



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

April 27-May 5, 2018 | 12-20 Iyar 5778
Parashat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

Friday, April 27 12 Iyar				Parashat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim Saturday, April 28 13 Iyar		
Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu & Learning with Leora 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:30PM				Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Hebrew School Shabbat Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Shaarei Mitzvah 7 Program 1:00PM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday April 29 14 Iyar	Monday April 30 15 Iyar	Tuesday May 1 16 Iyar	Wednesday May 2 17 Iyar	Thursday May 3 18 Iyar	Friday May 4 19 Iyar	Saturday May 5 20 Iyar
Hebrew School 9:30AM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 12:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Hag Nahash 7:00PM Doors open Littlefield, Brooklyn		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Lev Tahor with Steven Mazie 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:37PM	<i>Shabbat Emor</i> Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Elijah Slarskey Bar Mitzvah Family Torah/Shabbat Kulanu 10:30AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Mishneh Torah 1:20PM Jewish Parenting 4:00PM
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)		

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

Carrie Sadovnik and family on the death of her stepfather, **Leo Gorenstein**, z"l.

Sally Brown and family on the death of her mother, **Thelma Brown**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 13-19 Iyar:

Agnes Herskovits, mother of Steve Herskovits; **Ernie Schimel**, brother-in-law of Carol Diamond; **George Greenberg**, father of Dan Greenberg; **Harvey Schwartz**, brother of David Schwartz; **Hindley Mendelsohn**, step-father of Mindy Levine; **Isidore Monblatt**, father of Cathy Monblatt; **Rochelle Schwalb**, mother of Esther Schwalb; **Rose Spruchman**, great-aunt of Jan Orzeck; **Roslyn Glatman**, mother of Joan Glatman; **Rudolph Rothenberg**, father of Joel Rothenberg; **Ruth Feinstein**, aunt of Roberta Moskowitz; **Seymour Friedman**, father of Todd Friedman; **Seymour Rosenbaum**, father of Myra Rosenbaum; **Shirley Meyerson**, mother of Bruce Meyerson. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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.



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Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu & Learning with Leora

Friday, April 27 | 6:00PM

Join our musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Singing in the sanctuary with Abe then we'll head downstairs for a communal potluck dinner and learning with Rabbinic Intern, Leora. Everyone is welcome! Main entrees will be provided.

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, April 28 | 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.

Hebrew School Shabbat

Saturday, April 28 | 10:00AM

Celebrate Shabbat with our Hebrew School and PSJC Community. Students will be leading parts of the service, plus honors during the Torah Service. It will be a celebration of learning and community that you will not want to miss. Details of class prayer assignments are below. Student participation will begin at approximately 10:15AM.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, April 28 | 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.

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

Monday, April 30 | 12:00PM

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 uses English translations and is aimed at beginning to advanced learners.

Hadag Nahash in Concert

Wednesday, May 2 | 8:00PM | Littlefield - 635 Sackett Street, Brooklyn

We are very excited to start the tickets selling for the concert of Hadag Nahash. Purchase tickets: <http://teev.simplix.com/Show/34482/BrooklynCelebratesIsraelHad/>. Your cost is \$36 instead of \$56, using PSJC members' promo code.

Lev Tahor: "Cake-Baking and Other Political Acts" with Supreme Court Reporter and PSJC Member Steven Mazie

Friday, May 4 | 6:30PM

When is a cake more than dessert? When it's the foundation for a Supreme Court challenge, that's when. Join Lev Tahor, PSJC's all-sung, community-led Kabbalat Shabbat for an evening of song, good cheer and great conversation, led by PSJC's own Steven Mazie. Plan to join the pareve/dairy pot-luck and bring your opinions to share!! (RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahor-May4-2018>)

Mishneh Torah - Laws of Teshuvah

Saturday, May 5 | 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.

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.



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Jewish Parenting with Doubt

Saturday, May 5 | 4:00PM

Do you feel less than sure about the existence of God? Do you ever wonder how to teach your children about Judaism when you yourself either have doubts or “don’t believe”? If so, join this conversation, facilitated by Rabbi Carter and let’s explore this together. Contact Rabbi Carter: rabbicarie@psjc.org with any questions.

Rodfei Tzedek Action

Sunday, May 6 | 12:00PM

Eric Hollander Memorial Lecture

Sunday, May 6 | 2:00PM

Our Fractured Jewish Community in the Age of Trump with Professor Ross Brann. (Professor of Near East Studies, Cornell University). Visit www.iljb.org for more info.

A Step in Addressing Hunger and Poverty in Brooklyn

Sunday, May 6 | 4:00PM-5:30PM

Join UJA Brooklyn and Park Slope Jewish Center for a service project on Sunday, May 6. Volunteers will work together to package **32,000 dry meals** to be donated to Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger. Open to the community, family friendly, and all are welcome. RSVP is required, please visit <https://www.timeforgood.org/agency/uja/opportunity/pack-meals-for-families-in-need-brooklyn-4981>.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, May 7 | 7:30PM

For more information contact marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com.

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

Thursday, May 10 and 31 | 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. 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 NoamW@jafi.org.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, May 11 | 6:30PM

Goodbye Potluck Dinner and Learning with Rabbinic Intern, Leora.

Learn and Sing with Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins

Saturday, May 12 | 1:20PM

A fascinating form of literature is the Shabbat zemer (type of song traditionally sung on Shabbat during meals). Packed with biblical and other allusions, these poems have been sung by countless people to many different tunes over the centuries. Together, we'll read and unpack a zemer, and, of course, sing it as well!

Rosh Chodesh Sivan Minyan

Tuesday, May 15 | 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. **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.

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



Parashat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

Triennial: Leviticus 17:8-19:14 | Etz Hayim p. 687; Hertz p.486-493, 497-500)

Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15 | Etz Hayim p.705; Hertz p.509

D'var Torah: You Shall be Holy

When Moses is instructed at the beginning of Parashat Kedoshim, the second of this week's double parasha, to "Speak to the entire assembly of the Children of Israel and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for holy am I, the Lord your God'" (VaYikra 19:2), Moses is ostensibly bestowing upon us one of the highest accolades possible: A status of holiness that, in its very self-description, equates the entire assembly of the Children of Israel with God. The concept of holiness, in general, and the holiness of the Children of Israel, in particular, is so important to Judaism that Rashi notes (in his comment to VaYikra 19:1) that "most of the fundamental teachings of the Torah are dependent on it." In fact, it has been noted by those who study the literary structure of the Torah that this verse comes in the middle of the section of Torah that comes in the middle of Sefer VaYikra, which itself is the middle book of the Torah (book 3 of 5). In other words, the Torah emphasizes the centrality of this idea by literally putting it in the center of the Torah itself.

But what does it actually mean to be a holy nation, and what does it take? On the one hand, no single attribute in Judaism is more emphasized, idealized, and celebrated than holiness. But on the other hand, it is a concept that is ill-defined, potentially illusory and often offensive to others. Can we really be holier than other nations? And do we really want to?

The midrashic work, the Sifra, interprets the phrase "you shall be holy" to mean "you shall be *perushim*", meaning "separated." Holiness, in this view, means being set apart. (The word "*perushim*" is also the Hebrew word for the ancient Pharisees who saw themselves as separate and holy). The Sifra explains that God is essentially saying, "Just like I am holy, you should be holy; just like I am separate, you should be separate." But how are we to understand the Sifra? From what are we to keep separate, and how do we do that? Rashi, in his interpretation of VaYikra 19:2, says that it is the Torah's code of sexual ethics that makes us holy, separating ourselves from the sexual immorality of other nations.

The Ramban, not unlike contemporary critics of Freudian theories that similarly essentialize the human spirit to issues of sexuality, found Rashi's interpretation - that holiness is entirely about sexual ethics - to be too limited and limiting. Instead the Ramban contended that holiness derives from the self-control that involves "separating ourselves" from our natural desire for self-indulgence in all realms, and not just the sexual. Holiness is thus also to be found in all of the imperatives found in this week's double parasha, which scholars have dubbed "the Holiness Code," and which includes some of the most inspiring interpersonal ethical commandments of the Torah. We find here: "[Y]ou shall not place a stumbling block before the blind (VaYikra 19:14), "[W]ith righteousness shall you judge your fellow" (VaYikra 19:15); [Y]ou shall not be a gossipmonger" (VaYikra 19:16), "[Y]ou shall not hate your brother in your heart" (VaYikra 19:17), and "[I]n the presence of an old person shall you rise and you shall honor the presence of a sage." (VaYikra 19:32)

But it was VaYikra 19:18 that Rabbi Akiva famously declared to be the fundamental principle of all of Torah - "And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Thus, to be a holy nation is to be a nation of people who have so elevated themselves above self-indulgence that they can truly love their neighbors as they love themselves. In this way, holiness is manifest in our relationship to the other.

In VaYikra 20:7, God says: "You shall sanctify yourselves and you will be holy." In other words, the Children of Israel are not inherently holy, nor were we made holy by God. It is up to us, the Children of Israel, to make ourselves holy through how we treat others. The quest for holiness may often be elusive, at times may appear illusory, and may offend others for whom even the aspiration to holiness may appear to be pretentious, but it is at the very center of the Torah's call to the Children of Israel.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Jeff Cymet**, *Rabbi of The New Kehila of Ramat Aviv, Israel* 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.