



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

March 30-April 6, 2018 | 14-22 Nissan 5778
Shabbat Pesach

Friday, March 30 14 Nissan				Shabbat Pesach Saturday, March 31 15 Nissan		
1st Seder Erev Pesach				1st Day of Pesach 2nd Seder		
Candle Lighting 7:00PM No Kabbalat Shabbat Services				Shabbat Pesach Services 10:00AM		
Sunday April 1 16 Nissan	Monday April 2 17 Nissan	Tuesday April 3 18 Nissan	Wednesday April 4 19 Nissan	Thursday April 5 20 Nissan	Friday April 6 21 Nissan	Saturday April 7 22 Nissan
2nd Day of Pesach Pesach Services 10:00AM	3rd Day of Pesach	4th Day of Pesach	5th Day of Pesach Hol Hamoed Minyan 7:00AM	6th Day of Pesach	7th Day of Pesach Pesach Services 10:00AM Office Closed Candle Lighting 7:08PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Carter	8th Day of Pesach Shabbat Pesach Service includes Yizkor 10:00AM Book Club 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) 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 **Mindi Wernick** and **Malkie Grozalsky** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Mindi's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Bunny Buxbaum and her daughter, **Audrey Buxbaum** and family on the death of their sister & aunt, **Sharlene Harris**, z"l.

Michelle Krochmal and family on the death of her father, **Frederick Krochmal**, z"l.

Susan Karwoska and family on the death of her father, **Robert Karwoska**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 15-21 Nissan:

Abraham Abramson, uncle of Steve Elworth; **Dave Ruben**, grandfather of Harolyn Cohen; **Dr. Manuel Wolf Friedman**, father of Rabbi Jeni Friedman; **Ed Moch**, father of Yehudit Moch; **Edward Ettlinger**, father of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Embree Potts**, father of Tori Rosen; **Gerald Green**, father of Gail Green-Anderson; **Harold Schreiber**, father of Sally Balick; **Irving Mandel**, grandfather of Jenna Mandel-Ricci; **Jack Chernick**, father of Howard Chernick; **Leontine Friedman**, grandmother of Naomi Schrag; **Martha Kamen**, mother of Julia Kamen Birnbaum; **Robert Rosenblum**, father of Michele Siegel; **Suzanne Schepps**, mother of Richard Lefkowitz; **Yaakov Ulman**, father of Abraham Ulman. *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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org.



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“AN EVENING IN MARGARITAVILLE” ~ SIGN UP TODAY! PSJC Auction & Tropical Party

Saturday, April 14 | 8:15PM

Slip on your flip flops, pop on your aloha shirt and join us for some tropical fun! Delicious margaritas & sangria, yummy desserts & live music, plus exciting live & silent auctions to benefit PSJC! Supervised kiddie fun available nearby--at Hootenanny play space! Sign up at: www.psjc.org/form/auction-sponsor-registration-.html for sponsorship, tickets, childcare and/or dessert raffle tickets. Contact us at auction@psjc.org to help with the event. Want to advertise or donate an auction item? Visit: psjc.org/evening-in-margaritaville. Hope to see you there. Should be a blast!

Book club: *The Man Who Never Stopped Sleeping* (האיש שלא פסק לישון)

Saturday, April 7 | 1:30PM

Join us on the Shabbat before Yom Ha Shoah and a week and a half before Israel's Memorial and Independence Days, when we will discuss the late Aharon Appelfeld's semi-autobiographical novel *The Man Who Never Stopped Sleeping* (האיש שלא פסק לישון).

Mimuna

Sunday, April 8 | 4:00PM

Our first Post-Passover Moroccan Jewish Celebration! Eat, sing, dance and enjoy! Cook delicious Moroccan pastries. Dance to Moroccan music. Crafts, cooking and fun for kids. For more information or to RSVP, please contact rabbicarie@psjc.org.

The Rabbi Who Killed His Purim Guest: An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year

Monday, April 9, 16, 23 and 30 | 12:00PM

Join Leora Kling Perkins, as we follow the Jewish year by reading selections of the Talmud related to Jewish holidays. We'll learn about who the rabbis were and what they were doing when they created the Talmud.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, April 9 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

Sing, Shmooze and Play at Lev Tahor

Friday, April 13 | 6:30PM

Lev Tahor, PSJC's all-sung, lay-led Kabbalat Shabbat, welcomes friends familiar and new! This April 13, an annual favorite: Game Night!! Bring your board games and a dairy/pareve dish to share at a Lev Tahor that's particularly family-friendly (Apples to Apples, anyone?). Thanks in advance for avoiding electronics and mechanics that aren't Shabbos-appropriate. RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Apr13-18> for dinner and services so our wonderful staff can set up for a song- and game-filled night at PSJC.

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, April 14 | 1:20PM

When it was written in the 12th Century, Maimonides' Mishneh Torah changed the landscape of Rabbinic literature, and has since served as one of the great authoritative codes of Jewish Law. This is a monthly study session with Rabbi Carter, please email rabbicarie@psjc.org for information about this study group.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar Minyan

Sunday, April 15 | 8:00AM

Monday, April 16 | 7:00AM

Rodfei Tzedek Action

Sunday, April 15 | 12:00PM

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



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Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, April 21 | 10:00AM

Join us as we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their April birthdays & anniversaries. They will receive a special blessing during the Torah service and we will all enjoy a lovely Simcha Shabbat Kiddush (cake included)! Please update your PSJC account and add your birthdays and anniversaries so we may send you a personal invitation in the future.

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, April 21 | 1:00PM

Join other fluent Hebrew speakers after services where we will have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Contact Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, April 21 | 1:30PM

Our community is invited to a vegetarian pot-luck lunch following service and Kiddush. This is a child-friendly home. The kishkush Hebrew conversation can continue at the Shmooze. Please join us!

Communal Yom Ha Shoah

Wednesday, April 11 | 7:00PM | Brooklyn Heights Synagogue - 131 Remsen Street

Join us for the Brownstone Brooklyn Holocaust Remembrance Day Service. A Contemporary *Yom Ha Shoah* Evening Service & *Musical Reflections on Loss and Hope*.

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony

Tuesday, April 17 | 7:00PM | PSJC

Join us as we observe Israel's Memorial Day together as a community.

Shuk Machaneh Yehudah – Yom HaAtzmaut Communal Celebration

Wednesday, April 18 | 6:30PM | Kane Street Synagogue - 236 Kane Street

Come and join us in our celebrations for Israel@70. This year, we are bringing Israel's famous market to town (Machaneh Yehudah Shuk) with taste of Israel's cuisine & Israeli wine alongside with Israeli music. We will enjoy special guest speaker Gil Hovav who is Israel's leading culinary journalist and personality, Gil comes from one of the most respected lineages in the Jewish world: the great-grandson of Eliezer Ben Yehudah, the reviver of the Hebrew language; grandson of Itamar Ben-Avi, who launched modern Hebrew journalism; and the son of Moshe & Drora Hovav, "founding members" of Israel's modern day public radio. Gil has played a major role in the remaking of Israeli cuisine and transformation of Israel from a country of basic traditional foods into a "gourmet nation". Please make sure to RSVP your spot in the following link- <https://goo.gl/jHHbsY> spaces are limited!

Yom Israel

Sunday, April 22 | 10:00AM | Hannah Senesh Community Day School - 342 Smith Street

A festival for the whole family tour Israel, see live performances, enjoy great food and help us celebrate Israel as a community. Contact rabbicarie@psjc.org to volunteer.

Hadag Nahash in Concert

Wednesday, May 2 | 8:00PM | East Midwood Jewish Center - 1625 Ocean Avenue

We are very excited to start the tickets selling for the concert of Hadag Nahash. Purchase tickets:

<http://teev.simplertix.com/Show/34482/BrooklynCelebratesIsraelHad/>. Your cost is \$36 instead of \$56, using PSJC members' promo code.

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. **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.



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Torah: Exodus 12:21-51 | Etz Hayim p.385; Hertz p.257

Maftir: Numbers 28:16-25 | Etz Hayim p.931; Hertz p.695

Haftarah: Joshua 3:5-7, 5:2-2-6:1, 6:27 | Etz Hayim p.1300; Hertz p.1009

D'var Torah: The Message of Pesach is not Just Freedom

There is a tendency in our world to universalize the message of Pesach, turning it into a holiday about freedom for all people everywhere, and not just a celebration of the Israelites leaving their servitude in Egypt. And indeed, as Jews, we should actively seek an end to slavery and other forms of oppression, not just for our particular religio-ethnic group, but for all people.

But while freedom is, and should be, a universal value, Pesach is a chance for us to celebrate our particular history. It is a chance for us to remember where we came from, how we, the Israelites/Jews came out of Egypt, how we ate the pesach sacrifice on that night and later on in Jerusalem at the Temple, how we eventually sat down at the seder table and ate a festive, Greco-Roman style banquet, and how our particular, quirky customs morphed as Jews moved all over the world.

One particular example of how a food can encapsulate all of the particularities of Jewish history is the marmor. In the Torah, we are told to eat the pesach sacrifice with marmor, but unlike the sacrifice itself and the matzah that accompanies it, we are not told why. In the Torah, marmor has no symbolic meaning. In all likelihood marmor, from its name some kind of bitter herb, was simply a wild spice used by nomads to improve the flavor of the lamb or goat.

Following the destruction of the Temple the rabbis of the Mishnah made several important decisions with regard to the marmor. First of all, they decided that Jews should continue eating it. This should not be taken for granted. After all, marmor accompanied the sacrifice, and since the pesach was not to be eaten, maybe the marmor should be treated the same. Second, they gave marmor a symbolic meaning, connecting it with the bitter experience the Israelites had in Egypt. Third, they decided that lettuce should be the preferred form of marmor, for lettuce, by that time cultivated to taste much better than its wild counterpart, was a common Greco-Roman food.

In northern parts of Europe, lettuce was not available in early spring, so Jews gradually began to turn to alternatives, specifically *meerrettich* or the misnamed horseradish in English. At first, Jews ate the leaves of this plant, which do sprout up early in the season. But quickly they began to eat the root, which after all, is the most significant part of the plant. Horseradish is not bitter, but still, what else could these Jews do when lettuce was not available? Sephardi Jews, who lived in warmer climates where lettuce was available by spring time, never changed the custom of eating lettuce for marmor.

The final chapter in marmor's history is happening now in Israel and to a lesser extent in the Diaspora. Israel's population is roughly half of Ashkenazi descent and half of Sephardi descent, but for several generations these populations have been mixing. Today in Israel most Jews, regardless of background, eat lettuce as marmor, taking advantage of its easy availability to perform the mitzvah with rabbinic literature's preferred vegetable.

So when the Haggadah has us ask "This marmor that we eat, what is it for?" we can not only answer with the story of the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of liberation, we can tell the story of our people's particular journeys since then: We began as a nomadic people, our ancestors being simple shepherds. When our Temple was destroyed, we began to adopt many of the customs of the Greeks and Romans among whom we lived. Later in history those who would become known as the Ashkenazim left the Middle East and settled throughout Europe, causing massive change in their customs. Finally, with the return to the land of Israel, the split between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jewry is gradually ending, and we face new challenges and opportunities.

To me, this is what Pesach, and perhaps all of Judaism, is about - connecting nomos and narrative, rules and stories, so that we can find the universal in the particular, and the timeless in the timely.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Dr. Joshua Kulp**, *Rosh Yeshiva & Conservative Yeshiva Faculty* from the "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.