



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

March 9-17, 2018 | 22 Adar-1 Nissan 5778
Shabbat Parah Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei

Friday, March 9 22 Adar				Shabbat Parah Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei Saturday, March 10 23 Adar		
Candle Lighting 5:38PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Leora Kling Perkins 6:30PM				Simcha Shabbat Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Family Torah/Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Taking Your Seder to the Next Level: How to Lead an Engaging Seder for All Ages with Leora Kling Perkins 1:20PM <i>Mincha - Elan Rabiner Bar Mitzvah</i> 4:00PM		
Sunday March 11 24 Adar	Monday March 12 25 Adar	Tuesday March 13 26 Adar	Wednesday March 14 27 Adar	Thursday March 15 28 Adar	Friday March 16 29 Adar	Saturday March 17 1 Nissan
Hebrew School 9:30AM 5th Grade Family Program 11:30AM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 12:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher/Teen Walkout Discussion 6:15PM	Café Ivrit 7:00PM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Candle Lighting 6:46PM	<i>Shabbat Vayikra Rosh Chodesh</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Isabele Reiner Bat Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM <i>Mincha - Ava Barash Bat Mitzvah</i> 3:00PM
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) Elana Ayalon, Director of Administration (office@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Elan, Dina, Adam** and **Ana** on Elan's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!

Todah Rabbah

To **Paula Freedman** and **Rabbi Jeffrey Marker** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Jeffrey's** 70th birthday this Shabbat.

To **Julia Kamen-Birnbaum** and **David Birnbaum** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **David's** 60th birthday this Shabbat.

To **Dina** and **Adam Rabiner** for sponsoring Seudah Shlishit this Shabbat in honor of **Elan's** Bar Mitzvah.

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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org.

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



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Yahrzeits observed 23-29 Adar:

Alfred Lewis, father of Roland Lewis; **Arnold Phillips**, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Aron Gmach**, father of David Gmach; **Bernard Erris**, father of Neil Kuttner; **Bobbie Lurie**, mother of Loretta Lurie; **Carl Bakal**, father of Jo Bakal-Schlomann; **Charles D. Lieber**, father of Janno Lieber; **Clara Radwelsky**, grandmother of Steven Radwell; **David Auslander**, father of Andrew Auslander; **David Steinfeld**, father of Alvin Steinfeld; **Dora Rudman**, grandmother of David Rosen; **Edith K. Gottlieb**, aunt of Ray Kosarin; **Esther Kornbluth**, mother of Hanna Ulman; **George Press**, father of Aric Press; **Harold Resnick**, father of Maxine Resnick; **Harry Smith**, brother of Ann Smith; **Helen Rosen**, family friend of Jan Orzeck; **Hope Haase**, mother of David Haase; **Ingrid Mazie**, mother of Steven Mazie; **Lena Schneid**, aunt of Carol Diamond; **Mania Schweitzer**, mother of Harry Schweitzer; **Marion Mark**, mother of Marjorie Rothenberg; **Mary Weber**, mother of Karen Geer; **Melvin Blake**, uncle of Emily Blake; **Morris Sinow**, grandfather of Miriam Fleischmann; **Pearl Rothenberg**, mother of Joel Rothenberg; **Sarah Elworth**, grandmother of Steve Elworth; **Sonia Novick**, mother of Eve Blatt; **Sonya Levine**, mother of Steven Levine; **Sylvia Doro**, mother of Diane Buxbaum; **Sylvia Friedland**, mother of Karen Friedland; **Vivian Esther Sloan Honig**, sister of Sara Sloan and mother of Matt Honig. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, March 10 and 24 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with our Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling Perkins.

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, March 10 | 10:00AM

Join us for our first Simcha Shabbat when we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their March birthdays & anniversaries. They will receive a special blessing during the Torah service and we will all enjoy a lovely Simcha Shabbat Kiddush (cake included)! Please update your PSJC account and add your birthdays and anniversaries so we may send you a personal invitation in the future.

Taking Your Seder to the Next Level: How to lead an Engaging Seder for all ages

Saturday, March 10 | 1:20PM

Hosting a Seder this year for the first time or the fiftieth? Not sure how to get started? Or, are you out of new ideas? Join Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins for a conversation about ways to create an engaging Seder for the whole family.

The Rabbi Who Killed His Purim Guest: An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year

Monday, March 12, 19 and 26 | 12:00PM

Join Leora Kling Perkins, as we follow the Jewish year by reading selections of the Talmud related to Jewish holidays. We'll learn about who the rabbis were and what they were doing when they created the Talmud. This class will be taught primarily using English translations and is aimed at beginning to advanced learners.

Café Ivrit - Mid-Level Hebrew with our Community Shaliach Noam Willner

Thursday, March 15 | 7:00PM

Would you like to practice speaking Hebrew over coffee with other Brownstone Brooklyn friends? Café Ivrit is the right place for you! The group discusses different issues in Hebrew and practice new words and ways to express yourself better in Hebrew. To determine if this is the class for you, or to RSVP, please contact Noam at NoamW@jafi.org.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, March 16 and 23 | 10:00AM | \$12 per class (\$10 per members)

It's Friday! is a series of classes for children 3 and under and their caregivers. Join PSJC Tot Shabbat Leader, Abe, for music and stories each week. For more information, www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html



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SAVE THE DATE! PSJC Auction & Tropical Party | Saturday, April 14 | 8:15PM

Slip on your flip flops, pop on your aloha shirt and join us for some tropical fun! Delicious margaritas, yummy desserts & funky music, plus exciting live & silent auction to benefit PSJC! More info to come regarding soliciting goods & services, ads and sponsorship, so keep your eyes peeled! Purchase your early bird tickets www.psjc.org/evening-in-margaritaville# until March 15. Please contact auction@psjc.org to help with this fun event.

Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu

Friday, March 16 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe and Aileen. Then we'll head downstairs for a communal dinner. Everyone is welcome! Main entrees will be provided. RSVPs are strongly encouraged: www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu1.html. **Please bring a generous salad/veggie side or dessert to share.** **If you have food allergies or dietary needs, please be sure to bring something you can eat, as we are unable to take special food requests for this meal.**

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, March 17 | 1:00PM

Join other fluent Hebrew speakers after services where we will have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Contact Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, March 17 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Loretta Lurie

Our community is invited to a vegetarian pot-luck lunch following service and Kiddush. This is a child-friendly home. The kishkush Hebrew conversation can continue at the Shmooze. Please join us!

Rodfei Tzedek Action

Sunday, March 18 | 12:00PM

The Origins of the Jews: History and Memory

Thursday, March 22 | 7:00PM

Join PSJC's own David Rosen to explore the Exodus (from an anthropologist's perspective). It's a great way to prepare for Pesach.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, March 24 | 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.

Mark your calendars

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony

Tuesday, April 17 | 7:00PM | PSJC

Join us as we observe Israel's Memorial Day together as a community.

Shuk Machaneh Yehudah

Wednesday, April 18 | 6:30PM

Kane Street Synagogue - 236 Kane Street

Yom Israel: An Israel Festival for the Whole Family

Sunday, April 22 | 10:00AM - 1:30PM | Hannah Senesh Community Day School - 342 Smith Street

A festival for the whole family tour Israel, see live performances, enjoy great food and help us celebrate Israel as a community.

Hadag Nahash in Concert

Wednesday, May 2 | 7:00PM

Union Temple of Brooklyn - 17 Eastern Parkway



Shabbat Parah Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei

Triennial: Exodus 37:17-39:21 | Etz Hayim p. 560; Hertz p. 379-381, 385-387; Plaut p.673

Maftir: Numbers 19:1-22 | Etz Hayim p. 880-883; Hertz p. 652; Plaut p.1145

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38 | Etz Hayim p. 1290; Hertz p. 1001; Ezekiel 36: 22-36 | Plaut p.1651

Dvar Torah: A Woman's Gifts

This double parasha, which describes the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness, mentions various contributions made specifically by the Israelite women. The first is found in Exodus 35:25-26: "...every woman wise of mind with their hands they spun ...the goats'-hair." By way of the ancient and time consuming activity of hand-spinning - twisting fibres together to produce thread - they played an essential role in the manufacture of the cloth that hung on the tabernacle walls and adorned its holy vessels. A second contribution, this time of goods rather than services, is mentioned in Exodus 38:8:

8) And he made the basin of bronze, and its pedestal of bronze, out of the mirrors of the women's collective that would gather at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

וַיַּעַשׂ אֶת הַכִּיּוֹר נְחֹשֶׁת וְאֶת כַּנּוֹ נְחֹשֶׁת
בְּמִרְאֵת הַצְּבָאוֹת אֲשֶׁר צָבְאוּ פֶתַח אֹהֶל
מוֹעֵד.

What should we make of this contribution? How does it compare to the time-consuming labor of hand-spinning thread? Beyond giving Betzalel the raw material needed to make the tabernacle's bronze basin, is there significance to the contribution being mirrors?

Two medieval commentators, Rashi and Ibn Ezra, come to answer these questions. Incorporating a midrash in his commentary, Rashi writes that Moses was initially angry when he saw the offering of mirrors and wanted to reject them. Moses associated the mirrors with the "Yetzer HaRa" - the lustful Evil Inclination - because they are used by women to beautify themselves and arouse their partners. But God told Moses to think again - to consider the mirrors an extra special gift because they had been used by the Israelite women in Egypt to entice their partners, weary from long days of back-breaking slave labor. According to Rashi, the mirrors should be seen not as tools of vanity, but as objects made holy by their role in ensuring Jewish survival. It may be a stretch, but one could also read Rashi, and this midrash, as affirming beauty and sexuality.

Ibn Ezra, however, takes a different approach. He writes that the donation of the mirrors signaled a new breed of women - women no longer interested in playing upon their appearance to become wives and mothers. This "women's collective" came regularly to the Tent of Meeting to pray and hear words of Torah; the new spiritual life offered by the Tabernacle enabled such women to find meaning outside the traditional roles assigned to them by society. So giving up a mirror is more properly read as a symbolic gesture indicating a rejection of beauty and sexuality.

This rich and timely argument speaks to a deep tension within Judaism and religion in general. Our society encourages young and old alike, either implicitly or explicitly, to care about how they look - often at the expense of more significant and meaningful accomplishment. Synagogues spend precious resources for interior decorators to come beautify the spaces in which we learn and pray, leaving less to spend on the learning and praying activities themselves! For Rashi, aesthetics and being "turned on by what we see" are necessary and even holy when harnessed to ensure continuity. For Ibn Ezra, scruffiness is next to godliness because there are simply more interesting and important things to think about than how things look. Are we striking the right balance?

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joel Levy**, *Rosh Yeshiva, Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem* from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks/>

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; **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.