



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

January 5-13, 2018 | 18-26 Tevet 5778
Parashat Shemot

Friday, January 5 18 Tevet				Parashat Shemot Saturday, January 6 19 Tevet		
Candle Lighting 4:25PM Lev Tahor with Speaker Pam Laskin 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Naomi Heffez Bat Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah 1:20PM		
Sunday January 7 20 Tevet	Monday January 8 21 Tevet	Tuesday January 9 22 Tevet	Wednesday January 10 23 Tevet	Thursday January 11 24 Tevet	Friday January 12 25 Tevet	Saturday January 13 26 Tevet
Hebrew School 9:30AM Medicare 101 4:30PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees meeting 7:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 4:32PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Elizabeth Schnur 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Vaera</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Book Club 1:30PM
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) 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 **Naomi, Jennifer, Albert and Alison** in honor of Naomi's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Jennifer and Albert Heffez** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Naomi's Bat Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Robert Saffer and his family on the death of his mother, **Pearl Saffer**, z"l.

Alexandra Aron and her family on the death of Alexandra's father, **Alan Milford Aron**, z"l.

Gary and Ellen Briefel on the death of Gary's brother, **Dennis Briefel**, z"l.

Steve Elworth and his family on the death of Steve's mother, **Elaine Elworth**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 19-25 Tevet:

Ann Weinfeld Schulman, mother of Amy Schulman; **Bernard Simon**, father-in-law of Merrie Handfinger; **Daniel Taibel**, father of Chava Newcombe; **Ellen Kamil**, mother of Seth Kamil; **HB Daffner**, great-grandfather of Stuart Baron; **Helen Rubin**, grandmother of Harolyn Cohen; **Herbert Loewenthal**, father of Amy Loewenthal; **Irving Samuel Phillips**, father of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Leonard Singer**, father of Ira Singer; **Marilyn Rothberger**, cousin of Harriet Baron; **Oscar Person**, uncle of Sarah Person; **Riva Korashan**, sister of Marc Korashan; **Robert Mark Peters**, father of Jenny Peters; **Sabina Goldstein**, mother of Leon Goldstein; **Samuel Sloan**, father of Sara Sloan. *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.



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Lev Tahor Services followed by Potluck Dinner and Talk by Pamela Laskin on her novel *Ronit and Jamil*

Friday, January 5 | 6:30 PM

Come out and sing during services. Following a dairy/pareve potluck dinner, we will listen to Pam lead a discussion of *Ronit and Jamil*. If you have questions, please lev.tahor@psjc.org. You can sign up for the dinner, <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Jan-5-18>

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, January 6 | 1:20PM

When it was written in the 12th Century, Maimonides' Mishneh Torah changed the landscape of Rabbinic literature, and has since served as one of the great authoritative codes of Jewish Law. This is a monthly study session with Rabbi Carter, please email rabbicarie@psjc.org for information about this study group.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, January 12, 19 and 26 | 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 hands-on exploration of Shabbat and holidays. For more information, www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html

Book Discussion - *Two She-Bears*

Saturday, January 13 | 1:30PM

PSJCers join clinical psychologist, and psychology professor Warren Spielberg and David Cooper will co-lead a discussion about *Two She-Bears* by Meir Shalev. This multigenerational historical novel, set in a rural Israeli village, explores the psychological aspects of violence and masculinity and whether the two are interconnected. BPL has 17 print copies.

Save the Date -- and Get Involved: MLK Day of Service

Sunday, January 14 | 11:00AM-2:00PM

PSJC's Annual MLK Day of Service is gearing up for another year of soup kits, snack kits, knitting, cooking (on and off-site), shul-beautification and more. Perfect for PSJCers of all ages, we promise plenty of activities to benefit the community and organizations beyond PSJC, like the Brooklyn Family Justice Center, Brooklyn Legal Aid, God's Love We Deliver, HIAS, Methodist Hospital and soup kitchens CHIPS and MASBIA. MLK planners also warmly welcome extra hands in the weeks before the event -- we need your help to make MLK Day great! Contact Helen Zelon, hzelon@gmail.com for details -- and thanks in advance for working hard for a better world.

Rosh Chodesh Shevat Minyan

Wednesday, January 17 | 7:00AM

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, January 20 | 1:00PM

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us the third Shabbat of the month after services and kiddush where we will 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 more than welcome to join as well! Perfect for fluent Hebrew Speakers. Contact Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

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.



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Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, January 20 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a fun get-together after services, in the home of a PSJC member. Everyone is asked to bring a dairy or pareve potluck dish to share. For those participating in the Kishkush Acharei Kiddush first, we look forward to continuing the conversation at the Shabbat Shmooze afterwards. As usual, the Shabbat Shmooze is open to the PSJC community. Please join us!

2020 Bnai Mitzvah Date Selection Meeting

Sunday, January 21 | 11:00AM

Are you expecting to celebrate your child's Bnai Mitzvah @PSJC in 2020? If so, please join us in the PSJC Sanctuary to learn about Bnai Mitzvah at PSJC and the Shaarei Mitzvah program and to begin the process of selecting Bnai Mitzvah dates for 2020. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/2020-bnai-mitzvah-date-selection-meeting.html>. We look forward to seeing you and taking the first step in your journey to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

PSJC Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Trustees

Sunday, January 21 | 4:00PM

We hope you will join us for Park Slope Jewish Center's Annual Meeting in the PSJC sanctuary. The meeting will consist of updates from synagogue leadership, Etz Chaim updates, thank yous to the outgoing Board of Trustees, a vote for the new Board of Trustees, minor synagogue business, Q&A.

PSJC Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 26 | 6:30PM

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, January 27 | 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.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, January 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.

Hebrew Cooking with the Shinshinim!

Sunday, January 28 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

Join our Shinshinim (18 year old Israelis here for a year of service)! Learn to prepare delicious Israeli dishes using Hebrew! Whether you are fluent or don't know Alef from Bet, this will be a great opportunity to pick up some Kitchen-Hebrew and have a great time cooking. This experience is **open to all**, but it is **geared toward elementary and middle school aged children and their families**. And it ends with dinner together, eating "the fruits" of our labor. We will also meet on March 18. A donation of \$5/family/session is requested - just to cover materials. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Rabbi Carter at rabbicarie@psjc.org.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 31 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PSJC Tzedakah Fair

Sunday, February 4 | 10:00AM-2:00PM

Start saving your quarters today for our Tzedakah Fair, put on by our 6th grade Shaarei Mitzvah students at the beginning of their bnai mitzvah journey. This means it is a great time to start getting into the habit (or continuing it!) of putting a little change in a tzedakah box each week. Then your student will have a bag of coins to bring to the fair to donate to over a dozen organizations!



Parashat Shemot

Triennial | Exodus 3:1-4:17: Etz Hayim p.326; Hertz p.213; Plaut p. 396

Haftarah | Jeremiah 1:1-2:3: Etz Hayim p.347; Hertz p.229

Divrei Torah about Moses often emphasize his being chosen by God for the holy task of leading the Israelites out of Egypt. But from midrashim we learn that Moses' destiny was foretold by his sister Miriam even before his birth, suggesting that God also chose Miriam too for a holy task: standing up and standing by to make sure Moses would live to fulfill his mission. In the Talmud we find that Miriam was ultimately responsible for Moses even being conceived. Babylonian Talmud Sotah 12a says:

The verse states: "And there went a man of the house of Levi" (Exodus 2:1). To where did he go? Rav Yehuda bar Zevina says: He went according to the advice of his daughter. A Sage teaches: Amram was the great man of his generation. Once he saw that the wicked Pharaoh said: "Every son that is born you shall cast into the river" (Exodus 1:22) he said: We are laboring for nothing. He arose and divorced his wife. All others arose and divorced their wives. His daughter said to him: Father, your decree is more harsh than that of Pharaoh, as Pharaoh decreed only with regard to the males, but you decreed both on the males and on the females...Pharaoh the wicked - it is uncertain whether his decree will be fulfilled; you are righteous - your decrees will certainly be fulfilled... [Amram] arose and brought back (remarried) his wife. All arose and brought back their wives.

And this is the basis for Exodus Rabbah's statement that Shifra and Puah were actually Yocheved and Miriam: "[Miriam was called] Puah, because she stood up to [*hofiah panim keneged*] her father." (1:13). Perhaps it was this defiant optimism that singled her out to receive prophecy and play an even more significant role:

Seven prophetesses. Who were these? Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail, Hulda and Esther... Miriam, as it is written, "And Miriam the prophetess the sister of Aaron" (Exodus 15:20). Was she only the sister of Aaron and not the sister of Moses? Rabbi Nahman said in the name of Rav: Because she prophesied when she was the sister of Aaron and said, "My mother is destined to bear a son who will save Israel." When he was born, the whole house was filled with light, and her father arose and kissed her on the head saying, "My daughter, thy prophecy has been fulfilled." But when they threw him into the river, her father arose and tapped her on the head, saying, "Daughter, where is thy prophecy?" So it is written, "and his sister stood afar off to know," (Exodus 2:4) to know what would be the end of her prophecy. - Babylonian Talmud Megillah 14a

The light that filled the house when Moses was born was the sign of his holy mission. But even as Amram was quick to doubt the prophecy when the situation became difficult, Miriam kept faith, not only *watching* what would become of her brother, but also *watching over* him to make sure he lived. According to the Mechilta of Rabbi Yishmael, Shirata 10, this was a holy act:

... And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him (Exodus 2:4). For the expression "standing" suggests [the [presence of] the Holy Spirit, as in the passage "I saw the Lord standing beside the altar" (Amos 9:1) And it also says "And the Lord came and stood" (I Samuel 3:10). And it also says "Call Joshua and stand," (Deuteronomy 31:14).

Afar Off. The expression "afar off" everywhere suggests [the presence of] the Holy Spirit, as in the passage: "From afar the Lord appeared unto me." (Jeremiah 31:2)."

This text goes on to explicate the rest of the verse similarly, making clear that Miriam's presence is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Each of these beautiful midrashim shows us a different aspect of holy action. In the first, Miriam stands up to her father, speaking out about what she believes is right. In the second, she receives prophecy and is open to seeing a clear sign of holiness, believing in its truth even when circumstances become difficult. In the third midrash, Miriam is willing to wait and watch Hashem's plan unfold, standing in for the Holy Spirit as she watches over her baby brother. And when we act in the world with optimism and confidence, seeking signs and speaking truth, and stand watch with great care, we are carrying on the tradition of Miriam the Prophetess.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Gail Diamond**, Teacher, Project Oded 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/>

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