



Friday, May 4 19 Iyar				Parashat Emor Saturday, May 5 20 Iyar		
Lev Tahor with Steven Mazie 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:37PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Elijah Slarskey Bar Mitzvah Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Mishneh Torah 1:20PM Jewish Parenting 4:00PM		
Sunday May 6 21 Iyar	Monday May 7 22 Iyar	Tuesday May 8 23 Iyar	Wednesday May 9 24 Iyar	Thursday May 10 25 Iyar	Friday May 11 26 Iyar	Saturday May 12 27 Iyar
Hebrew School 9:30AM Rodfei Tzedek 12:00PM Ross Bran 2:00PM Time for Good Packaging 4:00PM	An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year 12:00PM PSJC Knitters 7:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Café Ivrit 7:00PM	It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:44PM	<i>Parashat Behar Behukotai Shabbat HaChodesh</i> Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Simcha Shabbat 10:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan Jr. Congregation 11:15AM Program with Leora 1:30PM
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 **Elijah, Samantha, David** and **Parker** on Elijah's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!

Todah Rabbah

To **Samantha** and **David Slarskey** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of Elijah's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

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

Yahrzeits observed 20-26 Iyar:

Anita Cuchel, mother of Karen Cuchel; **Arthur Cohen**, uncle of Debra Nussbaum Cohen; **Betty Kover**, mother of Elihu Kover; **Edith Brafman**, wife of Allen Brafman; **Giselle Kaufman**, grandmother of Dahlia Kaufman; **Lena Silver**, great aunt of Steve Elworth;
Leo Stopnitsky, father of Barbara Auslander; **Ludwig Fleischmann**, father of David Fleischmann; **Mendy Berger**, father of Hope Levav; **Milton Wax**, father of Ronnie Wax; **Myra Segal**, stepmother of Pete Segal; **Paul Gotler**, father of Marcia Gotler; **Sue Desheh**, friend of Elizabeth Schnur and Peter Holmes; **Vivian Balick**, mother of of Lawrence Balick. *May their memories be for a blessing.*



May 4-12, 2018 | 19-27 Iyar 5778
Parashat Emor

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.

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>.

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

Monday, May 7 | 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.

PSJC Knitters

Monday, May 7 | 7:30PM

For more information contact 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 or hevrakadisha@psjc.org.

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



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Parashat Emor

A Taste of India at PSJC Scholar In Residence: Rahel Musleah

Friday, June 1 | 6:30PM

Saturday, June 2 | 10:00AM

Join us for a special Shabbat with Rahel Musleah, as she shares melodies, customs and history of the Jewish communities of Calcutta and Bombay. Beginning with Lev Tahor and a kosher, catered Indian dinner Friday night. It will include a special Torah reading, d'var torah Shabbat morning, and a unique "Masala Havdalah" and seudah sh'lishit on Saturday night. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rahelsjewishindia.com>. **RSVP for dinner is required: <https://www.psjc.org/form/sir-6-1-18.html>**, gather at 300 11th Street | 7:30PM.

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.

Music Class: It's Friday!

Friday, May 11, 18 & June 1, 8 and 15 | 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 music and stories each week. For more information, www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html

Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick

Friday, May 11 | 6:30PM

Goodbye Potluck Dinner and Learning with Rabbinic Intern, Leora.

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, May 12 | 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.

Simcha Shabbat

Saturday, May 12 | 10:00AM

Join us as we acknowledge our members who are celebrating their May birthdays & anniversaries. They will receive a special blessing during the Torah service and we'll enjoy a lovely Simcha Shabbat Kiddush (cake included)! Please update your PSJC account, add your birthdays and anniversaries and we will send you a personal invitation in the future.

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.

Parashat Emor

Triennial: Leviticus 22:17-23:22 | Etz Hayim p.722; Hertz p.522; Plaut p.

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31 | Etz Hayim p.734; Hertz p.528; Plaut p.

D'var Torah: Power & Responsibility

This week's *parasha*, *Emor*, contains a variety of laws that God commands *Bnei Yisrael* through Moses. Among these laws are prohibitions concerning *Kohanim* and dead bodies, the *Kohen's* physical appearance, who a *Kohen* can marry, and when a *Kohen* is unfit for service. There are also laws regarding the requirements and suitability of sacrifices, who may eat them and when, instructions for the *Ner Tamid*, as well as an overview of the obligations and schedule for *Shabbat*, *Pesach*, *Sefirat HaOmer*, *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and *Sukkot*. The *parasha* concludes with a short story about the son of an Israelite woman who, in the heat of a fight, profaned the name of God and is sentenced to death by stoning. This event prompts God to deliver the final laws of the *parasha* which deal with civil restitution, wherein the famous phrase is recorded "eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth." (*VaYikra* 25:20). What connects this long and seemingly unrelated list of laws is the central value of holiness/sanctity, and the dual imperative to sanctify and NOT defile/profane. At the end of Chapter 22 *Bnei Yisrael* is instructed to observe these laws so that "You shall not profane My holy name, that I may be sanctified in the midst of the Israelite people – I the Lord who sanctify you." (*VaYikra* 22:32) This echoes back to last week's *parasha*, when God tells *Bnei Yisrael* that they "shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." (*VaYikra* 19:2). But *parashat Emor* takes this further, exploring what holiness means through detailed rules regarding holy people (*Kohanim*/Priests), holy places (*Mishkan*/Tabernacle), holy things (*Kodshim*/Sacrificial Gifts) and holy time (*Moadim*/Holidays). Since the *Kohanim* "are holy to your God" (*VaYikra* 21:7), a *Kohen* must observe the laws pertaining to cemeteries, shaving, and marriage so that "...he shall not defile himself...and so profane himself." (*VaYikra* 21:4). The holy people (*Kohanim*) must be careful about who enters the *Mishkan* lest, "He profane these places sacred to Me..." (*VaYikra* 21:23). Again And they must "be scrupulous about the sacred gifts that the Israelite people consecrate to Me, lest they profane My holy Name." (*VaYikra* 22:2). Chapter 23's instructions regarding the *Moadim* are not accompanied by an explicit charge against profanation, but as *mikraei kodesh* (holy occasions) they also reflects this duality. Their sanctity calls for us not only to perform holy acts (sacrifices and other rituals), but also to refrain from mundane activities (work/melacha).

Parashat Emor teaches that the holiness with which we are charged is not a stable state of being, it is an elevated status that requires perpetual safeguarding and sanctifying. *Bnei Yisrael* is holy so long as they behave accordingly: so long as the *Kohanim* honor and maintain their own holiness, so long as the *Mishkan* is protected from defilement, so long as the sacrifices are suitable and significant, and so long as the holidays are celebrated at their appointed times and in the proper manner. With the great power to sanctify, comes the great responsibility not to defile/profane. But what of the final laws of the *parasha*? Why does profaning God's name (in essence, using God's name to curse and not bless) require putting someone to death, and how does that connect to "an eye for an eye"? The overall message seems to be the reflexive nature of profanation and sin. Profane the holy, and you profane your own holiness. Violate someone's sanctity, and your sanctity is violated. Fail to protect God, and you forfeit God's protection. But there seems to be another level here as well. Verse 24:14 says that "all those who heard him should lay their hands on his head." This laying of hands, reminiscent of what is done with a sin offering, communicates that it is not only the blasphemer, but all those who heard him, who need expiation before God. Having heard someone profane God's name, their connection to God, indeed their very lives, are at risk. As we know from elsewhere in the Torah, when Israelites spurn God, people die. By laying hands on the blasphemer and then stoning him, the hearers purge themselves of their sin, and the community purges itself of the defilement in its midst, returning the community to the level of holiness needed to maintain God's protective presence. In essence, the blasphemer's life is forfeit because he made their lives forfeit. It's just that in this instance, God gave them a chance to fix things first.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Josh Cohen**, *Conservative Yeshiva Student & Lishma Fello* 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.