



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

January 4-12, 2019 | 27 Tevet-6 Shevat 5779
Parashat Vaera

Friday, January 4 27 Tevet				Parashat Vaera Saturday, January 5 28 Tevet		
Candle Lighting 4:23PM Lev Tahor with YAFFED's Naftuli Moster 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Alison Heffez Bat Mitzvah Family Torah 10:30AM Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM		
Sunday January 6 29 Tevet	Monday January 7 1 Shevat	Tuesday January 8 2 Shevat	Wednesday January 9 3 Shevat	Thursday January 10 4 Shevat	Friday January 11 5 Shevat	Saturday January 12 6 Shevat
Hebrew School 9:30AM PAI - Medicare 1:30PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM	Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM	Hebrew School 4:00PM PAI - Aging Issues Group 6:30PM Hebrew School Committee Meeting 7:00PM Shir Chadash Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM PAI Book Club 9:30AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Shaarei Mitzvah 6 Tzedakah Fair Prep Session 4:30PM Gesher 6:15PM		PAI Walking Group 9:30AM Candle Lighting 4:30PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Susana Honig 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Bo</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Ronit Nolte 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 **Alison, Jennifer, Albert and Naomi** on Alison's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Jennifer and Albert Heffez** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of Alison's Bat Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

- Alex Aron** and family on the death of her mother, **Sarah Aron**, z"l.
- Eve Blatt** and family on the death of her husband, **Ralph Blatt**, z"l.
- 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 28 Tevet-5 Shevat:

Adele Youdin, grandmother of Eli Wolfhagen; **Alan Harrison**, father of Martha Harrison; **Belle Weiner**, mother of Barbara Wollman; **David Koltenuk**, great-uncle of Alan Palmer; **Ernestina Alexander**, mother of Aaron Alexander; **Joseph Eisenstadt**, father of Eric Eisenstadt; **Leon Solomon Blaufarb**, father of Jonathan Blaufarb; **Liliana Briefel**, mother of Gary Briefel; **Lois Sharon Degenhardt**, daughter of Iris Sheber; **Martha Wolkoff**, aunt of Andrew Ceresney; **Rae Berman Green**, grandmother of June Zeitlin; **Sam Kayman**, friend of Jeffrey Marker and godfather of Rena Freedman-Marker; **Sara Mlotek Rosenfeld**, mother of Fay Rosenfeld; **Walter Haase**, father of David Haase. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



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MLK Day of Service: Political Action

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

Join a cadre of PSJC activists advocating for the rights of undocumented immigrants, with PSJC Rodfei Tzedek (social action) volunteers and HIAS. For information or details, contact hzelon@gmail.com.

Celebrate at Shabbat Kulanu!

Saturday, January 5 | 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

If you missed last year's sellout workshop on Medicare, Michelle Berney is back by popular demand. How and when to apply, which plan to choose, supplemental insurance options, and what Medicare covers will be reviewed. There will also be time for questions and answers. The workshop will be held at PSJC, \$5 fee* Please 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.

Tuesday, January 15

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

As we get older, our need to rely on others may increase. This can be problematic for people who don't have children and/or a partner or have children/partners unwilling or unable to help. Share the challenges, as well as possible coping strategies, with others in similar situations. This discussion group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at PSJC, \$5 fee*. A different topic is covered each month. The group is led by Jan Orzeck and Richard Glassman, both PAI members and licensed clinical social workers

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

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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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.

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 Vaera

Triennial: Exodus 8:16-9:35 | Etz Hayim p.362; Hertz p.240; Plaut p.438
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 | Etz Hayim p.369; Hertz p.244; Plaut p.696

D'var Torah: What's In a Name?

Last week in Israel, a bill was passed to dissolve the Knesset and set new elections for this April. This led to announcements of multiple new political parties - among them the "Geshet" party of Orly Levy-Abekasis, the "New Right" party of Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked, the "Israeli Resilience" party of Benny Gantz, and the "My Israeli Brother" party of Adina Bar Shalom. We know the party names, and even some of the names on their candidate lists, but what do those names really mean? Will these parties be what their names promise? Will they lead Israel out of the narrow straits toward a better future? Only time will tell.

Serendipitously, the first two parashot of Shemot (which means Names!) ask similar questions. At the burning bush last week, Moshe is an audience of one at God's introductory press conference, and he hears a little about God's biography and God's plan. Tasked with transmitting the news to the wider public, he naturally asks God in 3:13, "When...they [the Israelites] ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God gives him two different answers. First, God says "Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh" or just "Ehyeh" for short. In some sense, this is really a non-name. God is just saying that God will be whatever God will be. But then God says in 3:15: "The LORD (Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh / YHVH)...shall be My name forever..."

It seems like it's a major announcement, this NEW NAME OF GOD. In verse 6:3 in our parashah God stresses that: "I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name YHVH." But while it is true that God uses the name El Shaddai multiple times with the Avot (Bereishit 17:1 and 35:11) and the Avot themselves refer to El Shaddai multiple times (28:3, 43:14, and 48:3), a casual reading of Bereishit reveals that YHVH was ALSO used (see Bereishit 12:7-8, 15:1, 22:14, 26:2, and 28:13). So in point of fact, there isn't much to this announcement at all. YHVH? Yawn. We've heard that one before.

Unsurprisingly, Rashi and other classical commentators notice this as well. So as they read the text, it's clear that God cannot be saying that the Avot didn't know the name YHVH, so God must be saying something else. And they find the word in the verse on which to hang the more nuanced reading that resolves the difficulty. In the verse, God says "לֹא הִוָּדַעְתִּי לָהֶם" (I did not make known to them) and not "לֹא הִוָּדַעְתִּי לָהֶם" (I did not inform them). The verb is passive and not active. God may have INFORMED the Avot of YHVH, but God was NOT YET KNOWN TO THEM as YHVH. But what exactly does that mean?

The Avot "knew" two names for God, El Shaddai and YHVH, but they had only come to experience (know at a deeper level) God as El Shaddai and not as YHVH. The name YHVH was really just a promise that at some point in the future God would BE EXPERIENCED AS YHVH by the Israelites. So what God is really saying to Moshe is that that time has arrived.

And what does it mean to experience God as YHVH rather than El Shaddai? El Shaddai has the power to save. YHVH saves. El Shaddai makes promises. YHVH fulfills them. El Shaddai makes the system work. YHVH intercedes to perform special acts of chesed - lovingkindness.

Experiencing God as El Shaddai requires only that God appears as such - "I APPEARED to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai." But God cannot just appear as YHVH. God has to BE YHVH and sustain it until the experience sinks in - until YHVH is no longer just a piece of information held by the mind, but a deeper knowledge grasped by one's heart and soul.

As the election season progresses, may Israel's political leaders likewise sustain their work on behalf of the Jewish people so that their party names are transformed, from mere slogans into real experiences of salvation and renewal.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz**, CY Director of North American Engagement "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.