



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

March 31-April 8, 2017 | 4-12 Nissan, 5777  
Parashat Vayikra

Friday, March 31   4 Nissan				Parashat Vayikra Saturday, April 1   5 Nissan		
Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Elizabeth Schnur</b>   6:30PM <b>Candle Lighting</b>   7:02PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Hebrew School Shabbat & Shabbat Kulanu MLK, Heschel, and War Conflict and Economic Justice   1:30PM		
Sunday April 2 6 Nissan	Monday April 3 7 Nissan	Tuesday April 4 8 Nissan	Wednesday April 5 9 Nissan	Thursday April 6 10 Nissan	Friday April 7 11 Nissan	Saturday April 8 12 Nissan
6th Grade Shaarei Mitzvah Trip 9:00AM  Hebrew School 9:30AM  Charoset PJ Event 10:30AM  Kadima Event Chocolate Seder - FJC 1:30PM	PSJC Knitters 6:30PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM	A New Vision for the Secular in Israel with Gili Re'i (of Shahrar Institute) 7:00PM	It's Friday! 10:30AM  Lev Tahor 6:30PM  Candle Lighting 7:09PM	Shabbat Hagadol/Tzav  Shacharit   10:00AM  <b>Marty Radwell Bar Mitzvah</b>  Mini Minyan   Tot Shabbat 11:15AM
<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 (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**Today Rabbah!**

To the **PSJC community** for your constant support in making the Club 1320 Spring Fling & Auction a success.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Jan Orzeck** and her entire family on the death of her families' friend, **Helen Rosen**, z"l.

**Yahrzeits observed 5-11 Nissan:**

**Bernard Kabacoff**, father of Deena Steinfeld; **Bernard Philip Lampert**, father of Betsy Minkin; **David Sherman**, father of Suzan Sherman; **Israel Kindler**, father of Zev Kindler; **Lillian Abramson**, aunt of Steve Elworth; **Marjorie Kahan**, aunt of Alan Palmer; **May Barth**, mother of Rabbi Sami Barth; **Norman Jonas**, friend of Fran Hawthorne; **Norman Levine**, uncle of Myron and Gavrielle Levine; **Rachel Klein**, aunt of Tova Klein; **Rosalind Sherman**, mother of Suzan Sherman; **Sheldon Kaplan**, father of Lynda Kaplan; **Shirley Zucker**, observed by the PSJC community. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

**Hebrew School Shabbat**

Saturday, April 1

Celebrate Shabbat with the Hebrew School families! We'll join the main service for a special dvar Torah and aliyot to honor members of the Hebrew School community before heading downstairs for the April Shabbat Kulanu service, led by Abe and the students. Then join us for Kiddush following services and a surprise treat.

**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



March 31-April 8, 2017 | 4-12 Nissan, 5777  
Parashat Vayikra

### **MLK, Heschel, and War Conflict and Economic Justice**

Saturday, April 1 | 1:30PM

Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King Jr. met in 1963, and were friends and allies for the next five years, until King's death. On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before he was killed, King gave a speech against the Vietnam War and broadening his concern beyond the civil rights movement. Heschel played a role in this event. In this class, we will talk about the friendship of these two men, and look at excerpts from the speech King made 50 years ago. Please join Rabbi Jeff Marker in exploring this unique relationship, following kiddush.

### **Passover Fun at PSJC**

Sunday, April 2 | 10:00AM

Join PSJC and PJ Library for a special Passover program just for YOU!

Charoset And More! Come join us for a hands-on Passover experience! We'll hear a story, sing some songs, and make yummy charoset! While our PJ Library program is happening, parents are invited to join a Seder workshop to learn about ways to liven up your Seder, explore different Haggadot, and see the latest Seder supplements to enrich your conversations!

### **Gili Re'i: A New Vision for the Secular Left: How do we need to change ourselves in order to change Israel?**

Thursday, April 6 | 7:00PM | PSJC

Gili Re'i is the co-director of the Shared Society Department at Sikkuy, the Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality, which works for equality of Arabs in Israeli society. She comes to us as part of the Shoham Institute lecture Series on Israeli Diversity and Politics. PSJC is co-sponsoring this Lecture Series, please join us on these future dates: May 10 and May 25.

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

Friday, April 7 | 10:30AM | \$12 per class | \$10 for PSJC 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. Visit [www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html](http://www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html) for more information.

### **Lev Tahor Services, with Games and Chametz-Fest!**

Friday, April 7 | 6:30PM

Join PSJC's lay-led, all sung Kabbalat Shabbat service, Lev Tahor, for an evening of singing, board games, conversation and wholesale chametz-consumption, a week ahead of Seders! Clean out your pantries and bring the rice, lentils, pasta and anything else you crave. The pot luck is dairy/pareve; please sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/LevTahorApr7> so our wonderful staff know how to best prepare the space. All voices welcome! Don't be shy...

### **Rodfei Tzedek Committee**

If anyone is interested in the Rodfei Tzedek Committee's events and/or related issues and opportunities, please email to [rodfei.tzedek@psjc.org](mailto:rodfei.tzedek@psjc.org) to get on the Committee's new Google email group. The group will post information and related opportunities to participate in community service and social justice activities.

**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). **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)

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



March 31-April 8, 2017 | 4-12 Nissan, 5777  
Parashat Vayikra

### **First Night Seder at PSJC**

Monday, April 10 | 6:00PM

For the second year and in collaboration with Ohel Ayalah and Kings Bay Y of Windsor Terrace, we will be hosting a first night seder in the Lower Sanctuary of PSJC. For more information and to register visit <https://www.psjc.org/first-night-seder.html>.

Passover begins on the night of **Monday, April 10**. Please check [www.psjc.org/pesach-at-psjc.html](http://www.psjc.org/pesach-at-psjc.html) for details.

### **Shabbat Shmooze**

Saturday, April 15 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together in the home of a PSJC member. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Pot Luck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve pot luck dish to share. If you are coming for the first time, don't feel like you need to bring anything. Just come! Actual address will be given at services. Please contact [shabbatshmooze@psjc.org](mailto:shabbatshmooze@psjc.org) if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze.

### **Advanced Talmud**

Saturday, April 22 | 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)

### **People's Climate March/Brooklyn Synagogue Contingent**

Friday, April 28-Saturday, April 29

Remember the huge People's Climate March in NYC in 2014? This year we will march in Washington DC, to show our lawmakers the importance of saving our planet. Hazon is organizing buses to DC on Friday **before Shabbat**, and sponsor housing in the DC area will also be available. For more information, please contact: [jewsforcleanenergy@gmail.com](mailto:jewsforcleanenergy@gmail.com). Bus details and general info at [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org); for housing email [Jessica.p.haller@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.p.haller@gmail.com). PSJC friends and members may also join the weekly Jewish Hub conference call every Wednesday, 8:00PM, Dial-in: 1-605-475-2090 Access Code: 860304

### **Brooklyn Celebrates Israel**

Mark your calendars. Join us as we celebrate Israel in Brooklyn!

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony | April 30 | 6:30PM

Idan Raichel in Concert | May 1 | 7:45PM | Your promo code for discounted tickets: ISR1

Yom Yisrael | May 7 | 10:00AM - An Israel festival for children and those who love children. To volunteer at Yom Yisrael please contact **Rabbi Carter**.

### **MASBIA: Two ways to help, right now**

"Let all who are hungry, come and eat," we read in the Haggadah. Live those words and join friends old and new as a PSJC volunteer at Masbia, the kosher soup kitchen open to ALL, at 1372 Coney Island Avenue. PSJC's regular shift is the first **Sunday of the month, 12:00PM-2:00PM**, and our help is especially useful now, ahead of Pesach. (Our next shift is Sunday, April 2, 12-2.) Please find the time to roll up your sleeves and pitch in; for info, contact Helen Zelon: [hzelon@gmail.com](mailto:hzelon@gmail.com). And for those who are able, Masbia is seeking donations to provide kosher-for-Pesach meals and groceries to people in need all over NYC; details at [www.masbia.org](http://www.masbia.org), with sincere thanks for any support - physical or financial - our community can offer.

Be A Mensch...Bring Your Can To Shul!

### **PESACH FOOD DRIVE**

PSJC's food drive continues. Let's make this a time of giving/sharing our bounty. Please be sure that all items are in original packaging. Please do not bring glass jars or bottles, dented cans or expired dates by **Thursday, April 6, 2017**.



### **Parashat Vayikra**

Triennial (Leviticus 1:1-2:16): Etz Hayim p. 585; Hertz p. 410

Haftarah (Isaiah 43:21-44:23): Etz Hayim p. 606; Hertz p. 424

### **The Blind Leading the Lame**

Parashat Vayikra begins the Torah's discussion of sacrificial law. In introducing the various sacrifices, the Torah refers to what happens "when adam (any "person") presents an offering of cattle to the Lord" (1:2). In contrast, one who brings a sin offering or a guilt offering is described as a nefesh, a "soul" (5:1). Why is a person who brings the sin or guilt offering not referred to also as an adam "person"? The midrash, picking up on this variation in language, offers a parable that sheds light on the nature of sin and the way we respond to our own acts of wrongdoing:

[It is like] a king who had an orchard with beautiful figs. He set two guards in it, one lame and one blind. He said to them: "Guard the figs," and he left them there and went on his way. The lame man said to the blind man: "I see beautiful figs." The blind man said: "Bring them here, and we'll eat them." The lame man said: "But I can't walk." The blind man said: "And I can't see." What did they do? The lame man rode astride the blind man and they took the figs and ate them...The king came and said: "Where are the figs?" The blind man said: "Do I see?" The lame man said: "Can I walk?" The wise king placed the lame man astride the blind one and judged them as one. (Leviticus Rabba 4:5)

The midrash explains that in the world to come the soul and body will blame one another for the individual's sins, but God will judge them as one. The midrash takes us back to the beginning of time, when Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves and tried to cast blame elsewhere for the fruit they ate; and it also looks forward to the end of time, when human beings will be held accountable for their actions.

And yet the midrash does not entirely explain the Torah's language. According to the parable, it is not just the soul that is blamed, since both the body and soul incriminate one another. Perhaps the Torah uses the term nefesh rather than adam to explain that while it takes both body and soul to sin, the individual who has committed a sin will find himself with body and soul at odds with one another, blaming each other for the wrongdoing. The sinner, having sinned, becomes a fragmented individual, caught up in an internal struggle. Such an individual cannot be an adam, a whole person.

If so, then we might consider the shelamim—the well-being/peace offering—as the opposite of the sin and guilt offerings. The word shelamim comes from the Hebrew words shalom and shalem, meaning peace and wholeness. The shelamim sacrifice, once offered, is shared by the donors and priests. Whereas the individual who has sinned is caught up in an inner conflict, the individual who is whole and has achieved inner peace can reach out and share with others.

Instead of harnessing the blind to the lame, may we harness our eyes and our legs to seek out goodness and justice and run after them. May we strive to live integrated lives, united in body and soul, and may we be like the sons of Aaron who not only offered sacrifices in the Temple, but also loved peace and pursued it.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Ilana Kurshan, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Ilana Kurshan, Jerusalem, is the author of *If All the Seas Were Ink*, a memoir about Talmud study forthcoming from St. Martin's Press. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva 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.