



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

July 27-August 4, 2018 | 15-23 Av 5778
Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu

Friday, July 27 15 Av				Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu Saturday, July 28 16 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Susana Honig 6:30PM Tu B'Av Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner - Prospect Park 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:58PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday July 29 17 Av	Monday July 30 18 Av	Tuesday July 31 19 Av	Wednesday August 1 20 Av	Thursday August 2 21 Av	Friday August 3 22 Av	Saturday August 4 23 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Carter/Eden Wofsey 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:51PM	<i>Parashat Ekev</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Book Club 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 (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:

Roberta Moskowitz and family on the death of her mother, **Libby Rosenfeld, z”l**.

Yahrzeits observed 16-22 Av:

Basil Kosarin, father of Ray Kosarin; **Bernice Leah Green**, mother of Gail Green-Anderson; **Eleanor Kalik**, friend of Carol Diamond; **Frances Narewski**, mother of Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk; **Harry Levine**, grandfather of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine; **Jean Ruben**, mother of Harolyn Cohen; **Jorge Epelbaum**, brother of Susana Honig; **Philip Baron**, father of Stuart Baron; **Rose Kindler**, mother of Zev Kindler; **Roy Yasen**, stepfather of Marc Korashan. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊



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When logged in members can see...

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.

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



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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

Annual Membership Renewal 2018-2019

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.

Tu B'Av Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner

Friday, July 27 | 6:30PM | Prospect Park

Tu B'Av - Jewish Day of Love - Pot Luck Shabbat dinner in Prospect Park near the Pritchard Square entrance. (For those who plan to attend Kabbalat Shabbat at PSJC, services will start early - at 6:30PM - and those who want to join the group will walk over together.) Bring a tarp to sit on and food/drink for yourself and to share. Bonus points for wearing white! Rain cancels. Email/text ruthj.kaufman@gmail.com / 917.603.1665 if you cannot find us.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 28 | 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 Aron: aronrhalb@gmail.com.

Book Club: The Extra

Saturday, August 4 | 1:30PM

Join us after kiddush as we discuss *The Extra* (תבצין), A. B. Yehoshua's novel of ideas whose themes include the title character's decision to not have children, eldercare, housing and real estate, relations between Haredi and secular Israelis, cinema, theater, and classical music. BPL has 9 English print copies and an ebook.

Movie Under the Stars in Prospect Park

Wednesday, August 8 | 6:00PM | Long Meadow North - Prospect Park

Hang out together before Summer Movie Under the Stars in Long Meadow North in Prospect Park: *Space Jam*. Bring a blanket to sit on. Rain cancels. Email/text ruthj.kaufman@gmail.com / 917.603.1665 to find us.

Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan

Saturday, August 11 | 10:00AM

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, August 18 | 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.



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Lulav & Etrog Sale

Each set is already assembled together in a holder with the Lulav, Hadassim and Arovot as one.

Along with each set you will receive a basic guide as a complimentary gift to express our appreciation to you. It will contain a list of all the Brachot (blessings) and Halakha (laws) of the four species.



Order yours now: www.psjc.org/lulav-and-etrog-sale.html

Last day to order Wednesday, August 29

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, August 18 | 1:30PM | Prospect Park

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).

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 1 | 9:00PM

Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Sunday, September 9

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Tuesday, September 11

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidrei | Tuesday, September 18

Yom Kippur Day | Wednesday, September 19

PAI Book Club

Wednesday, September 26 | 7:30PM

This month we are reading *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. Sign up: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-book-club.html>. There is no charge for this group.

For a Sweet New Year - Support PSJC with Honey From the Heart!

Order honey for your friends and family and support PSJC while doing it!

Your cost is **\$12.00 per jar** and \$5.00 per jar shipping and handling.
We will gladly mail orders outside the United States for an additional fee.
For more information and to order at: <http://orthoney.com/psj>





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Triennial: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25 | Etz Hayim p.1015; Hertz p.765

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26 | Etz Hayim p.1032; Hertz p.776

D'var Torah: Getting Religion Right

There are a few places in the Torah where reasons are given for particular mitzvot. The commandment is stated and then the Torah says, “for/because” (כי/ki) or “in order that” (למען/l'ma'an) and proceeds to explain its meaning and/or purpose. These explanations can look backwards for some sort of historical justification or forwards for an intended outcome. For example, Exodus 13:9 looks back to explain why we wrap tefillin: “**for** (ki) with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt” (מִמִּצְרַיִם יְהוָה הוֹצֵאָךָ, חֲזָקָה בְיָד כִּי). Leviticus 23:42-43, on the other hand, looks forward to explain why we dwell in Sukkot: “**in order that** (l'ma'an) your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths” (וְיָשְׂרְאֵל בְּנֵי-אֶת שְׁבֹתֶיהֶוּ בִּסְכּוֹת כִּי דִרְתִּיכֶם יִדְעוּ לְמַעַן).

In the book of Deuteronomy, presented as Moses' personal reflections looking back on the sweep of Israelite history, we begin to find broader explanations for the whole “mitzva project” itself. Our parasha, Va'et-hannan, offers two of those broad explanations. Verse 4:6 says: “Observe therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, who will hear all these statutes and shall say: 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” And verse 6:24 says: “And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.” Maimonides quotes both of these system-wide explanations in his Guide for the Perplexed (3:31) and they become central to his broader understanding of the nature of Torah. Based on Chapter six he asserts that Torah laws are “for our good” – in order to help us to build good, healthy, wise societies. Based on Chapter four he goes further and says that Torah law will help us build a society that non-Jews will see and hold in high-esteem. On some level it seems ludicrous that non-Jews would see us keeping to our strange, particularistic way of life and say how clever we are. Sure, they might applaud our commitment, saying: “Look at these people who have managed to maintain tradition and values in the face of adversity!” But do they really, *can they really*, appreciate our traditions themselves?

For Maimonides, the answer is that they must - it is not enough to applaud our maintenance of tradition while finding the traditional practices themselves odd, distasteful, or even disturbing. In Maimonides' view, the non-Jewish observer is an important arbiter of the moral health of our tradition. In essence, a test of whether we are understanding and living the Torah correctly is whether non-Jews see us and our communities as living models of wisdom and virtue.

Revealed religions like Judaism have a “particularising tendency” in which they claim that only an insider, one steeped in traditional doctrine and practice, can truly “get it.” This can quickly turn religious particularism into a deeply unhealthy solipsism. Maimonides' insistence on “moral translatability” - the ability of members of one culture to perceive and appreciate the morality of another culture - has the potential to carve out realms of mutual comprehension and to overcome these tendencies. Translatability, and continued discourse between the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds, has the potential to save us from ourselves, as the moral climate and intuition of the wider world acts as a check on our grosser religious instincts.

A healthy Judaism should not require elaborate justifications or apologetics. Lived correctly, it should pass a more simple test: It is making me more thoughtful and kind? Is it helping me understand, and be attuned with, the world? Is it making a positive difference in the life of others?

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joel Levy**, *Rosh Yeshiva & 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>.

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.