



**PARK
SLOPE
JEWISH
CENTER**

April 28-May 6, 2017 | 2-10 Iyar, 5777
Shabbat Tazriya-Metzora

Friday, April 28 2 Iyar				Shabbat Tazriya-Metzora Saturday, April 29 3 Iyar		
Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:31PM				Shabbat Morning Services 10:00AM Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat Jr. Cong. 11:15AM Book Club 1:30PM		
Sunday April 30 4 Iyar	Monday May 1 5 Iyar	Tuesday May 2 6 Iyar	Wednesday May 3 7 Iyar	Thursday May 4 8 Iyar	Friday May 5 9 Iyar	Saturday May 6 10 Iyar
Hebrew School 9:30AM Yom Hazikaron 6:30PM Congregation Mount Sinai	<i>Yom Hazikaron</i> PSJC Knitters 7:30PM Idan Raichel in Concert 7:45PM Congregation Beth Elohim	<i>Yom HaAzmtaut</i> Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM Tal Gur's Mind Crossing 7:30PM		PJ Library - It's Friday! Music Class 10:30AM Lev Tahor with our Shaliach, Noam Willner 6:30PM Candle Lighting 7:39PM	Shabbat <i>Acharei Mot- Kedoshim</i> Shacharit 10:00AM Delilah Shapiro Bat Mitzvah Mini Minyan Tot Shabbat Jr. Cong. 11:15AM Mishneh Torah Class Laws of Teshuvah 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) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@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:

Julie Weintraub and her family on the death of her mother, **Greta Levine Tedoff**, z"l.

Iris Sheber and her family on the death of her brother, **Joel Sheber**, z"l.

Karen Louise Heau and her family on the death of her mother, **Sophia Zinn**, z"l and her father, **William Zinn**, z"l.

Yahrzeits observed 3-9 Iyar:

Bernice Kessler, mother of Marla Kessler; **Bruno Korn**, family friend of Judy Ribnick and Diane Burhenne; **Claire Miller**, grandmother of Reva Grossberg; **Cyril Gurley**, father of Roxella Stapleton; **Dr. Douglas M. Warschauer**, father of Jeffrey Warschauer; **Erwin Honig**, father of Les Honig; **Esther Weiss**, mother of Necha Sirota; **Fred Hart**, grandfather of Steven Mazie; **Herman Krevsky**, father of Leslie Krevsky; **Jacob Kalish**, grandfather of Karen Louise Heau; **Lazarus Radlow**, uncle of Reba Snyder; **Leonard Hollander**, observed by the PSJC Community; **Roslyn Katz Michelson**, grandmother of Sarah Guthartz; **Sylvia Steinberg**, mother of Sandra Linenschmidt; **Victor Strumph**, observed by the PSJC Community; **William Schwartz**, grandfather of Rabbi Carie Carter and father of Suzanne Carter. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

As we prepare for Yom Yisrael, stop by the office and purchase your Brooklyn T-shirts today. On Sale Now! Please visit the office Monday thru Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM and Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM. Thanks for your support.

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)

Brooklyn Celebrates Israel

Join us as we celebrate Israel in Brooklyn!

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony

Sunday, April 30 | 6:30PM | Congregation Mount Sinai

We come together for a community-wide ceremony followed by an Israeli band
Along with Idan Raichel singing songs to honor and remember Israeli's soldiers.



Idan Raichel in Concert

Monday, May 1 | 7:45PM | Congregation Beth Elohim

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Idan Raichel, one of Israel's most famous musicians, performing solo, playing his greatest hits and songs from his latest album entitled "At the Edge of the Beginning". Get your tickets www.teevtix.com and use PSJC's promo code: **ISR1** for a great discount.



Yom Yisrael

Sunday, May 7 | 10:00AM-1:00PM

Celebrate Israel, "Tour the country", and listen to "Music Talks" musical tour of Israel, enjoy food with Taim and Shnitzl Food Trucks; dance and sing together at this now annual Israel festival for children and those who love children. To help out, contact **Rabbi Carter**: rabbicarie@psjc.org.



Book Club: The Sound of Our Steps

Saturday, April 29 | 1:30PM

Join us half an hour after the end of kiddush when we discuss Alexis Landau's cinematically descriptive, character-driven debut novel *The Empire of the Senses*, which explores ethnic identity via an interfaith family in WWI and Weimar era Germany, i.e. before anti-Semitism became official state policy legally codifying ethnic definitions.

Tal Gur's Mind Crossing

Wednesday, May 3 | 7:30PM

Join us for a special showing of "Mind Crossing," a body of work created by Israeli-American, music therapist and artist, Tal Gur consisting of video, text, dance, music and documentary which is based on a collection of letters which Gur's grandfather wrote after the holocaust. It is a story of love, loss, relationship, displacement and emigration with the holocaust as its background. Tal, two members of his quartet and two dancers/choreographers from Vienna, will perform this program at PSJC followed by a panel discussion exploring multigenerational relationships, the holocaust, faith and identity. Suggested donation: \$10. For more information about Tal's work: <http://talgur.net/> and his performance at the Brooklyn Conservatory on Friday, May 5: <https://bkcm.org/events/tal-gur-mind-crossing/>.

Volunteers Needed In May | May 4, 11, 18 and 25

PSJC is staffing the Respite Bed Program at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue on four Thursday nights in May. We need people to prepare a meal for 12 and two people each to sleep over on May 11, 18 and 25. Perfect opportunity to get some quality time with a friend or older teen (b'nai mitzvah age or older) after the guests go to sleep! Sign up now: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4aacac2aa57-psjc> or please email with questions to jennifer.bernstein@post.harvard.edu.

PJ Library Class: It's Friday!

Friday, May 5, 12, 19 and 26 | 10:30AM | \$12 per class

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. Visit www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html for more information.



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Shabbat Tazriya-Metzora

Lev Tahor with our Shaliach, Noam Willner

Friday, May 5 | 6:30PM

Welcome Shabbat with music and community as part of Lev Tahor, followed by a dairy/parve vegetarian potluck dinner and conversation with our Brooklyn community shaliach, Noam Willner. Prior to coming to Brooklyn as our Shaliach, Noam worked as a tour guide, taking hundreds of Israeli teens to Poland to better understand the Shoah. He will share some of his experiences and lead us in a conversation about the "Big Questions We face" from the perspectives of Israeli and American Jews. RSVP for the dinner: <https://tinyurl.com/LevTahorMay5>

MASBIA: Two ways to help, right now | First Sunday of the month | 12:00PM-2:00PM

"Let all who are hungry, come and eat," we read in the Haggadah. Live those words and join friends old and new as a PSJC volunteer at Masbia, the kosher soup kitchen open to ALL, at 1372 Coney Island Avenue. Please find the time to roll up your sleeves and pitch in; for info, contact Helen Zelon hzelon@gmail.com And for those who are able, Masbia is seeking donations meals and groceries to people in need all over NYC; details at www.masbia.org, with sincere thanks for any support - physical or financial - our community can offer.

Racheli Ibenboim: From Isolationism to Integration: new developments in the Israeli Haredi community that just might change Israeli society as we know it. (of Shaharit Institute Series)

Wednesday, May 10 | 7:00PM | Union Temple

We continue the Shaharit Institute Series bringing forward different speakers on Israeli life. Racheli Ibenboim lives in Mea Shearim and is a social entrepreneur and activist in the emerging civil society movement in the Ultra-Orthodox sector. She is the leader of Shaharit's Haredi Department and the founder and CEO of Movilot: Employment Leadership for Haredi women, empowering them to take part in Israeli business, public and civic sectors. PSJC is co-sponsoring this Lecture Series, please join us on the last date May 25.

Shabbat Shmooze

Saturday, May 20 | 1:30PM

Shabbat Shmooze is a get-together in the home of a PSJC member. We will walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck Lunch after the Kiddush. Bring a parve potluck dish to share. Please contact shabbatshmooze@psjc.org if you would like to host a Shabbat Shmooze.

Balfour at 100, Six-Day War Plus 50, and Trump at 4 months: the implications for the Jewish community here and worldwide with Cornell Professor, Ross Brann

Sunday, May 21 | 1:00PM

Ross Brann returns to PSJC as part of the ILJB to once again share his impressive insight and understanding of world affairs, particularly of Israel and the Middle East, to help us understand this serious historic moment in which we find ourselves. Suggested Donation \$10. Ross Brann is the Milton R Konvitz Professor of Judeo-Islamic Studies & Stephen H Weiss Presidential Fellow at Cornell University

PSJC at Brooklyn Cyclones Opening Day with T-Shirt Promo Giveaway!

Tuesday, June 20 | 7:00PM (Gates open at 5:30PM)

PSJC goes to the Cyclones Opening Day opening game

Brooklyn Cyclones vs Staten Island Yankees. We will be sitting behind home plate.

Tickets are \$15.00 each, and an additional donation would be appreciated.

It's the Brooklyn Cyclones Opening Day! Buy tickets now!

Visit: <http://www.psjc.org/form/brooklyn-cyclones-2017.html>.

Deadline Monday, June 5.



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; **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at hevra.kadisha@psjc.org.



Shabbat Tazriya-Metzora

Triennial (Leviticus 12:1-13:39): Etz Hayim p. 649; Hertz p. 460

Haftarah (2 Kings 7:3-20): Etz Hayim p. 675; Hertz p. 477

Tazri'a-Metsora: A Story of Awareness and Healing

The book of Leviticus (Sefer Vayikra) entails many difficulties for the modern reader. First, it can easily be conceived as a cluster of ritual laws that have little to do with our modern Jewish experience. Second, the priestly image of the world depicted in it seems quite detached from our world outlook; for example, the forces of purity and impurity that play such a fundamental role in the metaphysics of Leviticus. Though they can still be relevant in some areas of our lives, their influence has diminished significantly over the centuries, for many reasons.

One reading Tazri'a-Metsora immediately realizes the difficulties that Leviticus poses. The parashah deals with impurities of physical origin, such as those caused by tzara'at (scale disease) and bodily secretions. The idea that a phenomenon of natural and physiological origins, such as a disease or a secretion, might be considered a source of ritual impurity raises a severe theological problem. How is it possible to conceive a physical dysfunction, over which one has no control, as the cause of grave impurity? Adding serious impurity to the disease itself seems arbitrary punishment for the person who contracted the latter.

Apparently the Sages also were troubled by this idea. In the Talmud (Arachin 16a) Rabbi Yohanan suggests that the infections caused by a scale disease (neg'a'im) should be conceived as the result not of a physical dysfunction but rather of a moral one. He lists seven immoral acts as possible causes, among them lashon ha-r'a, slander or evil gossip.

A parallel explanation is found in a story in Leviticus Rabbah (Metsora 16). There Rabbi Yanai suggests that the word metsora is a contraction of the phrase motzi shem r'a, i.e., one who defames or denigrates others. These two Palestinian sages offer similar responses - despite manifesting itself through physical signs, tzara'at is not a physiological disease but rather a sign of moral ill health. Therefore, people do have control over it; one can prevent this disease by refraining from defamatory conduct and communications.

The S'fat Emet (Rabbi Yehudah Ariele Alter, Poland, 19th-20th Cent.) elaborates on this idea. Drawing on the K'li Yakar (Rabbi Shlomo Ephraim ben Aaron Luntschitz, Poland, 16th-17th Cent.), he suggests an alternative etymology for the word metsora. According to his view, this term is not a contraction of the phrase hamotzi shem r'a - as suggested by Rabbi Yanai - but rather a part of this phrase: motsi ra', i.e., he who takes out the evil. As he often does, the S'fat Emet succeeds in bringing up a very profound psychological reading of the text. The infection (neg'a), the wound caused by the disease, indicates that a person afflicted is actually taking out, or digging up, the hatred that resides in his heart. Conceived this way, the infection is not only a sign of the disease, but also a means of its healing. Only by removing the evil from one's heart can a person truly be cleansed of it. According to this interpretation, instead of avoiding the disease, sometimes we have to immerse ourselves in it; we have to willingly defile ourselves by coming in contact with all that is harmful in order to achieve a true and total purification. The awareness of our own wounds is often the beginning of our healing journey.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by Yardén Raber, from the "Torah Sparks" series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Yardén Raber is a Conservative Yeshiva Talmud Faculty. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>

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), 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