



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

April 14-22, 2017 | 18-26 Nissan, 5777
Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesach

Friday, April 14 18 Nissan				Shabbat <i>Hol Hamoed Pesach</i> Saturday, April 15 19 Nissan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Charlie Urich 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:17PM				Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM		
Sunday April 16 20 Nissan	Monday April 17 21 Nissan	Tuesday April 18 22 Nissan	Wednesday April 19 23 Nissan	Thursday April 20 24 Nissan	Friday April 21 25 Nissan	Saturday April 22 26 Nissan
Hol Hamoed Pesach Candle Lighting 7:17PM	Office Closed Services Pesach 10:00AM Candle Lighting 8:21PM	Office Closed Services Pesach includes Yizkor 10:00AM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Eden Wofsey 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:24PM	Shabbat <i>Shoah Parashat Shemini</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Mattan Katarivas Bat Mitzvah Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat JC 11:15AM 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) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Karen Louise Heau and her family on the death of her mother, **Sophia Zinn**, z"l and her father, **William Zinn**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 19-25 Nissan:

Doris Powlen, mother of Noah D. Powlen; **Dr. Manuel Wolf Friedman**, father of Rabbi Jeni Friedman; **Ed Moch**, father of Yehudit Moch; **Edward Ettlinger**, father of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Frank Urban**, observed by the PSJC community; **Gerald Green**, father of Gail Green-Anderson; **Harriet Radwell**, mother of Steven Radwell; **Helen Goosay**, aunt of Myron and Gavrielle Levine; **Irving Mandel**, grandfather of Jenna Mandel-Ricci; **Jean Ellen Anderson**, mother of Richard Anderson; **Jerry Nussbaum**, father of Debra Nussbaum Cohen; **Martin Levine**, father of Steven Levine; **Oscar Finger**, grandfather of Deborah Gordon; **Suzanne Schepps**, mother of Richard Lefkowitz. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

Rodfei Tzedek Committee
 If anyone is interested in the Rodfei Tzedek Committee's events and/or related issues and opportunities, please email to rodfei.tzedek@psjc.org to get on the Committee's new Google email group. The group will post information and related opportunities to participate in community service and social justice activities.

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 hevrakadisha@psjc.org

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



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Shabbat Shoah

Saturday, April 22 | 10:00AM

Within our Shabbat service, we acknowledge the tragedy of the Shoah on this Shabbat closest to Yom Hashoah V'hag'vurah.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, April 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 aronhalb@gmail.com

Communal Yom Hashoah Observance

Sunday, April 23 | 7:00PM | Union Temple

Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu

Friday, April 28 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe and Aileen. Everyone is welcome! Main entrees will be provided. Please bring a substantial salad/veggie side or desert to share. RSVPs are encouraged but not required <https://www.psjc.org/form/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>.

Book Club: The Sound of Our Steps

Saturday, April 29 | 1:30PM

Join us half an hour after the end of kiddush when we discuss Alexis Landau's cinematically descriptive, character-driven debut novel *The Empire of the Senses*, which explores ethnic identity via an interfaith family in WWI and Weimar era Germany, i.e. before anti-Semitism became official state policy legally codifying ethnic definitions.

People's Climate March/Brooklyn Synagogue Contingent

Friday, April 28-Saturday, April 29

Remember the huge People's Climate March in NYC in 2014? This year we will march in Washington DC, to show our lawmakers the importance of saving our planet. Hazon is organizing buses to DC on Friday **before Shabbat**, and sponsor housing in the DC area will also be available. For more information, please contact: jewsforscleanenergy@gmail.com. Bus details and general info at www.hazon.org; for housing email Jessica.p.haller@gmail.com. PSJC friends and members may also join the weekly Jewish Hub conference call every Wednesday, 8:00PM, Dial-in: 1-605-475-2090 Access Code: 860304

Brooklyn Celebrates Israel

Mark your calendars. Join us as we celebrate Israel in Brooklyn!

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony | April 30 | 6:30PM

Idan Raichel in Concert | May 1 | 7:45PM | Promo code for discounted tickets: ISR1

Yom Yisrael | May 7 | 10:00AM - An Israel festival for children and those who love children. To volunteer at Yom Yisrael please contact **Rabbi Carter**.

It's the online auction event of the season! Start bidding tomorrow and check back every day to see if you are winning. There are goods and services at every price point. Go now and check it out. You only have a week to get the goods! Even if an item doesn't have your name on it, you probably know someone it's perfect for. Share the link with them! Visit 32auctions.com/PSJC2017Auction

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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MASBIA: Two ways to help, right now | First Sunday of the month | 12:00PM-2:00PM

"Let all who are hungry, come and eat," we read in the Haggadah. Live those words and join friends old and new as a PSJC volunteer at Masbia, the kosher soup kitchen open to ALL, at 1372 Coney Island Avenue. Please find the time to roll up your sleeves and pitch in; for info, contact Helen Zelon hzelon@gmail.com And for those who are able, Masbia is seeking donations meals and groceries to people in need all over NYC; details at www.masbia.org, with sincere thanks for any support - physical or financial - our community can offer.

Lev Tahor with our Shaliach, Noam Willner

Friday, May 5 | 6:30PM

Welcome Shabbat with music and community as part of Lev Tahor, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner and conversation with our Brooklyn community shaliach, Noam Willner.

Menachem Bombach: From Isolationism to Integration: new developments in the Israeli Haredi community that just might change Israeli society as we know it. (of Shohar Institute Series)

Wednesday, May 10 | 7:00PM | Union Temple

Menachem Bombach is a senior staff member at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership. He founded a preparatory program for Haredi students at the Hebrew University. Currently, he leads the Berdichev Hasidic community in Beitar Illit and is the head and founder of a Hasidic yeshiva for young men offering both Jewish and secular studies.

Balfour at 100, Six-Day War Plus 50, and Trump at 4 months: The Implications for the Jewish community here and worldwide with Cornell Professor, Ross Brann

Sunday, May 21 | 1:00PM

Ross Brann* returns to PSJC as part of the ILJB to once again share his impressive insight and understanding of world affairs, particularly of Israel and the Middle East, to help us understand this serious historic moment in which we find ourselves. Suggested Donation \$10. Ross Brann is the Milton R Konvitz Professor of Judeo-Islamic Studies & Stephen H Weiss Presidential Fellow at Cornell University

Introduction to Judaism: *An Exploration for Curious Adults*

Tuesdays from 7:30PM-9:30PM | **First session: April 25**

Brooklyn Heights Synagogue | Rabbi Sue Oren, *Instructor and Coordinator*.

\$400 course tuition *plus* \$25 materials fee

Join this 20-session course on Jewish life, thought and practice

- Discover Judaism from an adult perspective
- Become a more confident parent of Jewish children
- Explore long-standing questions that you haven't yet asked

In a warm and open environment, explore Jewish thought, prayer and practice, learn about Jewish history and holidays, wrestle with inherited texts and contemporary issues, discuss Jewish views of God, ethics, life and death. The curriculum is designed to give you access to concepts, vocabulary and observances that are central to Judaism. Explore the holy and the historical, inherited texts and contemporary issues, rhythms of the calendar and of our lives in this seminar-style course.

For registration & questions, contact Rabbi Sue Oren at introclass@earthlink.net or 917.539.1334

This class is co-sponsored by: Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Congregation Mount Sinai, East Midwood Jewish Center, Kane Street Synagogue, Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, Park Slope Jewish Center, Progressive Temple Beth Ahavath Sholom, Temple Beth Emeth v'Ohr Progressive Shaarei Zedek, Union Temple

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; **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at hevra.kadisha@psjc.org.



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Triennial (Exodus 33:12-34:26) Etz Hayim p. 538; Hertz p. 362

Maftir (Numbers 28:19-25) Etz Hayim p. 932; Hertz p. 695

Haftarah (Ezekiel 37:1-14) Etz Hayim p. 1308; Hertz p. 1015

Ezekiel's Vision – Then and Now

The Torah and Haftarah readings for Shabbat Hol haMoed Pesach and Sukkot are among the oldest we know. The Talmud (Megilla 31a) says that the Torah reading for both these Shabbats is the same, 'See, You say unto me' (from Ex 33, where the Festivals are mentioned), while the Haftarot are different – Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones for Pesach (Ch 37) and of the war of Gog and Magog (Ch 38) for Sukkot. Both these Haftarot foretell the end of days and future redemption.

The vision of the dry bones is very dramatic, but the reason for its selection for Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesach is unclear. The Talmud gives no explanation and nothing in the text itself (Ezek 37:1-14) suggests a connection. Interestingly, there is a minhag (custom) among some to begin this Haftarah reading from Ezek 36:37-38, the two prior verses, which, unrelated to the vision of the dry bones, speak of the animals for the festival offerings in Jerusalem. But for the majority who start right into Chapter 37 (including both Hertz and Etz Hayim), even this connection is lacking.

There is a fascinating discussion in the Talmud (Sanhedrin 92b) about Ezekiel's vision - was he describing something he actually saw or was it a vision, to be explained metaphorically? There are rabbis in the Talmud who support both positions. What is clear is that Ezekiel, who lived in Jerusalem before the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE and was taken to Babylonia, was trying to give faith to the exiled community that just as God revived the dried bones here, so the Jewish people would be revived and returned to Jerusalem. If he is speaking metaphorically, predicting some future redemption for the Jewish people deep in distress, the relation to Pesach can be found in an old tradition - mentioned by Rav Hai Gaon and later the Tur - that *techiyat ha'metim*, the resurrection of the dead, will be on Hol haMoed Pesach.

But there are also those, like the leading 3rd century rabbi Rav, who held that Ezekiel was looking at real bones. Rav, and Rashi follows this line, says that these were the bones of the Bnei Ephraim who had miscalculated the date of the freedom from slavery and the Exodus from Egypt. They escaped from Egypt 30 years ahead of time and were killed shortly thereafter by the people of Gat. The Midrash says that their ill-conceived plan for freedom was at Pesach time.

And there is an intriguing modern interpretation that Ezekiel was looking at the bones of the Jews who had died in the battle against the Babylonian army of Nebuchadnezzar, which conquered Jerusalem in 586 BCE and destroyed Beit HaMikdash. The large number of skeletons he sees indicates that the Jews had put up a valiant and costly fight - "the valley was full of bones...and they were very dry (37:2)." Ezekiel is paying tribute to them, the first memorial ceremony for *chayalei tsahal*, the precursor of the IDF, 2600 years ago. Ezekiel is saluting them and prophesizes that they will come back to life and return hope to a people who had said, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost [*avda tikvateinu*] (37:11)." Ezekiel anticipated Naftali Hertz Imber and the Zionist Movement, and his prophecy is most appropriate for reading Chol haMoed Pesach in Israel, less than two weeks before Memorial Day for those who died in the defense of Israel, and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, a day later.

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 is a CY Faculty and Coordinator of Torah Sparks. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>

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.