



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

June 28-July 6, 2019 | 25 Sivan – 3 Tammuz 5779
Parashat Shelach Lecha

Friday, June 28 25 Sivan				Parashat Shelach Lecha Saturday, June 29 26 Sivan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM Candle Lighting 8:13PM				Pride Shabbat Shacharit 10:00AM Boaz Ulman Bar Mitzvah Difduf/Kishkush Reading Group 1:00PM		
Sunday June 30 27 Sivan	Monday July 1 28 Sivan	Tuesday July 2 29 Sivan	Wednesday July 3 30 Sivan	Thursday July 4 1 Tammuz	Friday July 5 2 Tammuz	Saturday July 6 3 Tammuz
			Rosh Hodesh Tammuz Minyan 7:00AM	 Office Closed	Kabbalat Shabbat with Charlie Urich 7:00PM Candle Lighting 8:12PM	<i>Shabbat Korach</i> Shacharit 10:00AM
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, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Boaz, Karin, Amihai, Naomi and Malka** on Boaz's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!

Todah Rabbah

To **Karin and Amihai Ulman** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Boaz's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Adine Schuman Pusey and her family on the death of Adine's father, **Joseph Schuman, z"l**.

Yahrzeits observed 26 Sivan-2 Tammuz:

David G. Gottesman, father of Andrew Gottesman; **Edward Wollman**, father of Michael Wollman; **Frances Schnur**, grandmother of Elizabeth Schnur and Rosanne Milic; **Gerald Schwartz**, father of Mark Schwartz; **Jean Thomases**, wife of Matt Thomases; **Julia Tursky**, aunt of Marc Korashan; **Kate Blatt**, observed by the PSJC community; **Nettie Hopard**, mother of Stanley Hopard; **Rabbi Max Ticktin**, teacher and mentor of Jeffrey Marker; **Rolla Carrel**, father of Carrie Sadovnik; **Rose Siniawer**, cousin of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Download The PSJC App Today After Shabbat! 😊



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When logged in members can see...

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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Summer Shabbat Services

Our Friday night service times move to 7:00PM beginning in July.
And Shabbat Services move to our air-conditioned downstairs for services in July and August.

PAI Book Club - "*The Underground Railroad*" by Colson Whitehead
Wednesday, July 10 | 7:00PM

Saturday, July 20

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush | 1:00PM

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us after services and kiddush where we have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Those who aren't sure if they are "fluent" or not are all welcome! Contact Michal: Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

Shabbat Shmooze | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at PSJC courtyard during the summer months. We will shmooze after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please email shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with the date they would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze (3rd Shabbat of the month).

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, July 27 | 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.

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, reading Torah, email Rabbi Sue Oren at leyning@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.

Annual Membership Renewal 2019-2020

That means we have already begun planning for 5780! We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC!
We would love to get to 100% participation. No amount is too big or too small.

Renew your membership today! It's easy and can all be done online.

Visit www.psjc.org and log in to your account.

Please contact Peter by email treasurer@psjc.org if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

Hebrew School Registration is Live!

Registration for 2019-2020 Hebrew School is OPEN!
Join us for another year of Jewish learning!

https://www.psjc.org/hebrew_school_registration

Deadline to avoid \$100 late fee is **Friday, June 30, 2019**

Coming Soon!

Once again, PSJC will be participating with ORT so you can send Honey to your friends and family in time for Rosh HaShanah.

This is a lovely gift and a PSJC fundraiser.

Notices will be going out as soon as they open their website.

Get your orders in early so you can get free shipping



Host an Israeli Shinshin

IsraelBKLYN is looking for host families for Israeli Shinshinim this Summer and this year (especially beginning in the fall). A "shinshin" is an 18-year-old Israeli emissary to communities abroad with the goal of educating people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture. Shinshinim work with children at Jewish camps, schools and synagogues. Over the last five years, Shinshinim have added a lot to our PSJC community. If you are interested in hosting a shinshin, please contact Rabbi Carter: rabbicarie@psjc.org.

Hebrew Reading for Adult beginners @ Park Slope Jewish Center

Wednesdays | 7:00PM-8:30PM | July 10, 17, 24, 31; Aug 7, 14, 21, 28

Instructor: Rabbi Sue Oren | Fee: \$275 (includes course materials)

For adults interested in learning to read Hebrew (or refreshing their rusty skills!) Learn to read the Hebrew "alefbet" (aka alphabet) on Wednesdays this summer! This course provides a systematic approach to recognizing and sounding out the Hebrew writing system. In class and at home, you'll reinforce this learning through practical exercises and introduction to basic vocabulary from Jewish prayer.

For registration and questions, contact Rabbi Oren: slopehebrew@earthlink.net or 917.539.1334

Co-sponsors: East Midwood Jewish Center, Flatbush Jewish Center, Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, Park Slope Jewish Center, Union Temple

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.



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Triennial: Numbers 15:8-15:41 | Etz Hayim p.851; Hertz p.631; Plaut p.1119

Haftarah: Yehoshua 2:1-24 | Etz Hayim p.856; Hertz p.635; Plaut p.1262

D'var Torah: When God is Not God

There is a secret in this week's Torah portion. At first, it's shocking but in the end, I think you'll conclude that you already knew it. There is a character in this week's Torah portion called Y-H-V-H who tells Moshe that he wants to kill the Israelites (Bemidbar 14:12): "I will hit them with a plague and eliminate them and make a bigger greater nation from you!" The secret, revealed by the Zohar, is that this character is not God.

But before we get into the secret, a clarification: For the Zohar, everything is God. The aspect of God that the Zohar calls *Ein Sof* / Infinity contains all things. So not only the character Y-H-V-H who wants to kill the Jews is part of God, so are the spies, the grapes they brought back, and if a spy stubbed his toe on a rock on the way home, as Rabbi Moshe Cordovero says (quoted in Daniel Matt's **The Essential Kabbalah**), "Don't say 'this is a rock and not God' – God forbid! – Rather, all existence is God." But if everything is God, how can the character in question not be God?

The answer is that when we as Jews today use the word "God", we don't generally mean the *Ein Sof* of the Zohar but rather something more in the spirit of Maimonides like "the One we love and imitate." For the Zohar, too, we are meant to love and imitate God. But the Zohar uses different names to capture different aspects of God, and what we are supposed to love and imitate is not called *Ein Sof* but is symbolized by attributes (also called *sefirot*) like Wisdom, Love, and Justice. The character "God" who wants to kill us is part of *Ein Sof* like all things, but he is something broken; not to be worshipped or imitated. He is not the true God of Wisdom, Love, and Justice.

The Zohar (III 144a IR) reveals this secret in its commentary to Bereishit 6. This chapter tells the story of how God (the character) became sad, regretted creating human beings and so killed them all except Noah and family. The Zohar explains that this cannot be the transcendent God because then it would be inappropriate to speak of God experiencing sadness and regret. The character "God" who destroys humanity is symbolized not by Wisdom, Love, and Justice but by Rage, Pain, and Destruction. This is not "the One we love and imitate."

The Zohar further explains that this (not-) "God" of Rage, Pain, and Destruction is responsible not only for the flood but also for the ongoing desire to kill the Israelites. The point of these stories, in which "God" is not really God, is to teach us the dynamics of Rage, Pain, and Destruction in heaven and on earth. Moshe is the ultimate servant of the true God who knows how to awaken the divine attributes of Wisdom, Love, and Justice by evoking the thirteen attributes of mercy (Shemot 34:9; Bemidbar 14:17-18). We are meant to learn to do the same.

So, the secret is that "God" in the Chumash is not always God. But you already knew that. Anyone who reads the simple meaning of the story understands that Moshe was not supposed to say, "Hey God, great idea, let's kill all the Israelites except me." Moshe was supposed to resist "God" and the reader is meant to identify with him. Think about it for a minute and you'll see that the Zohar is just stating the simple meaning of the text using more complex mystical-philosophical-psychological symbolism. The message is the same.

And it's a radical message. Each time the Bible says that God did X or said Y, you need to ask yourself: the character "God" or God "the One we love and imitate"? For instance, would the God in which you believe command that we exterminate the seven nations that lived in Eretz Yisrael (Devarim 20:16)? By revealing this secret to you, Jewish tradition has entrusted you with a powerful interpretive tool. You and I are the living link in thousands of years of Jewish interpretation. May it be God's will that we use this tool wisely.

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

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