



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

December 2-9, 2016 | 2-9 Kislev, 5777
Parashat Toldot

Friday, December 2 2 Kislev				Parashat Toldot Saturday, December 3 3 Kislev		
Candle Lighting 4:11PM Lev Tahor: Tikkun Olam, via the Gowanus Conservancy 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Samuel Franklin Bar Mitzvah Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat JC 11:15AM		
Sunday December 4 4 Kislev	Monday December 5 5 Kislev	Tuesday December 6 6 Kislev	Wednesday December 7 7 Kislev	Thursday December 8 8 Kislev	Friday December 9 9 Kislev	Saturday December 10 10 Kislev
Imagine Jewish Brooklyn: Let's Dream And Build Together 26 Bridge St 9:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM Etz Chaim 10:00AM Tween CPR 1:00PM	 Nazareth Cinema Lady @ JCC Manhattan 7:30PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM		Candle Lighting 4:10PM PJ Library: It's Friday Music Class 10:30AM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM	Shabbat Vayetze Shacharit 10:00AM Max Drucker Bar Mitzvah Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat JC 11:15AM Mincha 3:00PM Ellie Kaufman Bat Mitzvah
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) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@psjc.org) Lena Roe, Interim Director of Youth Education (lena.roe@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Samuel**, his parents **Ruth Franklin, Joseph Braude** and **Daniel Franklin, Erica Guyer** and sisters **Phoebe, Anna** and **Ariel** on **Samuel's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

To **Aileen Heiman** and **Brian Fink** on the naming of their son, **Nathan Heiman Fink**.

Todah Rabbah!

To **Ruth, Joseph, Daniel** and **Erica** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Samuel's** Bar Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences to **Alan Palmer** and his family on the death of his father, **Samson Edward Palmer**, z"l.

Our condolences to **Pamela Kaplan** and her family on the death of Pamela's aunt, **Honora Gershman**, z"l.

Our condolences to **Bob** and **Dan Tinkelman** and their families on the death of their mother, **Natalie Tinkelman**, z"l.

Yahrzeits: 3-9 Kislev:

Bessie Risker, grandmother of Karen Barth; **Elias Katz**, grandfather of Marilyn Kardeman; **Grace Bette Salomon**, mother of Nancy Salomon Miranda; **Harold J. Berman**, father of Jean Berman; **Helene Huttner**, mother of Jan Huttner; **Joseph Hornick**, father of Samuel Hornick; **Lewis Ettlinger**, brother of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Lillian Bregier**, aunt of June Zeitlin; **Marc Simon**, husband of Merrie Handfinger; **Warren Moskowitz**, father of Judith Moskowitz. *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

MASBIA Needs PSJC!!

Sunday, December 4 and January 8 | 12:00PM-2:00PM

Join other PSJC volunteers at Masbia, the kosher soup kitchen at 1372 Coney Island Avenue, near Avenue J. Masbia's meals sustain hundreds of people in need; we have been working with them for five years to peel, chop, shlep and do whatever's useful, in support of their mission. Children over age 10, teens and adults welcome to roll up their sleeves and help feed our hungry neighbors. Please contact Helen Zelon: helen.zelon@psjc.org for details or additional information.

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, December 3 | 1:30PM

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 <https://www.psjc.org/form/mishneh-torah.html> for this study group.

PSJC Etz Chaim Project: Speak Out for Your Community!



Sunday, December 4 | 10:00AM

Add your voice to the community conversations in PSJC's Etz Chaim project, which aims to identify ways to grow and sustain our community, develop new leadership and insure our financial integrity. Our first two meetings were productive and provocative, considering questions about what it means to grow (and how to define growth); how we develop the myriad talents within our midst; how we can fulfill our mission to serve (and attract) a robust, committed, engaged 21st century community. We truly want to hear from ALL members who have a stake in PSJC's future.

Join us to share your ideas, opinions and dreams for PSJC. This meeting is scheduled to be convenient for Hebrew School families and community members who have time on Sunday mornings -- please don't be shy to join! And please reach out to the working group: helen.zelon@psjc.org if you have thoughts to share or want to host/participate in an additional conversation: The more voices we hear, the stronger we become.

Babysitting Basics: CPR/First Aid Class for Teens and Tweens

Sunday, December 4 | 1:00PM

We are happy to announce that *Baby Be Safe*, a local CPR/First Aid training group, will be teaching a CPR/First Aid class geared toward our teen and tween members. Topics covered in this class include: Basic CPR (for kids and adults over 1yr old), choking prevention and remedy, first aid 101, preventing injuries, how to use a first aid kit. **Registration closed. Questions?** Email Sharon Tepper at sharon.tepper@psjc.org

Imagine Jewish Brooklyn: Let's Dream And Build Together | 26 Bridge Street, Brooklyn

Dream: Sunday, December 4, 2016 | **Design:** Sunday, January 29, 2017

North & Brownstone Brooklyn is becoming a hotbed of vibrant, creative, and diverse Jewish life. Imagine Jewish Brooklyn is an opportunity to come together to dream, design and build our Jewish future together. Everyone is welcome! The more voices, the better! Visit www.imaginejewishbrooklyn.org, or contact Michael Vilarello at vilarellom@ujafedny.org or 718.942.6800 to learn more.

10th Anniversary Other Israel Film Festival | Nazareth Cinema Lady - Sponsored by PSJC

Monday, December 5 | 7:30 PM (Film | 8:30 PM) | JCC Manhattan

Join PSJC for a pre-screening discussion of Nazareth Cinema Lady. The story of Safaa Dabour, an observant Muslim woman from Nazareth, who struggles to take charge of her own fate and freedom and to establish and maintain the first and only Arab cinematheque in Israel. Purchase tickets <https://www.otherisrael.org/>. Enter discount code PSJC at online checkout for \$3 off all general film screenings at JCC Manhattan. Dir. Nurit Jacobs Yinon | 2015 | 52 min | Documentary



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PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, December 9 and 16 | 10:30AM | \$12 per class

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. Visit www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html for more information.

Chanukkah party and Bananukah Concert

Sunday, December 11 | 12:30PM

You may know the story of Chanukkah, but do you know the story of Bananukah?

Join for a Chanukkah party at PSJC and an intergenerational program that tells the story of the Festival of Lights through original songs, games, and audience participation, starring kids' favorite, Danna Banana! \$18/family, which includes Pizza, sufganiyot, crafts, and a performance. RSVPs encouraged by signing up www.tinyurl.com/PSJC-Chanukah.

PSJC and Kingsbay Y present: Challah With A Whole New Twist--fun for the whole family.

Sunday, December 11 | 4:30PM

Make Challah in a bag! Plus stories, STEM, music and Shinshinim. What more could we want? All are welcome! With a special invitation to our Elementary and middle school families. Let us know you are coming, by contacting Angela at 718-648-7703 x223 or aashraf@kingsbay.org.

PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Club 1320 presents: Live Jazz with the Yotam Silberstein Group

Saturday, December 17 | Doors open 7:30PM

You deserve a fun night out -- right in the neighborhood! PSJC's Club 1320 presents Yotam Silberstein Group. Come out for a night of live jazz, food and drink, and great friends. Concert begins at 8:00 and everyone is welcome to stay for the after party. Tickets are \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students, and \$55 at the door. Please log on to ShulCloud to purchase your tickets. For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact club1320@psjc.org. Proceeds from this event will benefit PSJC.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, December 26 | 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 for information.

MLK Day of Service

Sunday, January 15 | 11:00AM

Members and friends of PSJC are warmly invited to roll up their sleeves for a morning of work at PSJC, in our 5th Annual MLK Day of Service. We'll be prepping soup kits, packing books and clothing, making PB&J sandwiches and Gorp, working at Masbia, knitting, crafting, and taking care of our glorious shul building -- among other projects. Please save the date and join us as we work to make our corner of this complicated world a little better. For info, or to help organize ahead of the event or on the day, contact Helen Zelon: hzelon@gmail.com.

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; **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at hevra.kadisha@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 **PSJC runs on community participation.**

Torah Parashat Toldot

Triennial (Genesis 25:19-26:22): Etz Hayim p. 146; Hertz p. 93; Plaut p.173

Haftarah (Malachi 1:1-2:7): Etz Hayim p. 163; Hertz p. 102; Plaut p. 341

L'nochach ishto: Together and Apart

Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, *CY Faculty and Coordinator*, Torah Sparks

The stories of the family life of the Patriarchs/Matriarchs are riveting, as full of drama and tension as any reality program. Parshat Toldot focuses on Isaac, the only weekly portion where he is the central character. Yet even in it, he is part “best actor” and part “supporting role.” Isaac is as often acted upon by others as he is the leader and initiator.

Isaac and Rivka are unique among the “first families,” the only monogamous couple and the only one about whom the Torah tells us they displayed affection one for the other – “Abimelech the Philistine king looked through the window and saw Isaac sporting (“metsahek”) with Rivka his wife” (26:8).

At the beginning of the parashah (25:21) we learn that Rivka was barren, and that Isaac pleaded with the Lord l'nochach ishto -"for his wife" (JPS 1917 and New JPS 1985). Rashi, based on the Jerusalem Talmud, explains l'nochach ishto: “he stood in one corner and prayed and she stood in the other corner and prayed.” It is hard to consider this pshat, the plain meaning of the text (which Rashi claims to explain, cf. Gen. 3:8), because there is no hint in the verse that Rivka prayed to God before she became pregnant. Some Jewish translations (e.g., Rosenbaum-Silverman) reflect Rashi's approach: Isaac prayed "facing his wife."

The JPS translations are more likely the straightforward, literal meaning. Isaac is praying for/on behalf of his wife "because she was barren." Rashbam, Rashi's grandson, says it in one word, bishvil ("for"). It could also be l'nochach matsava shel ishto – for her, given her situation. Sforno suggests that Isaac was praying that Rivka bear his heir, lest he have to bear through another woman, as had his father Abraham, with Hagar. Or it could be simply that he prayed in her presence, a sign of the closeness between them and his identification with her condition. It recalls the story of Reb Aryeh Levin, the "Tzadik (saint) of Jerusalem" (1885-1969), who brought his wife to the doctor and said “Our leg hurts.”

But Rashi's approach is also correct – marriage is a complicated affair, and the fact that there is love does not guarantee there is communication (or vice versa). The parties bring to it their individual life experiences and world views. Isaac was “carrying” the Akeda on his shoulders (or in his psyche) and Rivka the Divine revelation that “two nations are in your womb...and the older shall serve the younger” (Gen 25:23). From the text it seems doubtful that they discussed these matters. Therefore Isaac loves Esau, Rivka loves Jacob; he intends the blessing for Esau, she wants Jacob to receive it; he sends Jacob to Padan Aram (Rivka's place of birth and family) to find a wife, she to avoid the threat of Esau. There is love between them. Communication?

L'nochach ishto – it can be a sign of a close relationship, on the one hand, and of different, even conflicting, perspectives on life on the other. Nothing is new under the sun; as the Lord God said: “It is not good for man to be alone; I will make for him an ezer k'negdo” (Gen 2:18) – a “help meet” or a “counterpart.” Sometimes it's help, and sometimes it's counter. L'nochach ishto is a fair existential summary of the institution of marriage – the challenge of keeping the “together” and “being one's self” in balance, and finding the right combination of love and communication.

The weekly Haftarah Commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, Senior CY Faculty in Talmud and Midrash, 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.