



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

April 21-29, 2017 | 25 Nissan-3 Iyar, 5777  
Shabbat Shoah/Parashat Shemini

Friday, April 21   25 Nissan				Shabbat Shoah/Parashat Shemini Saturday, April 22   26 Nissan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Eden Wofsey</b>   6:30PM Candle Lighting   7:24PM				Shabbat Morning Services   10:00AM <b>Mattan Katarivas Bat Mitzvah</b> Mini Minyan   Tot Shabbat   Jr. Cong.   11:15AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday April 23 27 Nissan	Monday April 24 28 Nissan	Tuesday April 25 29 Nissan	Wednesday April 26 30 Nissan	Thursday April 27 1 Iyar	Friday April 28 2 Iyar	Saturday April 29 3 Iyar
Shaarei Mitzvah Trip   9:00AM  Hebrew School 9:30AM  Yom Hashoah Commemoration 7:00PM   Union Temple	Yom Hashoah	Board Meeting 7:15PM  Hebrew School 4:00PM	Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM	Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM	Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM  Candle Lighting 7:31PM	Shabbat <i>Tazriya-Metzora</i>  Shacharit 10:00AM  Mini Minyan   Tot Shabbat Jr. Cong.   11:15AM  Book Club   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) 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)		

**Mazal Tov!**

To **Mattan, Paulie, Jennifer and Shaine** on Mattan's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**Todah Rabbah!**

To **Paulie** and **Jennifer Katarivas** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of Mattan's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**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 26 Nissan-2 Iyar:**

**Dora Yoffie**, mother of Sharman Yoffie-Sidman; **Isidore Birnbaum**, father of David Birnbaum; **Jack Bursack**, uncle of Michael Snyder; **Jason Yoffie**, nephew of Sharman Yoffie-Sidman; **Jennie Phillips**, grandmother of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Martin Ullman**, father of Seth Ullman; **Martin Ullman**, father of Judith Ullman; **Miriam Mihrad**, aunt of Judith Ullman; **Yitzhak Cohen**, grandfather of Marc Cohen. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

**Don't forget our online auction is happening now!**

Remember to bid and keep checking to make sure you are the winner!

Bidding ends 9:00PM on Sunday, April 23.

Share the link: <https://www.32auctions.com/PSJC2017Auction>



**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



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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 Hashoa 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 [aronrhalb@gmail.com](mailto:aronrhalb@gmail.com)

### **Communal Yom HaShoah Observance**

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

Please join us on this co-sponsored event with the Brownstone Brooklyn Jewish community to gather for its annual commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day with a combined cantorial choir and screening of Bogdan's Journey, a compelling new film about a Polish town that comes to term with a pogrom perpetrated against the Jews in 1946. If you have any questions, please contact Union Temple: 718-638-7600.

### **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: [jewsforcleanenergy@gmail.com](mailto:jewsforcleanenergy@gmail.com). Email [Jessica.p.haller@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.p.haller@gmail.com) for housing and for bus details and general info at [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org). 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**

Sunday, April 30 | 6:30PM | Congregation Mount Sinai

We come together for a community-wide ceremony followed by an Israeli band singing songs to honor and remember Israeli's soldiers.

### **Idan Raichel in Concert**

Monday, May 1 | 7:45PM | Congregation Beth Elohim

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Idan Raichel, one of Israel's most famous musicians, performing solo, playing his greatest hits and songs from his latest album entitled "At the Edge of the Beginning". Get your tickets [www.teevitx.com](http://www.teevitx.com) and use PSJC's promo code: **ISR1** for a great discount.

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



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### **Yom Yisrael**

Sunday, May 7 | 10:00AM

Celebrate Israel, "Tour the country", listen to "Music Talks" musical tour of Israel, enjoy food with Taim and Shnitzl Food Trucks; dance and sing together at this now annual Israel festival for children and those who love children. To help out, contact **Rabbi Carter**: rabbicarie@psjc.org.

### **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](http://www.masbia.org), with sincere thanks for any support - physical or financial - our community can offer.

### **Tal Gur's Mind Crossing**

Wednesday, May 3 | 7:30PM

Join us for a special showing of "Mind Crossing," a body of work created by Israeli-American, music therapist and artist, Tal Gur consisting of video, text, dance, music and documentary which is based on a collection of letters which Gur's grandfather wrote after the holocaust. It is a story of love, loss, relationship, displacement and emigration with the holocaust as its background. Tal, two members of his quartet and two dancers/choreographers from Vienna, will perform this program at PSJC followed by a panel discussion exploring multigenerational relationships, the holocaust, faith and identity. Suggested donation: \$10. For more information about Tal's work: <http://talgur.net/> and his performance at the Brooklyn Conservatory on Friday, May 5: <https://bkcm.org/events/tal-gur-mind-crossing/>.

### **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. Prior to coming to Brooklyn as our Shaliach, Noam worked as a tour guide, taking hundreds of Israeli teens to Poland to better understand the Shoah. He will share some of experiences and lead us in a conversation about the "Big Questions we face" from the perspectives of Israeli and American Jews.

### **Racheli Ibenboim: From Isolationism to Integration: new developments in the Israeli Haredi community that just might change Israeli society as we know it. (of Shoharim Institute Series)**

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

We continue the Shoharim Institute Series bringing forward different speakers on Israeli life. Racheli Ibenboim lives in Mea Shearim and is a social entrepreneur and activist in the emerging civil society movement in the Ultra-Orthodox sector. She is the leader of Shoharim's Haredi Department and the founder and CEO of Movilot: Employment Leadership for Haredi women, empowering them to take part in Israeli business, public and civic sectors. PSJC is co-sponsoring this Lecture Series, please join us on the last date May 25.

### **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

**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)

## Shabbat Shoah/Parashat Shemini

Triennial (Leviticus 9:1-10:11): Etz Hayim p. 630; Hertz p. 443

### Is there such a thing as Divine Justice?

In this week's sedra we find the strange episode of Aaron's sons, Nadav and Avihu, who apparently made some kind of sacrifice using what the Torah calls eish zara - "strange fire" (Lev. 10:1). We are told that the manner in which this sacrifice was offered broke God's rules and, as a result, Nadav and Avihu were themselves summarily executed, "consumed by fire which came forth from the Lord (10:2)."

Our Sages have puzzled over this episode for millennia, but I don't believe anyone has come up with a satisfactory reason why God decided to punish the two brothers who wished to serve Him in their own way. On Monday, we will commemorate Yom HaShoah, the day set aside to commemorate the Holocaust in the Jewish calendar – a day on which we remember (amongst others) those who were killed by fire for no apparent reason.

As I said, the Sages through the ages have tried to come up with an explanation as to why Nadav and Avihu were executed. For instance, Rashi, in his commentary on Leviticus 10:2, quotes a midrash speculating that they were drunk (based on the fact that the passage which follows this episode in the Torah tells of the dangers of strong drink). In the same way some of our more egregious modern commentators have suggested that the victims of the Holocaust must have sinned. Some commentators have even attributed the victim's culpability to sins committed in his or her previous life. This rationale was epitomised by a claim made by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef in his weekly sermon on 5 August 2000, and reported with horror by news outlets the next day (you can find many examples online). He said that the murder of the six million happened because of their reincarnated souls. Those souls had apparently sinned and had been given the chance to atone by returning in new bodies. They failed to achieve t'shuvah, repentance, and so received their punishment in the Holocaust.

This is part of a tradition, begun in the Talmud and reinforced by the kabbalists, that, if disaster strikes, we must be to blame. If the Rabbis couldn't identify the sins we had committed which led to the disaster, they developed the idea of sinat chinam, baseless hatred, such as that which is said to have led to the destruction of the Second Temple. Maimonides believed that all the evil in the world was the product of free will, which allows those who would destroy us to follow the path of their intentions. Does this free will extend to us, so that we have a way of dealing with evil if we choose to do so?

Today, many organisations are trying to inculcate a sense of morality in young people so that the events of the last century are not repeated. But they face an uphill task against fascist organisations, both European and Middle Eastern, that are gaining ground.

I don't believe there is such a thing as Divine Justice. Human justice, yes. But if it's human justice, then there's human injustice too. Perhaps the Divine can help us to stamp it out. That is what I will be hoping for on Monday.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Allan Myers, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Allan Myers is a member of Edgware Masorti Synagogue, London UK. 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. **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); **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at [hevra.kadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevra.kadisha@psjc.org).