



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

November 9-17, 2018 | 1-9 Kislev 5779
Parashat Toldot

Friday, November 9 1 Kislev				Parashat Toldot Saturday, November 10 2 Kislev		
Candle Lighting 4:25PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Reflections on Kristallnacht & Potluck Dinner 7:30PM				Simcha Shabbat Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM Why Pray? Why Prayer? 1:15PM		
Sunday November 11 3 Kislev	Monday November 12 4 Kislev	Tuesday November 13 5 Kislev	Wednesday November 14 6 Kislev	Thursday November 15 7 Kislev	Friday November 16 8 Kislev	Saturday November 17 9 Kislev
Hebrew School 9:30AM Kitah Gimel Class Brunch 12:30PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM Hebrew School Committee Meeting 7:00PM Shir Chadash Choir 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM		PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 4:19PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Aileen & Abe 6:30PM Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Vayetze</i> Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei 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 (rabbi@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:

Ruth Steinberg and family on the death of Ruth's mother, **Fern Renee Steinberg**, z"l.

We mourn those who lost their lives in the devastating attack at Tree of Life Synagogue:

Joyce Fienberg; Richard Gottfried; Rose Mallinger; Jerry Rabinowitz; Cecil Rosenthal; David Rosenthal; Bernice Simon; Sylvan Simon; Daniel Stein; Melvin Wax; Irving Younger.

Yahrzeits observed 2-8 Kislev:

Barbara Weisl, stepmother of Angela Weisl; **Dorothy Handfinger**, mother of Merrie Handfinger; **Elias Katz**, grandfather of Marilyn Kardeman; **George Pearson**, father of Beth Pearson; **Gerry Levine Mendelsohn**, mother of Mindy Levine; **Grace Bette Salomon**, mother of Nancy Salomon Miranda; **Harold J. Berman**, father of Jean Berman; **Joseph Hornick**, father of Samuel Hornick; **Lewis Ettlinger**, brother of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Lillian Bregier**, aunt of June Zeitlin; **Marc Simon**, husband of Merrie Handfinger; **Warren Moskowitz**, father of Judith Moskowitz. *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 2019: 10th Year Anniversary Celebration/Transition

Every January for the past decade, volunteers of all ages have converged at PSJC to prepare thousands of shelf-stable meals; assemble snack and toiletry packages for families fleeing domestic violence; construct hundreds of PB&J sandwiches for donation to CHIPS; gather and sort children's books and all-ages clothing donations; knit and crochet baby blankets and chemo caps; cook dozens of fresh-made meals for PSJC's freezer; create beautiful crafts for elders; and write letters on behalf of immigrants and Dreamers. With over 1200 participants in a decade, MLK Day has become a PSJC institution. ***But no institution can thrive without new ideas and creativity.*** The core team that created the Day of Service actively seeks new hands (and hearts, and brains) in this new decade of service. The work is not overwhelming - it's all set up, year to year – and the satisfaction is tremendous. Plus, it's a lot of fun. We can share the nuts-and-bolts of how to produce the Day of Service - and can partner/coach interested volunteers. If you, your family, and your friends have enjoyed being part of MLK Day of Service, please consider stepping up to help us plan for the future. For details and information, contact Helen Zelon (hzelon@gmail.com).

Saturday, November 10

Simcha Shabbat

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

Parashat Hashavua with Cornelia Dalton, Rabbinic Intern | 9:30AM

Why Pray? Why Prayer? | 1:15PM

An exploration of the intimate ways we create and communicate with God and with ourselves, from Tanakh up to the present day. Learning with Rabbinic Intern, Cornelia Dalton

Friday, November 16

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>

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

New Members' Shabbat | 6:30PM

Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner | 6:30PM

A highlight of the Hebrew School year! Dinner, singing, and connecting with friends from the Hebrew School Community. Sing and dance to welcome Shabbat with a musical Kulanu service with Aileen and Abe. Families will be invited to move downstairs following this introductory service to begin dinner or to remain for the conclusion of the evening service. Note: If someone in your party has specific dietary needs or food allergies, please make a note of it below. All food served will be meat or parve (dairy free). We will do our best to accommodate you. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/hebrew-school-shabbat-dinner2.html>.

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

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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Saturday, November 17

New Members' Shabbat | 10:00AM

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

Hosted by Cathy Monblatt & Stewart Pravda

Together we will walk over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch (after the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services). Bring a parve/dairy/veggie potluck dish to share. These afternoons are wonderful opportunities 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.

PAI - Aging Issues Group

Tuesday, November 20 | 1:30PM

Being a caregiver for family members and/or friends is an important issue for many. Join a discussion of the challenges involved and strategies for managing them. \$5.00 fee.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, November 24 | 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.

PAI - Book Club

Monday, November 26 | 7:15PM

Book: Heretics by Leonardo Padura Described as a "grand detective story and a moving historical drama," as compelling, mysterious and enduring as the Rembrandt painting at its center. The Book Club location will be provided once you sign up to attend.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 27 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, November 30 | 6:30PM

Lev Tahor: Save the Date

Friday, December 7 | 6:30PM

Lev Tahor welcomes City Council Member Brad Lander. RSVP for the potluck dinner here: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Dec7-2018>

PSJC Knitters

Monday, December 10 | 7:30PM

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

Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu

Friday, December 14 | 6:30PM

We'll join together for services with Aileen and Abe at PSJC, followed by dinner and a sing-a-long. You provide the vegetable sides and dessert, we'll provide the entree. RSVPs are not required, but are helpful to ensure enough food. RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

Parashat Toldot

Triennial: Genesis 27:28-28:9 | Etz Hayim p.157; Hertz p.99

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7 | Etz Hayim p.162; Hertz p.102

D'var Torah: Sarah's Absence

“I lift my eyes to the mountains, from where will my help come from? My help will come from God, creator of the heavens and the earth. (Psalms 121:1-2)

What does it mean to “lift one’s eyes?” A number of medical studies now tell us about the damage we are collectively doing to our backs and necks by spending so much time looking down at iPhones and tablets. But there is so much more we are missing when we do not look up.

When the psalmist looks up, they are looking, deeply and carefully, for God. This kind of looking enables one to see the divinity present in other people and the world in general. It brings with it the potential for redemption. This is not how the Pittsburgh shooter saw. By the time he entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, he was blinded by propaganda and rage, and blind to the humanity of people engaged in worship. When we fail to see the humanity of others, we power a destructive force that distances us from God, and disorders the world. As Jews, it is thus our obligation to look for God and to see others and the world, in their full complexity.

In our parashah, the ability and inability to see creates the central family crisis between Yitzhak, Rivka and their children Esav and Yaakov. Esav is famished after a long day of hunting in the field. When he asks Yaakov to share some of his food with him, he can only identify it as ‘red stuff’, not exactly sure what he is actually asking for. Yaakov decides that he will give Esav some of his lentil stew in exchange for the family birthright blessing. Sforno, a 16th-century Italian commentator, notes that Yaakov feels justified in receiving the birthright from Esav because of this very lack of close ‘seeing’. Sforno writes: *“(Yaakov) saw that Esav was so totally absorbed in his futile occupation, an occupation which does not represent the task of man on earth, that he could not even identify the lentils by their name but referred to them only by their color...”* Yaakov decides that a person who does not even see the world closely enough to identify a particular pot of food does not have the skills to carry on the family line. The exchange of the birthright becomes a test that will determine if Esav has the ability to see the world complexly. He fails that test and loses the birthright.

Yaakov does not only understand the high risk of not seeing, but also the revelatory power of truly witnessing the other. As his mother tries to encourage him to dress up as his brother Esav to steal, or perhaps rightfully receive the birthright that is now his, Yaakov is concerned that through his father’s close intimacy he will perceive the truth. Yaakov worries: “If my father touches me, I shall appear to him (lit: in his eyes) as a trickster and bring upon myself a curse, not a blessing.” (Genesis 27:12).

Ramban, a 13th-century commentator from Spain, explains that Yaakov could not have been literally worried about his father seeing him. After all, Yitzhak is blind! Instead, he teaches: *“(What Yaakov really meant was) Maybe my father will touch me: [He wasn't worried that] the reason he would touch him would be to recognize him, but he said, “Maybe he will draw me close to him to kiss me or to put his hand on my face in the way that a father expresses love for his son, and he will find by touching that I am smooth.”* According to Ramban, Yaakov is concerned that his father’s love for his sons will cause him to quickly discover the ruse and perhaps even curse him in place of a blessing.

In the end, Yitzhak will also not fully see. The birthright will go to Yaakov, and a perceived disunity between the two brothers will cause Yaakov to flee. Yitzhak will not live to see his sons reconcile.

The more we lose this ability to see, the more chaos we will encounter. May our Jewish response to the tragedy in Pittsburg include a recommitment to a deep seeing of others. May our pain slowly transform into a deep love of humanity, for this is the force that will repair the world.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Tyler Dratch**, *Conservative Yeshiva & Hebrew College Rabbinical Student* “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.