



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

December 1-9, 2017 | 13-21 Kislev 5778
Parashat Vayishlach

Friday, December 1 13 Kislev				Parashat Vayishlach Saturday, December 2 14 Kislev		
Candle Lighting 4:11PM Lev Tahor welcomes PSJC Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Shaarei Mitzvah 6 Lunch 1:00PM Dance Party 7:00PM		
Sunday December 3 15 Kislev	Monday December 4 16 Kislev	Tuesday December 5 17 Kislev	Wednesday December 6 18 Kislev	Thursday December 7 19 Kislev	Friday December 8 20 Kislev	Saturday December 9 21 Kislev
Hebrew School 9:30AM Song and Nosh with Abe 10:00AM Rodfei Tzedek Action 12:00PM	Combatants for Peace 7:00PM PSJC Knitters 7:30PM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 1:00PM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Geshar 6:15PM	Café Ivrit - Mid- Level Hebrew 7:00PM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 4:10PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Shaarei Mitzvah Service & Shabbat Dinner (7 th grade) 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Vayeshev</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah 1:20PM
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) 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 **Julia, Andrew, Julia** and **Abigail** in honor of new baby **Eleanor!**

Todah Rabbah

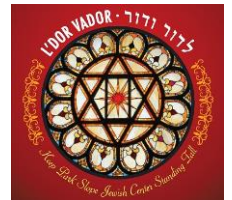
To **Julia Spivack** and **Andrew Gottesman** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Eleanor's** baby naming.

Yahrzeits observed 14-20 Kislev:

Assunta Senese, mother of Carmela Senese; **Benjamin Levy**, father of Joel Levy; **Ezra Joseph Gubbay**, father of Joseph Gubbay; **Jackie Pliskin**, sister of Karen Jacobson; **Mitchell Finger**, brother of Deborah Gordon; **Patty Stafford**, sister of Peggy Stafford; **Paul Glatman**, father of Joan Glatman; **Reuben Sperber**, father of Joel Sperber; **Samuel Allen Diamond**, husband of Carol Diamond; **Theodore Boro**, father of Diane Buxbaum; **Walter Schnitzler**, father of Mona Schnitzler. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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>



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



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Lev Tahor welcomes PSJC Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins

Friday, December 1 | 6:30PM

Add your voice to Lev Tahor, PSJC's monthly all-sung, lay-led Kabbalat Shabbat service. We'll share a dairy/pareve potluck and have a chance to learn with Leora, whose pre-JTS life includes a Jewish organizing fellowship via JOIN for Justice, three years at Greater Boston's Jewish Community Resources Council -- not to mention a couple of summers at Camp Ramah in the Rockies. New voices warmly welcome! Don't be shy...Sign up for the dairy/pareve potluck dinner <http://tinyurl.com/levTahorDec1>.

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, December 2 | 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.

80's Dance Party!

Saturday, December 2 | 7:00PM-10:00PM

Get your 80s groove on at PSJC on December 2, for a crowd-pleasing dance-a-palooza with a guest DJ you'll just love. Throwback cocktails on offer; 80s hair optional. Bring friends, family, neighbors and pals for a night of music and good cheer.

Songs and Nosh with Abe!

Sunday, December 3 | 10:00AM

Start the celebrating early with other parents in the neighborhood! PSJC Tot Shabbat and It's Friday songleader, Abe, will lead a sing-a-long followed by a chance to shmooze over coffee and bagels! Perfect for ages 0-3. RSVPs requested, but not required. RSVP here https://www.psjc.org/event/sing_and_connect/Chanukkah

Rodfei Tzedek Action

Sunday, December 3 | 12:00PM

Write letters to elected officials and media in support of "The Dreamers".

Everything You Wanted to Know about Medicare but Were Afraid to Ask...Medicare 101

Sunday, December 3 | 5:00PM-6:30PM

...because like most government entitlements it is complicated! The Positive Aging Initiative,* by popular request, is sponsoring a workshop that will provide the answers prior to the end of Open Enrollment on Thursday, December 7. All ages welcome! Pre-registration is required. Email Jan Orzeck at jkorzeck@gmail.com. Suggested Donation: \$10 - pay at the door.

Combatants for Peace

Monday, December 4 | 7:00PM

Join us as two Combatants, Nathan Landau and Osama Elewat, (one Israeli and one Palestinian) come to Brooklyn to tell their personal stories of transformation from fighters into Peace activists. Please RSVP here: <https://www.psjc.org/event/combatants-for-peace.html>. Conversation moderated by our own Warren Spielberg.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, December 4 | 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

Tuesday, December 5, 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.



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

Thursday, December 7 and 21 | 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.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, December 8, 15 and 22 | 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.

Shaarei Mitzvah Service and Shabbat 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 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>.

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 for more details.

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. **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 hevra kadisha@psjc.org.

Parashat Vayishlach

Triennial: Genesis 34:1-35:15 | Etz Hayim p. 206; Hertz p. 127

Haftarah | Ovadiah 1:1-21 | Etz Hayim p. 222; Hertz p. 135

*There are three names by which a person is called:
one which their parents call them, one which people call them,
and one which they earn for themselves.*

The last is the best one of all. - Midrash Tanhuma, Parashat Vayekhel 1

Jacob begins his life as a heel – the literal meaning of his name – given to him due to his grasping at his brother’s heel. As he begins to go through life, nearly every episode in which we see him involved includes an act of deception, either on his part, or on the part of others. On his return from the field, Jacob takes advantage of his brother’s fatigue and purchases from him his birthright. Later, Jacob secures his father’s blessing by pretending to be Esau, cheating his brother and deceiving his father. In the wake of this event, he is forced into exile. At Laban’s house, Jacob receives a dose of his own medicine when Laban switches his bride at the last moment. He strikes back at Laban by somehow genetically engineering his father-in-law’s flocks such that they all now belong to Jacob. In short, Jacob, in the beginning of his life, is an identity-hider. He pretends to help Esau by giving him nourishment, but his real intent is to strip his brother of his rights. He puts on Esau’s clothes, although he seems to fail at imitating his brother’s voice. Laban hides the identity of his daughters, but one must ask, how could Jacob not have noticed? Maybe he was so out of tune with the notion of identity that he could not see whom he was marrying before she lifted her veil? He switches the identity of the sheep and goats, as if to say that identity is so fluid that it really does not matter whether your parents had stripes or spots. Jacob can hide that too.

The critical moment in his life, one that will set him on the path to be the eponymous forefather of Israel, the tribe with the most stable identity in human history, is his wrestling with the some unknown figure before he reunites with his brother. But according to Genesis 32:25 Jacob is left alone—there is no one to hide from, and no one to hide anything from him. Yet in a move that has puzzled commentators for centuries, the verse describes a “man” with him, who wrestles with him until the morning. If Jacob is alone, then who is this man? One possibility is that Jacob is finally struggling to form his own identity. Jacob finally confronts himself, and asks himself who he is, what does his life mean, where does he want it to go? He is heading back to Canaan rich in possessions, with a large family including two wives, two concubines and at least thirteen children. But one project is left before he returns home--he needs to find out who he is. This is something he can only do alone.

People can live for a long time while still hiding their identity from others and even from themselves. We are awfully good at pretending to be who we are not. Sometimes we are so good at this, that even inside we no longer know who we really are. And determining one’s identity involves wrestling; it is hard injurious work, as we see from Jacob’s torn hip. Jacob will remain injured for the rest of his life. But such spiritual work brings with it tremendous blessing and confidence. Jacob emerges from his struggle a new person, with a new name, his true name, the name he earns for himself, not the name given to him by someone else. Jacob has “prevailed,” the word used a few verses later, not over Esau or over Laban or over anyone else. He has prevailed over his own fear of showing his identity to the world. Jacob can now go back to Canaan “whole” (33:18) for the rupture between his inner identity and the face he shows the world is now repaired. He keeps the name Ya’akov, the one given to him by his parents, but in addition he is blessed with the name that he has earned on his own, Yisrael, the name destined to change the history of the world.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Dr. Joshua Kulp, *Conservative Yeshiva Faculty & Rosh Yeshiva* 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.