



Friday, September 1   10 Elul				Shabbat Ki Tetze Saturday, September 2   11 Elul		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Charlie Urich</b>   7:00PM Candle Lighting   7:10PM				Shabbat Morning Services   10:00AM <b>Jonah Ceresney Bar Mitzvah</b>  <b>Dov Alperin &amp; Sam Drezner Bar Mitzvah</b> <b>Mincha   4:30PM</b>		
Sunday September 3 12 Elul	Monday September 4 13 Elul	Tuesday September 5 14 Elul	Wednesday September 6 15 Elul	Thursday September 7 16 Elul	Friday September 8 17 Elul	Saturday September 9 18 Elul
MASBIA 12:00PM	<b>Office Closed</b>  <b>Jonah Ceresney Bar Mitzvah</b> <b>10:00AM</b>	BKLYN Teacher Toolkit   6:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School Faculty Orientation 6:00PM  Board Meeting 7:15PM  Special Membership Meeting 8:00PM	Women's Heart to Heart Health Symposium 7:00PM	Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b> 7:00PM  Candle Lighting 6:58PM	<i>Shabbat Ki Tavo</i>  Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM  Shacharit 10:00AM  Tot Shabbat/Mini-Minyan 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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) Marsha Stanley, Administrator (office@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**Mazal Tov!**

To **Jonah** and his parents **Rachel** and **Andrew**, and brother **Ethan** as **Jonah** celebrates his Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

To **Dov** and his parents **Jody** and **Brad**, and sister **Zoe**, as **Dov** celebrates his Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

To **Sam** and his parents **Erika** and **Todd**, as **Sam** celebrates his Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Rachel Levine** and **Andrew Ceresney** for sponsoring the Kiddush this Shabbat in honor of **Jonah's** Bar Mitzvah.

**Yahrzeits observed 11-17 Elul:**

**Beulah Brodie**, grandmother of Jenna Mandel-Ricci; **Carol Frances**, cousin of Ellen Simon; **Deborah Sher**, sister of Mike Shapiro; **Joseph David Hurwitz**, father of Jonathan Hurwitz; **Karl Tursky**, grandfather of Marc Korashan; **Max Phillips**, grandfather of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Selma Heffler**, grandmother of Barry Blumenfeld; **Victor Feiman**, uncle of Steve Elworth. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

**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.



September 1-9, 2017 | 10-18 Elul, 5777  
Shabbat Ki Tetze

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

#### Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 6 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

#### Special Membership Meeting

Wednesday, September 6 | 8:30PM

All members are welcome to attend a brief meeting to vote on authorization for a \$450,000 line of credit to support our construction cost as we raise funds through the Capital Campaign. We hope to use the funds as little as possible. To obtain a proxy ballot, email [office@psjc.org](mailto:office@psjc.org).

#### Women's Heart to Heart

Thursday, September 7 | 7:00PM

Come learn the facts about cardiovascular disease, gain tips to improve your diet, and adopt a healthier lifestyle. Did You Know? Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States? Symptoms of heart disease in women DIFFER from those in men. Maimonides Medical Center who ranks in the top 1% nationwide, and number 1 in the State of New York, for cardiac outcomes surpassing the top Manhattan hospitals.

Speakers: Inna Nelipovich, MD - Cardiologist, Director, Women's Heart Program; Millicent Comrie, MD - Director, Brooklyn Heights Women's Center; Louisa DiGerolamo, NP - Clinical Manager, Vascular & Endovascular Surgery  
Dinner will be served. \*FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS OFFERED

\*Screenings include: carotid artery, thyroid, body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, peripheral vascular disease. To Register please email Steve at [STzeltser@maimonidesmed.org](mailto:STzeltser@maimonidesmed.org). Co-sponsored by PSJC.

#### Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, September 8 | 7:00PM

#### 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. The novel is set in Damascus in the 1940s and 1950s where Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities and individual Damascenes coexist while privately disliking one another. The novel has only one minor Jewish character, but it provides a sense of what life was like in the countries surrounding Israel at that time as well as a prescient portrayal of the fissures in Syrian society that would rend the country in its current civil war.

#### 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](mailto:rfsnyder@gmail.com) for more information.

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



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## 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

Monday, September 11 | 7:30PM

For more information contact [marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org) to RSVP.

### Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, September 16 | 1:30PM

During the summer, Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at Prospect Park. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch in the park after the Kiddush. Bring a dairy or pareve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze for the coming year, the months of 2017 on October 21, November 18, and December 16 and in the year 2018, January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16, please email, please email [shabbatshmooze@psjc.org](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org) with your date of choice.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:aronrhalb@gmail.com)

**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). **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 Ki Tetze

Triennial (Deuteronomy 21:10-23:7): Etz Hayim p. 1112; Hertz p. 840; Plaut p.  
Haftarah (Isaiah 54:1-10): Etz Hayim p. 1137; Hertz p. 857; Plaut p.

### Learn For The Sake Of A Reward

Parashat Ki tetse presents us with the very straightforward case of the rebellious son – the ben sorer u'moreh.

Two parents have a son who doesn't listen to them - not unusual. They vent their frustration in front of the elders of the city, saying their son doesn't listen to them and, moreover, is a glutton - also not unusual. The elders declare him to be a 'ben sorer u'moreh' – a 'rebellious son' and sentence him to death by stoning. Maybe a bit unusual. Apparently, 'boys will be boy's is not a Torah value. Kill him before he goes rogue, however, is. Like rodef – the pursuer, whom we are obliged to stop from committing murder by any means. Better the rebellious son be executed while he's relatively innocent before he becomes a guilty adult. However, the scholars of the Talmud have a problem with that.

So we find in Tractate Sanhedrin (71a), that they reject this reading, offering instead a mishmash of midrashic conditions which render the case un-prosecutable. The boy must steal his parents' money. He must consume a sizeable quantity of meat and wine. His parents must be similar in voice and appearance. It's as if the scholars tried to prevent the case from going to trial. In fact, the Talmud ultimately declares there never was nor ever could be a rebellious son. So why, asks the Talmud, does this even appear in the Torah? 'Drosh vekabel s'char', it answers, 'interpret and be rewarded.' A wonderful phrase, but what does it really mean? Simply put, it means we should interpret the Torah for the sake of interpreting, not for its practical application – what we call 'learning lishma'. But a more midrashic interpretation gives this exhortation a more nuanced meaning.

We know, for example, that the Torah requires courts to condemn someone to death for capital crimes. Yet despite what's on the books, the rabbis in the Talmud maintain that a court which executes a convicted criminal once in 7 years (or once in 70!) is a bloodthirsty court (Makkoth 7a). In fact, they would jump through hoops to find reasons for acquittal because they believed that mercy is the driving spirit of the Torah. So how could they justify executing a child who hasn't even committed a capital crime? Hence the exhortation. Drosh! – Interpret! Vekabel s'char – and be rewarded for saving the boy's life.

Alternatively, the rabbis knew that applying the law as written was not acceptable in their day and age, even if at one time it may have been. But erasing it from the Torah because it's no longer valid would set a precedent for anyone to remove whatever they don't like to make the Torah more likeable. So rather than 'cutting and pasting' this mitzvah they repurposed it as a cautionary tale for parents. It makes a vivid impression, but shouldn't be taken literally.

Drosh!, says the Talmud - apply midrash to align the case with Torah values. Vekabel s'char –be rewarded for preventing critics from throwing out the rebellious baby with the bathwater. So when Rabbi Yonatan claims he sat on the grave of a rebellious son, we accept it, because it strengthens the idea that halakhah does evolve over time, while its essential spirit remains intact. If we keep this in mind when we learn Torah or create midrash, maybe we too will merit a similar reward.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Sid Slivko, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Rabbi Sid Slivko, Faculty, Oded Adult Education Program, Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, USCJ. 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.