



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

July 14-22, 2017 | 20-28 Tammuz, 5777 Shabbat Pinchas

Friday, July 14   20 Tammuz				Shabbat Pinchas Saturday, July 15   21 Tammuz		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Elizabeth Schnur</b>   7:00PM Candle Lighting   8:08PM				Shabbat Morning Services   10:00AM Shabbat Shmooze   1:30PM		
Sunday July 16 22 Tammuz	Monday July 17 23 Tammuz	Tuesday July 18 24 Tammuz	Wednesday July 19 25 Tammuz	Thursday July 20 26 Tammuz	Friday July 21 27 Tammuz	Saturday July 22 28 Tammuz
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Rabbi Carie Carter/Eden Wofsey</b> 7:00PM  Candle Lighting 8:04PM	Shabbat <i>Matot-Masei</i>  Shacharit   10:00AM  Advanced Talmud 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, PSJC's Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrative Assistant (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Mo Weissfellner, Ellen Spilka** and their children, **Charlie, Harry** and **Paul** on the death of **Mo's** mother, **Irene Rachel Weissfellner**, z"l.

The family of our former PSJC member, **Myra Rosenbaum**, z"l.

**Yahrzeits observed 21-27 Tammuz:**

**Anna Urban**, observed by the PSJC community; **Barry Zaretsky**, husband of Joan Glatman; **Charles Abramson**, father of Elaine Elworth and grandfather of Steve Elworth; **David Palmer**, grandfather of Alan Palmer; **Florence Thomases**, mother of Matt Thomases; **Gabriel Brahm**, father of Laura Brahm; **Harold Zelko**, father of Gary Zelko; **Ida Schwartz**, grandmother of Eve Blatt; **Irwin Septimus**, father of Matthew Septimus and husband of Carrie Septimus; **Jennie Honig**, grandmother of Les Honig; **Joseph Blustein**, father of Jeffrey Blustein; **Merwin Levine**, father of Mindy Levine; **Mildred Cantor**, aunt of Samuel Hornick; **Paul Gundersheim**, father of Ellen Briefel; **Robert Rubenstein**, father-in-law of Ilene Rubenstein; **Sam Levine**, grandfather of Yehudit Moch; **William Bayard Miller**, father of Richard Miller. *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** which includes shipping and handling within the United States.

We will gladly mail orders outside the United States for an additional fee.



Order by **Monday, July 24** for free shipping! For more information and to order at: <http://orthoney.com/psj>

**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

## 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](mailto:marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com)

### Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, July 15 | 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](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org), with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

### Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 22 | 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](mailto:aronrhalf@gmail.com)

## Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2017-2018  
Email [aileen.heiman@psjc.org](mailto: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](http://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. No amount is too big or too small.

Please contact Eli Wolfhagen by email [treasurer@psjc.org](mailto:treasurer@psjc.org), if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

**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).

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



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### **PSJC Trip to the Center for Jewish History**

Tuesday, July 25 | 6:00PM | 15 West 16th Street, Manhattan

Joel Levy invites interested PSJC members to visit an extraordinary exhibition presented by Corpus Christi College, Oxford; the Center for Jewish History; & Yeshiva University Museum. The free special tour is followed by a talk by Gerard Baker, editor in chief of The Wall Street Journal (media sponsor of the exhibition) who will speak at 6:30PM on "News and Journalism in the Age of Trump." A reception will follow.

**To RSVP or for more information send an email to [jkaplan@cjh.org](mailto:jkaplan@cjh.org).**

The exhibition, "500 Years of Treasures from Oxford" showcases in America for the first time an extraordinary array of ancient manuscripts, books, and silver, including what has been called "the most important collection of Anglo-Jewish manuscripts in the world."

The 50 works include a late 12th-century Ashkenazi siddur, thought to be the oldest extant anywhere, that was owned by a Sephardic Jew from the Iberian Peninsula who emigrated to England and wrote notes on his business dealings in Judeo-Arabic, a 13th-century manuscript of Samuel and Chronicles that was used by Christians to learn Hebrew, and two of the oldest manuscripts of Rashi.

### **Tisha B'Av Services**

Monday, July 31 | 9:00PM

Tuesday, August 1 | 7:00AM

Tisha B'Av (the 9th day of Av) is observed this year on Monday evening, July 31st and Tuesday morning August 1st. Please join us for a stirring and evocative service. Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of both the first and second Temples, but over time, other Jewish tragedies have become connected to this date. Tisha B'Av, traditionally a fast day (fasting from sunset to the appearance of 3 stars the next night), is observed on Monday night by a relatively brief moving service in which we sit low or on the floor (like mourners) and read Eichah (Lamentations) - which is chanted to a particularly haunting melody. This is followed by the singing of kinot (similarly moving songs and elegies). We dim the lights and read by candles and flashlights. On Tuesday morning we read Torah and chant kinot as well.

### **Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan**

Wednesday, August 23 | 7:00AM

### **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#>



**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](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).

## Shabbat Pinchas

Triennial (Numbers 25:10-26:51): Etz Hayim p. 918; Hertz p. 686

Haftarah (Jeremiah 1:2-2:3): Etz Hayim p. 968; Hertz p. 710

## Pinchas, Vampires and Immortality

As I write this d'var Torah, I am reading a modern re-telling of the vampire myth called *The Historian* (by Elizabeth Kostova). Vampires are to an extent immortal, and can only be killed by a stake to the heart or extreme exposure to light. I will admit to a certain fascination with the notion of immortality and I will even admit to having read Anne Rice's campy Vampire Lestat series when I was younger.

There are several biblical characters to whom ancient Jews ascribed immortality. One of them is Pinchas, the eponymous hero of our parsha. After having killed the Israelite Zimri and the Midianite Cozbi for fornicating, God's promises Pinchas, "It shall be for him and his descendants after him a pact of priesthood for all time, because he took impassioned action for his God, vachaper and atoned (or 'will atone') for the Israelites" (Numbers 25:13). The strange thing about this verse is that Pinchas was already a priest and the priesthood descends genealogically. Pinchas seems to be receiving an eternal reward that was already his in the first place!

There are hints in the Bible that Pinchas lived an extraordinarily long life. Pinchas is still alive when the tribes fight a war against the Benjaminites in Judges 20:27-28, "The Israelites inquired of the LORD (for the Ark of God's Covenant was there in those days, and Phinehas son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest ministered before Him in those days)." Post-biblical authors go a step further and read Pinchas's reward as not only an extraordinarily long life, but immortality, combining him with another biblical character, Elijah, who according to tradition, was also immortal (and both of whom share a passion for zealotry). Such a theme is found in the writings of a variety of authors, including Hellenistic Jewish authors such as Pseudo-Philo, Aramaic Targumim and various rabbinic sources.

But why is immortality such a great reward? What is the purpose of living forever? Would one want such a gift? Indeed, in the vampire novels I am so often drawn to, immortality becomes a sort of punishment. The vampire's contemporaries all die, his/her memories blend into one another, the vampire grows exceedingly weary of life, and wishes to die. Indeed, I think if most of us were to ponder deeply the notion that we would live forever, even if our lives were healthy, we would not desire such a gift.

But this is because vampire literature is hedonistic—the vampire lives forever, not for the greater good of humanity, but simply because s/he has that ability. In contrast, in Jewish imagination, individual immortality serves the world. Picking up on the fact that vachaper in Numbers 25:13 can be read "will atone" and not just "atoned," Sifrei Numbers 113 states that Pinchas will eternally make atonement for Israel, until the end of days. Targum Yonatan says that Pinchas will announce the redemption, just as does Elijah. Other immortal figures such as Serach bat Asher and Enoch also serve the world through their immortality.

Immortality is, I believe, a fascinating form of speculative fiction because it forces us to ask what humanity's role in the world is. If human existence is hedonistic, then living forever would become torturous. Once every possibility has been experienced multiple times, living would become simply exhausting. But if the point of eternal life is directed outward, towards serving the mortals who continue to be born and die, then immortality becomes a little more godly. That is the eternal reward that tradition accords Pinchas.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Dr. Joshua Kulp, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Dr. Joshua Kulp, Rosh Yeshiva, Talmud teacher, and a founder of the Conservative Yeshiva. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>