



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

March 22-30, 2019 | 15-23 Adar II 5779
Parashat Tzav

Friday, March 22 15 Adar II				Parashat Tzav Saturday, March 23 16 Adar II		
Candle Lighting 6:52PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Freddie Brooks 6:30PM Mock Treif Banquet & Purim Jeopardy 7:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Ella Jasie Bat Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday March 24 17 Adar II	Monday March 25 18 Adar II	Tuesday March 26 19 Adar II	Wednesday March 27 21 Adar II	Thursday March 28 22 Adar II	Friday March 29 23 Adar II	Saturday March 30 24 Adar II
Shaarei Mitzvah 6 Trip 9:00AM Shaarei Mitzvah 7 Trip 9:00AM PAI: Age Discrimination Workshop 1:30PM	PAI Book Club 7:30PM <i>Offsite</i>	Hebrew School 4:00PM Board Meeting 7:15PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 6:59PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM Addressing Israel's Refugee Crisis with Tamara Newman and Potluck 7:30PM	<i>Shabbat Parah Parashat Shemini</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Leah Efrati Bat Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 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)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Ella, Tyndall, Zachary and Waylon** on Ella's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Tyndall Arrasmith** and **Zachary Jasie** for contributing to Kiddush Fund in honor of Ella's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat!

To **Fredrica Brooks** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Neil Jaffee and family on the death of his wife, **Laura Warshawsky**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 16-22 Adar II:

Helen Hochman, great aunt of Ellen Hollander-Sande; **Helen Winslow**, mother of Kenan Jaffe; **Henrietta Fox**, observed by the PSJC community; **Hilda Gundersheim**, mother of Ellen Briefel; **Rubin Sandler**, grandfather of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Sarah Greenberg**, grandmother of Dan Greenberg; **Warren Lewis**, uncle of Roland Lewis. *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

A community-building fundraiser that features numerous sumptuous, multi-course dinners in the homes of esteemed Top Chefs of PSJC. Choose from various special themed menus and enjoy amazing food, festive libations, and lively conversation...all to benefit our synagogue.

There is still time, RSVP today!
<https://www.psjc.org/event/feast-and-fantasy-.html>



Advanced Talmud

Saturday, March 23 | 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: Age Discrimination Inside and Outside of the Workplace

Sunday, March 24 | 1:30PM

Do you feel stuck in a job you hate? Have you lost a job after many years with the same company? Are your adult kids treating you disrespectfully? Do feel that the music is painfully loud at company functions and at *simchas*? Age discrimination affects all of us, whether we are still working or retired, and it takes many forms. Join us for a workshop led by Bobbie Sackman, a PSJC friend and age justice advocate extraordinaire, to discuss strategies to combat ageism and overcome it, on both a personal and a societal level.

It's Friday Music Class

Friday, March 29 | 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

Addressing Israel's Refugee Crisis with Tamara Newman of the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants

Friday, March 29 | 7:30PM

Following Kabbalat Shabbat and a Vegetarian/Dairy/Pareve Potluck Dinner, we will have the opportunity to learn from Tamara Newman, Director of International Relations at the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants in Israel. They are on the cutting edge in protecting the rights of refugees, migrant workers and victims of human trafficking, issues that are sadly all-too-relevant on both sides of the ocean. Thanks to NIF for bringing this opportunity to our community. Contact rabbicarie@psjc.org or to RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/tamaranewman03-29>

Shaarei Mitzvah 7 - Popcorn Brunch and Movie

Sunday, March 31 | 10:00AM

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.

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



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Friday, April 5

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>

Lev Tahor: From the Warsaw Ghetto to Brooklyn, via India | 6:30PM

Lev Tahor welcomes Elizabeth Redwine of Seton Hall University, who'll talk with us about Rabindranath Tagore's play *The Post Office*, performed in 1942 in the Orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto, three years before the end of World War II. Dr. Redwine is the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award recipient, in recognition of her work with community-activist group Essex Rising, and the editor, with Amitra Ghosh, of *Tagore and Yeats: A Postcolonial Re-envisioning*. Come and learn, sing, shmooze and connect with friends new and familiar. RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahorApril5-2019>, all voices welcome!!

Saturday, April 6

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.

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

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

Family Torah | 10:30AM

<https://www.psjc.org/event/family-torah3.html>

Shabbat Kulanu | 11:15AM

<https://www.psjc.org/event/shabbat-kulanu1.html>

Sunday, April 7

5th Grade Art & Text | 11:00AM

Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim | 4:00PM-6:00PM

We will use our Hebrew to cook delicious food and then share those treats at a meal. It is a great way to hang out with friends, meet new people, hone your cooking skills, practice your Hebrew and have a great time with our shinshinim. Great for children and adults alike. Contact Rabbi Carie Carter at rabbicarie@psjc.org to let us know you are coming.

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony

Tuesday, May 7 | 7:00PM | Union Temple

Join us as we observe Israel's Memorial Day together as a Brooklyn community. Contact rabbicarie@psjc.org for questions or to let us know you are coming.

Brooklyn Celebrates Israel and Yom HaAtzmaut with Nava Tehila

Wednesday, May 8

Join your Brooklyn community and the Nava Tehila Band from Jerusalem, for an evening of delight as they invite us to connect to our roots and celebrate independence as a people and as individuals. Through chanting Psalms and prayers with original melodies and guided intentions, we will travel into the landscape of holiness and joy, connect to the spirit and allow it to fill our hearts and uplift our souls.

Food and Drink at "the Shuk" | 6:30PM

Doors open for Concert | 7:30PM

Music begins | 8:00PM

This event is made possible through the generosity of UJA-Federation of NY and the efforts of the Brooklyn Shlichut Initiative and its partners in Brooklyn



THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS SHUL





Parashat Tzav

Triennial: Leviticus 8:1-8:36 | Etz Hayim p. 621; Hertz p.435; Plaut p.795

Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23 | Etz Hayim p.627; Hertz p.439; Plaut p.983

D'var Torah: Good Intentions

There's an old saying that in theory, there's no difference between theory and practice, but in practice, there's a great deal of difference. For weeks, we've been hearing every last detail about the planning and construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), the priests' clothing and the High Priest's special equipment, the different kinds of offerings. Now, in Parashat Tzav, we finally move from theory to practice as Moshe ordains Aharon and his sons as priests and they perform the first actual sacrifices in this new sanctuary. The parasha ends by telling us that Aharon and his sons did everything God had commanded, everything went smoothly, and we're off to the best possible start in this new stage of our relationship with God.

Or so it seems. Only a short chapter later, Aharon's sons will die for offering "strange fire" on the altar. However smoothly things might be going on the surface in *Tzav*, something underneath clearly isn't working right if the whole system of priestly sacrifices goes off the rails so quickly.

Because the text focuses only on what's going right, we have to step back and think about what's not being said if we want to unravel this mystery. We're told all the details of how one is supposed to offer a sacrifice except for one: do you need proper *kavanah* (intention) for that sacrifice to be accepted? And if so, what constitutes that *kavanah*?

In Tractate *Zevachim*, the rabbis of the Mishna claim that there are six different proper intentions one can have in offering a sacrifice: doing it for the sake of the offering, for the sake of the one who brings it, for the sake of God, for the sake of the altar fires, for smelling the aroma, for imagining how God will enjoy that aroma, or for the sake of the sin that a sin offering is supposed to atone for. But Rabbi Yosi says that even if you lack one of these *kavanot*, the sacrifice is still valid (BT *Zevachim* 4:6).

It's hard to summon deep *kavanah* every time I pray. When a prayer is new to me, I can get so focused on saying it correctly that I don't stop to think about the meaning of the words. When a prayer is familiar, I have a bad habit of praying from memory and then worrying if I absentmindedly skipped a phrase. I have to keep finding new ways into each prayer: visualizing the imagery of heavenly creatures praising God or God's nostrils flaring in anger if we forget the commandments, my memories of singing these same prayers with my dad as a child, or my hope that praying will kindle my awareness of the miracles of nature as I go through my day.

There is a legend of a shepherd who was almost illiterate. As he stood in the back of the synagogue, embarrassed by his lack of knowledge but longing for connection with God, he began reciting the *aleph-bet*, saying, "God, You know what's in my heart; can You please arrange these letters into the right words?" Overcome with emotion, he didn't realize his voice was getting louder and louder until the members of the congregation began shushing him, wanting to throw him out for distracting them. But the rabbi stopped them. "The passion of his prayers reached heaven when none of ours could."

But *kavanah* without the structure of prayer is also problematic, easily dissolving into inarticulate emotion. In his celebrated book *Man's Quest for God*, Abraham Joshua Heschel writes, "Prayer without *kavanah* is like a body without a soul...a body without a soul is a corpse, a soul without a body is a ghost." Neither can function alone. And so we return to Aharon and his sons, nervous and excited in their new clothes, making their offerings for the first time, trying to do everything correctly, and our hearts ache because we know they can't sustain this bright new passion. All they can do, all we can do, is hope we can find some way to rekindle it with the right kind of fire every time we approach the altar.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Lisa Feld**, *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.