



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

August 9-17, 2019 | 9-16 Av 5779
Shabbat Nachamu Parashat V'etchanan

Friday, August 16 15 Av				Shabbat Nachamu Parashat V'etchanan Saturday, August 17 16 Av		
Kabbalat Shabbat with Susan Honig 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:35PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Shabbat Shmooze 1:30PM		
Sunday August 18 17 Av	Monday August 19 18 Av	Tuesday August 20 19 Av	Wednesday August 21 20 Av	Thursday August 22 21 Av	Friday August 23 22 Av	Saturday August 24 23 Av
			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		Kabbalat Shabbat with Shayna Klainberg/ Freddie Brooks 7:00PM Candle Lighting 7:25PM	<i>Shabbat Hachodesh Parashat Ekev</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM
Park Slope Jewish Center 1320 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718) 768-1453 Office hours: M-Th 9:00AM-5:00PM, F 9:00AM-2:00PM www.psjc.org email: office@psjc.org				Rabbi Carie Carter, Rabbi (rabbicarie@psjc.org) Ellen Brickman, President (president@psjc.org) Piper Panzeri, Synagogue Administrator (piper@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

HaMakom Yenachem:

Our condolences go to:

Pete Segal and family the death of Pete's father, **Cyrus Segal**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 16-22 Av:

Basil Kosarin, father of Ray Kosarin; **Bernice Leah Green**, mother of Gail Green-Anderson; **David Hopard**, brother of Stanley Hopard; **Eleanor Kalik**, friend of Carol Diamond; **Ellen Platt Loewenthal**, mother of Amy Loewenthal; **Frances Narewski**, mother of Elizabeth Kaczmarczyk; **Harry Levine**, grandfather of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine; **Jean Ruben**, mother of Harolyn Cohen; **Jorge Epelbaum**, brother of Susana Honig; **Philip Baron**, father of Stuart Baron; **Rose Kindler**, mother of Zev Kindler; **Roy Yasen**, stepfather of Marc Korashan; **Samuel Stern**, father of Abraham Stern.

May their memories be for a blessing.

Summer Shabbat Services

Our Friday night service times move to 7:00PM for July and August.

And Shabbat Services move to our air-conditioned downstairs for services in July and August.

Hebrew Free Burial Society is in need of tallitot to use for burial. If you have old tallitot you would like to donate, please consider bringing them to PSJC. We will collect them in the kiddush room this summer and send them to HFBS before Rosh Hashanah.

Our Annual Honey Sale

Once again, PSJC will be participating with ORT so you can send Honey to your friends and family in time for Rosh HaShanah.

This is a lovely gift and a PSJC fundraiser.

Order now www.psjc.org/honey.



Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, August 17 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together at PSJC courtyard during the summer months. We will shmooze after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. If anyone would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze in the coming year, please indicate which date(s) you prefer: **September 21, November 16, December 21** (Chanukah starts December 22 at sundown), **January 18, 2020, February 15, March 21, April 18** (Pesach ends April 16), **May 16, June 20, July 18** or **August 15** please email shabbatshmooze@psjc.org, with your preferred date (they occur on the 3rd Shabbat of the month). Members hosting homes needs to be walking distance from PSJC.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, August 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.

Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan

Saturday, August 31 | 10:00AM

Annual Membership Renewal 2019-2020

That means we have already begun planning for 5780! We hope you will join us for another great year at PSJC! We would love to get to 100% participation. No amount is too big or too small. Renew your membership today! It's easy and can all be done online.

Visit www.psjc.org and log in to your account.
Renew before the deadline **Friday, August 16**

Please contact Peter by email treasurer@psjc.org if you have to arrange payments or limited income.

Hebrew School Registration is Live!

Registration for 2019-2020 Hebrew School is OPEN!
Join us for another year of Jewish learning!
https://www.psjc.org/hebrew_school_registration

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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Book Club - *The Prague Cemetery*

Saturday, September | 1:30PM

Join us as we explore modern anti-Semitism's underlying ideology via the fictional memoir of the fictional author of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as conveyed in the novel *The Prague Cemetery* by Umberto Eco (translated from the Italian by Richard Dixon). BPL has six print. Used hardcover copies are available on Amazon for \$5 (including shipping). An audiobook version is available from Audible.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, September 13 | 6:30PM

Host an Israeli Shinshin

IsraelBKLYN is looking for host families for Israeli Shinshinim this year (especially beginning in the Fall). A "shinshin" is an 18-year-old Israeli emissary to communities abroad with the goal of educating people of all ages about Israel and Israeli culture. Shinshinim work with children at Jewish camps, schools and synagogues. Over the last five years, Shinshinim have added a lot to our PSJC community. If you are interested in hosting a shinshin, please contact Rabbi Carter: rabbicarie@psjc.org.

Help is needed to cook, share dinner or stay overnight with a dozen or so guests who are experiencing homelessness. PSJC is partners with the CAMBA Respite Bed Program. During the summer the program is at Old First Reformed Church in Park Slope and St. George's Episcopal in Bed Sty. It's a hard time to get volunteers. Can you help at any time this summer? It's a nice thing to do with friends or family. Kids of any age can help serve dinner. Post B'nai Mitzvah kids can stay overnight with an adult.

The guests are screened and part of a program helping them move forward towards permanent housing. Overnighters sleep in a separate air conditioned room. Food could be dropped off or picked up. Please spread the word to your networks. Feel free to give me a call with any questions - Yehudit Moch 347-728-8247.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fa8af2eaafb6-volunteer44>

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, **reading Torah**, email Rabbi Sue Oren at leyning@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.

Have announcements? Email by Monday 5:00PM (office@psjc.org)

Shabbat Nachamu Parashat V'etchanan

Triennial: Deuteronomy 5:1-7:11 | Etz Hayim p.1015; Hertz p.765

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26 | Etz Hayim p.1032; Hertz p.750

D'var Torah: Finding Consolation

Moshe prays many times in the Torah — for God to forgive the people after the sin of the golden calf, to allow God's spirit to rest on others and devolve some of Moshe's authority; for the healing of his sister — and in every instance, his prayers are for the wellbeing of others. Only once in the Torah — in Parashat Va'etchanan — does Moshe pray for himself.

In point of fact, Moshe doesn't exactly pray. He begs. "At that time," Moshe tells the assembled Jewish people, all of them destined for the land of promise, "I begged God, saying. . . 'please, let me cross over and see this goodly land across the Jordan, this good hill country and the Lebanon.'" (3:23, 25)

But, for the first time in their long relationship, God refuses his faithful servant's plea: "*Rav lach*" God replies to Moshe, "you ask too much. Speak no more to me of this thing. Go up to the top of Mt. Pisgah, raise your eyes to the west, the north, the south, and the east and look with your eyes — but you shall not cross this Jordan River." (3:27) It is especially painful to hear God use the same words to chastise Moshe as did the rebel Korah, who also said *rav lachem*. After all, what did Moshe ever seek for himself? And still he's told it's too much.

Of all the Jews gathered in the plains of Moab, Moshe alone is barred from entering the land. This is almost unbearable, for the reader and for Moshe alike. His entire life has been devoted to the service of God and the Jewish people. He has sacrificed all he had, forsaking his home and position. And now he has nothing: his parents are gone; his beloved sister and brother have died, he is without friend or peer. He wants only one thing: To enjoy, if only for a little while, the fruits of his life's labor.

And yet, the pathos here is only an extreme instance of the human condition. Kohelet, that extended meditation on the absurdity of life, says this plainly: When one realizes that all one's toil will be at best for the benefit of others, and at worse for no one at all, one can come to despise life. Indeed, Devarim Rabba (2:2) tells us that one name for Moshe is simply "*ish*", human being. And God's "no" to Moshe is the same as God's "no" in the Garden of Eden, from which humanity was driven "lest they stretch forth their hand, and take from the Tree of Life, and eat, and live forever."

It is an astounding irony, then, that the Shabbat on which we read Parashat Va'etchanan is known as Shabbat Nahamu, the Shabbat of Consolation. Even the Prophet Isaiah, whose words we read this Shabbat, tells us that "all flesh is grass, all its goodness like the flowers of the field." How are we to find consolation in any of this? R' Ovadia Sforno offers us a hint of how we can move from despair at the futility of life to consolation. He writes that when God instructed Moshe to climb Mt. Pisgah, it was so that Moshe would *bless* the land and the people who would live in it.

The final lesson that God has to teach Moshe is that the way we can rescue ourselves from the mood of disappointment and despair that mortality can provoke — is to bless. To behold the green vistas we will never enter, consider the grandchildren we will never know, imagine the joys we will never taste doesn't have to fill us with regret. It could do the opposite. We could smile upon it.

And, indeed, Moshe learns this lesson. It is with the text of Moshe's blessing (V'zot Habracha) that the Torah ends.

Even for the greatest of us, it is not an easy thing to accept our death. And it is not an easy thing to bless. But if we can turn despair to blessing, if we can find a way not only to accept, but to embrace that the world will continue without us, there may be, in the end, a reward for our labors, and consolation.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joe Schwartz**, *Conservative Yeshiva Alumnus (2010-11)* "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein found at <http://www.conservativeyeshiva.org/torahsparks>.