



Friday, November 16 8 Kislev				Parashat Vayetze Saturday, November 17 9 Kislev		
New Members' Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:19PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Aileen & Abe 6:30PM Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner 6:30PM				New Members' Shabbat 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 BKLYN Madrichim Leadership Training 5:00PM - Offsite		
Sunday November 18 10 Kislev	Monday November 19 11 Kislev	Tuesday November 20 12 Kislev	Wednesday November 21 13 Kislev	Thursday November 22 14 Kislev	Friday November 23 15 Kislev	Saturday November 24 16 Kislev
Hebrew School 9:30AM 6th-8th Grade Social Action Program 12:30PM Intro to Judaism 7:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM PAI - Aging Issues Group 6:00PM Shir Chadash Choir 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM		PAI Walking Group 9:30AM Candle Lighting 4:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Vayishlach</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 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:

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 9-15 Kislev:

Bessie Risker, grandmother of Karen Barth; **David Moskowitz**, father of Martin Moskowitz; **Esther Tursky**, aunt of Marc Korashan; **Giti Spruchman**, grandmother of Jan Orzeck; **Marlene Schwartz**, wife of David Schwartz and mother of Deborah Schwartz; **Martin A. Radwell**, father of Steven Radwell; **Murray Rosenfeld**, father of Roberta Moskowitz; **Reuben Sperber**, father of Joel Sperber; **Rose Settler Frank**, grandmother of Elizabeth Schnur; **Samuel Allen Diamond**, husband of Carol Diamond. *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

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



November 16-24, 2018 | 8-16 Kislev 5779
Parashat Vayetze

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 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 | 444 12th Street #5B between 7th and 8th Avenues

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.

Friday, November 23

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>

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.

Monday, November 26

Rodfei Tzedek Planning Meeting | 7:00PM-8:00PM

PAI - Book Club | 7:30PM

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.



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Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 27 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

30 Days Later: Brooklyn Stands Together

Wednesday, November 28 | 7:30PM

Union Temple of Brooklyn - 17 Eastern Pkwy

An interfaith evening of song, comfort, connection, and building together towards a better world, one month after the mass shooting at Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA. Free and open to all. For more information:

<https://www.psjc.org/event/30-days-later-brooklyn-stands-together.html>

Friday, November 30

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

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM

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

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>

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 Vayetze

Triennial: Genesis 31:17-32:3 | Etz Hayim p.181; Hertz p.114

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10 | Etz Hayim p.188; Hertz p.118

D'var Torah: And Yaakov Left

“*Vayetse Yaakov*” - Yaakov left. He was a refugee, an immigrant, a foreigner in Paddan Aram.

Parashat Vayetze, begins as Yaakov, our father, fearing for his life, sets off to Chaldea leaving his home behind. He is fleeing domestic violence. His brother wants to kill him. His father can no longer protect him. Yaakov is alone and has nothing left to lose. He flees for his life in search of a new place. An old uncle may take him in. He is afraid, vulnerable and at the mercy of strangers. He uses a rock as a pillow. He has nothing.

It is only in this vulnerable state, leaving home heartbroken, uncertain for the future, and dependent on the help of others that he can encounter the divine in a dream: a ladder connecting our world to a hidden one. He has this vision on the way, in flight. Does the heaven he dreams of represent more than just survival? It was a dream of a world we can almost touch, just out of reach; an image of a world as it could be. How far is that heaven from our world? Just steps away. We are moving towards or away from our goals, up or down the ladder. We advance towards shelter, towards justice, towards freedom and towards hope, though many obstacles cause us to tumble downwards. Angels go up and down sending help and hidden messages.

When he wakes he knows that God was in this place, unknown. Each rung is connected to the next, linking all things together. Hidden in our world are signs of unity and compassion. Behind division is harmony. Behind fear is love. Behind blame is understanding, empathy, and forgiveness.

To teach us this empathy, the Torah imprints upon our nation's psyche the trauma of being a refugee, of fleeing one's native land. Since Adam and Eve, we have all been immigrants, banished from the Garden. Our fathers and mothers had desperate journeys, escaping famine, poverty, violence, war, oppression, and slavery. From their suffering we learn to love the stranger; to treat all people with respect. We were strangers once.

Adam and Eve left their home. In a ship, Noah left his home and his whole world behind. Avraham came from Ur. Yitzhak fled his home when famine approached. When he returned, he dug up old, abandoned wells. Yaakov, too, was a refugee.

The experience of being foreigners, of having no rights or protections afforded by peoplehood, teaches us compassion for those who are dispossessed, stateless and homeless; tired huddled masses, vulnerable and afraid, seeking refuge and asylum; the widow, the poor and the orphan; all of those vulnerable to exploitation. Yaakov learns this lesson the hard way. Dispossessed, stateless and homeless he was exploited. Not knowing the customs of the land, Lavan took advantage of him, tricking him into a life of unending servitude. Indentured and indebted, Yaakov experiences a form of economic slavery. He complained to Lavan of its unfairness only after he fled, after it had become unbearable. He increased Lavan's flock more than his own, paying for losses out of his own flock. He worked constantly. Day and night Lavan stole from him. “Often scorching heat-ravaged me by day and frost by night; and sleep fled from my eyes (Bereishit 31:40.)” He worked all the time for another man's benefit without rights and without a living wage.

The children of Israel were born in slavery. They had to seek freedom elsewhere. After twenty years of maltreatment and oppression, Yaakov uprooted his family to flee back home, again becoming a refugee, even at home.

Yaakov's servitude to Lavan taught him compassion for the stranger, for the plight of servants trapped in terminal debt, for the suffering of others enslaved. His redemption foreshadows the story of the people Israel's exodus from slavery. His experience, like that of our people, teaches us compassion for the stranger. Our history of persecution teaches us empathy for the persecuted.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Bill Shackman**, *Conservative Yeshiva Alum, 1996-1999* “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.