



Mar. 16, 2015

JCP Scroll

The Weekly Newsletter from the Center for Jewish Life

Upcoming Calendar

To view the full program calendar of events for the year, [click here](#).

- March 21 [Tot Shabbat](#)
- March 26 [Four Cups: Passover Wine Tasting](#)
- March 27 [Friday Night Lights](#)
- April 13 [Holocaust Survivor Evi Blaikie Speaks](#)
- April 15 [Holocaust Remembrance Day](#) Commemoration
including *Conversations with Anne*
- April 17 [Friday Evening Services](#)
- April 17 JCP YOUth: Challah Back! [Middle School](#)
Sushi Shabbat Dinner
- April 18 [Tot Shabbat](#)
- April 19 JCP YOUth: [Grades K-2](#) and [3-5](#), JCP Matinee



[For our Spring 2015 Calendar through June, click here.](#)

Sacred Recipes

A Note from Rabbi Jason

Dear Friends,

What is your favorite food? What are the tastes, the aromas, the sounds, the experiences with which you associate it? Perhaps there is a holiday, a person, a place to which it seems inextricably tied? Perhaps there is a story behind how the recipe was inherited?

This week's Torah portion is *Vayikra*, and it opens the biblical book of Leviticus. The first few chapters of Leviticus detail several kinds of sacrifices, for which people bring offerings to the priests and the priests make those offerings on their behalf. Animal sacrifice in particular may seem foreign to our experience today, yet when we remind ourselves that these *korbanot*, these sacrifices, were recipes passed down from one generation to the next, we might feel better connected to them. In our ancestors' desire

to connect with God, they imagined anthropomorphic aspects of God, and offered pleasing aromas to God on the altar.

The Hebrew words connected to sacrifice, *korban*, are words that are about being near, approaching, coming close. The sacrifices detailed by the opening of Leviticus include ones for thanksgiving, for wholeness, for atonement. Sacrifices brought our ancestors close, perhaps to God, to each other, and even to their true selves. For nearly two thousand years, we have not offered sacrifices at a single central holy place. Instead, communal prayer, Shabbat and holiday meals, and acts of loving kindness have replaced sacrifices as opportunities to bring us closer in all the ways we need.



Have a wonderful week.

Warmly,



Rabbi Jason

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Dedicate a Siddur (Prayer Book)

Would you like to Dedicate a JCP Siddur (Prayer Book), to honor or memorialize a special person or moment in your family's life?

[Click here to learn more.](#)



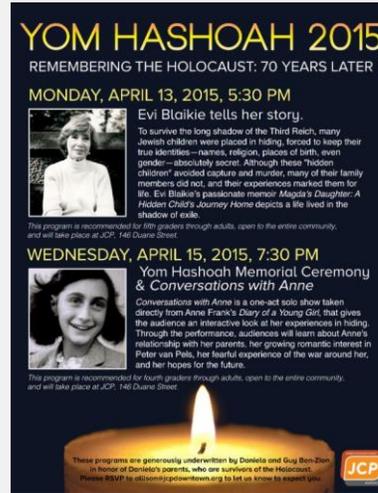
Featured Photo

Village Playback Theatre

company collected holiday stories from children of all ages at JCP's Purim Carnival.

Each story was transformed into a singular dramatic moment by VPT's actors and photographed.

You can learn more about VPT's work utilizing drama, music, movement, and the invitation for personal storytelling to build community in New York, especially with individuals and groups who are often underserved and socially underrepresented, on their [website](#).



Featured Event

Yom Hashoah 2015

Monday, April 13

Join us for a special conversation with Holocaust survivor Evi Blaikie, who was a hidden child and has written her own memoir of her story.

Wednesday, April 15

The entire community is invited to gather for a memorial ceremony and a performance of *Conversations with Anne*, a one-woman show taken directly from Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl*, that give the audience an interactive look at her experiences in hiding.

To RSVP for either/both events, please email allison@jcpdowntown.org.

Stay Connected.



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