



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

August 18-26, 2017 | 26 Av-4 Elul, 5777
Parashat Re'eh Shabbat HaChodesh

Friday, August 18 26 Av				Parashat Re'eh Shabbat HaChodesh Saturday, August 19 27 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Erik Lieber 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:31PM				Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM		
Sunday August 20 28 Av	Monday August 21 29 Av	Tuesday August 22 30 Av	Wednesday August 23 1 Elul	Thursday August 24 2 Elul	Friday August 25 3 Elul	Saturday August 26 4 Elul
	A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah 9:00AM	A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah 9:00AM	Rosh Chodesh Minyan 7:00AM A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah 9:00AM	A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah 9:00AM	A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah 9:00AM Pop-up Shabbat in the Park 4:30PM Kabbalat Shabbat with David Rosen 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:21PM	<i>Shabbat Shoftim</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Natan Birnbaum Bar Mitzvah 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, PSJC's Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrator (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Erik Lieber, on the death of his cousin, **Jonathan Aubrey**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 26 Av-4 Elul:

Barbara Ettlinger, sister-in-law of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Barbara Stein**, mother of Elyse Meyerson; **Harriet Harris Winston**, friend of Carol Diamond; **Helaine Landau**, mother of Lisa Landau; **Hyman Honig**, grandfather of Les Honig; **Ian Michael Yoffie**, brother of Sharman Yoffie-Sidman; **Isaac Halberstam**, father of Aron Halberstam; **Israel Wollin**, grandfather of Les Honig; **Max Schuman**, grandfather of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Michael Pollack**, father of David Pollack; **Nancy Monblatt**, mother of Cathy Monblatt; **Seymour Altman**, friend of Eve Blatt; **Sol Tursky**, uncle of Marc Korashan; **Sylvia Altshuler**, mother of Lisa Altshuler. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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 **\$11.00 per jar plus \$4.00** for shipping and handling within the United States.

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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Please Consider Making Your Contribution Today!

We now call upon all members to join our **\$750,000** Capital Campaign to provide **immediate repairs** and to ensure that PSJC continues to stand strong well into the 21st century!

Please stand up and generously donate to maintain and preserve our cherished spiritual home for this and future generations.

We are grateful for every donation and pledge!

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



PSJC Knitters is on hiatus during July and August and will resume in September. For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, August 19 | 1:30PM

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 dairy or pareve 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).

Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan

Wednesday, August 23 | 7:00AM

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, August 26 | 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 aronrhalf@gmail.com

Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2017-2018
Email aileen.heiman@psjc.org for more information.

Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

Renew your membership today! It's easy and can all be done online.

Visit www.psjc.org and log in to your account.

We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC!

We would love to get to 100% participation.

Please contact Eli Wolfhagen by email treasurer@psjc.org, if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

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

A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah

August 21-25 | 9:00AM-3:00PM

Ha'Sadnah (Hebrew for "The Workshop") is a boutique children's art program run by designer, Jordyn Jacobs, and artist, Reut Asimini.

Ha'Sadnah art programs are designed to spark each child's creativity and to encourage curiosity and a handmade approach.

Our craft program will focus on textile arts, including sewing, embroidery, and knitting.

Registration is required.

Please visit: <https://www.psjc.org/event/a-back-to-school-hasadnah.html#>



In Search Of A Few PSJCers to Help Organize the Fall Music Concert.

While it's not exactly "plug & play," the concert is not a complicated event to put together. As one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, it can be incredibly fulfilling....and fun to plan. In the past, we've had David Broza and the expert jazz sounds of Yotam Silberstein. Help make this year's concert enjoyable and profitable. Contact rfsnyder@gmail.com for more information.

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. **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. **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 hevradkadisha@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 Re'eh Shabbat HaChodesh



Triennial (Deuteronomy 11:26-12:28): Etz Hayim p. 1061; Hertz p. 799
Haftarah (Isaiah 54:11-55:5): Etz Hayim p. 1085; Hertz p. 818

Tsdaka – When Giving is Receiving

The late Rabbi Pinchas Peli of Jerusalem told the story of the soldiers being inducted into the US Army. The drill sergeant took attendance the first day: Callaghan? “Here.” DeMarco? “Here.” Liebowitz? “Fifty dollars.”

Tsdaka is deeply rooted in the Jewish tradition and the Jewish community. Jews have long been noted as donors to charity far out of proportion to their share of the population.

It is unlikely that this is the natural human instinct – we hoard, we protect what we have. Sheli, sheli; shelcha shelcha – “what’s mine is mine; what’s yours is yours,” it says in Pirkei Avot (5:12) – that’s the approach of your average bloke. Giving, sharing with others, particularly those we don’t know, is a later evolutionary stage; it’s an acquired “taste,” not what we’d normally do. We have to condition ourselves, to teach it to our children, which is best done by example. I have a cousin who told me years ago, “I learned to give from my parents; they always gave.” Tsdaka reminds us the good fortune we have has come through Divine assistance and we should try to advance tzedek, justice, in the world by sharing.

The Ten Commandments are considered by many religions, and by many nonreligious people as well, to be a summary of the fundamental laws for a civil society – don’t kill, steal, do adultery, or give false witness. But we don’t find a duty to help the poor in the language of the Ten Commandments.

The Rabbis read the Torah differently. Rashi says that all 613 mitzvot are implicitly contained in the Ten Commandments, and Saadya Gaon (10th C Babylonia) assigned each mitzvah to a specific Commandment. Tsdaka comes within the 6th Commandment – You shall not murder. The Shulchan Orech explains the connection: One must be very careful about the mitzvah of tsadaka, because one can actually spill another’s blood, if the poor person who requests help dies because the person who was asked delays in giving help. This is one of the reasons why we do not make the blessing for fulfilling a mitzvah before giving charity, lest the poor person waiting suffer more even for this short delay.

The Talmud tells about a fellow named Binyamin HaTsaddik (“the righteous one”), and remember that the description “tsaddik” is rarely used and that this story is the only thing we know about Binyamin.

Binyamin HaTsaddik was in charge of the charity fund in his town. One day, during years of drought, a woman came to him and said: ‘Sir, help me.’

He replied, ‘I give you my word under oath; there is not a penny in the charity fund.’ She said, ‘Sir, if you do not help me, a woman and her seven children will perish.’ He reached into his own pocket and gave her assistance.

Why does the Talmud call Binyamin a tsaddik? Because he did not delay, he did not tell the woman in need to “submit a written request, you can download the form at the website. The Committee will meet next week.” He helped her on the spot, from his own pocket. And if she was desperate, (it was a time of great drought), we also know that Binyamin and the others in the town was also suffering very hard times; this was a poor, agricultural society. He gave from his table. His family had less to eat because they gave to help others. May we never know the poverty that Binyamin HaTsaddik and his contemporaries had to face, but may we be guided by his example.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, from the “Torah Sparks” series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, Coordinator, Torah Sparks, CY, Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>