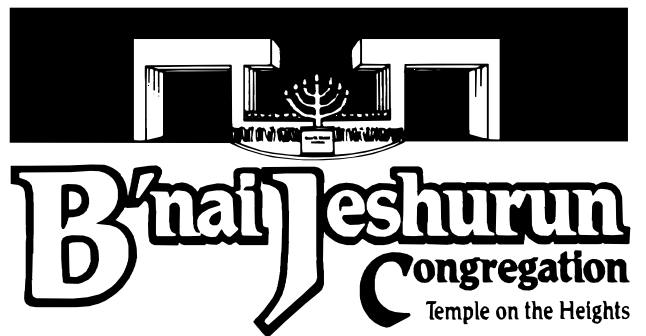


Shabbat Shalom!

27501 Fairmount Boulevard
Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124
Tel: 216-831-6555 Fax: 216-831-4599
www.bnaijeshurun.org
Condolence/Event Cancellation Tel:
216-831-6556



Welcome to the **David J. & Ruth A. Moskowitz Sanctuary** on behalf of Rabbi Stephen Weiss, Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria, Cantor Aaron Shifman, Education Engagement Rabbi Josh Foster, Rabbi Emeritus Stanley J. Schachter, President Shelley Scher and Executive Director Jay Ross.

Our Mission is "To ensure the flourishing of Jewish life through educational, social and Conservative religious experiences in a warm and dynamic community."

Parashat Ki Tisa

כִּי תִשָּׂא

March 2/3, 2018 - 16 Adar 5778

	<u>Hertz</u>	<u>Etz Hayim</u>	<u>Verse</u>
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Rishon	356	529	Ex. 31:18 - 32:6
Sheni	357	531	32:7 - 32:11
Shlishi	358	532	32:12 - 32:14
Revi'i	358	533	32:15 - 32:24
Chamishi	359	535	32:25 - 32:29
Shishi	360	535	32:30 - 33:6
Shevi'i	361	537	33:7 - 33:11
Maftir	361	538	33:9 - 33:11
Haftarah	369	548	Kings I 18:1 - 18:39

Thank you to our Torah readers: Heidi Geiss, Betsy Moss, Susannah Cohen, Terry Zimmerman, Patti Berns, Alberto Sardon and Amanda Banckek. Thank you to Amanda Banckek for chanting the Haftarah.

DAILY MINYAN

MONDAY - THURSDAY 7:00 am & 7:30 am & 6:00 pm

FRIDAY 7:00 am & 7:30 am & 6:00 pm (unless otherwise noted)

SATURDAY 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Your presence adds to the joy of our service!

FRIDAY

Thank you to our Board member on the bima, Aaron Sukert, and our greeter, Nicole Newman.

Mazal tov to everyone who is celebrating a birthday this month.

Following the Benediction, please join us for oneg in **Gross Atrium**, sponsored by the Officers and Board of Trustees.



SATURDAY

Our Starbucks, Bread & Torah teacher this week is Rabbi Alan Lettofsky. Thank you to Judy Riga for preparing the refreshments.

Thank you to our members who prepare the kiddush refreshments: Moris Amon, Murray Berkowitz, Fay Blumenthal, Tova Cohen, Lynn Katz Danzig, Ruth Dobres, Faith Eisenberg, Laura Katzner, Harriet Rosenberg Mann, Rachel Schwarz, Cheryl Spira, Nancy Tresser Lipko and Pnina Wiesel.

Thank you to our Board member on the bima, Barry Feldman and our ushers: David Cohen, Maury Greenstein, Dan Jacobs, Harriet Rosenberg Mann, Paula Schaffer-Polakof and Daniel Umansky.

Following the Benediction, please join us for kiddush in **Gross Atrium**, sponsored by the Officers and Board of Trustees.



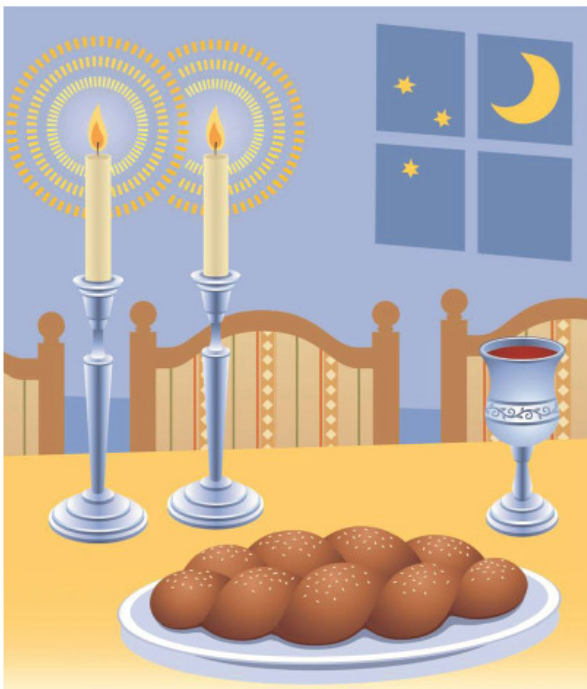
Thank you to Zamir Choir for participating in the Friday evening service.
Sheri Gross, Zamir Director; Alexis Gross, Assistant

Caroline Auerbach-Brown	Maksim Abramov	Elliot Botnick
Oren Gabay	Tamar Gabay	Emma Ginsberg
Mina Goldenberg	Noah Greenberg	Ava Gross
Jackie Hager	Milo Hurwitz	Spencer Kadis
Ari Kiwi	Emily Kurland	Sara Kurland
Lyla Levin	Jacob Morris	Zoe Newman
Ariella Rosky	Maya Stanton	Sarah Strauss
Lila Sukert	Dalia Sukert	Rachel Wolf
Cailey Zelwin		

Hazak Spring Fling Luncheon
Sunday, March 11 • 12:30 pm

Versatile Violinist **Mary Beth Ions** will entertain us. Hazak members \$15; guests \$18. RSVP to chairperson Frances Ritsky-Kluter (216-831-2592).





**Building Our Community
One Home at a Time.**

The 2016-2018 Marcus Leadership Cohort
Bring You
Shabbat Together
Friday Evening, March 16

Experience Shabbat with your BJC family!

Be A Host

Open your home to guests • Serve a kosher or dairy meal • Receive challah, candles and more to enhance your Shabbat experience

Be A Guest

Welcome Shabbat with friends, old and new
Grow connections to your BJC family

Register by March 5 at
[bnaijeshurun.org/
ShabbatTogether](http://bnaijeshurun.org/ShabbatTogether) or contact
the synagogue office.

Give A Gift

Support Shabbat for others this year and for
years to come

Lend a Hand with Chesed

We have volunteer opportunities for everyone. If you are interested in lending a hand for any of the projects here, contact Shani Kadis.



Family Night @Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Thursday, March 8 • 5:30 pm

Families with children between the ages of 6 - 12 years are invited to sort and package food. Pizza will be provided. Ten volunteers are needed. The Food Bank is located at 15500 S. Waterloo Rd.

Transplant House of Cleveland
Wednesday, March 14 • 5:30 pm

Prepare a home-cooked meal at home for 20 people and bring it to the Transplant House (located at 2007 E. 115th St., 44106), then connect with the residents as they enjoy a family meal together.

Kosher Food Pantry
Sunday, March 18 • 9:30 am

Sort and pack food at the pantry that will go to Jewish families in need. Everyone volunteering should be over the age of 7. Next date: April 15. The Pantry is located at 2004 S Green Rd, South Euclid.

Men's Club Happenings for All!

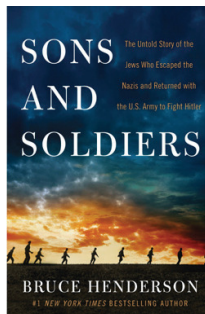
Red Cross Blood Drive
THIS Sunday, March 4 • 9 am – 2 pm

Save a life; give blood. Walk-ins welcome.

Yom HaShoah Candle Packing
THIS Sunday, March 4 • Drop in between 9 - 10 am

Enjoy breakfast at 8:30 am and then prepare the candles for distribution. No RSVP needed! Just as important, please volunteer to help deliver the candles to some homes in your neighborhood. Contact Paul Wolf (paul.s.wolf@alum.wpi.edu or 216-291-0796).

***Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned to Fight Hitler* by Bruce Henderson**
Tuesday, March 6 • 7 pm



Discuss the book AND who fights for our country today. What do you think when people stand up for soldiers or kneel for the National Anthem? This is sure to be an interesting discussion. Free. RSVP to Harvey Wasserman (hpwasserman@sbcglobal.net).

Let the Madness Begin! March Madness That Is!
NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Bracket

Contest for only \$5 for one entry or \$10 for three entries. Contact Mitch Marder (mmarder22@gmail.com).



Important dates:

March 9: Send Mitch your email; submitting your email is not a commitment to play.

March 11: Rules and additional information will be emailed to you.

March 15: Deadline for entering your bracket is noon.

All contest results will be available online, so you can follow your bracket in real time.



Men's Club Adventure Road: Traveling the World
Sunday, March 18 • 9:00 am
Destination: North America facilitated by Jerry Brodsky

Jerry will facilitate a discussion of participants' favorite places. Hear others describe why they liked: a train ride through the Canadian Rockies, a recent trip to Cuba, their annual winter vacation in Mexico or Florida, their favorite little-known spot and others. Everyone will have the opportunity to contribute. No RSVP required.

Jews in Medicine

Sunday, March 25 • 11 am • Maltz Museum

Spend the day learning about the impact of Jews in medicine both locally and nationally. Begin with a lecture by **Mitchell Balk** on “**Healing in the Jewish Tradition: The Mt. Sinai Hospital Cleveland Legacy**” and continue with a docent-led tour of the current exhibit, “**Beyond Chicken Soup: Jews & Medicine in America.**”

This program is open to all. Paid reservations due by March 9 to Harriet Rosenberg Mann, 23575 Shelburne Rd., Shaker Hts. 44122. Please make checks payable to BJC Sisterhood. \$10 Sisterhood member; \$12 non-member.

Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon

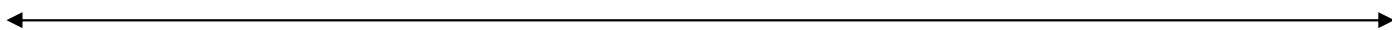
Tuesday, April 17 • 11:30 am • Park Synagogue East



Join fellow Torah Fund Benefactors and Supporters for our annual program featuring **The Vinyls**—The Duo with Ditties through the Decades featuring Adina Bloom and Patrick Janson.

You must be a current Torah Fund Benefactor (contributed \$180 or more during the last year) or a Torah Fund Supporter (contributed \$20 or more to Torah Fund, including purchase of Torah Fund greeting cards during the last year). Co-sponsored by the Park Synagogue and B’nai Jeshurun Sisterhoods. There is still time to make your 2017-2018 contribution!

Contact BJC Torah Fund Chair, Judi Lauer (330-888-9029 or judithlauer@roadrunner.com), for more information. \$20 per person, indicate chicken or vegetarian. Reservations due by April 7.



Opioid Addiction Awareness

Shabbat, March 17 • during the Shabbat morning service

Cantor Laurel Barr will speak to us about her family’s personal struggle with addiction over the years. Join us after kiddush for a Q&A in Nickman Chapel.

This program is part of a larger community effort to bring awareness to the opioid crisis affecting our families, friends and nation.



MISHABERAH

JAYDEN BARBER
FRUMA BAT JANETTE
YISRAEL BEN MEIRA
MATANA DVORAH BAT SARAH
ZELIG BEN DOROTHY
DAVID BEN MICHAEL HAKOHEN
DINA RIVKA BAT LEAH
GITTEL CHANA BAT ESTHER
MASHA TSIRIL BAT BASHA
YAKOV BEN MIRIAM
RONI BEN RACHEL
TOVA ELKA BAT RAISEL MALKA
RAISEL MALKA BAT FREDA
TOVA BAT SARAH GITTEL
MOSHE BEN ZELDA
ZEV TZVI BEN SARAH MALKA
MEIR BEN SHLOIMO HA'LEVI
AVRUM REUVAIN BEN NAOMI
PEREL BAT YENTA
YAKOV BEN SARA
DANIEL BEN LEAH
ZELDA BRACHA BAT MINA
ZALMAN SHMUEL DOV BEN
 RUVENA SHIFRA
BRACHA BAT SIMA
KETURAH BAT SARAH
MESHELEM BEN RACHEL
NOACH YA'ARI BEN SARAH
ADIRA BAT RUCHEL
MINAH MINDEL BAT PESAH MALKA
SARA CHAYA BAT DEVORAH
AVRAHAM BEN SARAH
SIMCHA MELECH BEN SORA
AVRAHAM BEN MALKA
EZRA SHAMIR BEN SIMCHA
TZIPPA ZEISEL BAT MIRIAM
HENNACH BEN ETEL
SURA TOBA BAT JOSEF ZWI
RACHEL LEAH BAT DEVORAH
AIYELA RACHEL BAT SHIFRA
REUVEN BEN ADELIN
LEAH BAT ETYE
PHIL APRUZZI
MALKA BAT RAISA
MORT YUSSEL BEN RIVKA
AVRAM DAVID BEN DINAH
ELI CHAIM BEN MINNA YITTA
BEN-TZION PESACH BEN
 SHAINDEL CHAYAH
REUVEN BEN SHAINDL
DINAH BAT DAHLIA
SHANDEL BRACHA BAT ESTHER

DYLAN CHAIM BEN PESIA HINDA
MASAHIRO UENO
AVIGAYIL BAT HADAR MIRIAM
HADAR MIRIAM BAT ESTHER
MICHAL VERED TOVA BAT SARAH GILA
SARAH GILA BAT LEAH
PINHAS SIMCHA BEN PNINA
ADIN RONEN BEN SARAH GILA
HAYA TZIPPORAH BAT ITTA
YAKOV ELIYAHU BEN GALIA
MASHA BAT HEINCHA
PEREL SARAH BAT DVORAH
MALKA BAT BATYA
MORDECHAI DOVID BEN LEAH
MIMI DORF
SHAINA LIEBE BAT CHAVA MIRYAM
ZLATE FEIGA BAT CHAYA
MEIR BEN SARAH
YENTEL SURAH BAT MARIAM PESSEL
RAPHAEL BEN MASHA GOLDA
MIRIAM BAT RUCHEL
MARY ELIZABETH GREENE
YONKEL MOSHE BEN LEAH
HAYA SORA BAT LEAH
EFRAIM ZEV BEN ZELDA
LIBBY GOLDIE BAT SHAINA MALKA
Yael BAT ESTHER
MORDECHAI BEN YENTEL
SHLOMO FEIVEL BEN KAYLA
RIVKA BAT FRAYDA
DAVID SHIMON BEN RENAH
LEIBUSH BEN SHPRINTZE LEAH
CHANA RUCHEL BAT FRUMA BATYA
YEHUDIT BAT SULTANA
SARAH BAT ROIZA
MARIE BAT MARIE
YEHUDIT BAT BUNNY RAZEL
MIRIAM ESTHER BAT MALKA LIBA
BOB ALTMIRE
ARIELLA CHANA BAT SARAH
HARAV YITZHAK MICHAEL BEN DINA
AARON ELI BEN TOIBA LEAH
HANNAH BAT DVORAH
REUVEN BEN CHANAH
JOANN BAT ZOLA
LIBA RUCHEL BAT BAYLA
MOSHE BINYAMIN BEN TZVIYA YEHUDIT
RIFKAH BAT BASYA
YOCHEVET BAT FRIEDA
EVAN KOMITO
SHALOM MENASHE BEN NECHA
AARON BEN YEHUDIT BATYA
YAKOV BEN HANA SORA

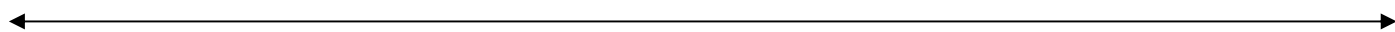
DANIEL TZVI BEN RUTH
MICHELLA BAT MINNA
ZEV YITZCHAK BEN RISYA
EDWARD SMITH
LEAH BAT ZEESALA
MALKA LIEBA BAT MINDAL SURAH
TZVI BEN CHAYA
BASSI BAT SHIFRA
DAVID BEN CHAYA
DAVID LEIB BEN BASHA
STEVEN BLOOM
JANE STEARNS
LEAH BAT RIVA
LEAH BAT HANA
SURA BAT LIBA
ELIYAHU BEN HANA
LOLA BAT CLAUDINA
SHMUEL YEHUDA BEN FAIGA
HANA HINDA BAT HAYA BLUMA
PHYLLIS WOLK
ELIEZER TZVI BEN MALKA
DAVE PERKINS
LIAT BAT YAEL
AVRAHAM PINCHAS BEN CHAIM
CHAIM REUVEN BEN BASYA GITTEL
SEBASTIAN KATZ
RAFAEL BEN RACHEL
HASKEL TZVI BEN MALKA
TAMARA BAT LIBA
SHOSHANA BAT LEAH
AKIVA YAAKOV BEN RUT
RAANAN BEN BERTHA
KALMAN BEN SARAH

HARAV MIRIAM MALKA BAT
HANA LEAH
NICOLE BAT BEVERLY

May He who blessed our ancestors and is the source of all healing bless and heal those who are ill. May the Holy One Praised Be He mercifully restore them to vigor and lift the burden of anxiety from their loved ones and friends.

On this (Sabbath, Festival, Judgment or Penitence) day we pray that they be spared further pain. May God grant them health of body and health of spirit and mind. May we speedily be privileged to greet their return to good health by welcoming them once again into our midst. Let us say: Amen.

Anyone wanting to add a name to the list should contact Diane Shalom (216-831-6555 ext. 104 or dianeshalom@bnaijeshurun.org) by Thursday afternoon at the latest for inclusion in that Shabbat's program. We will also pause during the prayer for people to recite additional names from their seats.



**Jr. Kadima/Kadima Whirlyball/Laser-Sport
Sunday, March 18 * 1:45 - 3:30 pm**

All 3rd - 8th grade students are invited to meet at Whirlyball/Laser-Sport, 5055 Richmond, Bedford Hts. \$12 per person. RSVP by Monday, March 12 to Wendy Altmire.

Office Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help at the front desk with lunchtime relief. Times can be arranged to conveniently fit your schedule. Both men and women are welcome. We guarantee a friendly, rewarding environment. Please contact Marilyn Greenwald (440-449-2449 or marilynandstuart@gmail.com).

Condolences to:

Ron Torch & family on the death of his mother, Lilyan Torch

Halina Podlipsky & family on the death of her brother, Joseph Frankel

Murray, Stephanie and Pamela Berkowitz & families on the death of their mother
and grandmother, Leona Berkowitz

Yahrzeits: March 3 - 9, 2018

Bernard Abrams	Jerrold Marc Gold	Rose Malik
Ethel Abrams	Mortimer Gold	Sarah Marks
Eva Altman	Aaron David Goldberg	Esther Milgrom
Jacob Amster	Marvin J. Goldberg	Joan Miller
Irving J. Bailey	Ronald Goldman	Herman Miller
Francis Matilda Banchek	Audrey M. Goldring	Edward Morse
Howard Richard Banchek	Harry Golland	Dr. Milton J. Moss
Benjamin Barken	Marjorie E. Golland	Leo Nittskoff
Morris Barron	Lawrence B. Gordon	Eileen Nittskoff
Julius Berkovitz	Norton Gordon	Yedda Osher
Harry Bernstein	Frances Gould	Molly Palasny
Morris Bir	Rosa Granek	Vicki Peters
Jacob Blank	Adelle Greenberg	Rose Platt
Jean Blank	Margaret Greenfield	Rose Post
Leonard Bluestone	Baruch Gribov	Bernice S. Rabovsky
Randi Faith Brickman	Goldye Gutner	James Reider
Elijah Buchman	Marvin Gutterman	Jack Riga
Ben Burstein	Michael A. Halpern	Abraham Rosen
Celia Busch	Alexander M. Hamburg	Dora Rosenberg
Isadore Candela	Mary Harris	Lena Rothkopf
Reva Canowitz	Rose Herman	Leonard Rudnick
Dr. A. S. Chazen	Louis Hoffman	Willy I. Sapell
Lee Cohen	Bernard Hutner	Albert Savren
Esther Cooper	Louis Jacobs	*Oswald (Ozzie) Schindler
Louis P. Davis	Florence Kahn	Bessie Schlessel
Etta Dolin	Janet Karner	Ethel Schonberg
Florence Diana Donsky	Lena Kaufman	Rose Schulhof
Helen Durschlag	Ignatz Klein	Gish Schwartz
Samuel Ehrman	Judith Ann Kleinbart	Abe Schwartz
Ben Eisen	Isadore Kohn	Fred Schwarz
Manya Eisen	Dr. Joseph Koval	Arnold Michael Shankman
Paul Felbain	Robert (Bob) Koway	Paul Leon Shapiro
Joseph Finger	Malvin Schwartz Kramer	Ben Sharp
Charlotte Fisher	Ruth T. Landy	Bertha Simms
Betty Freier	Rose Langer	Ruth Axelrod Smith
Matilda Barron Friedman	Bert Lebovitz	Ruth Solomon
Marvin S. Friedman	Herman Lefkowitz	Sophie Solomon
Irwin Friedman	Carol Levin	Fani Spector
Howard Gardner	Stella Lichtig	Martin J. Spero
Reuben Gildar	Lillian Light	David Spitz
Bertha Gobstein	Abraham W. Loewenthal	Helene Sasonkin Stern

Yahrzeits continued

Emmanuel Titlebaum
Cyril Tobin
Ida Vaynshteyn
Sylvia Weinberg
Morris J. Weinstein
Mrs. Aaron A. (Sara) Weiser

Eleanor Weiss
David Wertheimer
Helen Whalley
Lee Carolyn Willen
Fay Winger
Jacob Y. Wish
Ronald Wohlauer

Anna Woronkoff
Aaron Zalzneck
Ida Zelwin
Sophie Zeve
Estelle "Cookie" Zide
Bessie Zlotolow

**past president*

If you would like a name read from this week's yahrzeit list and have not already informed the office, please notify one of the ushers.

It is customary to make a donation to the Aliyah Fund when honored with an aliyah. Thank you for your support.



Little Chefs Cooking Club
Sunday, March 11 • 10:30 am

Take a fun and educational class facilitated by Young Chef's Academy of Solon! Get ready for Passover by making some fun kosher for Passover recipes you will love. This class is geared for children ages 5 and under, with an adult. \$5 per child. Due to class size restrictions, you must register online or RSVP to Julie Sukert. No walk-ins can be accommodated.

Young Families & Sisterhood Present
Ratatouille
Sunday, March 18 • 4 pm

We will start the afternoon off cooking the ratatouille and enjoying children's activities. Then, we will feast on our creation while watching the film! No kids? No problem! Everyone is welcome to join us for this fun event! There'll be an 'adults only' room for schmoozing.



Recipes will be given out to all attendees and there will be alternative dinner options. RSVP by March 11: \$15/ adult; \$5/child 10 and under; after March 11: \$20/adult; \$8/child. Please make checks payable to BJC Sisterhood, memo Ratatouille. Questions? Contact Sasha Huston (440-382-9836) or Julie Sukert.

We welcome your children in the Main Sanctuary!

What's Coming Up

Tuesdays 10:30 am Torah Study with Susan Wyner

Thursdays 12:10 pm Lunch & Learn at Commerce Park IV Room 130

Fridays 10:15 am Kinder Shabbat & Open Playroom

Saturdays 9:00 am Starbucks, Bread & Torah

Saturday, March 3

9:00 am Service

Sunday, March 4

9:00 am Men's Club Yom HaShoah Candle Packing

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive

9:30 - 11:00 am Free Legal Advice Clinic @Green Rd. Synagogue

1:30 pm Jewish Genealogy Society Meeting @Park East with
Matthew Skvasik, The Memory Lab @CCPL SEL branch

Tuesday, March 6

7:00 pm Men's Club Book Group

Thursday, March 8

5:30 pm Chesed Family Night @Greater Cleveland Food Bank

7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, March 9

6:00 pm Service

Saturday, March 10

9:00 am Service

Sunday, March 11 - Daylight Savings Time (Spring Forward)

10:30 am Little Chefs Cooking Club

12:30 pm Hazak Lunch & Program

3:00 pm Prof. Karl Skorecki, *The Health of Israel - From Personal to Global*, The Temple, free but reservations requested to 216.831.3233, ext. 162, or hmler@titi.org

Wednesday, March 14

5:30 pm Chesed @Transplant House

7:00 pm *The Opioid Crisis: A Community Forum* with Dr. Sylvia Mustonen, The Orange Center, 32205 Chagrin Blvd., Free but must register 216.831.8600 ext. 5700

Friday, March 16 - Marcus Shabbat Together

6:00 pm Service; Anniversary Shabbat

Saturday, March 17 - Rosh Hodesh Nisan

9:00 am Service; Cantor Laurel Barr speaking on the opioid crisis

D'var Torah: The Gift of Oral Torah

Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty

Very discerning readers of the Torah, the rabbinic sages sought to plumb the depths and uncover the significance of each and every word and expression. Seemingly difficult language provided them with opportunities to thrash out God's will. In Parashat Ki Tissa, a verse describing the giving of the second set of tablets after the sin of the golden calf seems to have particularly intrigued them: "And the Lord said to Moses: 'Write for yourself (*k'tav lekha*) these words, for according to (*al pi*) these words I have sealed a covenant (*brit*) with you and with Israel'" (Exodus 34:27) The idiom "*al pi*" means "according to," but it is built from the word "*pi*" whose literal meaning is "mouth."

The juxtaposition of *k'tav*/write, *pi*/mouth, and *brit*/covenant prompted voices within the rabbinic tradition to discuss the relationship between the Written Torah and the Oral Torah and, in particular, the significance of the Oral Torah. (The Written Torah, or Torah *she'bikkhtav*, is the term given by our tradition for the Tanakh or Bible - a collection of fixed texts subject to an infinite number of creative readings. The Oral Torah, or *Torah she'b'alpeh*, is the term given for the rabbinic tradition which was originally preserved and passed from generation to generation in oral form.) Exodus Rabbah 47:1 reads the inclusion of the word "*pi*" as teaching that the Oral Torah was **also** included in the revelation at Mount Sinai: "When the Holy One Blessed be He was revealed at Sinai to give the Torah to Israel, He spoke to Moshe about Scripture, Mishnah, Talmud, and Aggadah (nonlegal lore) ... and even that which a student will ask his teacher."

Rabbi Yohanan, perhaps the most important sage in Eretz Yisrael in Talmud times, took things a step further. He taught that this verse shows the **centrality** of the Oral Torah: "The Holy One Blessed be He **only** made a *brit*/covenant with Israel on account of the things which were taught orally..." (Gittin 60b). What accounts for Rabbi Yohanan's elevation of Judaism's oral tradition at the expense of written tradition? One midrashic account suggests that the non-Jewish world had already taken over the "Bible" as its own. Consequently, the Oral Torah was God's "secret" covenant, preserved exclusively for the Jewish people; it is what gives the Jews their unique identity (See Exodus Rabbah 47:1;3) Another midrash suggests that the great effort required for learning the Oral Torah made it indicative of the effort the Jews were willing to expend in order to maintain its covenant with God. (Exodus Rabbah 47:4)

The late Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Gerson Cohen gave voice to this unique attachment to the Oral Torah. He noted that Rabbinic Judaism was responsible for two incredible religious innovations. First, it introduced the idea of universal study as a religious discipline and means for communicating with God. Study and, in particular, the study of Judaism's Oral tradition, was meant to be a way for everyone to commune with God, not just a wealthy or scholarly elite.

The other great innovation of the rabbinic "oral" tradition, according to Cohen, was the idea that Judaism does not have a priestly class. Sure, we still have our "*kohanim*" and "*leviim*", but we do not live our Jewish religious lives vicariously through them. Nor are rabbis supposed to mediate for us between us and God. Religious observance is democratic - the privilege and responsibility of the mitzvot is for every Jew. (See Cohen's essay, "The Rabbinic Heritage" in *Studies in the Varieties of Rabbinic Culture*)

The embrace of "Oral Torah" as the central expression of the Jewish People's covenant with God rabbinic is what makes rabbinic Judaism unique and our covenant with God special.

For Discussion: How has the learning-focused democratic culture of Rabbinic Judaism influenced Jewish character and the role Jews have played in history?

Parashat Ki Tissa Self-Study with *Vered Hollander-Goldfarb*

We open with a few more instructions for the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and then move on to see what the people are doing while Moshe is up on the Mountain receiving the tablets. Here comes the story of the Golden Calf!

1) In the early part of the Parasha we meet one more furnishing of the Mishkan: The basin that is placed before the tent (30:17-21). What is placed in it? What is the purpose of it? Who is supposed to use it? When are they supposed to use it? Why do you think that washing hands and feet was given such an emphasis?

2) The Golden Calf: Moshe has been up on the mountain for 40 days and nights receiving the Torah. The people turn to Aaron, who was left in charge, demanding 'a god that will lead us, for this man Moshe that took us out of Egypt - we don't know what became of him!' (32:1.) How have the people come to view Moshe? How do we understand this, in light of the many times that they complain to Moshe?

3) After Moshe comes down from the mountain, sees the calf, breaks the tables and destroys the calf, it is time to punish those who participated actively in this event. He stands at the gate and calls out - 'whomever is for The LORD - to me!' (32:26-29.) Why do think that he asked for volunteers? What are these volunteers asked to do? Why might they agree? What do you think would happen if they would not do this?

4) As the episode draws to a close Moshe asks God to understand His ways. Eventually God agrees, partially, and in 34:5-8 is the amazing moment when God comes down. Who speaks the words in vv.6-7? Where do you know these words from? What attributes of God are described? What picture of God seems to emerge?

5) When Moshe comes down after another 40 days on the mountain, having written new tables, his face is radiant (34:29-35). Why do you think that the people are scared to approach him when they see him like that?

Please respect the sanctity of our services and those around you by turning off your mobile devices.