



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

November 23- December 1, 2018 | 15-23 Kislev 5779  
Parashat Vayishlach

Friday, November 23   15 Kislev				Parashat Vayishlach Saturday, November 24   16 Kislev		
Candle Lighting   4:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Alan Palmer</b>   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Advanced Talmud   1:30PM		
Sunday November 25 17 Kislev	Monday November 26 18 Kislev	Tuesday November 27 19 Kislev	Wednesday November 28 20 Kislev	Thursday November 29 21 Kislev	Friday November 30 22 Kislev	Saturday December 1 23 Kislev
	Rodfei Tzedek 7:00PM  PAI – Book Club 7:30PM	<b>#GIVING TUESDAY</b>  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Board Meeting 7:15PM  Shir Chadash Choir 7:30PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Gesher 6:15PM		PAI Walking Group 9:30AM  It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM  Candle Lighting 4:11PM  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b> 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Vayeshev</i>  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
<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)		

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Cathy Monblatt** and **Stewart Pravda** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

**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 16-22 Kislev:**

**Anne Werner**, mother of Warren Spielberg; **Assunta Senese**, mother of Carmela Senese; **Benjamin Levy**, father of Joel Levy; **Eileen Marks**, mother of Erica Ptohos; **Helene Huttner**, mother of Jan Lisa Huttner; **Mitchell Finger**, brother of Deborah Gordon; **Mitchell Gordon**, father of Andrew Gordon; **Molly Neumann**, aunt of Marilyn Kardeman; **Paul Glatman**, father of Joan Glatman; **Sidney Blumenfeld**, grandfather of Barry Blumenfeld; **Theodore Boro**, father of Diane Buxbaum; **Walter Schnitzler**, father of Mona Schnitzler.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

**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.



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### 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).

#### 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 aronhalb@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.

#### 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

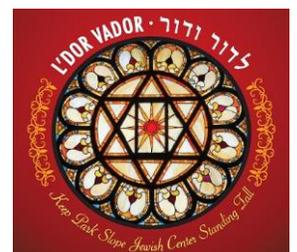
An interfaith evening of song, comfort, connection, and building together towards a better world, one month after the mass shooting at Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA. Free and open to all. For more information:

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

### Please Consider Making Your Contribution Today!

Our annual **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!



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

**Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM**

**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)

**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>

**Rosh Chodesh Tevet Minyan**

Sunday, December 9 | 8:00AM

**PSJC Knitters**

Monday, December 10 | 7:30PM

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

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊



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](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 Vayishlach

Triennial: Genesis 35:16-36:43 | Etz Hayim p. 214; Hertz p.130

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21 | Etz Hayim p.221; Hertz p.137

### D'var Torah: And Dinah Went Out

Remember that last job interview? That planned meeting with a friend or family member who has fallen out of touch? It's often the case that the days leading up to these big, expected life events are more stressful and emotionally burdensome than the event itself. Indeed, a quick google search for "job interview tips" is rather telling: the tips for preparation often outnumber the tips for the actual interview.

In this week's parashah we encounter our forebearer Yaakov, the ancestral master planner (schemer?). The parasha picks up with Yaakov on his way to see Esav, his estranged brother. According to the text, the last thing Yaakov heard about Esav was this cloudy warning from his mother Rivka back in Chapter 27: "When the words of her older son Esav were reported to Rebekah, she sent for her younger son Yaakov and said to him, 'Your brother Esav is consoling himself by planning to kill you'" (Genesis 27:42).

Skipping forward to our parashah in Chapter 32, it makes sense that we find Yaakov meticulously running around to prepare for this potentially life-threatening encounter. Yaakov divides his family and his flocks strategically into two camps, prepares hundreds of animals with which to propitiate Esav, and even instructs his servants on exactly what to say to Esav if they are the first to encounter him.

All is going according to plan; Yaakov and his family journey onward until they reach the River Yabok, when, in all of the tumult back and forth across the river, our Sages pick up on a peculiar textual inconsistency that rubs up against our understanding of Yaakov as preparer-in-chief. In Genesis 34:23, we read that Yaakov took "his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven children" across the Yabok. The problem, however, is that Yaakov had 12 children at this point, not 11, and the verse's explicit use of the word "children" as opposed to "sons" all the more so leads one to the conclusion that we're missing one soon-to-be important figure of Yaakov's progeny, Dinah.

We know from earlier in Genesis that Dinah was born prior to this happening at Yabok, so our Sages in Midrash Bereshit Rabbah ask the important question: "Where was Dinah?" Could it be that fastidious Yaakov simply left her behind? In a heartbreaking retelling of this narrative, the Midrash explains that "Yaakov placed her in a box and locked her inside, saying, 'This wicked man (Esav) has a wandering eye, and if he catches sight of her, he will take her away from me.'" In many ways, this move is in line with the scrupulous nature of Yaakov that was mentioned above, and yet, it feels distinctive and painfully familiar. This goes beyond meticulous preparation. Yaakov is caging in his daughter, restricting her movement and her body on an assumption of what might happen if she is free, thus disregarding the trauma that Dinah will actively experience while she is confined. We can understand and potentially even justify Yaakov's reasoning behind doing what he did, but instead of going down the path of apologetics, we should instead choose the path of our Sages, speaking up and calling out injustice. Our Midrash continues: "You (Yaakov) would not give her in marriage to a circumcised person (Esav), behold she is now married to an uncircumcised one (Shechem)! You would not give her through legitimate means of marriage, behold she is now taken in an illegitimate fashion! Thus it is written, 'And Dinah the daughter of Leah went out'" (Genesis 34:1).

Our Sages don't just inquire into Yaakov's behavior, they spell out its consequences. By withholding and reducing Dinah down to a precious commodity for his own sake, not hers, Yaakov ultimately creates the conditions necessary for Dinah to "go out" in Chapter 34, encountering the exact situation that Yaakov wished to protect her from.

Preparation and attention to detail will always be an important and relevant step in becoming who we want to be, but we must continually ask ourselves, am I perceiving the full picture? How can I account for both myself and the ones I love? Our Sages warn against the experience of being so caught up in one future iteration of the self ("He will take her away **from me**"), that we lose sight of the implications our actions have on others ("And Dinah the daughter of Leah **went out**"). Much like our Sages speak up for Dinah, so too is it incumbent upon us to do the same.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Max Edwards**, *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>.