



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

February 2-10, 2018 | 17-25 Shevat 5778  
Parashat Yitro

Friday, February 2   17 Shevat				Parashat Yitro Saturday, February 3   18 Shevat		
Candle Lighting   4:57PM Lev Tahor welcomes NYS Assembly Member <b>Robert (Bobby) Carroll</b>   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM <b>Samuel Lauricella Bar Mitzvah</b> Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan   11:15AM Jr. Congregation   11:15AM Mishneh Torah   1:20PM		
Sunday February 4 19 Shevat	Monday February 5 20 Shevat	Tuesday February 6 21 Shevat	Wednesday February 7 22 Shevat	Thursday February 8 23 Shevat	Friday February 9 24 Shevat	Saturday February 10 25 Shevat
PSJC Yom Iyyun Tzedek & Tzedakah Fair 9:30AM  Musical Shacharit 9:30AM  Program & Tent Study 10:15AM  Tzedakah Fair 11:00AM  Farming & Food with Miriam Kudler-Flam 11:45AM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 12:00PM  PSJC Knitters 7:30PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM  Community Conversation III: Social Action 7:30PM		It's Friday Music Class   10:00AM  Candle Lighting 5:05PM  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Leora</b> 6:30PM	<i>Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim</i>  New Member Shabbat  Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM  Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM  Shacharit   10:00AM  Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan Jr. Congregation 11:15AM  Praying for our country 1:20PM  Shaarei Mitzvah 7 5:30PM
<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 **Samuel** and his entire family on **Samuel's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Reyna Kahan** and **Tom Lauricella** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Samuel's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Steven Marks** and family on the death of his father, **Leroy Nelson Marks**, z"l.

**Eli Wolfhagen** and family on the death of his grandmother, **Adele Youdin**, z"l.

**Miriam Fleischmann** and family on the death of her mother, **Florence B. Sinow**, z"l.

**Lenore Arons** and family on the death of her brother, **Bernard Arons**, z"l.

**Robert Saffer** and his family on the death of his mother, **Pearl Saffer**, z"l.

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



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### **Purim 2018 is near!**

Can you chant Megillah? Would you like to chant at PSJC this year? Purim will be here sooner than you think - Erev Purim Megillah reading is on the evening of February 28! If you would like to participate in chanting Megillah or if you want to be involved in this year's Purim Shpiel, please contact Elizabeth Schnur: [esschnur@gmail.com](mailto:esschnur@gmail.com).

### **Yahrzeits observed 18-24 Shevat:**

**Alan James Feldman**, father of Nachshon/Neil Feldman; **Beverly Joyce Palmer**, sister of Alan Palmer; **Celia Kalet**, mother of Adina Kalet; **Esther Cohen**, mother of Marc Cohen; **Heshel Rosenfeld**, father of Fay Rosenfeld; **Irving Brickman**, father of Ellen Brickman; **John Robinson Holmes**, uncle of Peter Holmes; **Joseph Katarivas**, father of Stephanie Katarivas; **Mary Sandler**, grandmother of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Max Gross**, father of Bruce Lee Gross; **Mischa Zimmerman**, cousin of Esther Schwalb; **Morris Daffner**, great uncle of Stuart Baron; **Nathan Kalman**, father of Beverly Kalman; **Rudolph Joseph Straus**, father of Ellen Straus; **Sally Groom**, mother of Scott Groom; **Sidney Rosen**, father of David Rosen; **Warren Lionel Schnur**, father of Elizabeth Schnur and father of Rosanne Milic; **Zara Diamond**, mother-in-law of Carol Diamond. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

### **Lev Tahor Welcomes NYS Assembly Member Robert (Bobby) Carroll**

Friday, February 2 | 6:30PM

Lifelong Brooklyn local Bobby Carroll - grad of PS 230 and Xaverian HS - represents the 44th District in the New York State Assembly and will be our guest at Lev Tahor. He'll share his thoughts on New York's future - and hear what's on local voters' minds. Carroll serves on Assembly committees on Environmental Conservation and Election Law, among others. Bring your questions, the issues you're passionate about, and a hearty appetite, too!

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

Saturday, February 3 | 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.

### **PSJC Tzedakah Fair**

Sunday, February 4 | 9:30AM-12:30PM

Join the 6th grade Shaarei Mitzvah cohort and the PSJC Hebrew School community in celebration of Tzedakah and giving back! We begin the morning with musical services and interactive test-study followed by the Tzedakah Fair. (Be sure to bring your change to donate to more than a dozen organizations.) At 11:45AM, we welcome Miriam Kudler-Flam, to share her experiences as a Jewish farmer and help us explore where our food comes from. Check out our [www.psjc.org/tzedakah-fair](http://www.psjc.org/tzedakah-fair) to see some of the organizations representing this year.



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

Monday, February 5, 12, 19 and 26 | 12:00PM

Join Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling Perkins, as we follow the Jewish year by reading selections of the Talmud related to Jewish holidays. We'll learn 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.

### **PSJC Knitters**

Monday, February 5 | 7:30PM | Home of Marjorie Rothenberg

For more information contact [marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com).

**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).



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### **Community Conversation III: Social Action**

Wednesday, February 7 | 7:30PM

As part of our ongoing discussions, we're dedicating an evening to exploring our current and future social action projects. If you have ideas, projects or suggestions for how our social action work can thrive and grow, please join this important conversation. Details? Email [hzelon@gmail.com](mailto:hzelon@gmail.com).

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

Friday, February 9 and 16 | 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)

### **Parashat Hashavua**

Saturday, February 10 | 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.

### **New Members' Shabbat**

Saturday, February 10

PSJC warmly welcomes members who joined the community in 2017 at Shabbat morning services on February 10, followed by a festive kiddush. We'd love to celebrate your presence and honor your commitment to the PSJC community. RSVP at [office@psjc.org](mailto:office@psjc.org); look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Praying for our Country**

Saturday, February 10 | 1:20PM

Jews have been living in and praying for countries with oppressive regimes for much longer than we have lived under democracy. Come and explore what prayers for our country have looked like over the ages and in the present, and what this means for how we might relate to governments we do- or don't- agree with. Taught by PSJC Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins.

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

Thursday, February 15 | 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](mailto:NoamW@jafi.org).

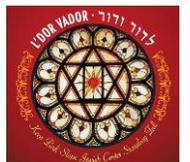
### **Kishkush Acharei Kiddush**

Saturday, February 17 | 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.

## **Donate to the Capital Campaign!**

**Repair work is now UNDERWAY!** Thank you to all our generous donors who helped us get started on the urgent repair work. We still need to raise more to complete it. If you haven't participated yet, don't be shy! Please donate today. Todah Rabbah. **We are so grateful for your support.**



## Parashat Yitro

Triennial: Exodus 18:1-20:22 (18:1-20:23 in some books) | Etz Hayim p.436; Hertz p.290; Plaut p.508  
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-13 | Etz Hayim p.451; Hertz p.302; Plaut p.710

This week, my beloved football team, the Philadelphia Eagles are preparing for their third Super Bowl, and hopefully, their first victory. The parsha is Yitro, and as Jews have been doing for thousands of years, I too cannot help but look for a sign of hope in the parsha. Maybe, finally, after 47 years of frustration (that's how old I am) my perennial losers will actually win. (If you are a Patriots fan, feel free to scan the parsha to find signs that your mighty team, possibly the greatest sports franchise in American history, will continue their oppression of the rest of the league. A bit like rooting for Pharaoh). Remarkably, the parsha contains perhaps the most famous reference to the eagle in all western literature. In Exodus 19:3 God tells Moses, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself." God is an eagle— what better omen could there be for a victory on Sunday!

But the verse is a bit puzzling— what is special about an eagle that God uses this particular bird as an example? The midrash (and Rashi in its wake) explains that all other birds place their young between their feet, to better protect them from other birds that hunt from above. But the eagle fears no bird, and thus can place its young on its back. The midrash draws a parallel between a person walking on the path. If he has his young son walk in front of him, the son may be attacked by robbers; if he puts him behind him, the son may be attacked by a wolf. So he places his son on his shoulder, where no harm can come to him. Just as children are safe on their parents' shoulders, so too Israel was safe on God's metaphorical wings.

But the midrash adds a puzzling note that puts a wrinkle in our story. The eagle, the midrash states, fears no one but humankind. Better the arrows shot from below hit God than hit God's children. To extend this to the metaphor, God fears no other creature or power in the world, but God does fear humankind. Why add that the eagle fears humanity? Why not state simply that the eagle fears nothing?

To say that human beings can "harm God" may be a bit of an overstatement, even with regard to the very personal, immanent God we encounter in the Bible. But it would be true to say that human beings can unleash destruction and pain in the world that God is powerless to stop. We know this from humankind's wanton destruction of the environment and most of all from humankind's incredible potential for cruelty to others. But if we look at this metaphor another way, we may learn another message. In the midrash's image, humans ride above God's wings, in a place of safety, and humans stand below, aiming their arrows to the skies. God exists in the middle, protecting the innocent and thwarting the aims of the wicked. When God, and by extension, religion, mediates between human beings, there is the potential for violence to end. An entire nation can ride God's wings to freedom and independence. But when God is placed above other human beings, God is protected, but people are not. People's arrows, aimed at God, end up striking other humans.

And so my dear Eagles, whose first string and backup quarterback are both noteworthy, not only for their ability to throw the ball and duck sacks, but also for their devotion to Christianity, let us not pray that God is on our side during the Superbowl. After all, do we really think God cares about who wins a football game? Instead, let us pray instead that God is always in the middle, protecting the innocent and thwarting the aims of the wicked.

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. **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). **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).