



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

April 5-13, 2019 | 29 Adar II – 8 Nissan 5779
Shabbat Hahodesh Parashat Tazriya

Friday, April 5 29 Adar II				Shabbat Hahodesh Parashat Tazriya Rosh Hodesh Nissan Saturday, April 6 1 Nissan		
Candle Lighting 7:07PM Lev Tahor with Elizabeth Redwine 6:30PM Teen Shabbat Dinner 7:00PM				Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Family Torah 10:15AM Shabbat Kulanu 11:00AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Shaarei Mitzvah 7 1:00PM Book Club 1:30PM Feast & fantasy 8:40PM		
Sunday April 7 2 Nissan	Monday April 8 3 Nissan	Tuesday April 9 4 Nissan	Wednesday April 10 5 Nissan	Thursday April 11 6 Nissan	Friday April 12 7 Nissan	Saturday April 13 8 Nissan
Shaarei Mitzvah 6 9:00AM Hebrew School 9:30AM 5th Grade Art & Text 11:00AM Cooking with Shinshinim 4:00PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM	Biblical Hebrew 7:00PM	PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 7:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Hagadol Parashat Metzora</i> 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
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)		

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 1-7 Nissan:

Beatrice Snyder, mother of Michael Snyder; **Bernard Kabacoff**, father of Deena Steinfeld; **Betty Eisenstadt**, mother of Eric Eisenstadt; **Bill Brown**, father of Sally Brown; **Charlotte Leavitt Spilka**, mother of Ellen Spilka; **Ethel Drucker**, mother of Ira Drucker; **Herman Wiener**, father of Carol Wiener; **Israel Kindler**, father of Zev Kindler; **Julius Greenblatt**, observed by the PSJC community; **Lillian Abramson**, aunt of Steve Elworth; **Lillian Greenfield**, grandmother of Sue Harris; **Marjorie Kahan**, aunt of Alan Palmer; **Morris Elworth**, grandfather of Steve Elworth; **Norman Levine**, uncle of Myron Levine and Gavrielle Levine; **Richard Wax**, brother of Ronnie Wax; **Ruth Batt Minkin**, mother of Rabbi Joshua Minkin; **Samuel Gitlin**, grandfather of Sophie Weber; **Sheldon Kaplan**, father of Lynda Kaplan; **Shirley Zucker**, observed by the PSJC community. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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



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Passover is Coming...Passover Observances 5779

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#

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.

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>

Shaarei Mitzvah 7 | 1:00PM

Book Club | 1:30PM

Feast & fantasy Dinner | 8:40PM

Sunday, April 7

5th Grade Art & Text | 11:00AM

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

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

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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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

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>

***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.**

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.

Shabbat Hahodesh Parashat Tazriya

Triennial: Leviticus 12:1-13:28 | Etz Hayim p.380, Hertz p.253

Numbers 28:9-15 | Etz Hayim p.930; Hertz p.695

Maftir: Exodus 12:1-20 | Etz Hayim p.380; Hertz p.253

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18 | Etz Hayim p.1291; Hertz p.1001

D'var Torah: Between Sickness & Disease

In the last parashah, we learned which animals are permitted to eat, which are forbidden, and which can transmit *tum'ah* - ritual impurity. But in this week's parashah the human body itself is the source of *tum'ah* - in chapter 12, childbirth, and in chapter 13, a "scaly affection of the skin." These are not just maladies to be treated and healed within the bosom of one's family or community; they require being distanced, both from the Sanctuary and other Israelites, for an extended period of time. Rather than induce care and concern, they induced fear and revulsion. Our parashah derives its name from an apparently superfluous term in the second verse: "*ki tazria v'yaldah*, if a woman conceives and births [a child]." The gemara (Niddah 28b) teaches that the word, "*tazria* / conceive," comes to include the woman who is pregnant but does not carry to term. Thus the *tuma'ah* here is connected to the blood and guts of childbirth - not the new life it enables. Things that are supposed to be inside the body have suddenly come out, and now the woman is untouchable for 40 days (or longer).

The second half of the parashah focuses on the skin ailment, *Tzara'at*. Here unlike other illnesses that just eat away at one's insides, *Tzara'at* slowly eats away at one's outsides. The sages, though, were not content to just regard this as a dermatological condition. They understood *Tzara'at* as the outward manifestation of the sin of *lashon harah* - evil speech. Perhaps here too something that should be kept inside has come out, in all its horrific messiness, and the person must be isolated for a week or more depending on the continued spread of the affection.

Dr. Rachel Adler asks us to read these and other ancient Jewish stigma rituals in the light of the modern mythologizing of diseases such as cancer. Christopher Hitchens, soon before his death from oesophageal cancer in 2010, gave a wide-ranging interview in which he reflected on the public's imaginative detachment of a mythological, capital-C Cancer from the actualities of physical little-c cancer. He writes:

'I think it's a superstition. One among many. [...When] I was a child we were all frightened by polio. It takes an effort to remember that now, but in many countries people still are. Previous generations, it would have been smallpox. The heart that never gets the right rhythm. Bronchitis. TB. All these things. But none of them have the same, I think, horror as cancer has been allowed to acquire. And I think it's probably because of the idea of there being a live thing inside you. A sort of malignant alien that can't outlive you but that does in a sense have a purpose to its life which is to kill you and then die. It's like an obscene parody of being pregnant.'

Sickness is not the same as disease. When we are sick, our bodies are fundamentally undermined, but when we are diseased, our body has turned against us, making us grotesque and alien. Disfigurement can do the same. *Tuma'ah* - weakly translated as 'impurity' - exists within the semantic fields of sickness and disease, but is far more like the latter.

It is difficult to feel a great attachment to Parashat Tazria, especially without being able to fully understand or identify with the stigmatization of birth, menstruation, or skin ailments. But while we might read this and other sections of VaYikra with smugness, reflecting on our society's comparative civility, I am not sure that Tazria is an appropriate site for self-satisfaction. I have to overcome a bar of inner-resistance every time I visit my dementia-ridden grandmother. Numerous cancer sufferers describe, in various terms, the veil of disease which interposes between the sick and the well in every manner of conversation. We should recollect that both the woman who conceives and births, and the victim of *Tzara'at*, at least had their rituals, be they howsoever primitive, by which to rejoin the realm of the living.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Anthony Lazarus**, *Leo Baeck College Rabbinical Student & CY Alumni* "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.