



Friday, November 3 14 Cheshvan				Parashat Vayera Saturday, November 4 15 Cheshvan		
Candle Lighting 5:31PM Lev Tahor: Open-Hearted Singing, Challenging Questions 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Micah Fisher's Bar Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM		
Sunday November 5 16 Cheshvan	Monday November 6 17 Cheshvan	Tuesday November 7 18 Cheshvan	Wednesday November 8 19 Cheshvan	Thursday November 9 20 Cheshvan	Friday November 10 21 Cheshvan	Saturday November 11 22 Cheshvan
Hebrew School 9:30AM MASBIA 12:00PM	PSJC Knitters 7:00PM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 1:00PM Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees meeting 7:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 4:24PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Leora Kling Perkins 6:30PM Shabbat Dinner with Shinshinim 7:00PM	<i>Shabbat Chayei Sarah</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Family Torah 10:30AM Book Club 1:30PM Amarya Levy-Mazie's Bat Mitzvah Mincha 3:00PM
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 **Micah, Simon, Amy and Avram** in honor of Micah's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Amy Sandgrund** and **Avram Fisher** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Micah's Bar Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Abby Ingber, her husband Jeffrey Easton and their children, Alexandra and Rachel, on the death of Abby's father, **Joseph Sholom Ingber**, z"l.

Erik Lieber, Doreen, Julian, Isabelle and Oliver on the death of Erik's father, **Mischa Lieber**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 15-21 Cheshvan:

Brian Barrett, father of Rebecca Stein; **Eda Herszkorn**, grandmother of Fran Hawthorne; **Eleanor Grosser**, cousin of Karen Louise Heau; **Jennie Bannett**, grandmother of Miriam Fleischmann; **John Brinley**, friend of Alan Sidman; **Libby Birnbaum**, mother of David Birnbaum; **Mack Geller**, observed by the PSJC community; **Melissa Levine**, observed by the PSJC community; **Pauline Burstein**, observed by the PSJC community; **Pesy Greenblatt**, observed by the PSJC community; **Samuel Blank**, uncle of Gavrielle Levine and uncle of Myron Levine; **Scott Ugoretz**, brother of Joseph Ugoretz; **Shlomo Klein**, father of Tova Klein. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



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Parashat Vayera

Join us for the Capital Campaign Match Challenge!

Go right now to <https://www.jewcer.org/project/save-our-synagogue/>
We are grateful for every donation and pledge!
Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



Other Israel Film Center Festival

November 2 - 9 | JCC

Join PSJC at the 11th Annual Other Israel Film Festival. We encourage you to give particular attention to *A Land Without Borders* and *Muhi - Generally Temporary*. Use this special offer online at checkout for \$3 off our purchase, enter discount code **PSJCO117** at all general film screenings at JCC Manhattan. Catch a deep look into Israeli and Palestinian societies. Visit www.otherisrael.org, for more information and to purchase tickets.

Lev Tahor: Open-Hearted Singing, Challenging Questions

Friday, November 3 | 6:30PM

As Jews, our central texts urge commitment to the stranger in our midst, as we were once strangers ourselves. For many, this prompts questions about how to support political and social movements beyond the Jewish community. At the upcoming gathering of Lev Tahor, community organizer and political activist Yehuda Webster will ask, "Does supporting #BLM make you anti-Zionist or anti-semitic?" Webster will share his perspectives on why racial justice, the fight for black lives, and a commitment to the Movement for Black Lives should be a Jewish concern. Join PSJC in grappling with how to support Israel while working alongside social justice movements associated with anti-Zionist sentiments. Sign up for the dairy/pareve potluck dinner <http://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-Nov-3-17>.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, November 6 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

The Rabbi Who Killed His Purim Guest: An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year

Tuesdays, beginning November 7 | 1:00PM | PSJC Library

Join Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling Perkins, as we follow the Jewish year by reading selections of the Talmud related to Jewish holidays. As we study, we'll learn more about who the rabbis were, and what they were doing when they created the Talmud. This class will be taught primarily using English translations, and is aimed at beginning to advanced learners.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, November 10 and 17 | 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.

Shabbat Dinner with Shinshinim

Friday, November 10 - 6:30PM | Services

7:30PM | Potluck Dinner and conversation with our Shinshinim

Come and hear from our community's Shinshinim (18 year old Israelis who are here for a year of service). Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat with Leora (our rabbinic intern) and then a potluck dinner and conversation with our Shinshinim.

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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Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, November 11 | 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.

Book Club: Florence Gordon

Saturday, November 11 | 1:30PM

PSJCers and literature professor David Mikics will lead a discussion about Florence Gordon by Brian Morton. The title character is a 75 year old Jewish-American Women's Studies professor and author of mostly academic books who becomes an overnight celebrity when her latest book unexpectedly becomes a best seller. Unfortunately she doesn't get to enjoy her new fame for long as the lives of her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter begin to unravel. BPL has seven print copies as well as ebook and audiobook editions. Inexpensive copies are available from on-line vendors, and an audiobook can be purchased either as a CD or as a digital file.

Hebrew Cooking with the Shinshinim!

Sunday, November 12 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

Bring your family and join our Shinshinim to learn how to prepare delicious Israeli dishes using Hebrew! Last month we made lots of kinds of Israeli salads. This month we will bake some yummy Israeli desserts! 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 with some of our amazing Shinshinim (18 year old Israelis here for a year of service). 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 December 17; January 28, 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.

Faces of Israel: Roei Ben Tolila

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 | 6:45PM

Join IsraelBKLYN for a talk with Roei Ben Tolila. Roei Ben Tolila was seriously wounded while serving in an elite unit in the Israeli military, and had to teach himself how to "become a leader" again, this time from his wheelchair. Listen to his inspiring story as he reminds us that "the choice - to be a leader, rather than to be led - is completely in our minds," and that we have power to lead and live our lives regardless of the difficulties we encounter along the way.

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

Thursday, November 16 and 30 | 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.

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. RSVP now www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu1.html. **Please bring a substantial salad/veggie side or dessert to share.** **If you have specific food allergies or needs, please make sure you bring something you can eat, as we are unable to take special food requests for this meal.

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



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Triennial: Genesis 19:1-20:18 | Etz Hayim p.104; Hertz p.66; Plaut p.129

Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:1-37 | Etz Hayim p.123; Hertz p.76; Plaut p.334

Observant Jews seem to do a lot of running, and I'm not referring to the throngs in the Jerusalem marathon or the Brooklyn half. I mean more like the rabbit in Alice in Wonderland, the one who scurries about shouting: "I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!" Take prayer, for instance. The Amidah, the core of the liturgy, mouthed silently while standing, often resembles a pre-pubescent exercise in speed — who is the fastest to mumble incomprehensible Hebrew? It's never me. I'm relatively new to this prayer thing and the words feel uncomfortable in my mouth, sounds losing meaning as they echo in my head. I hear the shuffling of feet, the scraping of a chair on the floor, a wordless song that's like the orchestra at the Oscars. My shoulders contract, my weight shifts forward, my neck cramps. I want to be done, to be quiet, to be elsewhere. Eventually, I finish, but I don't relax. I carry this tightness with me, holding on to the feeling that there's something else I need to do, somewhere else I need to be. I feel like I'm behind, and if I'm to have any hope of catching up, I need to run faster.

In the first chunk of this week's torah portion (Vayera), Avraham does a lot of running. When the scene opens, the patriarch sits at the opening of his tent, presumably convalescing from his recent circumcision. He looks up, and, suddenly, he sees three men and **runs** to call them. Not one for small talk, he invites them to rest, sits them down, and then **hastens** to the tent to call to his wife, Sarah, for provisions. From there, he **runs** to the herd for a calf, and **hastens** to prepare it. In the seven verses that follow Avraham's seeing of the men, words emphasizing the speed of his actions appear *four separate times*. It is not enough that Avraham invites these strangers who are implied (but not acknowledged) to be angels into his home, and offers them bread made of choice flour, and the meat of a calf, and additional treats — it must be done immediately. This task cannot wait.

And then the task is finished. The guests have been cared for. The food has been served. Avraham stands still. But he does not simply stand. The Hebrew reads: "עָלָיָהֶם וְהוֹאֵר עִמָּד", "and he stood over them." RaDaK, a medieval French commentator, points out that this word, "עָלָי" was used "in this same sense" in the second verse of the chapter. The simple meaning of that verse seems to be that Avraham is sitting, and the three men stand above him — he looks up, and there they are, standing over him. But Rashi, an earlier French medieval biblical commentator, suggests that the word "עָלָי" is used in that verse because "above him", "עָלָיו", is the fitting way to describe the angels' position in relation to Avraham. Yet, in our verse, it is not the angels who stand above Avraham, but Avraham who stands above the angels.

There is a Hasidic tale told about angels (אַיִם מְלָאכִים): that they come into existence only to do the labor (מְלָאכָוֹת) to which they have been assigned. When their job is done, they cease to be and melt back into the river of fire. Angels exist only to work. Humans still exist even as they stand, and in their stillness, they stand above the angels. Maybe that is why the core of the liturgy, the only thing the Rabbis called prayer, is the Amidah, from the Hebrew word to stand.

And, in this week's portion, it is in this standing that God speaks to Avraham. It is while Avraham still stands that he finds the strength to step closer, and to speak back, to plead, and fight, and bargain for the sake of Sodom and Gomorrah. The world is broken, and there is much we should rush to fix. But it is in the stillness that we come face to face with the divine, and become all we are meant to be — for our sake, and the world's.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz, Director of North American Engagement, 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. **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.