



**PARK  
SLOPE  
JEWISH  
CENTER**

January 25 - February 2, 2019 | 19-27 Shevat 5779  
Parashat Yitro

Friday, January 25   19 Shevat				Parashat Yitro Saturday, January 26   20 Shevat		
Candle Lighting   4:47PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Elizabeth Schnur</b>   6:30PM Teen Dinner (Offsite)   7:00PM				<b>Simcha Shabbat</b> Havurat Shabbat   9:30AM Shacharit with <b>Judy Ribnick</b>   10:00AM Jr. Congregation   11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   11:15AM Advanced Talmud   1:30PM <b>Mincha - Nora Septimus Bat Mitzvah   3:00PM</b>		
Sunday January 27 21 Shevat	Monday January 28 22 Shevat	Tuesday January 29 23 Shevat	Wednesday January 30 24 Shevat	Thursday January 31 25 Shevat	Friday February 1 26 Shevat	Saturday February 2 27 Shevat
Hebrew School 9:30AM					PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM	<i>Parashat Mishpatim</i>
Torah Talk with Reba 3:30PM			Morning Minyan 7:15AM	Biblical Hebrew 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 4:55PM	Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM
Intro to Judaism 2:30PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	PAI Book Club 7:30PM	Lev Tahor with <b>Cornelia Dalton</b> 6:30PM	Shacharit   10:00AM
Shir Hadash Concert (Offsite) 7:00PM						<b>Dafna &amp; Meital Breyette B'not Mitzvah</b>
						Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   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 **Nora, Agnethe, Matthew** and **Ezra** on Nora's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**Today Rabbah**

To **Freddie Brooks** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund in honor of her 60th birthday.

To **Agnethe** and **Matthew** for sponsoring Seudah Shlishit in honor of **Nora's** Bat Mitzvah during Mincha Services this Shabbat.

To **Ellen** and **Gary Briefel** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Eden Wofsey, Rabbi Carie, Noa** and family on the death of Eden's father, **David Wofsey**, z"l.

**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.

**Yahrzeits observed 20-26 Shevat:**

**Celia Kalet**, mother of Adina Kalet; **Esther Rose Mehlman**, cousin of Angela Weisl; **Frieda Krasner**, mother of Bonnie Ullman; **Heshel Rosenfeld**, father of Fay Rosenfeld; **John Robinson Holmes**, uncle of Peter Holmes; **Joseph Katarivas**, father of Stephanie Katarivas; **Mary Sandler**, grandmother of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Mildred Drucker**, grandmother of Ira Drucker; **Milton Alter**, father of Daniel Alter; **Mischa Zimmerman**, cousin of Esther Schwalb; **Morris Daffner**, great uncle of Stuart Baron; **Sally Groom**, mother of Scott Groom; **Sidney Rosen**, father of David Rosen; **Warren Lionel Schnur**, father of Elizabeth Schnur and Rosanne Milic; **Zara Diamond**, mother-in-law of Carol Diamond. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



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### **MLK Day of Service: Gratitude for the Multitude**

4000+ servings of shelf-stable soup. 100s of portions of baked ziti, chili, chickpea stew and quiche for the shul freezers. 500 PB&J sandwiches. Hundreds of snack kits and toiletry kits for the Family Justice Center; two dozen boxes of kids' books for Brooklyn Legal Aid; dozens of gorgeous "stained-glass" crafts, hand-made for God's Love We Deliver; knitted washcloths for the FJC; dozens and dozens of bags of used clothing; almost 200 letters in support of refugee rights. This great work would never have happened without the nearly 200 volunteers who came out on a cold and soggy day to "pray with our hands" and work together for a better Brooklyn. Sincere thanks to the MLK Working Group and volunteers -- **Florence Hutner, Grace Kerr, Carol Levy, Esther Schwalb, Julia Birnbaum, Amy Sandgrund, Renanit Levy, Leslie Salzman, Marjorie Rothenberg, Lynda Kaplan, Jane Dorlester, Anna Newcombe, Laura Wolff, Rachel Danzing, Sarah Josephson, Aileen Heiman, the amazing Abby Moskowitz** (staffing the cooking station for her first MLK Day) and **Dina Nadler**, who, as a most welcome addition to MLK leadership, brings extraordinary warmth and down-to-earth smarts. With gratitude for our community, and to our intrepid shleppers, we thank all who participated!! Here's to 2020!

**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)

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

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](mailto: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, Art Conservators Reba Snyder and Rachel Danzing 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.

### **PAI Book Club: "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward**

Thursday, January 31

Sign up here: [https://www.psjc.org/dashboard/event\\_setup.php?id=737274&ret=page](https://www.psjc.org/dashboard/event_setup.php?id=737274&ret=page)

### **Hungry for Justice: Learn with Rabbinic Intern Cornelia Dalton**

Friday, February 1 | 6:30PM

Hungry for more than basic sustenance? Join Lev Tahor, PSJC's all-sung, community-led, Kabbalat Shabbat service, where we'll learn about feeding the hungry and fixing the world with Rabbinic Intern Cornelia Dalton. We'll delve into sources on food justice in Jewish tradition, after we share a dairy/pareve pot luck. RSVP <https://tinyurl.com/feb1-19>. All voices welcome!

**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).



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Sunday, February 3

**Hebrew School Yom Iyyun Tzedek** | 9:30AM

**2019 Shaarei Mitzvah Tzedakah Fair** | *Programming begins at 9:30AM, fair runs from 11:00AM - 11:45AM*

The PSJC Annual Tzedakah Fair happens each February as part of a morning of learning about Tzedek (justice) and Tzedakah. Our 6th grade Shaarei Mitzvah, bnai mitzvah cohort, students each choose an organization to research and raise money for. PSJC community members of all ages and their friends bring their tzedakah boxes from home and contribute to a wide range of causes. Read below for organizations supported in past years.

**Davening Workshop** | 1:00PM

Have you always wanted to lead a part of the service? Come to Avodah's Davening Workshop and work one-on-one with an experienced davener who can help get you up to Speed. There will be snacks to boost your energy, and a chance to sign up to lead services after you've boosted your skills. Let us know what you want to learn, from Shacharit to Musaf, the Torah Service to Hallel, and we'll find you a buddy to work with. RSVP to Angela Weisl:

angela.weisl@shu.edu

**Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim** | 4:00PM-6:00PM

We will use our Hebrew to cook delicious food and then share those treats at a meal. It is a great way to hang out with friends, meet new people, hone your cooking skills, practice your Hebrew and have a great time with our shinshinim. Great for children and adults alike. Contact Rabbi Carie Carter at [rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org) to let us know you are coming.

**Rosh Hodesh Adar I Minyan**

Tuesday, February 5 | 7:00AM

Wednesday, February 6 | 7:00AM

**Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu**

Friday, February 8 | 6:30PM

Join Abe and Aileen for a musical Friday night service, followed by a supplemented potluck dinner. This month we are celebrating with the 5th grade families! Everyone is invited to join for a relaxing, all-ages service and meal. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

**Book Discussion - *Call It Sleep***

Saturday, February 9 | 1:30PM

Join us when Hunter College English professor and longtime PSJC member Sarah Chinn leads us in a discussion of ***Call It Sleep*** by Henry Roth, a classic of immigrant fiction and the story of David Schearl, the "dangerously imaginative" child coming of age in the slums of the 1930s Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Saturday, February 16

**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](mailto: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, February 26 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

## Parashat Yitro

Triennial: Exodus 18:1-20:22/3 | Etz Hayim p.432; Hertz p.288; Plaut p.508

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7; 9:5-6 | Etz Hayim p.451; Hertz p.302; Plaut p.710

### D'var Torah: An Outsider's Gift

Yitro (Jethro) the priest of Midian, Moshe's father-in-law, meets the Israelites in the desert just before the revelation at Mount Sinai. He hears about their miraculous escape from Egypt and Blesses God for that deliverance. The next day he observes Moshe becoming exhausted by standing alone in judgment over the people and makes suggestions as to how Moshe might behave differently.

Shemot 18:10 is the verse where Yitro Blesses God for the Exodus:

וַיֹּאמֶר יִתְרוֹ בְרוּךְ יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד פַּרְעֹה אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶת־הָעָם מִתַּחַת יַד מִצְרַיִם:

*And Yitro said "Blessed be the LORD who saved you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, and who saved the people from under the hand of the Egyptians"*

The Talmud (B'rachot 54a) picks up on this blessing and asserts that Yitro sets the precedent for a particular genre of Jewish liturgy:

MISHNAH: If you see a place where miracles have been done for Israel, you should say, "Blessed be He who did miracles for our ancestors in this place" ...

TALMUD Where does this rule come from? Rabbi Yochanan said: Because it says in the Torah - "*And Yitro said, blessed be the Lord who saved...*"

Shemot 18:17 is the verse where Yitro tells off Moshe for his impossibly unsustainable management style:

וַיֹּאמֶר חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה אֵלָיו לֹא־טוֹב הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עוֹשֶׂה:

*But Moshe's father-in-law said to him, "The thing you are doing is not good..."*

Yitro's language here mirrors the only other place in the whole Torah where something is referred to as "not good" - "Lo Tov". In Genesis chapter 2 verse 18 God says that "*It is not good (Lo Tov) that the human should be alone*".

Yitro is given a very significant role in both of these cases. In the first, he is privileged to have not been present at the Exodus itself. Those present at, and saved by, the sea-shattering spectacle of the departure from Egypt might have been assumed to be able to Bless God's name for their deliverance. Such blessings might have flowed from their lips as they recalled what their own eyes had seen. Yitro was not there and yet he was capable of acknowledging God's role in those events. It is only he, the loving perspicacious outsider, who can teach us how to see through contemporary realities, peering back through the mists of time and distance to find words of praise. His absence blesses him and reveals his religious gifts. Only a non-Israelite can teach us those skills.

In the second case, Yitro is presented as having a God-like capacity to see the deficiencies in the world and to declare them as such with evocatively divine language. Yitro sees that Moshe's role in the nation, created by his uniquely intimate relationship with God, reflects Adam's existential loneliness in the opening chapters of Genesis. If Moshe is the only one to have spoken directly with God how could he ever consider creating intermediaries who could authentically judge the people? How would the people ever call for or accept judgement that came from the hearts of other humans rather than from the mouth of The Almighty? Only Yitro can see from the outside that Moshe's intimacy with God, left unchecked, would destroy both him and the nation.

We need wise people who can stand on the outside and look inwards towards us with love. We need to have the courage to listen to the voices of those who are not us but who observe us, bless what deserves to be blessed and criticize us where we cannot see our own failings. And we also need to learn to play that role for others too; daring to see others as they cannot see themselves. As the centrifugal forces of the spinning world threaten to push us to places where we intuit that we cannot or should not talk to each other's strengths and weaknesses, blessings, and curses, Yitro reminds us that truth is truth, regardless of whose tongue speaks it, and that cultures are not, and must not consider themselves, impenetrable self-contained worlds.

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