, as well as receive honors during the Torah service. Let us know you are coming: <https://www.psjc.org/event/aleph-and-bet-class-shabbat.html>. Please contact Aileen with any questions.

PAI Medicare Workshop 2

Sunday, January 6 | 1:30PM

RSVP <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai--medicare-part-2-workshop.html>

Rosh Hodesh Shevat Minyan

Monday, January 7 | 7:00AM

Sunday, January 13

5th Grade Art & Text | 11:00AM

2021 Bnai Mitzvah Date Selection Meeting | 11:00AM

Are you expecting to celebrate your child's Bnai Mitzvah @PSJC in 2021? If so, please join us in the PSJC Sanctuary to learn about Bnai Mitzvah at PSJC and the Shaarei Mitzvah program and to begin the process of selecting Bnai Mitzvah dates for 2021. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/2021-bnai-mitzvah-date-selection-meeting.html>. We look forward to seeing you and taking the first step in your journey to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees | 4:00PM

We hope you will join us for Park Slope Jewish Center's Annual Meeting in the PSJC sanctuary. The meeting will consist of updates from synagogue leadership, Etz Chaim updates, thank yous to the outgoing Board of Trustees, a vote for the new Board of Trustees, minor synagogue business, Q&A.

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.



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Tuesday, January 15

PAI Aging Issues Group | 6:30PM-8:00PM

Friday, January 18

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

Young Professionals - ATID* Potluck Shabbat Dinner | 7:30PM

Join young professionals for a vegetarian potluck dinner with PSJC's ATID*! We'll provide a few entrees and some wine. Come for services at 6:30PM; join us for dinner starting at 7:30PM. Come by PSJC to say hello and get to know someone new! We'd love to meet you. For more information, please contact Cornelia Dalton (cornelia.dalton@gmail.com), *ATID is the PSJC group for 20s and 30s

Saturday, January 19

Parashat Hashavua | 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.

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.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 22 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Saturday, January 26

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

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

Advanced Talmud | 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.

Looking at the Torah

Sunday, January 27 | 3:30PM

The Torah is an object of monumental significance to the Jewish people, but it is rarely examined as a physical object. Join Rabbi Carie Carter and Art Conservator Reba Snyder as they discuss the meaning and making of a Torah. Each of our experts will present their understanding of the Torah as a human-made object. Participants will work with some of the materials of a Torah, including writing with a quill pen on parchment. The class is limited to 30, please RSVP today: <https://www.psjc.org/event/looking-at-the-torah.html> and a materials fee (\$10 for members) will be charged.

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



Parashat Shemot

Triennial: Exodus 4:18-6:1 | Etz Hayim p.335; Hertz p.220

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28; 13; 29:22-23 | Etz Hayim p.342; Hertz p.225

D'var Torah: Renewing the Spark

The stories of the beginning of Moshe's life are notoriously laconic. Most of what Jews think they know about Moshe's early life actually comes from movies, especially the Ten Commandments and the Prince of Egypt. Midrash works to fill in the gaps in the story that are unexplained in the Bible itself. But midrash almost always needs a "hook" on which to hang its story, some sort of textual "rupture" that allows an ancient exegete to suggest that something happened that is not described in the text. The following is an excellent example, one that I'm guessing you might not have noticed before.

At the end of chapter one of Exodus, Pharaoh decrees "every boy that is born you shall throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." Chapter two picks up immediately with "a certain man of the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son." From these verses, it sounds like this child is the Levite woman's first. But a few verses later we learn that this child has an older sister. Where did this sister come from? If the man from the house of Levi just took this wife, how does the child already have a sister (a very clever one, as we shall soon learn)? Here is our "rupture" in the text, some point that makes little sense but allows for the rabbis to insert a story that both solves the difficulty and at the same time sharpens the message we read out of the text.

The story is found in the Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Sotah 12b. The Talmud notes that Amram (the man of the house of Levi) "**went** and married." Why the extra verb "went"? The answer: he went at the advice of this remarkable daughter. The backstory is as follows:

Amram was the great man of his generation. Once he saw that the wicked Pharaoh said: "Every son that is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive" (Exodus 1:22), he said: We are laboring for nothing. He arose and divorced his wife. All others who saw this arose and divorced their wives.

His daughter said to him: Father, your decree is harsher than that of Pharaoh, as Pharaoh decreed only with regard to the males, but you decreed both on the males and on the females.

Amram arose and brought back (i.e. remarried) his wife, and all the others who saw this arose and brought back their wives.

We can see here how the "darshan," the exegete, has used the opportunity of this rupture to insert a message of courage into the text relevant to his own generation, who in all likelihood faced persecution. (When have Jews not faced persecution?)

But this solution still leaves us with a problem—if this is a remarriage, the text should have said he took back, not married. The Talmud solves *this* textual rupture with a beautiful story:

Rav Yehuda bar Zevina says: He performed an act of marriage. He sat her on a palanquin and Aharon and

Miriam danced before her, and the ministering angels said: "A joyful mother of children" (Psalms 113:9).

Amram did not just go back to sleeping with his wife. He had a second wedding, this time allowing his children to celebrate the couple's love for each other. Indeed, the Talmud goes on to note that according to its reckoning, Yocheved is 130 years old at the time! But no matter, for with the rekindling of their love Yocheved became again like a young girl, in love with her childhood paramour.

Through this tiny "rupture" in the text, the Midrash provides us with a rich story of the brilliance of Miriam, the courage of Yocheved and the other wives, and a story of the rekindled love of two elderly people who are about to give the Jewish people the greatest leader they will ever have, Moshe.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Dr. Joshua Kulp**, *Conservative Yeshiva Faculty & Rosh Yeshiva* "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.