




PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

December 9-16, 2016 | 9-16 Kislev, 5777
Parashat Vayetzi

Friday, December 9 9 Kislev				Parashat Vayetzi Saturday, December 10 10 Kislev		
Candle Lighting 4:10PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM				Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Max Drucker Bar Mitzvah Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat JC 11:15AM Mincha 3:00PM Ellie Kauffman Bat Mitzvah		
Sunday December 11 11 Kislev	Monday December 12 12 Kislev	Tuesday December 13 13 Kislev	Wednesday December 14 14 Kislev	Thursday December 15 15 Kislev	Friday December 16 16 Kislev	Saturday December 17 17 Kislev
Hebrew School 9:30AM Bananukah Concert 12:30PM Challah Bake 4:30PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM Board Meeting 7:15PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Mussar Path of the Mensch 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 4:12PM PJ Library: It's Friday Music Class 10:30AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM	Shabbat <i>Vayishlach</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Jessica Hendel Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM  Live Jazz A night out in the neighborhood! PSJC Club 1320 8:00PM
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) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@psjc.org) Lena Roe, Interim Director of Youth Education (lena.roe@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

Mazal Tov!

To **Max, Robbi, Brian** and **Ben** on **Max's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.
To **Ellie, Lisa, Stuart** and **Anya** on **Ellie's** Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah!

To **Robbi Siegel** and **Brian Drucker** for their contribution to the Kiddush Fund in honor of **Max's** Bar Mitzvah.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences to **Mindy Levine** and her family on the death of her mother, **Gerry Levine Mendelsohn**, z"l.
Our condolences to **Alan Palmer** and his family on the death of his father, **Samson Edward Palmer**, z"l.

Yahrzeits: 10-16 Kislev:

Alexander Feigin, father of Marlene Schwartz; **David Moskowitz**, father of Martin Moskowitz; **Esther Tursky**, aunt of Marc Korashan; **Giti Spruchman**, grandmother of Jan Orzeck; **Martin A. Radwell**, father of Steven Radwell; **Mitchell Finger**, brother of Deborah Gordon; **Murray Rosenfeld**, father of Roberta Moskowitz; **Patty Stafford**, sister of Peggy Stafford; **Reuben Sperber**, father of Joel Sperber; **Samuel Allen Diamond**, husband of Carol Diamond. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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



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Chanukkah begins Saturday, December 24...Shop at PSJC Hebrew School!

Get ready for the holiday and support the PSJC Hebrew School by purchasing your candles, gelt, dreidels, and Chanukkah wrapping paper. Stop by the Hebrew School Office on **December 13, 14, 20 and 21** between the hours of 5:30PM to 6:15PM; **Sunday, December 11 and 18** from 9:15AM to 10:00AM or **Sunday, December 11** from 11:30AM to 1:30PM

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, December 10 | 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.

Kadima Event: Havdallah And A Movie

Saturday December 10 | 6:45PM-9:00PM

This event is for 5th-7th graders. There will be popcorn and Chanukah themed snacks.

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.

PSJC and Kingsbay Y present: Challah With A Whole New Twist--fun for the whole family.

Sunday, December 11 | 4:30PM

Make Challah in a bag! Plus stories, STEM, music and Shinshinim. What more could we want? All are welcome! With a special invitation to our Elementary and middle school families. Let us know you are coming, by contacting Angela at 718-648-7703 x223 or aashraf@kingsbay.org.

PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, December 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.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, December 16 | 6:30PM

Teen Chanukkah Dinner

Friday December 16 | 7:00PM-8:45PM

Wear Chanukkah attire and get ready for latkas and sufganiyot.

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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Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, December 17 | 1:30PM | on 10th Street

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.

Club 1320 Presents: Live Jazz with the Yotam Silberstein Group

Saturday, December 17 | Doors open 7:30PM

You deserve a fun night out -- right in the neighborhood! PSJC's Club 1320 presents Yotam Silberstein Group. Come out for a night of live jazz, food and drink, and great friends. Concert begins at 8:00 and everyone is welcome to stay for the after party. Tickets are \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$25 for students, and \$55 at the door. Please log on to ShulCloud to purchase your tickets. For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact club1320@psjc.org. Proceeds from this event will benefit PSJC.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, December 24 | 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

Lev Tahor: PSJC's All-Sung, Lay-Led Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, January 6 | 6:30PM

Join us for the first Lev Tahor service and program of the (secular) New Year, when our own David Mikics will give a talk on his most recent book, Bellow's People, which explores Saul Bellow's relationships with the mostly Jewish real-life friends and acquaintances who were the foundation for many of his fictional characters. Mention PSJC at Community Books or Terrace Books to get a 10% discount on new copies of the book. And please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/LevTahorJan6> for the dairy/pareve pot luck -- thank you!

Book Club - Ravelstein

Saturday, January 7 | 1:30PM

Professor Mikics will lead a discussion of Bellow's last novel Ravelstein, based on events in the life of the scholar (and Bellow's colleague at the University of Chicago) Allan Bloom.

MASBIA Needs PSJC!!

Sunday, January 8 | 12:00PM-2:00PM

Masbia, the kosher soup kitchen at 1372 Coney Island Ave. (near Ave. J), prepares thousands of meals a week for hungry Brooklynites. Last week, we chopped bushel-baskets of carrots, parsnip, butternut squash and celery root for a week's worth of soup -- and (thanks, Roberta!) prepared over 200 portions of baked tilapia for the afternoon meal. All hands on deck -- anyone over 10 is welcome to pull on a stylin' hairnet and gloves and get busy! Please contact Helen Zelon: hzelon@gmail.org for info or details, and thanks for your good service.

MLK Day of Service

Sunday, January 15 | 11:00AM

Members and friends of PSJC are warmly invited to roll up their sleeves for a morning of work at PSJC, in our 5th Annual MLK Day of Service. We'll be prepping soup kits, packing books and clothing, making PB&J sandwiches and Gorp, working at Masbia, knitting, crafting, and taking care of our glorious shul building -- among other projects. Please save the date and join us as we work to make our corner of this complicated world a little better. For info, or to help organize ahead of the event or on the day, contact Helen Zelon: hzelon@gmail.com.

Torah Parashat Vayetzi

Triennial (Genesis 28:10-30:13): Etz Hayim p. 166; Hertz p. 106; Plaut p.194
Haftarah (Hosea 12:13-14:10): Etz Hayim p. 189; Hertz p. 118; Plaut p. 344

Jacob: A Story of Self Transformation

Yardén Raber, *CY Talmud Faculty*

Our forefathers are not necessarily depicted by the Torah as flawless heroes, but rather as flesh-and-blood creatures with human faults and natural inclinations. Jacob is perhaps the clearest example of this phenomenon: his life is marked by enmity towards his brother, and his behavior toward others has serious implications in his life's journey. It is in fact this behavior that ultimately leads Jacob to flee his own land after having deceived Esau. However, as we might see in this week's Parashah, this forced exile is what opens the possibility for Jacob's personal journey toward repentance.

Apparently the exile from the Land of Israel has not only personal implications for Jacob but also theological ones. The S'fat Emet (Rabbi Yehudah Arie'el Alter, Poland, 19th-20th Cent.) asserts that by fleeing the Land, Jacob is also taking a step back from God. Nevertheless, this is not necessarily a bad thing; on the contrary, being away from God is what awakens in Jacob a greater desire to reveal the godly essence that dwells in his inner being. In other words, while in exile Jacob engages in a thorough search for God through *tikun atzmi*, a process of self-transformation. Throughout this whole process he faces situations that force him to put himself in the place of the victim and the oppressed. Just as Jacob deceived his brother Esau by stealing from him the firstborn's blessing, he is now deceived by Laban. It seems that Jacob's own deception tactics are now directed against himself: while Rachel, Laban's younger daughter, has apparently been allotted to Jacob, it is indeed Leah, the eldest daughter, who is given to him first. The situation which had forced him to flee in the first place has been reversed; Jacob now learns what it is to be on the receiving end.

Jacob's relationship with Leah is depicted as a very problematic one. In fact, Jacob loves Rachel, but hates Leah (Gen. 29:31-33), thus leading to an enduring confrontation between the two sisters. However, according to Rabbi Isaac Abarbanel (Portugal-Spain-Italy, 15th-16th Cent.) it is precisely this relationship what leads Jacob into a new stage of self-awareness and personal transformation. Abarbanel argues that every child that Jacob and Leah bore together helped him clear the hatred from his heart, until it was wholly eradicated. That is to say, parenthood made of Jacob a completely new man.

Our patriarch has now undergone two fundamental changes: on the one hand, he has been in the place of the oppressed and is therefore aware of his own mistakes; on the other, he has now completely cleared up his heart from any sort of resentment toward others. Only after this process of *tikun atzmi* is he able to re-encounter God, who is reflected in every single human being. Jacob has now returned to his true self; therefore, he is now ready to go back to his own land and to look at his brother's face again.

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. **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 **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; **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at hevra.kadisha@psjc.org.