



Friday, November 30   22 Kislev				Parashat Vayeshev Saturday, December 1   23 Kislev		
Candle Lighting   4:11PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b>   6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat   9:30AM Shacharit   10:00AM <b>Aya Stern Bat Mitzvah</b> Jr. Congregation   11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan   11:15AM Book Club   1:30PM		
Sunday December 2 24 Kislev	Monday December 3 25 Kislev	Tuesday December 4 26 Kislev	Wednesday December 5 27 Kislev	Thursday December 6 28 Kislev	Friday December 7 29 Kislev	Saturday December 8 30 Kislev
<i>Hanukkah 1<sup>st</sup> Candle</i>  Hebrew School 9:30AM  Family Hanukkah Party 3:00PM  Intro to Judaism 7:00PM	<i>Hanukkah 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle</i>  Hanukkah Minyan 7:00AM	<i>Hanukkah 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle</i>  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Hanukkah Candlelighting 5:30PM  Shir Chadash Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM	<i>Hanukkah 4<sup>th</sup> Candle</i>  Hanukkah Minyan 7:00AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Hanukkah Candlelighting 5:30PM	<i>Hanukkah 5<sup>th</sup> Candle</i>  Biblical Hebrew 7:30PM	<i>Hanukkah 6<sup>th</sup> Candle</i>  PAI Walking Group 9:30AM  It's Friday: Hanukkah! Music with Abe 10:00AM  Candle Lighting 4:10PM  Lev Tahor with <b>Brad Lander</b> 6:30PM	<i>Hanukkah 7<sup>th</sup> Candle</i>  <i>Parashat Miketz</i>  Havurat Shabbat   9:30AM  Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah Services 10:00AM  <b>Benjamin Sande Bar Mitzvah</b>  Family Torah   10:15AM  Shabbat Kulanu   11:00AM  Tot Shabbat   11:15AM
<b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b> 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 **Aya, Galit, Abraham** and **Matan** on **Aya's** Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Galit** and **Abraham Stern** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of Aya's Bat Mitzvah.

**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 23-29 Kislev:**

**Amy Rosen**, friend of Jan Orzeck; **Annette Baron**, mother of Jeffrey Baron; **Charlotte "Cookie" Zazik**, mother of Ilene Rubenstein; **Donald Gallagher**, stepfather of Lori Levine; **Elaine Elworth**, mother of Steve Elworth; **Gertrude Zalutsky**, grandmother of Stuart Baron; **Hazel Baumann**, aunt of Fredrica Brooks; **Irwin Lager**, father of Ned Lager; **Michael David Safdie**, brother-in-law of Fredrica Brooks; **Patty Stafford**, sister of Peggy Stafford; **Paul Klotz**, father of Jay Klotz; **Rebecca Carter**, mother of Michael Carter and grandmother of Rabbi Carie Carter; **Shirley Ettlinger**, mother of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Solomon Hopard**, father of Stanley Hopard. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



November 30-December 8, 2018 | 22-30 Kiselev 5779  
Parashat Vayeshev

### **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).

### **Book Club: *A Horse Walks into a Bar***

Saturday, December 1 | 1:30PM

Join us in us when we discuss David Grossman's darkly humorous Mann Booker International Prize winning novel, in which retired Jerusalem judge Avishai Lazar describes his childhood friend Dov Greenstein's stand-up comedy act in a Netanya night club.

### **Hanukkah Party**

Sunday, December 2 | 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Light up your Hanukkah! Donut eating contest! Donut decorating! Ugly sweater and pajama contest, plus professional face painting, karaoke and more! RSVP [https://www.psjc.org/event/hanukkah\\_party](https://www.psjc.org/event/hanukkah_party)

### **HIAS Trainings for Attorneys Interested in Pro Bono Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

HIAS is offering two upcoming CLE trainings for pro bono attorneys in NYC

Monday, December 3 | **Representing Clients through Trauma-Informed Practice** and

Tuesday, December 11 | **Employment Authorizations and Adjusting Status for Asylees, Refugees, and Special Immigrant Juveniles.**

Learn about pro bono opportunities with HIAS, techniques for best representing clients, and earn CLE credit. Space is limited, and registration is required to attend these training. For more information and to register:

<https://www.hias.org/events/upcoming>

Friday, December 7

### **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](https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect)

**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](mailto:gmach@psjc.org) or [hevrakadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevrakadisha@psjc.org)



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### **Lev Tahor: Meet City Council Member Brad Lander**

Friday, December 7 | 6:30PM

Join Lev Tahor, PSJC's all-sung, community-led Kabbalat Shabbat service to welcome Brad Lander, NY City Council Deputy Leader for Policy and co-founder of the Council's Progressive Caucus and #GETORGANIZEDBK, the grass-roots organization that aims to "defend democracy and human dignity, shine a light on corruption, resist hate and injustice, and love our neighbors." RSVP for the potluck dairy/vegetarian dinner here: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Dec7-2018>; bring your questions, local and national, along with a good appetite.

### **Rosh Chodesh Tevet Minyan**

Sunday, December 9 | 8:00AM

### **Hanukkah Art Fair**

Sunday, December 9 | 1:00PM-4:00PM | Hannah Senesh Community Day School, 342 Smith Street  
Visit the PSJC spot at the annual Community Chanukkah Art Fair. It will be filled with Art, Music and more; designed for children 2-10 years old.

### **PSJC Knitters**

Monday, December 10 | 7:30PM

For more information contact [marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com).

### **Café Ivrit**

Thursday, November 13 | 7:00PM-9:00PM

### **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>

### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, December 18 | 7:15PM

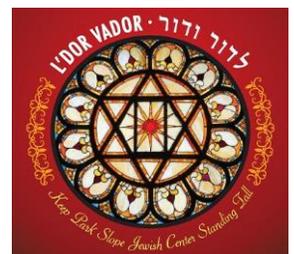
PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

### **Please Consider Making Your Contribution Today!**

Our **Annual Appeal** is an important part of our Shul's major fundraising effort during the course of the year. It is only with your continued support that we are able to maintain a high level of quality programming and services to meet the wide-ranging needs of our congregants.

We are grateful for every donation and pledge!

Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



**PSJC runs on community participation.** If you are interested in: **leading Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Services**, email [freddie.brooks@psjc.org](mailto:freddie.brooks@psjc.org); **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at [davening@psjc.org](mailto:davening@psjc.org); **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at [haftarah@psjc.org](mailto:haftarah@psjc.org), reading Torah, email Rabbi Sue Oren at [leyning@psjc.org](mailto:leyning@psjc.org). **To request an Aliyah or other honor**, email Rabbi Carter a week in advance ([rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ira.drucker@psjc.org).



## Parashat Vayeshev

Triennial: Genesis 39:1-40:23 | Etz Hayim p.237; Hertz p.147; Plaut p.257

Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8 | Etz Hayim p.246; Hertz p.152; Plaut p.352

### D'var Torah: Bad News & Fake News

There is no universal right way to tell someone bad news (at least that I know of; if you do, please share).

However, this week's parashah, Parashat Vayeshev can be read as a case study of different models for how to disclose unpleasant information.

On one extreme, we find Joseph, the truth-teller. Joseph tells it like it is, with no concern for the listener's sensibilities. Important to him is the communication of information. Unprompted, Joseph goes out of his way to let people know what he knows. We see this both times that Joseph discusses dreams.

In the first set of dreams, in Genesis 37, Joseph dreams and then immediately shares his dreams with his brothers and then with his father. At this point, it is unclear if Joseph understands the information he is sharing, if he knows that he is telling his family that, according to his dreams, they will be subservient to him. Nonetheless, his family quickly interprets the dreams as insulting to them. Joseph had been so committed to the idea of sharing the information that he either did not consider what effect the information might have on his family or he chose to ignore it.

In the second set of dreams, in Genesis 40, Joseph knows exactly what sort of information he is sharing. Joseph notices that his comrades are upset and volunteers his dream-interpretation services. However, this compassion does not extend to the way he relates the information he has to give. Joseph tells the baker he has three days left to live before he is impaled and his body is eaten by birds. He uses the same initial language he has used in interpreting the cupbearer's dream of restoration to his old position, starting with, "In three days time, Pharaoh will lift your head..." The cupbearer's head will be lifted and restored to its old position while the baker's head will be lifted clean off his body. After giving the baker a moment of hope that he might share in the cupbearer's good fortune, Joseph mercilessly reveals the information he has to give, with no regard for the one receiving the news. Judah and Tamar, in Genesis 38, are on the other side of the spectrum for how to relay information. Rather than telling the truth no matter the consequence, Tamar and Judah determine their desired consequences and then relay information that will lead to those consequences. While they are certainly more aware of how their news will affect the listener than Joseph is, their primary concern is not for the listener but for themselves. First, Judah, tells Tamar a half-truth, sending her home in order to try to preserve the life of his one remaining child. Tamar, in turn, wanting to ensure the continuation of her dead husband's line, manipulates the way she is perceived by presenting herself as a harlot.

Potiphar's wife, in Genesis 39, takes Judah and Tamar's art of manipulation to a new level. She no longer is presenting half-truths; she is lying, plain and simple. When Joseph refuses to sleep with her, she makes up a rape story, which she tells twice, once to the workers of the house and once to her husband. In keeping with her character, she manipulates the details in each telling, changing parts so as to elicit maximum sympathy.

There is another example in this week's parashah of how to disclose information, namely Reuben. In Genesis 37:22, Reuben pushes back against his brothers' plan to kill Joseph. He says to his murderous brothers, "Do not spill blood! Let us cast him into this pit here in the desert, and not cast a hand against him." The narrator adds, "So that he might rescue him from their hands to return him to his father." Here, Reuben successfully pursues his own agenda without lying to or disregarding the people to whom he speaks. However, although Reuben is successful in saving Joseph's life, he does not manage to implement the second, unspoken part of his plan.

As we read this parashah in an era of consistently bad news, take a moment to reflect on your style of disclosing information. Which of this week's models speaks to you? Is there perhaps a better way to do it?

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Bex Stern Rosenblatt**, *Conservative Yeshiva Faculty* "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.