



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

April 12-20, 2019 | 7 – 15 Nissan 5779
Shabbat Hagadol Parashat Metzora

Friday, April 12 7 Nissan				Shabbat Hagadol Parashat Metzora Saturday, April 13 8 Nissan		
Candle Lighting 7:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Sivan Joffe-Hancock Bat Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Acharei Kiddush 1:00PM		
Sunday April 14 9 Nissan	Monday April 15 10 Nissan	Tuesday April 16 11 Nissan	Wednesday April 17 12 Nissan	Thursday April 18 13 Nissan	Friday April 19 14 Nissan	Saturday April 20 15 Nissan
Shaarei Mitzvah 7-lower East Side Trip 9:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM		No Kabbalat Shabbat Service Candle Lighting 7:21PM	<i>Shabbat Pesach</i> Passover Day 1 Service 10:00AM Candle Lighting 8:23PM
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, 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 **Sivan, Elise, Daniel** and **Ezra** on Sivan's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Elise Joffe** and **Daniel Hancock** for sponsoring Kiddush in honor of Sivan's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat!

We extend our warmest thanks to the **Feast and fantasy** hosts who worked so hard to provide lovely evenings of delicious food, delectable cocktails and delightful hospitality all to benefit our community.

Carol and Joel Levy	Tori and David Rosen
Yair Reiner and Nicole Shaw	Carrie and Nir Sadovnik
Ruth Kaufman and Grace Kerr	Elizabeth Schnur and Peter Holmes
Aric Press and Jean Berman	Josh and Rachel Goldstein
Adam and Dina Rabiner	Karen Friedland and Gary Zelko

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Ruth Steinberg and family on the death of her father, **Jerome Steinberg**, z"l.

Sue Harris and family on the death of her mother, **Frances Harris**, z"l.

Neil Jaffee and family on the death of his wife, **Laura Warshawsky**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 8-14 Nissan:

Bernard Philip Lampert, father of Betsy Minkin; **Debra Feinstein**, cousin of Roberta Moskowitz; **Florence Arons**, mother of Lenore Arons; **Freda Newcombe**, sister of Brian Newcombe; **Irwin Seigel**, father of Simeon Seigel; **May Barth**, mother of Rabbi Sami Barth; **Norman Jonas**, friend of Fran Hawthorne; **Rachel Klein**, aunt of Tova Klein; **Ruth Schuman**, mother of Adine Schuman Pusey; **Sophia Zinn**, mother of Karen Louise Heau.

May their memories be for a blessing.



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Communal Yom Ha Shoah Observance

Wednesday, May 1 | 7:00PM - Kane Street Synagogue

Come together as a Brooklyn community to observe Yom Ha Shoah to remember who died in the holocaust and to honor those who survived.

HAGIGA! A Taste of Moroccan Jewish Culture in Israel

Sunday, May 5 | 10:30AM - Kane Street Synagogue

At the end of Pesach, the Moroccan Jewish community celebrates with their Muslim neighbors with food and music and community. Join us for HAGIGA: A Taste of Moroccan Jewish Culture in Israel including a special program for adults: Moroccan Cooking with Dilka Ben Lulu and a live concert of Moroccan Jewish music with ASEFA! RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/hagiga-communal-celebration.html#>

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony

Tuesday, May 7 | 7:00PM | Union Temple

Join us as we observe Israel's Memorial Day together as a Brooklyn community. Contact rabbicarie@psjc.org for questions or to let us know you are coming.

Brooklyn Celebrates Israel and Yom HaAtzmaut with Nava Tehila

Wednesday, May 8 | 6:30PM

Join your Brooklyn community and the Nava Tehila Band from Jerusalem, for an evening of delight as they invite us to connect to our roots and celebrate independence as a people and as individuals. Through chanting Psalms and prayers with original melodies and guided intentions, we will travel into the landscape of holiness and joy, connect to the spirit and allow it to fill our hearts and uplift our souls. Food and Drink at "the Shuk" | 6:30PM; Doors open for Concert | 7:30PM; Music begins | 8:00PM. This event is made possible through the generosity of UJA-Federation of NY and the efforts of the Brooklyn Shlichut Initiative and its partners in Brooklyn.

Friday, April 12

PAI Walking Group | 9:30AM

Join us every Friday at the entrance to Prospect Park at 15th Street and Prospect Park West. Please register so we can let you know if a walk must be canceled: <https://www.psjc.org/event/positive-aging-initiative-walking-group.html>

It's Friday Music Class | 10:00AM

Come sing and play with Abe every week for a fun-filled music class that combines your favorite Shabbat and children's songs, with a story, movement and more. Taught by a professional music instructor, our open-space, informal class allows children ages 0 - 3 and their grownups to explore music and Shabbat! Each class ends with a snack and open-play so that caregivers can connect with each other. We look forward to having you join us! \$15/drop-in class* or \$120 for a 10-class series (paid in advance) RSVP: https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect

Friday, April 12

Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu | 6:30PM

Join Abe and Aileen for a musical Friday night service, followed by a supplemented potluck dinner. This month we are celebrating with the 5th grade families! Everyone is invited to join for a relaxing, all-ages service and meal. Please RSVP: <https://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu.html>

Volunteer at the Bushwick City Farm with Repair the World

Sunday, April 28 | 1:00PM - 354 Stockton Street

Are you a family of a 6th-8th grader who is looking to end their April break volunteering in their Brooklyn community? We are partnering with Repair the World and volunteering at the Bushwick City Farm. *Due to the logistics of this program, we need at least 5 people to sign up for this program by April 1st for our PSJC community to go as a group.* Please RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/BushwickCityFarm042819>

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



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Passover is Coming...Passover Observances 5779

Join us for services throughout Yom Tov! All you might want to know about Passover at PSJC is in our guide. Just a reminder no outside food is allowed in the building until April 29 - unless authorized by Rabbi Carter.

Search for Hametz (Bedikat Hametz) should be concluded

Thursday night, April 18

Burning of Hametz (Siyum B'chorim)

Friday, April 19, Minyan starts at 7:00AM; Latest time to eat Hametz 10:40AM; Latest time to Burn Hametz 11:47AM

First Seder

Friday, April 19 - Candle lighting | 7:20PM

Second Seder

Saturday, April 20 - Candle lighting | 8:21PM

Services for Passover begin | 10:00AM on the following days:

Saturday, April 20 (Day 1), Sunday, April 21 (Day 2), Friday, April 26 (Day 7), Saturday, April 27 (Day 8 includes Yizkor)

Services for Passover begin | 6:30PM on Friday, April 26

Note: Passover Ends on Saturday night, April 27 | 8:24PM. Those who have sold Hametz through PSJC should not use it until 9:09PM at the earliest.

Cleaning for Pesach? Got piles of plastic shopping bags?

Bring them to PSJC! Over the coming months our Knitting Group will transform those bags into plarn (a portmanteau combining plastic+yarn) and a Manhattan church will knit the plarn into portable mattresses for the homeless. (It's our MLK, Jr. Day of Service Project, too). A bin will be set up in the back of the shul. If you have any questions, email Marjorie: marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

For more information on Passover visit www.psjc.org/pesach-at-psjc.html#

***Save the Date* Artist in Residence: Eleanor Epstein | May 3-4**

Tunes That Speak and Words That Sing: Reclaiming the Poetry of the Jewish People

Make this Friday night a special Shabbat of joyous singing with Lev Tahor followed by a sponsored catered **Shabbat Dinner** (meat, with vegetarian options) then reflect on text and music with Eleanor. **Saturday morning** services will include a **D'var Torah by Eleanor**. At the end of Shabbat, we will explore the music and text used to usher out the Shabbat. RSVP today for the Shabbat Dinner www.tinyurl.com/air2019, **deadline is Friday, April 26.**

Rosh Hodesh Iyar Minyan

Sunday, May 5 | 7:00AM

Monday, May 6 | 7:00AM

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. 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 hevradkadisha@psjc.org



Shabbat Hagadol Parashat Metzora

Triennial: Leviticus 14:33-15:33 | Etz Hayim p.663; Hertz p.473; Plaut p.846

Haftarah: Malakhi 3:4-24 | Etz Hayim p.1296; Hertz p.1005; Plaut p.1654

D'var Torah: The Unexamined Life

The central section of Parashat Metzora deals with the outbreak of *tzara'at* (a leprosy-like growth) on plastered buildings. On discovering an outbreak the homeowner is instructed to report it to a priest who would then come and inspect the house to determine whether or not the outbreak constituted a true infestation that required full purification rituals. The symptoms of building *tzara'at* closely resemble *tzara'at* in human beings, as described in previous chapters in Vayikra. Indeed the parallels between *tzara'at* in buildings and in human beings are further emphasized by discussions in rabbinic literature. In Vayikra 14:35 the homeowner states to the priest: “*Something like a plague has appeared to me in my house.*” In Hebrew: “*k'nega nire li babayit.*” The Sifra, a collection of halachic midrashim on Vayikra, focuses in on the word “*li*” – “to me”: “Since it says *li* (to me) rather than *l'ori* (to my light) from here they said that “Windows of a dark house may not be opened to examine its *tzara'at.*” The Sifra understands this verse as implying that in order for a house to be officially declared as infested, any infection had to be visible to the naked eye under the lighting conditions that normally prevail in that specific room. (This ruling from the midrash appears also in the Mishnah itself in Negaim 2:3.)

If you chose to, you were permitted to go grubbing around looking for infestations of *tzara'at* in your house; turning on all the lights, flinging open the windows and searching diligently with a magnifying glass. However, if while doing this, you did indeed discover what looked like an infestation, the house could not yet be declared officially infested. Despite the presence of what looked a lot like *tzara'at*, the house would not require any purification process. We can understand why this is the case when we see how the Babylonian Talmud (Sanhedrin 92a) uses this ruling to illustrate a more far-reaching suggestion about how to lead one's life: “R. Eleazar said: Always be obscure so that you can endure. R. Zera said: We have learned likewise: ‘The windows of a dark house may not be opened to examine its *tzara'at.*’ This proves it!” And Rashi explains: “It turns out that its very darkness is its salvation, for as long as the priest cannot see it – it isn't infected with *tzara'at.*” Drawing a parallel between a house and a person, this sugya uses the “saving” darkness of the house to teach us to impose a certain “darkness” or obscurity on our lives. Just as the dark house cannot be declared impure, so a life lived without absolute exposure is saved from being declared impure. In other words, a person should not expose all their inner workings to public scrutiny. We all contain a dark side, a core of impurity, skeletons in the cupboard, desires and instincts that would seem very ugly if we were to display them to the public. Every home contains fungi and bacteria (not to mention dubious moral practices) if we look hard enough, and every soul contains elements which should be left in the private realm rather than being brought to broad public attention. What constitutes the “natural light” of one's existence is something worth thinking about, but the principle seems to be clear – an absolutely transparent existence would be unendurable. The public sphere of existence should be played out on a macro-scale leaving the private realm to the magnifying glass and the microscope. Contrast this with the process of searching for *chametz* on the night before Pesach. The ritualized search for *chametz* performed at night is conducted with a *ner*, a lamp or candle (Mishnah Pesachim 1:1). The Talmud (4a) suggests that the search must be at night because the whole family will be present and because “*lamp light is good for searching!*” This second suggestion is perplexing; surely daylight would be better for spotting *chametz*? The Mishnah Berurah suggests that a night-time search by lamp or candle is not so good at lighting up easy to spot places but it is the only way of lighting up the usually dark inner recesses of cracks and holes. Natural light illuminates the superficial, but obscures the inner recesses; the search for *chametz* requires the type of unnatural light that penetrates into normally unseen places.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Joel Levy**, *Conservative Yeshiva Rosh Yeshiva* “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.