



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

December 8-16, 2017 | 20-28 Kislev 5778  
Parashat Vayeshev

Friday, December 8   20 Kislev				Parashat Vayeshev Saturday, December 9   21 Kislev		
Candle Lighting   4:10PM Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Judy Ribnick</b>   6:30PM Shaarei Mitzvah 7th Grade Service & Potluck Dinner   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Havurat Shabbat   9:30AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   11:15AM Jr. Congregation   11:15AM Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah   1:20PM PJ Havdallah & Hanukkah Party   6:30PM		
Sunday December 10 22 Kislev	Monday December 11 23 Kislev	Tuesday December 12 24 Kislev	Wednesday December 13 25 Kislev	Thursday December 14 26 Kislev	Friday December 15 27 Kislev	Saturday December 16 28 Kislev
Hebrew School 9:30AM  Hebrew School Committee Meeting 11:00AM  Chanukkah Art Fair at Hannah Senesh 1:00PM  Etz Chaim Communal Conversations II 3:00PM		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Candle</i>  An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 1:00PM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  HS Community Chanukkah Candle lighting 5:30PM	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Candle</i>  Morning Minyan 7:00AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  HS Community Chanukkah Candle lighting 5:30PM	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Candle</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Candle</i>  It's Friday Music Class   10:00AM  Candle Lighting 4:11PM  Chanukkah Dinner at Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Candle</i>  <i>Shabbat Miketz</i>  Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM  Shacharit   10:00AM  <b>Charlotte Lewine Bat Mitzvah</b>  Family Torah 10:30AM  Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   11:15AM  Jr. Congregation 11:15AM  Kishkush Acharei Kiddush   1:00PM  Shabbat Shmooze 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) Elana Ayalon, Director of Administration (office@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**Mazal Tov!**

To **Rebecca, Ryan and Zack** in honor of new baby **Olivia!**

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Merrie Handfinger** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in memory of **Marc Simon, z"l, Dorothy Handfinger, z"l** and **Marlene Schwartz, z"l**.

To **Ilene Rubenstein** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in memory of **Charlotte "Cookie" Zazik, z"l**.

To **Karen Jacobson** and **Glen Hass** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Olivia's** baby naming.



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### **HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Orly Dabush Nitzan** and her family on the death of Orly's father, **Shalom Dabush**, z"l.

**Debbie Gillman** and her family on the death of Debbie's father, **Rabbi Neil Gillman**, z"l.

### **Yahrzeits observed 21-27 Kislev:**

**Amy Rosen**, friend of Jan Orzeck; **Anne Werner**, mother of Warren Spielberg; **Charlotte "Cookie" Zazik**, mother of Ilene Rubenstein; **Donald Gallagher**, stepfather of Lori Levine; **Eileen Marks**, mother of Erica Ptohos; **Gertrude Zalutsky**, grandmother of Stuart Baron; **Ida Finkelman Steinberg**, aunt of Sandra Linenschmidt; **Irwin Lager**, father of Ned Lager; **Michael David Safdie**, brother-in-law of Fredrica Brooks; **Mitchell Gordon**, father of Andrew Gordon; **Molly Neumann**, aunt of Marilyn Kardeman; **Paul Klotz**, father of Jay Klotz; **Rebecca Carter**, mother of Michael Carter and grandmother of Rabbi Carie Carter; **Sidney Blumenfeld**, grandfather of Barry Blumenfeld; **Solomon Hopard**, father of Stanley Hopard. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

### **Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick**

#### **Shaarei Mitzvah Service and Shabbat Potluck Dinner**

Friday, December 8 | 6:30PM

### **Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah**

Saturday, December 9 | 1:20PM

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 email [rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org) for information about this study group.

### **PJ Chanukkah Havdallah**

Saturday, December 9 | 6:30PM-8:00PM

Get in your pj's for bed, but don't go to sleep! Come start the Chanukkah celebrating early with your friends at PSJC! Musical Havdallah, songs, snacks, and Chanukkah crafts for K-5th, but open to everyone. Suggested donation \$5 per family. RSVP here: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pj-chanukkah-havdallah.html>.

### **Chanukkah Art Fair**

Sunday, December 10 | 1:00PM-4:00PM | Hannah Senesh Community Day School, 342 Smith Street

Visit the PSJC spot at the annual Community Chanukkah Art Fair. It will be filled with Art, Music and more; designed for children 2-10 years old.

### **Etz Chaim Community Conversation II**

Sunday, December 10 | 3:00PM

In the second of four Community Conversations, we'll focus on programs and projects that might hold greater appeal for our community -- and for people interested in learning more about PSJC. Got good ideas for events, learning, workshops, or collaboration? Thoughts on how we can build bridges with other communities? This is the forum to share them: Everyone welcome!!

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

Tuesday, December 12 and 19 | 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, December 15 and 22 | 10:00AM | \$12 per class (\$10 per members)

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. For more information, [www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html](http://www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html)



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## Donate to the Capital Campaign!

We are grateful for every donation and pledge! WE DID IT!!! Yasher koach to PSJC and our generous donors. Our matching campaign raised nearly \$300,000. We still need help to raise more to complete the urgent repairs. If you haven't participated yet, please donate today! Todah Rabbah! We are so grateful for your support. Visit <https://www.psjc.org/capitalcampaign>



### Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu & PSJC Chanukkah Celebration

Friday, December 15 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe, followed by a communal dinner - everyone is welcome! Main Entrees will be provided, plus some extra special Chanukkah treats! RSVPs are not required, but are helpful to ensure enough food. RSVP here: <https://www.psjc.org/form/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

### Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, December 16 | 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](mailto:Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com) for more details.

### Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, December 16 | 1:30PM | Hosted by Louise Heit-Radwell and Steven Radwell

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together in the home of a PSJC member. Bring a dairy or pareve potluck dish to share. 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.

### Hebrew Cooking with the Shinshinim!

Sunday, December 17 | 2:00PM-4:00PM

Join our Shinshinim (18 year old Israelis here for a year of service)! Learn to prepare delicious Israeli dishes using Hebrew! 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. 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 January 28 and 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](mailto:rabbicarie@psjc.org).

### Rosh Chodesh Tevet Minyan

Monday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 19 | 7:00AM

**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). **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). **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](mailto:gmach@psjc.org) or [hevrakadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevrakadisha@psjc.org).

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

## Parashat Vayeshev

Triennial: Genesis 38:1-38:30 | Etz Hayim p. 233; Hertz p. 145

Haftarah | Amos 2:6-3:8 | Etz Hayim p. 246; Hertz p. 152

In the midst of this *parasha* about Joseph and his brothers, I'd like to focus our attention instead on a character who speaks very little - their father, Jacob - and read between the lines to better understand him. The twelve sons of Jacob, following in the tradition of their father, are shepherds. They tend to the animals and spend many days far from home searching for new areas for them to graze. Presumably, Jacob only hears of their whereabouts from random visitors who happen to have seen them wandering around the Judean hills. This is normal life. However, when someone happens to mention that eleven of the brothers are near Shechem, Jacob suddenly calls Joseph and exclaims: "Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem. Come, I will send you to them!" Why does he do this? Does he not trust his sons? What is going on here?

In one of the oldest commentaries on the Torah, the *Targum* (Aramaic translation) attributed to Yonatan ben Uziel, we find a different version of this verse that fills in some of the gaps. It reads: "Your brothers are pasturing in Shechem, and I am frightened, lest Canaanites come and smite them." Shechem, if you recall, was where Dina was raped, and where her brothers, Simeon and Levi, later massacred the male inhabitants. Following that event, Jacob was terrified of possible reprisals against his family. So in verse 14 Jacob tells Joseph "Go and see how your brothers are faring..." The Hebrew is *לֵךְ-נָא אַתְּ-שְׁלוֹם רְאֵה לְרֵעֶיךָ*, *lech-na re'eh et-shalom achecha*, which translates more literally as "go see the peace (shalom) of your brothers." Jacob knows rationally that his sons are probably fine - there is no specific risk in Shechem - but he reaches out to make sure.

Later Hebrew calls this act of reaching out '*drishat shalom*' - 'enquiring after peace.' Israelis wishing to send regards to a mutual friend will ask you to send a warm *drishat shalom*. But the word *drisha* has other meanings too. *Drisha*, as in Midrash, can mean 'interpretation/exposition.' So *drishat shalom* can also be understood as 'interpreting peace,' consciously choosing to see deeper harmonies, even when our cynical instincts tell us to accept the *p'shat* (simple meaning) of the world. And *drisha* can also mean 'demand,' as is often seen on Israeli protest signs: "*Ha'Am doresh...*" So *drishat shalom* can be translated even more strongly as 'demanding peace.'

What all of this

tells us is that checking in on a loved one is about far more than getting information; it is how we communicate care and concern. The inquiry is itself a performative act, one rooted in faith about deeper structures of connection that establishes and reinforces those connections. Enquiring after the peace of others, in essence, brings it into existence! We sometimes dismiss short "how r u?" text messages and pre-Shabbat phone-calls to family as mechanical or superficial, but a short message is much stronger than silence. Feeble as it sounds, re-establishing such connections is the antithesis of the chaos we fear, and often our first way to fight terror.

Jacob's family, the original children of Israel, are complex and often dysfunctional. Unfortunately, there aren't many positive things to learn from the brothers' relationships, and we know the tragic end of Joseph's mission to enquire after his brothers. However, there is a glimmer of love and hope in this story too. Somehow, the simple fact that Jacob cares about his sons enough to send Joseph to find them is absorbed into the consciousness of Reuven. While the other brothers plot to kill Joseph, Reuven resolves to save him - not necessarily out of brotherly love, but in order not to worry his father. The *drishat shalom* creates the peace it was seeking.

May we all merit to seek, demand and enjoy much peace. Shabbat shalom!

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Joshua Weiner**, *Conservative Yeshiva & Frankel Rabbinical College Student* 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.