



June 1, 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](#).

- June 5 [Friday Night Lights](#) -- in Rockefeller park with vegetarian [potluck Shabbat dinner](#).
- June 7 [JCP Talks Israel with Ari Shavit](#)
- June 12 [JCP YOUth 6/7/8 -- Shabbat Our Way](#)
- June 13 [Tot Shabbat](#)

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



Nose-Deep in Quail

A Note from Rabbi Jason

Dear Friends,

This week's Torah portion is called *Beha'alotcha*. It begins by describing the making of the menorah, the first ritual lamp that illuminated the priests' work area in the *mishkan*, the shrine in the desert. We read this Torah portion about the ancient seven-branched oil lamp as the days are almost at their longest in the northern hemisphere. We actually light our own menorah, the nine-branched Hanukkah lamp, when the days are the shortest, and we repeat the *Haftarah*, the selection from the prophet Zechariah that accompanies this week's Torah portion, at Hanukkah time as well, linking light across the seasons.

For a number of months, I have had the pleasure of studying with Davis Sandberg, whose Bar Mitzvah is approaching. As Davis has been studying his Torah portion, he has asked many thoughtful questions and drawn some conclusions about what the Torah is teaching, and also about how the Torah teaches. In the Torah, Davis observes, there are often instructions about what to do and how to do it-from "don't eat from that tree"

and "build an ark this tall" to "remember Shabbat" and "love your neighbor as yourself." But sometimes, as in this Torah portion, the Torah teaches by delivering an unforgettable experience. In this case, when some of the freed Israelites in the desert bemoan that the food was better in Egypt--that the delicious, creamy, taste-how-you-want-it-to manna in the desert was not enough--that they wanted meat to eat, the text tells us that God responded with so much quail, it "came out of their nostrils." In the text, the story gets worse from there, but the image of this much quail itself seems unforgettable for our ancestors and for us as readers of the text today. Telling a story about an unforgettable experience can, in itself, be a very effective way of teaching.

As we approach the end of the school year and embrace summer, my wish for all of us is that we and our community's children have plenty of opportunities to broaden the learning we do in our day-to-day: to learn even more by seeing, by doing, and by experience. From special family time away from school schedules to summer camps and family vacations, the summer uniquely invites us into these experiences. May they be comfortable enough for us to embrace them, uncomfortable enough to promote growth, and may we carry with us unforgettable experiences and stories to share.



Warmly,



Rabbi Jason

Rabbi Jason Klein
Director, Center for Jewish Life
rabbijason@jcpdowntown.org
646-527-7355 x110





Featured Photo

JCP YOUth's Great Outdoors Camp Day!

Nothing like eating homemade s'mores to get the summer season started!

2ND ANNUAL JCP MEN'S EVENT

ONCE AGAIN...CELEBRATING OUR RIGHT TO CONGREGATE.
ALL MEN OF THE JCP COMMUNITY, STOP BY FOR A DRINK!

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015

6:30 - 9:00 PM

WOODROW'S (DOWNSTAIRS LOUNGE), 43 MURRAY STREET

RAFFLE FEATURING TWO VIP TICKETS TO THE TONIGHT SHOW
WITH JIMMY FALLON, AND MORE!

PLEASE RSVP TO LIYA@JCPDOWNTOWN.ORG.



All costs, including food and beverages for the evening have been generously underwritten.

Featured Event

2nd Annual JCP Men's Event

Tuesday, June 23

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

**Woodrow's at 43 Murray Street
(Downstairs Lounge)**

Join the men of the JCP community to celebrate "Our Right to Congregate!"

Stop by for a drink, and a bite to eat anytime between 6:30 and 9 PM. We will be raffling off two VIP tickets to the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, golf experiences and much more!

Please RSVP to liya@jcpdowntown.org.

Follow Us.



146 Duane Street, New York, NY 10013- 212-334-3522