



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

November 17-25, 2017 | 28 Cheshvan - 7 Kislev 5778
Parashat Toldot

Friday, November 17 28 Cheshvan				Parashat Toldot Saturday, November 18 29 Cheshvan		
Candle Lighting 4:18PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Jack Lefkowitz Bar Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM		
Sunday November 19 1 Kislev	Monday November 20 2 Kislev	Tuesday November 21 3 Kislev	Wednesday November 22 4 Kislev	Thursday November 23 5 Kislev	Friday November 24 6 Kislev	Saturday November 25 7 Kislev
Rosh Chodesh Minyan 9:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM It's PSJC Volunteer Day Prospect Park Clean-up 1:30PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Candle Lighting 4:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Steve Gradman 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Vayetzi</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM 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, 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 **Jack, Sharon, David** and **Hazel** in honor of Jack's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Sharon Tepper** and **David Lefkowitz** for sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat in honor of Jack's Bar Mitzvah.

Yahrzeits observed 29 Cheshvan-6 Kislev:

Barbara Weisl, stepmother of Angela Weisl; **Dorothy Handfinger**, mother of Merrie Handfinger; **Elias Katz**, grandfather of Marilyn Kardeman; **Harold J. Berman**, father of Jean Berman; **Joseph Hornick**, father of Samuel Hornick; **Lewis Ettlinger**, brother of M. Allan Ettlinger; **Lillian Bregier**, aunt of June Zeitlin; **Stanley Leess**, step-father of Marla Kessler; **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. **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.

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



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Donate to the Capital Campaign!

We are grateful for every donation and pledge!
Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu

Friday, November 17 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe. Then we'll head downstairs for a communal dinner. Everyone is welcome! Main Entrees will be provided. RSVPs are not required, but are strongly encouraged

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, November 18 | 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.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, November 18 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Freddie Brooks | 140 8th Avenue between Carroll and Garfield Streets

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together in the home of a PSJC member. Bring a dairy or pareve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze on December 16 and in the year 2018, February 17 and April 21 please email Gavrielle Levine with your date of choice. For those participating in the Kishkush Acharei Kiddush first, we look forward to you continuing the conversation at the Shabbat Shmooze afterwards. As usual, the Shabbat Shmooze is a veggie/dairy pot-luck lunch open to the PSJC community.

Rosh Chodesh Kislev Minyan

Sunday, November 19 | 9:00AM

It's PSJC Volunteer Day!

Sunday, November 19 | 1:30PM - 3:30PM

WHAT: PSJC-ers work with Prospect Park Alliance to help maintain and clean up part of Prospect Park

WHO: Adults and children (over 6). Come on your own or bring a friend, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, or neighbor! There will be snacks, schmoozing, and a little bit of Tikkun Olam ... All at the SAME TIME! FUN!

FREE! Tools, training, explanations all provided. A rewarding and fun afternoon for all! If you've attended you know these days are a great way to get involved; if you haven't, please feel free to swing by and join the fun. Please email stevenmradwell@gmail.com for more info. Hope you can make it!

PSJC Stands Strong for Justice

Monday, November 20 | 7:00PM | CBE

Join Brownstone Brooklyn Jewish community members and others at a community forum with newly-elected Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez -- the first Hispanic DA in the City's history. Sponsored by #GetOrganizedBK's Dismantling Racism team and hosted by CBE, we will advocate for judicial reforms citywide. Arrive early as planners anticipate a large turnout.

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.



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

Thursday, November 30, December 7 and 21 | 7:00PM

Would you like to practice speaking Hebrew over coffee together with other Brownstone Brooklyn friends? If so, Café Ivrit is the right place for you. The group will discuss different issues in Hebrew and will practice new words and ways to express yourself better in Hebrew. All this in a non-judgmental and safe environment. Perfect for someone who can communicate in Hebrew, but is not yet fluent. 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, December 1, 8, 15 and 22 | 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.

Lev Tahor welcomes PSJC Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins

Friday, December 1 | 6:30PM

Add your voice to Lev Tahor, PSJC's monthly all-sung, lay-led Kabbalat Shabbat service. We'll share a dairy/pareve potluck and have a chance to learn with Leora, whose pre-JTS life includes a Jewish organizing fellowship via JOIN for Justice, three years at Greater Boston's Jewish Community Resources Council -- not to mention a couple of summers at Camp Ramah in the Rockies. New voices warmly welcome! Don't be shy...Sign up for the dairy/pareve potluck dinner <http://tinyurl.com/levTahorDec1>.

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, December 2 | 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.

Save the Date: Dance Party!

Saturday, December 2 | 7:00PM-10:00PM

Get your 80s groove on at PSJC on December 2, for a crowd-pleasing dance-a-palooza with a guest DJ you'll just love. Throwback cocktails on offer; 80s hair optional. Bring friends, family, neighbors and pals for a night of music and good cheer.

Songs and Nosh with Abe!

Sunday, December 3 | 10:00AM

Start the celebrating early with other parents in the neighborhood! PSJC Tot Shabbat and It's Friday song leader, Abe, will lead a sing-a-long followed by a chance to shmooze over coffee and bagels! Perfect for ages 0-3. RSVPs requested, but not required at https://www.psjc.org/event/sing_and_connect/Chanukkah

Everything You Wanted to Know about Medicare but Were Afraid to Ask...Medicare 101

Sunday, December 3 | 5:00PM-6:30PM

...because like most government entitlements it is complicated! The Positive Aging Initiative,* by popular request, is sponsoring a workshop that will provide the answers prior to the end of Open Enrollment on Thursday, December 7. All ages welcome! Pre-registration is required. Email Jan Orzeck at jkorzeck@gmail.com. Suggested Donation: \$10 - pay at the door.

Combatants for Peace

Monday, December 4 | 7:00PM

Join us as two Combatants, Nathan Landau and Osama Elewat, (one Israeli and one Palestinian) come to Brooklyn to tell their personal stories of transformation from fighters into Peace activists. Please RSVP here: <https://www.psjc.org/event/combatants-for-peace.html>. Conversation moderated by our own Warren Spielberg.

Parashat Toldot



Triennial: Genesis 26:33-27:27 | Etz Hayim p.152; Hertz p.96; Plaut p.181
Haftarah: 1 Samuel 20:18-42 | Etz Hayim p.1216; Hertz p.948; Plaut p.1687

One can only imagine what was going on in Rebekah's mind when it seemed to her that the twins in her womb were quarreling. Her anxiety piqued, she most certainly wanted to know what was happening to her: "She inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered her: 'Two nations are in your womb, two separate nations shall issue from your body; one nation shall be mightier than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.'" (Genesis 25:22-23) This, and the many stories that follow, establish Yaakov-Esau as the paradigm of national conflict.

In the First Temple period, the Jewish tradition came to identify Esau as the nation of Edom, which was situated on the other side of the Dead Sea. The Biblical attitude toward Esau/Edom was mixed. This ambivalence is reflected, on the one hand, in the Torah's proscription of mistreatment of the Edomites: "You shall not abhor the Edomite, for he is your kinsman" (Deuteronomy 23:8); while, on the other hand, the prophecy of Balaam reflects the fact that Edom would become a bitter enemy of the people of Israel: "Edom becomes a possession, yeah, Seir a possession of its enemies; but Israel is triumphant." (Numbers 24:18) This attitude reached its zenith in the final verse of the prophecy of Obadiah: "And liberators shall ascend Mount Zion to bring judgment on Mount Esau; and dominion shall be the Lord's". (Obadiah 1:21)

The political situation which faced the Jews in Biblical times impacted their perception of Esau/Edom. The greater the threat posed by Edom to their well-being, the more dramatic the image of Edom as the source of evil in the world. And when the Edomites allied themselves with the Babylonians against Judea at the time of the destruction of the Temple, the die was cast. Despite the historical nation of Edom eventually coming to an end during the period of the Second Temple, the struggle between Yaakov and Esau became the symbol for the Jewish conflict with a new enemy, the Romans. And when the Roman empire became Christian, Esau/Edom came to symbolize Christianity as well. With the persecution of the Jews by Rome, and the sense that the Romans (and later Christianity) had unfairly usurped the position of the Jews, the conflict between Yaakov/Israel and Esau/Edom became the archetypal battle between good and evil. (See Gerson Cohen - "Esau as Symbol in Early Medieval Thought" - Studies in the Varieties of Rabbinic Cultures) The following midrash gives us three different readings on the significance of the symbolic relationship between Yaakov and Esau and their interaction in the world: "'Two nations' (spelled 'ga'im' which means 'proud') - two proud ones inhabit your womb, this one proud of his world (Rome) and the other one proud of his nation (Israel). Another interpretation: Two nations - that hate each other, this one proud of his wealth (Rome), the other proud of his Torah (Israel). Another interpretation: 'Two nations' - These refer to Rabbi [Judah HaNasi - patriarch of the Jews] and Antoninus [for the rabbis, a symbolic representation of the emperor]." (adapted from Midrash Tehillim 9:7 Buber ed. p. 84)

The first two interpretations see the relationship between the Jewish nation and Roman civilization as a conflict between two civilizations with contrasting values, where the success of one meant the devaluation of the other. There seems to be no room for compromise or cooperation. The last, however, is more hopeful. Antoninus, likely either the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius or Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, had a deep friendship with the legendary head of the Jewish people and author of the Mishnah, Rabbi Judah Hanasi. The Talmud's many stories of their learning from one another signals the possibility of cooperation between the two civilizations.

Our tradition transformed the prenatal conflict between Yaakov and Esau from something geopolitical into an encapsulation of the real struggles of a minority people - its identity and culture - within the dominant broader culture. There is incredible ambivalence in this relationship. Will there forever be conflict? Must one always have the upper hand? Is there room for cooperation? These questions loom large for Jews in every generation. And, if we take our tradition seriously, they still do today.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, 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.