



**PARK  
SLOPE  
JEWISH  
CENTER**

November 18-25, 2016 | 17-24 Cheshvan, 5777  
Parashat Vayera

Friday, November 18   17 Cheshvan				Parashat Vayera Saturday, November 19   18 Cheshvan		
<b>Candle Lighting</b>   4:17PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b>   6:30PM followed by Shaarei Mitzvah Dinner				Parashat Hashavua   9:30AM Shacharit   10:00AM Family Torah   10:30AM Learners Minyan   10:45AM Shabbat Kulanu   11:15AM Shabbat Shmooze   1:30PM		
Sunday November 20 19 Cheshvan	Monday November 21 20 Cheshvan	Tuesday November 22 21 Cheshvan	Wednesday November 23 22 Cheshvan	Thursday November 24 23 Cheshvan	Friday November 25 24 Cheshvan	Saturday November 26 25 Cheshvan
Hebrew School 9:30AM  Wedding of Roberta Newman and Daniel Soyer 2:45PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM	<b>Office Closed</b>	<b>Candle Lighting</b> 4:14PM  <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>It's Friday Class – Not Happening</b>  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Steve Gradman</b> 6:30PM	Shabbat <i>Chayei Sarah</i>  Shacharit   10:00AM  <b>Josh Lechtzin Bar Mitzvah</b>  Advanced Talmud 1:30PM
<b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b> 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) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education & Family Programming (Aileen.Heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**Mazal Tov!** To **Roberta Newman** and **Daniel Soyer** as they celebrate their upcoming wedding!

**Todah Rabbah!** To **Roberta** and **Daniel** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of their upcoming wedding!

**HaMakom Yenachem**

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

**Yahrzeits: 18-24 Cheshvan:**

**Andrew Mark**, father of Marjorie Rothenberg; **Anne Ruth King**, great-aunt of Judith Moskowitz; **Bernard Goldstein**, father of Ezra Goldstein; **Bessie Tursky**, grandmother of Marc Korashan; **Brian Barrett**, father of Rebecca Stein; **Eleanor Grosser**, cousin of Karen Louise Heau; **Libby Birnbaum**, mother of David Birnbaum; **Mack Geller**, observed by the PSJC community; **Melissa Levine**, observed by the PSJC community; **Pesye Greenblatt**, observed by the PSJC community; **Sarah Schwartz Rabinowitz**, mother of Richard Rabinowitz.  
*May their memories be for a blessing.*

**Bringing Your Can to Shul:** The PSJC Food Drive continues with donations expected in the bins around the building. Send any questions to caroldiamond@optonline.com.

**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

**Chanukkah begins Saturday, December 24...  
Let the PSJC Hebrew School shop for you!**



Get ready for the holiday and support the PSJC Hebrew School by ordering your candles, gelt, dreidels, and Chanukkah wrapping paper. Orders should be placed by **Friday, December 2**. Complete the form to plan your order and calculate your total at <https://www.psjc.org/form/chanukkah-fundraiser-2016.html>. Paper Order forms available in front of the Education Director's Office.

Orders will be available for pick up before and after Hebrew School the weeks of **December 5 and 12**. For further information, please contact Jenna Mandel-Ricci at [jmandelricci@hotmail.com](mailto:jmandelricci@hotmail.com).

**Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick followed by Shaarei Mitzvah Dinner**

Friday, November 18 | 6:30PM

**Parashat Hashavua**

Saturday, November 19 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with our Rabbinic Intern, Rina Bergman. It's a great lead in to the Shabbat morning services.

**Learner's Minyan**

Saturday, November 19 | 10:45AM

Exploring the hows and whys of prayer, this is a class for adults who want to know more about the Shabbat morning service, with Rina Bergman.

**Shabbat Shmooze**

**Hosted by David and Shoshana Cooper | 1149 Prospect Avenue #1R**

Saturday, November 19 | 1:30PM

Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Pot Luck Lunch (after the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services). Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share. The Shabbat Shmooze offers the chance to get to know some of the PSJC community and spend time with those you already know. It is a great way to keep the Shabbat vibe going all afternoon long. Hosts needed, if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze please contact [Gavrielle.levine@psjc.org](mailto:Gavrielle.levine@psjc.org) for more details.

**Wedding of Roberta Newman and Daniel Soyer**

Sunday, November 20 | 2:45PM Tish | 3:00PM Badekn | 3:30PM Huppah

Followed by a reception in the social hall. All are cordially invited.

**Advanced Talmud**

Saturday, November 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](mailto:aronrhalb@gmail.com) for information.

**To request an Aliyah or other honor**, email Rabbi Carter a week in advance ([rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ira.drucker@psjc.org) **PSJC runs on community participation**. If you are interested in: **leading Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Services**, email [freddie.brooks@psjc.org](mailto:freddie.brooks@psjc.org); **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at [davening@psjc.org](mailto:davening@psjc.org); **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at [haftarah@psjc.org](mailto:haftarah@psjc.org); **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at [hevra.kadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevra.kadisha@psjc.org)

### **PJ Library Class: It's Friday!**

Friday, December 2, 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](http://www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html) for more information. Please note: No Class November 25.

### **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 Up! Speak Out! Help Build the Community You Want to Share**

Sunday, December 4 | 10:00AM



On Sunday, November 6, PSJC members began an important series of conversations about our community life. The Etz Chaim working group challenges our membership to think hard about: What it means to grow as a community (whether, how, and in which directions), The intellectual, spiritual and political life of PSJC, Financial integrity (how we share responsibility and make our shul a stable foundation for all), Leadership (building the pipeline; identifying talent; finding different ways to contribute). Our goal is to hear from as many members -- and as

many viewpoints -- as possible. Please join us in a conversation with Hebrew School families in the sanctuary. Can't make, but got what to say? Contact [hzelon@gmail.com](mailto:hzelon@gmail.com) to arrange another conversation/parlor meeting or talk through your concerns -- we are here to listen to members, please don't be shy. (Look for additional December dates soon.)

### **10th Anniversary Other Israel Film Festival December 1-8**

#### **Nazareth Cinema Lady - Sponsored by PSJC**

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

Dir. Nurit Jacobs Yinon | 2015 | 52 min | Documentary

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.

### **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](http://www.imaginejewishbrooklyn.org), or contact Michael Vilarello at [vilarellom@ujafedny.org](mailto:vilarellom@ujafedny.org) or 718.942.6800 to learn more.

### **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](http://www.tinyurl.com/PSJC-Chanukah).



### **Torah Parashat Vayera**

Triennial (Genesis 18:1-18:33): Etz Hayim p. 99; Hertz p. 63

Haftarah (2 Kings 4:1-37): Etz Hayim p. 124; Hertz p. 76

### **Pesach in Sodom**

Rabbi Daniel Goldfarb, CY Faculty and Coordinator, Torah Sparks

When the angels came to Sodom to rescue Abraham's nephew, Lot, before destroying the city, Lot invited them in and "prepared a feast and baked unleavened bread [u'matsot ufah]" (19:3). Rashi's comment here has long intrigued me – "Pesach haya, it was Pesach." On the one hand it seems so obvious – why else would Lot bake matsot? Yet on the other, so whimsical – the story of the bondage under Pharaoh and the exodus from Egypt which Pesach commemorates would not happen for a few hundred years. In fact Rashi already noted that it was Pesach earlier in the day, when the angels visited Abraham to tell him that Sarah would bear a son in a year – "it was Pesach and the following Pesach Isaac was born" (on 18:10), though in the text about Abraham there are no Pesach "code" words, like "matsot."

Were Abraham, Lot and Rashi several millennia ahead of Steven Spielberg – Back to the Future? There is a view that Abraham fulfilled the mitzvot even before Matan Torah (e.g., Ramban on Gen 26:5), but we should note that Rashi says "it was Pesach," indicating the date, not necessarily that Lot observed the holiday or fulfilled the mitzva the way we know it.

A careful reading of Chapter 19 reveals several other parallels between the stories of Lot in Sodom and the departure from Egypt in Shmot. Petach habayit, the entry to the house, is central in both. Lot's struggle with the mob in Sodom, angry about his inviting strangers in for the night, takes place at the entry, the door, mentioned six times in verses 19:6-11. In Egypt, the Jews were commanded to put blood on the doorposts the night of the last plague, as a sign (Ex 12:7, 22) and "not to leave the house door till morning" for "the Lord will pass over the entry [v'pasach...al ha'petach]" (12:22-23).

In both cases, when those locked inside are finally commanded to leave, it is "in a hurry." The angels urge Lot to get his family out before "we destroy this place," and Lot tries to rush his sons-in-law: "kumu tsu - Quick, get out..." (19:12, 14), to no avail. The children of Israel ate the matsah and left Egypt b'chipazon, in a hurry (Ex 12:11, Deut 16:3).

Of course Lot lived long before the story of Pesach, but this parashah shows that certain fundamental values we associate with Pesach predated the holiday. Both Abraham and Lot made efforts to take in strangers, leading the Talmud to comment – hospitality to guests takes priority over welcoming God's presence (Shabbat 127a on 18:3). Neither in Sodom nor in Pharaoh's Egypt were guests welcome, and in particular, those who were different or less fortunate. The Mishnah (Sanhedrin 10:3) says that the people of Sodom have no place in the World to Come; the Talmud (Sanh 109a) attributes this harsh fate to their refusal to accept outsiders and to share the bounty with which Sodom was blessed with others, particularly the poor. Lot ran a real risk when he invited strangers in.

We begin the Seder service on Passover by opening the door and proclaiming: Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are needy come celebrate the Passover. In doing so, not only do we commemorate the departure from Egypt, but also the hospitality shown by our ancestors, Abraham and Lot.

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.