



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

August 4-12, 2017 | 12-20 Av, 5777
Vaetchanan Shabbat Nahamu

Friday, August 4 12 Av				Vaetchanan Shabbat Nahamu Saturday, August 5 13 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Mindi Wernick 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:50PM				Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday August 6 14 Av	Monday August 7 15 Av	Tuesday August 8 16 Av	Wednesday August 9 17 Av	Thursday August 10 18 Av	Friday August 11 19 Av	Saturday August 12 20 Av
	<i>Tu B'Av</i>		Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Freddie Brooks 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:41PM	<i>Shabbat Ekev</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, 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)		

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Todd Krichmar and his family on the death of his mother, **Marilyn Krichmar**, z"l.

Erik Lieber, on the death of his cousin, **Jonathan Aubrey**, z"l.

Cheryl Berkowitz on the death of her mother, **Esther Berkowitz**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 13-19 Av:

Basil Kosarin, father of Ray Kosarin; **Bernice Leah Green**, mother of Gail Green-Anderson; **Charles Sommer**, observed by the PSJC community; **Claire Neretin**, mother of Josh Neretin; **Eleanor Kalik**, friend of Carol Diamond; **Frances Narewski**, mother of Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk; **Harold Brodsky**, father of Rebecca Brodsky; **Helene Selter**, sister of Bruce Lee Gross; **Irving Spahn**, grandfather of Fran Hawthorne; **Jean Ruben**, mother of Harolyn Cohen; **Jorge Epelbaum**, brother of Susana Honig; **Joshua Mathias Brodsky**, brother of Rebecca Brodsky; **Marilyn Iris Rubenstein**, mother-in-law of Ilene Rubenstein; **Michael Dorlester**, brother of Jane Dorlester; **Philip Baron**, father of Stuart Baron; **Roy Yasen**, stepfather of Marc Korashan. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

Hebrew School Registration

Register now for the Hebrew School year 2017-2018
Email aileen.heiman@psjc.org for more information.

Annual Membership Renewal 2017-2018

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

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

We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC!

We would love to get to 100% participation.

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

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



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Please Consider Making Your Contribution Today!

We now call upon all members to join our **\$750,000** Capital Campaign to provide **immediate repairs** and to ensure that PSJC continues to stand strong well into the 21st century!

Please stand up and generously donate to maintain and preserve our cherished spiritual home for this and future generations.

We are grateful for every donation and pledge!

Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



PSJC Knitters is on hiatus during July and August and will resume in September. For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, August 19 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at Prospect Park during the summer months. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a dairy or pareve 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).

PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 22 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan

Wednesday, August 23 | 7:00AM

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, August 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 aronrhalf@gmail.com

For a Sweet New Year - Support PSJC with Honey From the Heart!

Order honey for your friends and family and support PSJC while doing it!

Your cost is **\$11.00 per jar plus \$4.00** for shipping and handling within the United States.

We will gladly mail orders outside the United States for an additional fee.

For more information and to order at: <http://orthoney.com/psj>



A Back-To-School Ha'Sadnah

August 21-25 | 9:00AM-3:00PM

Ha'Sadnah (Hebrew for "The Workshop") is a boutique children's art program run by designer, Jordyn Jacobs, and artist, Reut Asimini.

Ha'Sadnah art programs are designed to spark each child's creativity and to encourage curiosity and a handmade approach.

Our craft program will focus on textile arts, including sewing, embroidery, and knitting.

Registration is required.

Please visit: <https://www.psjc.org/event/a-back-to-school-hasadnah.html#>



In Search Of A Few PSJCers to Help Organize the Fall Music Concert.

While it's not exactly "plug & play," the concert is not a complicated event to put together. As one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, it can be incredibly fulfilling....and fun to plan. In the past, we've had David Broza and the expert jazz sounds of Yotam Silberstein. Help make this year's concert enjoyable and profitable. Contact rfsnyder@gmail.com for more information.

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. **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.

Vaetchanan Shabbat Nahamu

Triennial (Deuteronomy 3:23-5:17): Etz Hayim p. 1005; Hertz p. 755

Haftarah (Isaiah 40:1-26): Etz Hayim p. 1032; Hertz p. 776

Zechariah vs. Deuteronomy: Is God One?

What does the prophet Zechariah have against “Shema Yisrael”? The most famous line in the Torah appears in our parasha. It is the first verse we are to teach to our toddlers and the last we are to recite on our deathbeds: “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.” Or: “...the LORD is one.” (Deut. 6:4; the JPS translation offers both options).

Either way, the point is the uniqueness of the God identified in our tradition by a particular name, YHWH. No other entity is really a god, says Deuteronomy. Nothing else deserves to be worshipped, no matter what other nations might call a “god.”

That unique status leads us, in Western languages, to write “God” with a capital “G,” as though that word too were a name. If there is only one, why not write “God” instead of “god”?

Fast forward a few centuries from the Deuteronomist to the post-exilic prophet Zechariah. His prophetic speeches offer not only a critique of Judean society in his time but also a vision of an ideal future. Foretelling impending cataclysm, Zechariah’s prophecies adumbrate the apocalypse literature that became popular in the post-biblical era.

In the last chapter of the book of Zechariah, which shul-goers will recognize as the Haftarah for the Shabbat of Sukkot, we find a vision of “earth-shaking events lead[ing] to the establishment of Jerusalem as the center of the world and the place from which the LORD reigns over all” (Ehud Ben Zvi in *The Jewish Study Bible*). The chapter’s initial section of 9 verses ends in this: “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth; in that day there shall be one LORD with one name.” (A more wooden rendition: “... on that day the LORD shall be one/unique and His name one/unique.”)

We all know that verse as the end of the Aleinu prayer that is the coda for all Jewish prayer, the finale (before kaddish) of each required service of the day. What does it mean, and what is it doing at the apex of our liturgy? And how can we conclude on such a discordant note? After all, isn’t Zechariah challenging the veracity of our claim in the Shema that our God is the only god?

The late Mordechai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionism whose imprint is still felt on Jewish life in North America, liked to say that “king” as a metaphor for God is a relational noun: to be a king, one has to be king over a realm or over people. So it is with the term “god,” Zechariah is telling us. As seen from a human perspective, as long as some recognize other entities, going by other names, as gods, the LORD is not God but at best just “a god.”

Zechariah envisions humankind united in the recognition that there is but one God. It is to that day that Aleinu directs our hope, a day when all inhabitants of the earth finally recognize our common ancestry, our common humanity, the need for us to be one cooperative family rather than a contentious assembly of warring tribes. On that day peace will reign and what the Deuteronomist describes in principle will finally be observed in practice: one God will be worshipped, and all the names by which that God is called will be one.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Peretz Rodman, from the “Torah Sparks” series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Rabbi Peretz Rodman is Av Bet Din of the Masorti Bet Din of Eretz Yisrael. He lives in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>