

**From Rabbi Carie**



*Teshuva*, the act of return — of shifting our perspective, of changing our ways — is the major work of this season. Yet at times it can feel utterly overwhelming. We cannot find a place to start. Perhaps we don't even believe that we (much less others) are capable of change. A wonderful

and inspired teacher of Jewish life, *Rebbe Nachman* of Bratslav (18th Century, Ukraine) knew very well that feeling of despair that we sometimes encounter when we are struggling to even begin the seasonal work of personal repair. He offers a teaching I have turned to many times as a reminder of how to begin...especially when the world feels dark:

*You have to judge every person generously. Even if you have reason to think that person is completely wicked, it's your job to look hard and seek out some bit of goodness, some place in that person where he is not evil. When you find that bit of goodness and judge the person that way, you really may raise her up to goodness. Treating people this way allows them to be restored, to come to teshuvah. . .*

*Even the person you think (and he agrees!) is completely rotten—how is it possible that at some time in his life he has not done some good deed, some mitzvah? Your job is just to help him look for it, to seek it out, and then to judge him THAT way. . .*

*So now, my clever friend, now that you know how to treat the wicked and find some bit of good in them—now go do it for yourself as well. . . All you need to find is the smallest bit: a dot of goodness. That should be enough to give*

*you life, to bring you back to joy. By seeking out that little bit even in yourself and judging yourself that way, showing yourself that THAT is who you are. You can change your whole life and bring yourself to teshuvah.*

*It's that first little dot of goodness that's the hardest one to find (or the hardest one to admit you find!). The next one's will come a little easier, each one following another.*

*And do you know what? These little dots of goodness in yourself—after a while you will find that you can sing them and they become your niggun (melody), the niggun you fashion by not letting yourself be pushed down, and by rescuing your own good spirit from all that darkness and depression. The niggun brings you back to life and then you can start to pray...*

*- From Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, Liqqute MoHaRaN 282 (translated by Rabbi Arthur Green, PhD)*

May we each enter this New Year, able to find the dot of goodness in our neighbors and in ourselves, so that we will be able to look out into the world with joy and with hope, guided by the *niggun* of our hearts. *Shanah Tova*

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**From Ellen Brickman, President  
A Season Of Unity**



As I write this, the melodies of the High Holidays and the beautiful memory of the *Selichot* service I attended last night swirl in my head. *Selichot* is essentially the “kickoff” to the High Holy Day season – a late-night service held on a Saturday night before *Rosh*

*Hashanah* that includes prayers for forgiveness and incorporates the liturgy of the Days of Awe. For a number of years, PSJC has been hosting *Selichot* Across Brooklyn, a joint program of 15-20 area synagogues, independent minyanim and other Jewish groups. I sat between a young member of *Shir HaMaalot* and an older member of Congregation *Beth Elohim* – with whom I quickly bonded upon learning that he was a former president of his shul. We talked about the joys and challenges of leading a shul, and then conversation ended as the music and the prayers began. And oh, what music and what prayers! Despite the differences in theology, liturgy, and demographics that differentiate some of our congregations from each other, we were all, in every sense, on the same page. The voices of the most and the least traditional came together, led by clergy and lay leaders and accompanied by guitar, accordion, ukulele, clarinet and some good old hand-drumming and fist-thumping on the lectern.

Beyond the simple beauty of the service, it was also an inspiring reminder of the best that we as a synagogue and as a community can be. It is often easier, even within PSJC, to focus on what distinguishes and sometimes divides us than on what brings us together. You like a nice whole fish laid out at kiddush, I can't eat food that looks me in the eye. He would like to pray entirely in Hebrew, she is turned off by a service she can't understand. I donate to the Hebrew School, you donate to the “shul.” Their family *davens* “upstairs,” we stay “downstairs” for the kids’ services. And don't even

get me started on Mideast politics...

We have worked hard in recent years to bridge these differences wherever and whenever we can. Things like transliterations of our major prayer services, merging the fundraising budgets of the Hebrew School and the broader synagogue, and our beloved Community BBQs go a long way, and we do feel, more than ever, like one community. And on issues like fish heads and Mideast politics, we have found ways to agree to disagree. As long as we can still enjoy a communal kiddush together and come together to celebrate, to mourn, and to sing and pray, that's a good place to end up.

I look forward to praying, singing, celebrating and eating with you in the days and weeks to come. *Shanah Tovah U'Metukah* – wishing you all a sweet New Year!

**From Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education and Family Programming**



This past summer I took a class on the math and history of the Jewish calendar. It amazes me how both structure and spirituality can help us make meaning of the passing of time each year. It is our hope that at PSJC Hebrew

School our community will help students and parents make meaningful Jewish experiences in and out of our building. Our opening day program saw more than 100 students and parents engaged in learning about our six PSJC *middot* (values) and setting intentions for the year ahead. This year the program has over 118 participants enrolled in grades pre-K through 11th and 17 faculty members. Our teachers are professors, musicians, rabbis, performers, and teachers and each has a unique Jewish journey to share with our students.

In addition to our regular classes and events, the calendar is already filled with special programs. This month the 6<sup>th</sup> grade delivered food packages to elderly residents on the Upper West Side with



DOROT, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to alleviate social isolation and provide concrete services to older adults. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade will again be working with educators at Brooklyn GameLab to explore what it means to become *bnai mitzvah* through the lens of gaming. In October we'll join together for the annual Hebrew School dinner in the *sukkah*.

PSJC's annual *Tzedakah* Fair has moved to the fall this year, so we hope you will join our 6<sup>th</sup> grade *Shaarei Mitzvah* students on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Start saving your coins and bills now, but we also accept credit cards and checks! Last year's fair raised over \$3,500, plus another \$1,000 in matching funds for organizations ranging from CHiPS locally to HIAS nationally and organizations in Israel. If you would like to visit the Hebrew School for a special program or just to sit in a class, please let us know.

Beyond Hebrew School, PSJC Family Programming is in full swing as well. It's Friday, Abe's Friday morning music class for babies and toddlers, welcomed the New Year a little early in the park with apples and honey and the sounds of the shofar, and weekly classes begin after the *chaggim*. We hope you will visit us downstairs on *Shabbat* mornings and check out Tot *Shabbat*, Mini *Minyan*, and Junior Congregation, and mark your calendars to join us for a *Shabbat Kulanu* (Shabbat for all of us) on Friday evening or Saturday morning! Don't forget about the annual *Hanukkah* party on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and of course the Purim Carnival on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We're already planning for two great celebrations!

*Shana Tovah u'Metukah*. May you have a sweet new year and I look forward to seeing you at PSJC throughout 5780.



First Day of Hebrew School

**Welcome to our new Synagogue  
Administrator: Piper Panzeri**



Dear PSJC Community,  
5780 is off to a sweet start, and I am looking forward to meeting members face-to-face at services and all year long. I am humbled to have arrived in a synagogue that is so passionate about its own community and the world outside.

PSJC has experienced staffing changes over the past 6 weeks, and I would like to thank the Board for its support and our membership for its understanding and patience. I would especially like to thank the many members who jumped in to support the staff during this transition around the High Holidays.

You may recognize a friendly voice when you call the PSJC office! When you see Laura Baron, please give her a warm welcome as our Temporary Administrative Assistant. Laura is your "go to" for events - especially the weekly email and Bulletin. You can contact her directly at [laura@psjc.org](mailto:laura@psjc.org). If you have questions about your account or billing, please contact me through email [piper@psjc.org](mailto:piper@psjc.org) or phone.

We're a small staff doing BIG work. Until we transition back to regular hours, we will not have public-facing office hours on Mondays; calls and emails will be returned on Tuesday morning. This time allows staff to focus on less exciting but necessary tasks that will help make your membership experience even better. The High Holidays are just the beginning of a year of exciting programming at PSJC, including welcoming our Scholar-in-Residence, Robbie Gringras, on November 8th - 10th; mark your calendars! Plans are also underway for the Rabbi's 20th Anniversary Gala on June 7th, so check your mail for updates - and let us know how you would like to help make the Gala, like our rabbi, "out of this world!"

It is my great hope that this holy season is one of reflection, peace, and joy for you and your loved ones. *L'shana tovah!*



**Rabbi Carter's 20th Anniversary Celebration**

5780 is a very special year indeed! We will be celebrating our beloved Rabbi Carter's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at PSJC. Can you believe it? How is that even possible?

R. Carie has officiated and supported us through so many baby namings, *B'nai Mitzvah*, birthdays, weddings, funerals, and all occasions in between. She has devotedly been there for us — as individuals and as a community in a larger world, teaching us to be better people and loving us in all our "uniquenesses." And now it's time to acknowledge and celebrate her and her family's dedication to us and PSJC!

Please join us for exciting programs and events planned throughout the year to celebrate her remarkable accomplishment culminating with a fabulous **GALA** next June! There'll be many opportunities to learn, party, and adore her together. Preliminary details are described below. Please mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate!

**Stellar Scholar-in-Residence Weekend**

**November 8-10, 2019**

The fabulous -Robbie Gringras, Israeli artist, Jewish educator/Israel educator, will spend an inspiring weekend with us. Festivities begin with a rousing Friday evening service, led by Judy Ribnick, followed by a delicious dinner. Robbie will facilitate a series of workshops for the community and Hebrew School, including a performance of his one-person show "The Gate" — after *havdallah*.

**Celestial Shabbat Celebration**

**February 8, 2020**

Community-wide Shabbat celebration to warm a cold winter weekend! Judy Ribnick will bring her unique musical sparkle to our Shabbat services, followed by a beautiful kiddush and later a melodic *havdallah/melavah malkah*/ evening celebration.

**InterGALactic Party**

**Sunday, June 7, 2020**

Enjoy a festive Gala with dinner, live music, and dancing to celebrate our incomparable spiritual leader and to gratefully acknowledge her 20 remarkable years of service! We hope everyone will attend and contribute to this special fundraiser celebration. Performances and surprises to come. Dust off your tiaras and dancing shoes.

Check the PSJC website for more info as details for these and other events are finalized. We hope you will join us for this joyful and momentous year. If you'd like to get involved in any of the planning, please email us at : [celebrate@psjc.org](mailto:celebrate@psjc.org). Thank you!



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## ברוך הבא

# Welcome to our many new staff and friends

### PSJC's New Rabbinic Intern

Jonathan Posner is a Chicago-bred, fourth-year rabbinical student at JTS. A classically trained chef and *shochet*, Jonathan is passionate about enlivening his (and your!) Jewish practice through cooking, eating, and drinking.



Jonathan has been working as a Jewish educator for BBYO, the international youth movement, since early 2018, and works to develop the movement at international summer programs as well as at regional conventions. Jonathan has been honored as a Jewish Innovation Fellow at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, and at Hillel International's Office of Innovation. Jonathan has a strong love affair with pizza of all styles, loves learning foreign languages, singing, and playing his bass guitar.

### PSJC's New Office Administrator

Welcome Piper Panzeri and her wife, Emily Davies, to Brooklyn! Piper comes with a wealth of administrative, technology and education experience, including her work as Director of Communication and Technology at a congregation in Nashville, TN. She has also taught, served as the director of a non-profit organization, and run an outdoor adventure program for teens. Piper introduces herself in a column in this Newsletter, and we hope that everyone soon will get to know her in-person!



Piper and Emily



Tomer, Tal, Abigail and Daniel

### PSJC Welcomes New Teen Coordinator!

Ethan Blake is a writer, activist, and musician who is returning to Brooklyn from the West Coast (he is a West Orange, NJ native). He has previously served as the Afterschool Enrichment Director for the Seattle Jewish Community School, has been an Urban *Adamah* fellow, an Extend Tours organizer, a Green Gulch Farm Zen Center apprentice, and a *Romemu* Yeshiva leadership fellow. He holds a degree in Urban Studies from Brown University and is an avid bicyclist, traveler, and vegan cook. He is currently composing new liturgical music for *Kabbalat Shabbat* and his essays have been published in Tricycle, Civil Eats, Salon, and The Forward, among others.



In addition to teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the Hebrew School, Ethan will be organizing the PSJC Teen *Shabbat* dinners, working with teens to plan social and social action programming, and coordinating programming for 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade throughout the year. If you are interested in helping as a parent advisor or a teen who wants to get involved, please email Ethan at [teens@psjc.org](mailto:teens@psjc.org).

**Our New Shaliach**  
A *Shaliach* is an emissary tasked by the Israeli Jewish Agency to strengthen and build relationships between Israelis and Jews in the Diaspora, to deepen mutual understanding. We are delighted to welcome Tomer Geckler, our new *Shaliach*, and his family, Tal, Abigail and Daniel, to our Brooklyn Community. Tomer will oversee and coordinate the *Shinshinim* Program (see *Shinshinim* article) in Brooklyn for the next three years. Tomer introduces himself in his own words, on the next page!



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**From Tomer:** I was born in Bat-Yam, to a family of five. Both my parents are descendants of Holocaust survivors, who survived the concentration camps while the majority of their family was exterminated. This fact deeply influenced my sense of justice and social awareness. I grew up in socially varied and rich surroundings. My extended family included people of various sectors of the Israeli society: Orthodox, settlers, Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews. This multi-cultural atmosphere developed in me a wide tolerance for "otherness" and the ability to bridge cultural differences. After my military service, and during undergraduate studies, I began working with At-Risk Youth, a role which paved the way to working with communities, At-Risk populations and education in general. It is at that time that I married Tal Kadish, with whom I formed a family for our children, Abigail and Daniel. During Master's studies of Public Governance and NGOs administration, I managed a project for minimizing gaps of youth and children in central Israel for deprived populations. Following Master's studies, I developed projects for community empowerment in Bat Yam, Jaffa and southern Tel Aviv. Further on, I joined the Bina and Israel JDC organizations, both studying and instructing officer trainees and students in Jewish Culture Renewal.

I arrived to this field with the will to deepen my inspirational sources, and gladly realized that the Jewish texts, foreign to me up to that point, have become a central source of Inspiration today as I work at the Institute for Democratic Education in Israel. As part of my work at the Institute, I lead the area of participatory governance and community development, providing organizational counseling and training to officials in local authorities to help them strengthen the democratic culture in their cities. I also run the Young Adults Program at the Institute, where we work with the young adult centers in Israel to help develop a social awareness and activism among young people. I am interested in methodologies and practices that will help us develop community empowerment among diverse groups, and that will extend the social impact to different sectors.

### Our New Shinshinim

PSJC has been an enthusiastic participant in the *Shinshinim* (a Hebrew acronym for *Shnat Sherut*, "year of service") Program since it arrived in Brooklyn. *Shinshinim* are Israeli teens who opt for a year of service between high school and the army. Those chosen as international *shinshinim* are a highly select "*crème de la crème*" of the many applicants. *Shinshinim* work with 15 different community institutions (Jewish Day schools, synagogues, Hebrew schools, campus Hillels, JCCs and summer camps). While they help in many ways, their most meaningful role is as *Mishlachot* (emissaries) of Israeli culture. Six extraordinary young men and women are participating this year, bringing energy and enthusiasm to provide children, teens and college students with a deeper understanding of the beauty, challenges and complexity of contemporary life in Israel. Juval Habibi is PSJC's *shinshinit* (the female version of *shinshin* – *shinshinim* is the plural) this year, and there will be many opportunities to get to know her around the shul, at Hebrew School and in the *Kish Kush*!



L'hitraot to last year's wonderful *Shinshinim*!

While they are in the U.S., *Shinshinim* live with families of the participating organization, usually for three-month stints. In addition to getting to know interesting and passionate young adult, hosts get to witness youth transitioning to adulthood and grappling with questions of what it means to be Jewish outside of Israel. Those of us who have hosted these young people generally feel that we get at least as much from the experience of hosting as the young people whom we host! If you are interested in hosting a *shinshin* please contact Rabbi Carter. A brief introduction to these extraordinary young adults. In their own words, follows on the next pages. – ESS



### Elai Gilboa

I live in a small town called *Kohav Yair* and study in *Ami-Asaf* High School, majoring in Physics and Computer Science. I am the eldest, with a brother and sister, and we have a dog and a cat. I am a former competitive swimmer, who started swimming at age four. I love the arts, drawing and creating with my hands. I enjoy hiking with my friends and with my dog.



I volunteer in the MDA organization, where I was trained to give first aid; I do shifts on the ambulance and help a medical crew. I am also part of a youth movement called *Mashtzim*, which works to increase knowledge about Israel, travel, create volunteering projects and educate the young members to be better citizens of the Israeli society in the future.

This past year I was a young leader in a reconciliation program with youth from Germany, Macedonia and Israel. The program's purpose is to create connections between youth around the world who are aware of the horrors that happened in the Holocaust, but are willing to move forward and cherish the past while understanding different lifestyles and overcoming boundaries of languages and cultures.

### Dan Hanin

I live in Kfar Saba, a city in central Israel, with two wonderful parents and three brothers with whom I am strongly connected and deeply love. My father, Harel, works in "*Shafir*," in engineering and manufacturing, and my mother is a lawyer and a lecturer. I grew up in a home that educated me to love my family, my country, my people, and always to treat others equally.



I studied at Katznelson High School," and majored in

Physics, Biology and Theater (my favorite class). My volunteer experiences included the "Alpha" program for gifted students, where I socially guided a group of 15-year-olds; RelatioNet, a project in which I interviewed and documented the story of a Holocaust survivor; broadcasting on the school's radio; and "*Mashatzim*," a program guiding students 12-14 in journeys throughout Israel. In my free time I play guitar, work out, and participate in a theater group and *Keshet* (a leadership program). I am also involved with an innovative national research project to reduce the damage caused by fires in southern Israel. ("Incendiary Kites terror"). On this "*Shlichut*" my main goal is to strengthen the connection between Jews in Israel and Jews in the Diaspora through the interpersonal relationships and familiarity between us.

### Adi Eliyahu

My family is the most important thing for me in the world. My mother is a math teacher and my father is the director of our town's community center. I have two sisters I love very much. My parents have brought to the world three girls: Noa, Eynav and me. Noa is the oldest and currently serves in the army as a guide of trainees. Eynav is two years younger than I, but is very mature. I love them both very much. I live in a lovely, quiet, green place called *Tel Mond*, which is near *Netanya*, in *Hasharon* area.



I studied in *Rabin* High School in *Tel Mond*, majoring in Psychology and Physics. Volunteering and contributing to the society have immense value for me, and I have been a proud member of the scouts for almost 9 years, guiding kids between the ages of 6 to 13. My hobbies include dancing (I am in a troupe called *Nooa*), playing the piano, and reading books. As a *shinshinit* I hope to help increase Jewish identity and feelings of connection to Israel in kids, teens, and adults, by having conversations, sharing thoughts and initiating activities in the community.



### Juval Habibi

My mom is a Hebrew-English translator, my dad is a driver at our local council, and I have two brothers and a cat. When I was 9 months old my mom got relocated to work in Montreal, where we stayed for 10 years. Since then we have lived in *Kibbutz Merom Golan* in the Golan Heights.



In high school I majored in Theater and Chemistry. At the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade I went to a counseling course with my youth movement – "*Bnei Hamoshavim*" and then counseled fourth-graders. I have participated in several leadership programs including

Creativity for peace: A young women's Leadership Program for 16 Jewish-Israeli and Arab-Israeli/Palestinian teens; *Kav hazinok*: A leadership skills program where you learn about leadership values; *Camp Kadimah*: I was a CIT in a Jewish summer camp in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; *Diller teen fellows*: A yearlong leadership program partnering with the Jewish community in Melbourne, Australia. My hobbies include taking trips with friends, reading, watching movies, photography, and last but not least, spending time with my friends and family. I hope that as a *shinshinit* I can help boys and girls feel more connected as a community.

### Hila Krakowski

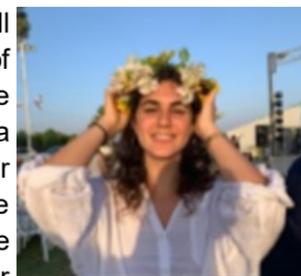
My parents have been married for 23 years, (happily so!). I am a middle child with an older sister, a younger brother, and our dog Grace, whom I found on the streets one night, and who is truly a huge part of our family. I have lived in many countries, including India and Belgium, because of my father's work. *Gedera* where I now live, is the place I have been for the longest amount of time, and I have genuinely found my home there.



In high school I majored in Design and Diplomacy. I have participated in the guides for three years, and I am currently in charge of a team of group leaders my age. Through the years, I also was fortunate to participate in many volunteering experiences, such as distributing boxes of food weekly to underprivileged households in my town. In my free time, I participate in competitive Model UN's and debates — I love debates because it's a platform where I can express my opinions, challenge myself, and meet new people. I also enjoy drawing and painting. As a Jewish girl who lived many years abroad, I look back and think of the time I spent so disconnected from my heritage and my country, and I want to help young people find a bridge of connection between those identities.

### Zohar Nahum

I live in *Timmorim*, a small agricultural settlement of 200 families. My parents are both doctors, my father a pediatrician and my mother a family doctor, and I have three younger brothers. We spend our time together outdoors on short hikes, and we also like listening to music or playing music together. My family and I have moved many times and lived several years in Toronto.



I majored in Biology and Psychology in high school. I started volunteering as a youth movement, counselor three years ago, each year taking on more responsibility. I sing in a band at a local music center and play piano and ukulele. Keeping the connection between Israel and Jewish communities around the world is a great challenge, and it can be difficult to maintain Jewish identity, even when you live in Israel. I believe that the best way I can contribute is by creating connections with children and families, sharing my ideas and values, and learning from them at the same time.



### MLK DAY at PSJC: Praying With Your Feet

Please join us on Sunday, January 19th, 2020 for PSJC's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. We honor Dr. King by spending the day giving back to the community.

This wonderful community event is designed as a way for members of all ages to volunteer together. This is truly one of my favorite events at PSJC. My three kids love it too! It is a great experience to volunteer as a family and see what we can accomplish as the whole community comes together. There will be many different service projects to participate in. We will be making shelf-stable soup kits, putting together hygiene kits for the Brooklyn Family Justice Center, sorting books and clothing for donation, knitting and crocheting preemie caps and baby blankets, participating in a letter-writing campaign with HIAS, making meals to stock the PSJC freezer, and so much more.

Let's see if we can make an even bigger difference this year. If you would like to be involved with the planning and coordination of this event please email me, Dina Nadler-Serber, at [dnadler@gmail.com](mailto:dnadler@gmail.com). When we come together as a community, amazing things can happen.



Reverend Martin Luthor King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, praying with their feet, marching for civil rights

### Hebrew School Committee

We'd like to introduce the 2019-2020 PSJC Hebrew School Committee: Jill Gandel, Josh Goldstein,

Claudia Foppa Kuhn, Dina Nadler, Allison Schaffer, and Karin Ulman. The Committee works closely with Aileen, to support the school and ensure it has everything it needs to operate at a high level. We spearhead many popular events throughout the year from the *Sukkah* dinner, *Tzedakah* Fair and *Hanukkah* Party to the *Purim* Carnival and *Shalach Manot*.

We're off to a great start this year with large turnouts at our Parent's Happy Hour and First Day of School Picnic! We love working with the PSJC community to continue to build our Hebrew school. We're always looking for new members. If you're interested in joining please contact us or any member of the committee. It's a fun, easy way to support our children's Jewish education.

We are PSJC's direct voice to the Hebrew school and we invite everyone - parents and non-parents alike - to share with us your thoughts and ideas on how to make our program even stronger. As we glide into the High Holy Days we look forward to meeting new members and touching base with current ones. *L'Shanah Tovah!* -Jeremy Gruber and Lise Engber, Hebrew School Committee Co-Chairs

### Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is happy to welcome all our new families to PSJC just in time for the High Holy days. As we approach the new year, the committee is looking for several new members to help as we plan membership appreciation and getting-to-know you events such as our recent BBQ, and continue to make our members, both new and old, feel welcome and appreciated.

A big shout out and *todah rabah* to Ruth Kaufman and Sharon Tepper, who stepped down as co-chairs last year, but continue to be valuable advisors to the Membership Committee. If you are interested in volunteering to host a new member for shabbat dinner or lunch, reaching out and buddying with new members, or planning member events, please email us at [membership@psjc.org](mailto:membership@psjc.org). - Julie Weintraub



Do you strain to hear the Rabbi's Divrei Torah? Is your mom or dad or colleague asking you to repeat yourself all of the time? Then you will want to attend the upcoming Hearing Health Workshop, spearheaded by PAI and presented in collaboration with the Inclusion Committee. Diana Rogovin Davidow, from Brooklyn College Speech Language & Hearing Center, will share expert information about hearing loss and will offer an optional free hearing screening. The workshop will be at PSJC on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

### PSJC's Chevra Kadisha

I have two friends who have made managing death and end-of-life issues their life's work. One is a chaplain who teaches other members of the clergy how to be chaplains — how to show up for those who need them the most without expecting anything in return. The other friend uses her rabbinate to create and facilitate conversations around death and dying, and to inspire a level of comfort around a topic that makes many people very uncomfortable.



In many ways, the *Hevra Kadisha* functions like a combination of the work that my friends do. Our members care for the physical bodies of those who have died through *Tahara* (the ritual cleansing and shrouding), and provide comfort for the soul of the deceased through *Sh'mira* (literally, "watching" -- keeping the body and soul company until it is placed in its final resting place).

People are prompted to do this sacred work for a multitude of reasons. Some join the HK to feel a part of a larger community, others to fill some sort of need within themselves, still others just to give back. Whatever the reason, the HK is always welcoming to

new members--if you feel called to do this work, there will always be a place for you. Please reach out to [hevra kadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevra kadisha@psjc.org) with any questions. We look forward to speaking with you. - Malkie Grozalsky

### Knitting/Needlecrafter's Group

Tired of knitting or crocheting alone? Want to brush up on your triple crochet, embroidery stitches or SSK (slip, slip, knit)? Still meaning to finish that sweater for your nephew? Join PSJC's Needle Arts group to experience "how good and pleasant it is to sit together" (Psalm 133). Our projects have included blankets for children in foster care and tiny hats for preemies. Every Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at PSJC we teach children and adults how to knit and crochet. We are currently working on a blanket to be sent to a shelter near the border with Mexico. Meetings are held in members' homes the first Monday of every month from October through June at 7:30 PM. For more information, email: [psjcnneedlearts@gmail.com](mailto:psjcnneedlearts@gmail.com). - Marjorie Rothenberg

### Kish Kish Acharei Kiddush (Gabfest After Kiddush)

Are you a Hebrew speaker who is looking for a chance to practice your skills? Or a sort-of Hebrew speaker looking for a challenge? Come join our Kish Kish at PSJC after *Kiddush* on the third *Shabbat* of each month. Led by Michal Tamuz, we get together and chat about all kinds of things, with a mix of fluent speakers and not-so-fluent ones. We are delighted that PSJC's new *shinshinit*, Juval Habibi has joined us, as well as Tal Kadish, wife of Brooklyn's new *Shaliach*, Tomer Geckler, bringing a direct Israeli presence to the table.





### Positive Aging Initiative (PAI)

PSJC's Positive Aging Initiative (PAI) seeks to change the perspective on aging from one of stigma and loss, to one of possibility, opportunity, and respect. We are doing this by providing activities, support, and community for PSJC members age 50 and better. This year, in addition to the PAI Book Club, PAI is launching Shared Wisdom: educational and creative workshops presented by skilled and talented PSJC members. Held daytime and evenings in members' homes, these workshops will cover Jewish history, Middle Eastern politics, literature, theater, and more and will include hands-on arts classes in photography, fused glass, and jewelry-making. By popular demand, PAI will repeat its Medicare and Advance Directives workshops; another highlight of our wellness programming will be a talk on hearing loss, with free hearing screenings. And, just for fun, we have a PAI Dinner in the *Sukkah*, holiday walks over the Brooklyn Bridge, and other opportunities for socializing. If you are age 50+ (or caring for someone who is), tell us what you need and want! Contact Jan Orzeck and Marjorie Rothenberg at [positiveaging@psjc.org](mailto:positiveaging@psjc.org) with suggestions, questions, and to be added to our email list...or come find us at kiddush or other shul activities.



PAI Book Group

### Avodah Committee

The joke is that the High Holy Days either come early or late, never on time. Even when we have every *davener*, *leyner*, coordinator, and *shofar* blower lined up weeks in advance, I never feel prepared for this moment in our Jewish year. Rosh Hashanah comes, and I haven't considered what I would like the year to be or what I'm really atoning for. I wonder if this is

part of the reason that we read Jonah on Yom Kippur afternoon. It's a wonderful metaphor for our experience of the High Holy Days—for a little while, we enter the belly of the fish, leaving regular time, conventional space, and our real lives behind. We are granted these moments of introspection and prayer, of celebration and renewal—and then after the final *Shofar* blasts of *Neilah*, we're back on dry land, in our crazy lives. Listening to Jonah being read in a multiplicity of voices, I hear our own prayer in Jonah's calling out to *Adonai*. But then, like Jonah, I'm back on dry land, facing the responsibilities I had the privilege to set aside for a time. Life is the same, but also always a little different. The High Holy Days can be transformative, often in ways we don't expect. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and introspective New Year! *Shanah Tovah u'Metukah.* -Angela Weisl, *Avodah Chair*

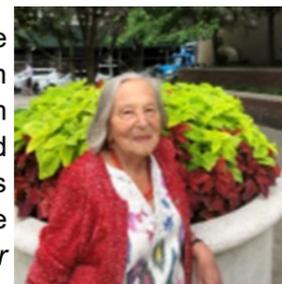
### PSJC Community Barbecue

For some of us the start of school signals the beginning of the fall, for some it is the turning of the leaves, for some it is the start of the High Holy Days, but for many of us the true sign of Autumn is the PSJC Barbecue. This year it was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, with blue skies, beer, meat, veggie burgers and vegan cheese. Most of all though, was the great company, with people meeting and mixing across all categories of the shul. Next year, make sure you don't miss this fun way to welcome in the fall!



### Getting to Know Our PSJC Community: Miriam Tyrk

Thirty-six years ago, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of *Pesach*, Miriam Tyrk was newly arrived from Poland in Park Slope and spoke little English. She was looking for a synagogue where she could attend *Yizkor* Services and found her way to Congregation *Beth Elohim (CBE)*, only to discover that they did not do an 8<sup>th</sup> day service. A man at CBE used broken Yiddish to direct Miriam up Eighth Avenue to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, where he assured her there would be a *Yizkor* service. From that day on, PSJC became Miriam's Jewish home. As she puts it, "This is my shul...the best of what has happened in America is the shul."



Miriam grew up in a small town in Poland where *Shabbat* services were held in her house and led by her father (a special *shaliach tzibor—leader—*would come to lead High Holy Day Services), and where there were thousands of Jews before the war. It was a happy life that she shared with her parents, two brothers and two sisters. This all ended when the Nazis came. Miriam, and many members of her family were hidden in various and changing locations during the war – mostly hidden by poor Polish farmers – but only Miriam, her father and a cousin escaped discovery and survived the Holocaust. Miriam describes unbearable hardship, hiding in tiny dark spaces with little ventilation, and hardly any food and water, and she remembers her final months hiding in the forest as the worst of all. Miriam's mother died *Erev Rosh Hashanah* in 1942, and so the High Holy Days are a time of special sorrow for her, when she mourns her mother, her sisters and brothers and all of the family that she lost.

After the war, Miriam remained in Poland, meeting and marrying Hershel (Herman) and raising three children. When Hershel died 40 years ago Miriam

moved to Brooklyn, where some of her children already were living, and worked as a cashier in a pharmacy, where most of the customers spoke Yiddish. And she soon found her way to PSJC.

Miriam enjoys the egalitarian nature of PSJC. She strongly disliked having a *mechitzah* (divider) in the synagogue in Poland and not counting in a *minyan* (quorum). This is why it is a particular pleasure for her to come to Wednesday morning *minyanim*, where she often is the one to complete the *minyan* as the 10<sup>th</sup> Jew. She notes that, "In Poland 10 women can't replace even one man!" She speaks of how welcomed she felt when she first came to PSJC, and how that welcome has only grown through the years, with both rabbis and the synagogue community reaching out, supporting her when she has been ill, davening and enjoying *kiddush* together, and making sure all is OK when she is not in shul. She has liked all of our rabbis over the years, but she notes that, "Rabbi Carie is the best!"

At 93 Miriam lives surrounded by her family and embraces the many things that are good in her life, though as an avid news follower she has grave worries about politics and growing anti-Semitism in the US. She considers Prospect Park to be "her" park, and revels in her regular walks there, enjoying the horse chestnuts in the fall that remind her of the ones from her childhood home. Miriam visits Israel every two years, and was particularly moved when one of her two grandsons, Hershel, visited Israel and said *Kaddish* at the grave of her husband (and that grandson's namesake) who is buried there. Miriam has participated in the powerful New York Witness Theater, where she collaborated with high school youth to write and perform about her Holocaust experience; the 2019 performance can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNHcCgOLvBs>. Last year Miriam received an honorary PSJC lifetime membership. We are all so fortunate that Miriam is a core part of PSJC, and that "her shul" is our shul! – ESS



# LEV TAHOR PROGRAMS FALL 2019

Join Lev Tahor, PSJC's monthly all-sung, community-led Kabbalat Shabbat service, for a spirited evening of song, conversation, good food, and learning. Services begin at 6:30 pm on the first Friday of the month and are followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner.

Here's a preview of what's on deck.



**SHABBAT Shuvah** EXPLORING THE CONCEPT AND REALITIES OF FORGIVENESS  
**OCTOBER 4**  
What does it mean to forgive and be forgiven? As we approach Kol Nidrei on October 8, join a conversation about forgiveness with some of PSJC's pre-eminent therapists.

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE – SINGING ZEMIROT**  
**NOVEMBER 1**  
Come sing with us. Elizabeth Schnur and Susana Honig will be leading singing following dinner. Is there a song you would like to learn? Let us know. Want to be sure we include your favorites? Let us know that, too! Send an email to [lev.tahor@psjc.org](mailto:lev.tahor@psjc.org).

**FOOD JUSTICE, WORKERS RIGHTS, AND YOUR DINNER**  
**HON. LAURA SAFER ESPINOZA, DECEMBER 6**  
Join former Brooklynite and retired NYS Judge Laura Safer Espinoza, CEO and Executive Director of the Fair Foods Standard Council (FL), to learn how her organization pressed retail giants like Walmart, Aramark, Sodexo, McDonald's and Burger King to advance and protect the rights of farmworkers – and how you can practice ethical purchasing every day.

**SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE SPRING:**  
January 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1

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OCTOBER 2019 • ELUL 5779/CHESHVAN 5780						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <b>Erev Elul 29</b> Rosh Hash 8:25p Candle Lighting	30 <b>Rosh Hashana</b> Tashlich 10:30a Rosh Hashana Youth & Family Services 7:22p Candle Lighting	1 <b>Rosh Hashana</b> 10:30a Rosh Hashana Youth & Family Services	2 <b>Fast of Tishrei 2</b> Gedalia 7:15a Shacharit 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th) 6:15p Geshet	3 <b>Tishrei 3</b>	4 <b>Tishrei 4</b> 6:17p Cande Lighting 8:30p Lev Tahor: Forgiveness	5 <b>Shabbat Shuva</b> Vayelech <b>Eliya Gandel Bat Mirvah</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 11:00a Junior Congregation 11:15a Tot Shabbat 11:15a Mini-Minyan
6 <b>US Kaddish</b> 9:00a Sukkah Build 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	7 <b>Tishrei 7</b>	8 <b>Erev Yom Kippur</b> 6:10p Candle Lighting	9 <b>Yom Kippur</b> Yizkor 7:15a Shacharit 10:30a Yom Kippur Youth & Family Services	10 <b>Tishrei 10</b>	11 <b>Tishrei 11</b> 6:05p Cande Lighting 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat	12 <b>Ha'Azinu Tishrei 12</b> 10:00a Shacharit 11:15a Tot Shabbat
13 <b>Tishrei 13</b> 10:00a Sukkah Decorating Branch 6:00p Sukkah Open to Community 6:02p Candle Lighting	14 <b>Sukkot Sukkah Open to Community</b> 10:00a Sukkot Services 7:00p Candle Lighting	15 <b>Sukkot Sukkah Open to Community</b> 10:00a Sukkot Services 6:00p Positive Aging Initiative - Dinner in the Sukkah	16 <b>Chol Hamoed Sukkot</b> 7:15a Shacharit 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th) 6:15p Hebrew School Dinner in the Sukkah	17 <b>Chol Hamoed Sukkot</b> <b>Sukkah Open to Community</b> 6:30a <b>Pot Luck</b> Dinner and Refugee Film with Zachai Kalet Schwartz	18 <b>Chol Hamoed Sukkot</b> <b>Sukkah Open to Community</b> <b>USY FreshFest</b> 5:55p Candle Lighting 8:30p Kabbalat Shabbat 8:30p Sukkot: A Time to Tell Jewish Stories	19 <b>Chol Hamoed Sukkot</b> <b>Lailah Pollack Bat Mirvah</b> <b>Sukkah Open to Community</b> <b>USY FreshFest</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 11:00a Junior Congregation 11:15a Tot Shabbat 11:15a Mini-Minyan 1:30p Shabbat Shmooze
20 <b>R</b> <b>Sukkah Open to Community</b> <b>USY Leadership Training Day</b> 7:45a Hoshana Rabbah Services 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th) 5:52p Candle Lighting	21 <b>Shmini Atzeret</b> <b>Sukkah Open to Community</b> 10:00a Shmini Atzeret Services 6:00p Tot Simchat Torah 6:30p Communal Celebration of Simchat Torah 6:49p Candle Lighting	22 <b>Simchat Torah</b> 10:00a Simchat Torah Services	23 <b>Tishrei 23</b> 7:15a Shacharit 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th) 6:15p Geshet 7:15p Board Meeting	24 <b>Tishrei 24</b>	25 <b>Tishrei 25</b> 5:45p Cande Lighting 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat	26 <b>Shabbat Mevarch</b> <b>Beresheit</b> <b>Erik Brown Bar Mirvah</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 10:30a Family Torah 11:15a Shabbat Kulanu 11:15a Tot Shabbat

Get more information on what's coming up at [www.PSJC.org/calendar](http://www.PSJC.org/calendar)

NOVEMBER 2019 • TISHREI/KISLEV 5780						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <b>Tishrei 27</b> 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	28 <b>Tishrei 28</b>	29 <b>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan</b> 3:45p Shorashim (PreK) 4:00p Hebrew School (K-2nd) 7:30p Shir Hadash Community Chorus Rehearsal	30 <b>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan</b> 7:15a Shacharit 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	31 <b>Cheshvan 1</b> Cheshvan 2	1 <b>Cheshvan 3</b> 5:36p Candle Lighting 6:30p Lev Tahor: Make a Joyful noise - Singing Zemirot	2 <b>Noach Cheshvan 4</b> <b>Eva</b> <b>Szuchmacher Bat Mirvah</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 11:00a Junior Congregation 11:15a Tot Shabbat 11:15a Mini-Minyan 1:30p Book discussion - Bread Givers
3 <b>Cheshvan 5</b> 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	4 <b>Cheshvan 6</b>	5 <b>Cheshvan 7</b> 7:30p Shir Hadash Community Chorus Rehearsal	6 <b>Cheshvan 8</b> 7:15a Shacharit 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th) 5:15p Brachat Horim, Parent Welcome 6:15p Geshet	7 <b>Cheshvan 9</b>	8 <b>USY Regional Fall Kinus</b> 4:28p Candle Lighting 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat	9 <b>LeCh Lecha USY Regional Fall Kinus</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 11:00a Junior Congregation 11:15a Tot Shabbat 11:15a Mini-Minyan 1:30p Shabbat Shmooze
10 <b>USY Region Fall Kinus</b> 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	11 <b>Cheshvan 11</b>	12 <b>Cheshvan 12</b> 3:45p Shorashim (PreK) 4:00p Hebrew School (K-2nd) 5:15p Brachat Horim, Parent Welcome 7:30p Shir Hadash Community Chorus Rehearsal	13 <b>Cheshvan 13</b> 7:15a Shacharit 9:30a PAI Book Club 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	14 <b>Cheshvan 14</b>	15 <b>Cheshvan 15</b> 4:22p Candle Lighting 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu	16 <b>Vayera Cheshvan 16</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 10:30a Family Torah 11:00a Junior Congregation 11:15a Tot Shabbat 11:15a Mini-Minyan 1:30p Shabbat Shmooze
17 <b>BBC at 75 - Brook BBO</b> 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	18 <b>Cheshvan 18</b>	19 <b>Cheshvan 19</b> 3:45p Shorashim (PreK) 4:00p Hebrew School (K-2nd) 7:15p Board Meeting 7:30p Shir Hadash Community Chorus Rehearsal	20 <b>Cheshvan 20</b> 7:15a Shacharit 4:00p Hebrew School (3rd-7th) 6:15p Geshet	21 <b>Cheshvan 21</b>	22 <b>USY Kadima Shabbaton</b> 4:17p Candle Lighting 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat	23 <b>Shabbat Mevarchim</b> <b>Chayei Sara</b> <b>Laura Koblov Bat Mirvah - Mincha</b> <b>USY Kadima Shabbaton</b> 9:30a Havurat Shabbat (Shabbat Hebrew School) 10:00a Shacharit 11:15a Tot Shabbat 11:15a Mini-Minyan
24 <b>USY Kadima Shabbat</b> 9:30a Yom Iyun Tzedek & Tzedakah Fair 9:30a Hebrew School (3rd-7th)	25 <b>Cheshvan 25</b>	26 <b>Cheshvan 26</b> 3:45p Shorashim (PreK) 4:00p Hebrew School (K-2nd) 7:30p Shir Hadash Community Chorus Rehearsal	27 <b>Cheshvan 27</b> 7:15a Shacharit	28 <b>Cheshvan 28</b> Thanksgiving Day	29 <b>Rosh Chodesh Kislev 1</b> 4:13p Candle Lighting 6:30p Kabbalat Shabbat	30 <b>Toldot Kislev 2</b> 10:00a Shacharit



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Kalinka Moudrova-Rothman  
David Nachman & Amy Schulman  
Debra Nussbaum Cohen  
Rabbi Sue Oren  
Jan Orzeck

Faye Penn & Joel Tishcoff  
Jenny Peters & David Pollack  
Lizzy & Neil Postrygacz  
Erica & Constantine Ptohos  
Dina & Adam Rabiner  
Thomas & Adine Regan  
Renanit Levy & Steven Mazie  
Judy Ribnick & Diane Burhenne  
Lila & Michael Riemann  
Susan Robins & Michael Serrill  
Roland Leeds  
David & Tori Rosen  
Josh Rosenblum & Michele Siegel  
Joel & Marjorie Rothenberg  
Roberta Sackman  
Nir & Carrie Sadovnik  
Ellen & Michael Sande  
Amy Sandgrun & Avram Fisher  
Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips  
Albert Sargent & Ellen Straus  
Brenda Schachter & Ben Krull  
Joshua Schnur-Holmes  
Matthew Septimus & Agnethe Glatved

Yael Seligman  
Avi & Dina Serber  
Nicole Shaw & Yair Reiner  
Iris Sheber  
Ellen Simon  
David & Samantha Slarskey  
Michael & Reba Snyder  
Rina & Warren Spielberg  
Naomi Sunshine & Jill Szuclmacher  
Matt Thomases  
Bonnie & Seth Ullman  
Abraham & Hanna Ulman  
Ellen Umansky & David Gutman  
Nikolai & Joan Marie Walker  
Sophie R. Weber  
Marc Weiner  
Neil & Julie Wenraub  
Angela Weisl & Robert Squillace  
Itta & Dave Weiss  
Eli Wolfhagen & Lena Katsnelson  
Barbara & Michael Wollman  
Marie Wyatt  
Linda Zilkha