

Friday, September 8 17 Elul				Shabbat Ki Tavo Saturday, September 9 18 Elul		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Candle Lighting 6:58PM				Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 11:15AM Book Club 1:30PM		
Sunday September 10 19 Elul	Monday September 11 20 Elul	Tuesday September 12 21 Elul	Wednesday September 13 22 Elul	Thursday September 14 23 Elul	Friday September 15 24 Elul	Saturday September 16 25 Elul
First Day of Hebrew School Yom Iyyun HS Picnic 9:30AM	PSJC Knitters 7:30PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM Synagogue Coalition for Refugees 7:00PM Rodfei Tzedek Meeting 7:15PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM		It's Rosh Hashanah! 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Freddie Brooks 6:30PM Candle Lighting 6:47PM	<i>Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayelech</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Laila Fieldman Bat Mitzvah Family Torah/Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Selichot Across Brooklyn 9:30PM
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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrator (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Ellen Straus** and family for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of her dearly departed, **Betty Straus**, z"l mother and grandmother.

To **USJC** for donating to the Kiddush fund this Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Ellen Straus and her family on the death of her mother, **Betty Straus**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 18-24 Elul:

Albert N Seittelman, father of Joan Seittelman; **Annie Miller Zinn**, grandmother of Karen Louise Heau; **David Alperin**, father of Brad Alperin; **Freida Cohen**, grandmother of Marc Cohen; **Gerald Robert Smith**, brother of Ann Smith; **Jane Ruth Simon**, sister of Ellen Simon; **Martin Bert Fried**, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Martin Dorlester**, father of Jane Dorlester; **Shirley Blumenfeld**, grandmother of Barry Blumenfeld; **Tzila Katz**, grandmother of Marilyn Kardeman. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat!



When logged in members can see...



September 8-16, 2017 | 17-25 Elul, 5777
Shabbat Ki Tavo

Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2017-2018. Email 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 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. Please contact Eli Wolfhagen by email treasurer@psjc.org, if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, September 8 | 6:30PM

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, September 9 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with our Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling-Perkins. It's a great lead in to the Shabbat morning services.

Book Club The Calligrapher's Secret

Saturday, September 9 | 1:30PM

We will discuss *The Calligrapher's Secret* by Rafik Schami, the pen name (meaning Damascene) of the Syrian Christian German writer Suheil Fadél. This historical novel is a pessimistic plea for diversity and pluralism that predates yet anticipates Syria's current civil war between a brutal dictator and an opposition dominated by equally violent religious extremists.

First day of Hebrew School, Yom Iyyun & Picnic

Sunday, September 10 | 9:30AM

PSJC Knitters

Monday, September 11 | 7:30PM

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

Rodfei Tzedek Meeting

Tuesday, September 12 | 7:15PM

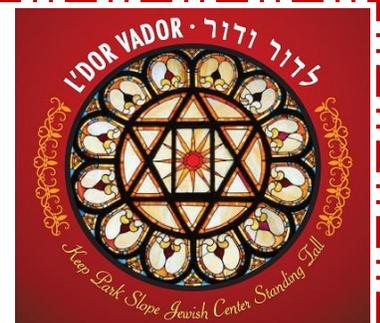
Please join us as a community sit down together to consider how we as PSJC can expand our efforts and become a community that truly is RODFEI TZEDEK - Pursuers of Justice. As a community we can define our priorities, areas of interest/passion, and capacity for meaningful, ongoing social action projects and social justice initiatives that involve members of all generations. Email rabbicarie@psjc.org to RSVP.

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>



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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Selichot Across Brooklyn

Saturday, September 16 | 9:30PM

FREE ADMISSION - This annual community collaboration is co-sponsored by Altshul, Brooklyn Jews, Congregation Beth Elohim, East Midwood Jewish Center, Flatbush Jewish Center, Kane Street Synagogue, Kolot Chayeinu, Mishkan Minyan, Park Slope Jewish Center, Shir HaMaalot, and Union Temple of Brooklyn.

9:30PM | Havdallah

10:00PM | Liturgy

11:30PM | Communal Singing

12:30AM | Conclusion

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Wednesday, September 20

Ma'ariv | 6:15PM | Main Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Thursday, September 21

Morning Service | 8:30AM | Main Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah (ages 2-5, accompanied by an adult) | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan (K-2nd grade, accompanied by an adult) | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Jr. Congregation (3rd-6th grade) | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service | 11:00AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Tashlich | 5:45PM | Prospect Park Lake

Maariv | 7:30PM | Main Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Friday, September 22

Morning Service | 8:30AM | Main Sanctuary

Tot-Tefillah (ages 2-5, accompanied by an adult) | 10:30AM - 11:15AM | Tent

Mini-Minyan (K-2nd grade, accompanied by an adult) | 11:30AM - 12:15PM | Tent

Jr. Congregation (3rd-6th grade) | 10:45AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Teen Service | 11:00AM - 12:15PM | Lower Sanctuary

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, September 23 | 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.

In Search Of A Few PSJCers to Help Organize the Fall Music Concert.

While it's not exactly "plug & play," the concert is not a complicated event to put together. As one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, it can be incredibly fulfilling....and fun to plan. In the past, we've had David Broza and the expert jazz sounds of Yotam Silberstein. Help make this year's concert enjoyable and profitable. Contact rfsnyder@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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



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Shabbat Ki Tavo

Triennial (Deuteronomy 26:1-27:10): Etz Hayim p. 1140; Hertz p. 859

Haftarah (Isaiah 60:1-22): Etz Hayim p. 1160; Hertz p. 874

The Torah's Bargain – for the Children and for the Adults

Parashat Ki Tavo is a prelude to the entry of the People of Israel into the land of Canaan. The public uttering of the blessings to the people while they make their final way to the Promise Land is a theatrical part of this prelude. Members of six tribes stand on one side and bless the people, while on the other side members of the remaining six tribes utter the curses, as the people cross towards their final destination.

This public event is an outstanding example of a theology based on the idea of divine reward and punishment. According to this, the relationship between God and the People of Israel is twofold - those who obey God and fulfill the commandments shall be rewarded, while those who choose not to observe them shall be punished and ultimately destroyed. This theology is widely attested in the book of Deuteronomy and elsewhere, especially in the later Prophets.

However, our modern conceptions of the Divine and our relationship to the latter make it really difficult to connect to that approach. In fact, this is not a modern problem but an old one. Back in the 12th Century Maimonides attempted to reconcile this type of theology with rationality. In his introduction to the so-called “Perek Chelek” (the 10th and last chapter of the tractate Sanhedrin) he argues that this theology is not an absolute one, but one aimed at very specific strands of society, such as children and immature people. According to Maimonides these groups are unable to comprehend the superlative value of the commandments. Therefore, they would only obey the law if they believe in the existence of some kind of reward for its fulfillment or punishment for failure to do so.

If this is a theology intended for children, as Maimonides strives to prove, the blessings and curses mentioned in our parashah are aimed at people who are going through a stage of childhood and ignorance before entering the Land of Canaan. These blessings and curses attached to the fulfillment (or non-fulfillment) of the commandments are only valid at this specific stage, before the People of Israel reaches its maturity as a nation once it is in the Land of Israel.

We today, unfortunately, live in a world where too many people and nations still act as if they are at the stage of the “children and ignorant,” and do not show a mature approach to law, obligations and the duty to respect others. Given a world where all too often mistakes and tragedies of the past are repeated, parashat Ki Tavo carries a relevant message for today. At a time when the spirit of curse seems to fill the world again, we are called on, like the people who entered Canaan three thousand years ago, not only to reach maturity, but to be a light and blessing of maturity for all the nations, a real *ohr l'goyim* (Isaiah 42:6). In a world with so much darkness, in spiritual eclipse so much of the time, this is our duty. And we should undertake the task with humility and a keen awareness of our own history.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Yardén Raber, from the “Torah Sparks” series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Yardén Raber, Conservative Yeshiva Talmud Faculty. 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.