



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

March 29-April 6, 2019 | 22 Adar II – 1 Nissan 5779
Shabbat Parah Parashat Shemini

Friday, March 29 22 Adar II				Shabbat Parah Parashat Shemini Saturday, March 30 23 Adar II		
Candle Lighting 6:59PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Alan Palmer 6:30PM Addressing Israel's Refugee Crisis with Tamara Newman and Potluck 7:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Leah Efrati Bat Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 11:15AM Kishkush Reading Group 1:15PM		
Sunday March 31 24 Adar II	Monday April 1 25 Adar II	Tuesday April 2 26 Adar II	Wednesday April 3 27 Adar II	Thursday April 4 28 Adar II	Friday April 5 29 Adar II	Saturday April 6 1 Nissan
Hebrew School 9:00AM						<i>Shabbat Hahodesh Parashat Tazriya</i>
Shaarei Mitzvah 7 Popcorn & Movie 10:00AM			Morning Minyan 7:15AM		It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM	Rosh Hodesh Nissan
HaZamir 4:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Biblical Hebrew 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 7:07PM	Simcha Shabbat!
Feast & fantasy Cocktails 5:00PM					Lev Tahor with Elizabeth Redwine 6:30PM	Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM
Feast & fantasy Dinner 6:30PM						Shacharit 10:00AM
						Family Torah 10:15AM
						Shabbat Kulanu 11:00AM
						Tot Shabbat 11:15AM
						Shaarei Mitzvah 7 Next Steps Lunch 1:00PM
						Book Club 1:30PM
						Feast & fantasy 8:30PM
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, 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 **Leah, Stefanie, Oren and Craig** on Leah's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat.

Todah Rabbah

To **Stefanie and Oren Efrati** for contributing to Kiddush Fund in honor of Leah's Bat Mitzvah this Shabbat!
To **Josh Spiro and Rachel Madris** on birth of their new baby.

HaMakom Yenachem

Our condolences go to:

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

Yahrzeits observed 23-29 Adar II:

Arnold Phillips, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Charles D. Lieber**, father of Janno Lieber; **Esther Kornbluth**, mother of Hanna Ulman; **Ingrid Mazie**, mother of Steven Mazie; **Mania Schweitzer**, mother of Harry Schweitzer. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

A community-building fundraiser that features numerous sumptuous, multi-course dinners in the homes of esteemed Top Chefs of PSJC. Choose from various special themed menus and enjoy amazing food, festive libations, and lively conversation...all to benefit our synagogue. **There is still room on April 6 if you would still like to participate in Feast & fantasy, RSVP today!**
<https://www.psjc.org/event/feast-and-fantasy-.html>



Shaarei Mitzvah 7 - Popcorn and Movie
Sunday, March 31 | 10:00AM

Friday, April 5

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

Lev Tahor: From the Warsaw Ghetto to Brooklyn, via India | 6:30PM

Lev Tahor welcomes Elizabeth Redwine of Seton Hall University, who'll talk with us about Rabindranath Tagore's play *The Post Office*, performed in 1942 in the Orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto, three years before the end of World War II. Dr. Redwine is the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award recipient, in recognition of her work with community-activist group Essex Rising, and the editor, with Amitra Ghosh, of *Tagore and Yeats: A Postcolonial Re-envisioning*. Come and learn, sing, shmooze and connect with friends new and familiar. RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahorApril5-2019>, all voices welcome!!

Teen Shabbat Dinner | 7:00PM

The Shabbat dinner is for 8th-12th graders. The Shabbat dinner will be at the Ulman's. The dinners are potluck, please RSVP and include what you're bringing: <https://tinyurl.com/teenShabbatDinner0419>

Saturday, April 6

Parashat Hashavua | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with Cornelia Dalton, PSJC Rabbinic Intern. It's a great lead into the Shabbat morning services.

Rosh Chodesh Nissan Minyan | 10:00AM

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

Join us as we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their April birthdays & anniversaries.

Family Torah | 10:30AM

<https://www.psjc.org/event/family-torah3.html>

Shabbat Kulanu | 11:15AM

<https://www.psjc.org/event/shabbat-kulanu1.html>

Book Club | 1:30PM

Sunday, April 7

5th Grade Art & Text | 11:00AM

Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim | 4:00PM-6:00PM

Feast & fantasy Dinner | 8:30PM



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Kishkush Acharei Kiddush

Saturday, April 13 | 1:00PM

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us after services and kiddush where we 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 all welcome! Contact Michal: Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, April 27 | 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.

Volunteer at the Bushwick City Farm with Repair the World

Sunday, April 28 | 1:00PM

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. The farm is located at 354 Stockton Street. *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>*

Communal Yom HaShoah Observance

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

Come together as a Brooklyn community to observe Yom HaShoah 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

The Moroccan Jewish community celebrates with their Muslim neighbors with food and music and community including a special program for adults: Moroccan Cooking with Dilka Ben Lulu and a live concert of Moroccan Jewish music with ASEFA! RSVP today: <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.

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 hevrakadisha@psjc.org



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Triennial: Leviticus 11:1-11:47 | Etz Hayim p.636; Hertz p.449; Plaut p.814
Maftir | Numbers 19:1-22 | Etz Hayim p. 880-883; Hertz p. 652; Plaut p.1145
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38 | Etz Hayim p.1286; Hertz p.999; Plaut p.1651

D'var Torah: Intentions & Deeds

At the beginning of the parashah, we read about the eighth day of the dedication of the Mishkan. But on the festive day in which God's honor appeared before the people, Aharon's two older sons and fellow priests, Nadav and Avihu, die inside the sanctuary and Aharon receives the bitter news in silence.

The Torah lists only one reason for their deaths: "and they offered before God strange fire that God had not commanded them." So it would appear that they were punished for deviating from the Torah's specific list of sanctioned sacrifices. Devarim 13 tells us: "Be careful to observe only that which I enjoin upon you: neither add (*bal tosif*) to it nor take away from it." But even so, it is hard to understand why they were punished with death. The person who violates *bal tosif* is only punished with flogging.

To better understand what happened, we need to delve deeper into religious consciousness. What motivates a person to bring a sacrifice - any sacrifice - is the desire to give **oneself** to the Creator, and in so doing, to come as near to God as possible. The fire represents one's love of God, and the sacrifice represents one's corporeal existence. In the truly religious person, one's passion for God should burn with enough intensity to consume one's entire being - "and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might" (Devarim 6:5) - so that our souls can ascend, like the smoke from the altar, to God.

We see in the Torah that the desire to sacrifice was fundamental to the human psyche. Cain and Abel sacrificed. Noah sacrificed. Abraham sacrificed. As the Psalmist wrote: "All my soul/breath will praise God." The soul that God breathed into us desperately wishes to return to God.

Reading the story of Nadav and Avihu this way, we can see that in fact there was neither sin nor punishment. This is why Moshe tells Aharon that God "showed himself holy through those close to him." (Vayikra 10:3) And this is why Aharon is silent: he knows that his sons ultimately got what they had wanted. Both they and the fire were doing their jobs.

The thing is, even though God wants our souls to burn with the desire to return, it is God who put our souls in physical bodies to begin with. Just like with the Akeidah, we want to give it all, but God stops us and says: "Hey not so fast! I put you here for a reason. I don't really want *actual* human sacrifice; I just want to know that you're willing. So when you have that urge, I want you to sacrifice a ram, or bull, or goat, or sheep, or pigeon, or grain - and then go back to your life. Only I, God, gets to decide when your time on Earth is over."

This may help explain the verse in 10:9-11 when Moshe tells Aharon: "Drink no wine or other intoxicant, you or your sons, when you enter the Tent of Meeting, that you may not die...for you must distinguish between the sacred and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean; and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which the LORD has imparted to them through Moshe." Traditional commentators interpret this to mean that Nadav and Avihu had messed up the sacrifice because they were drunk. But I'd like to suggest that their impaired judgment was not about the technical details of sacrifice, but about the significance of their corporeal life. Nadav and Avihu got carried away and forgot that a priest not only brings sacrifices, but also teaches the people, and helps them distinguish between the sacred and profane. Filled with passion for God, Nadav and Avihu had forgotten about their responsibility to the living.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Andy Shapiro Katz**, *CY Director of North American Engagement* "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.

For our Passover schedule visit www.psjc.org/pesach-at-psjc.html#

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