



This Week at Chabad Lubavitch of Maine



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES
FOR
PORTLAND:

Friday, Apr. 9 7:00 pm

Torah Portion: [Shemini](#)

Perkei Avot Chapter 1

This Monday: Rosh
Chodesh Iyar

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Message from the Rabbi

Dear Friends,

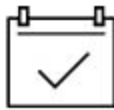
Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars, and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint, and he has to touch it.

Sometimes it does seem like we have that uncontrollable propensity to peer, pick up and prod that which is better left alone.

This week we read of Nadav and Avihu, who entered the Holy of Holies and brought an offering that was not wanted. But they were not acting out of sheer curiosity or rebelliousness. Rather, their desire to connect to G d was so powerful that they went beyond what G d expected from them or what they were able to handle.

Now, I am not suggesting that we try this at home, but I do think we can take a lesson from these two men. Their desire to touch the divine was strong that they paid for it with their lives. Perhaps we, too, need to cultivate that kind of desire

Rabbi Wilansky



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Tuesdays | 9:30 am - 10:30 am



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QUESTION

Are Bottom Feeders Kosher Fish?

There is a commonly held belief that where a fish lives determines whether it is kosher. Is this the case?

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BY THE NUMBERS

22 Kosher Facts Every Jew Should Know

Brush up on your understanding of this this basic mitzvah, which is integral to Judaism and Jewish life.

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TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

The Mitzvot You Don't Enjoy

Do you prefer some parts of Judaism over others? What do you do about the unexciting parts?

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JEWISH NEWS

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Parshah in a Nutshell

Parshat Shemini

On the **eighth day**, following the seven days of their inauguration, Aaron and his sons begin to officiate as *kohanim* (priests); a **fire** issues forth from Gd to consume the offerings on the altar, and the **divine presence** comes to dwell in the Sanctuary.

Aarons two elder sons, **Nadav and Avihu**, offer a strange fire before Gd, which He commanded them not and die before Gd. Aaron is **silent** in face of his tragedy. Moses and Aaron subsequently disagree as to a point of law regarding the offerings, but **Moses concedes to Aaron** that Aaron is in the right.

Gd commands the **kosher** laws, identifying the animal species permissible and forbidden for consumption. Land animals may be eaten only if they have **split hooves** and also **chew their cud**; fish must have **fins and scales**; a list of non-kosher birds is given, and a list of kosher insects (four types of locusts).

Also in Shemini are some of the laws of **ritual purity**, including the purifying power of the **mikvah** (a pool of water meeting specified qualifications) and the **wellspring**. Thus the people of Israel are enjoined to **differentiate** between the impure and the pure.



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