



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

March 2-10, 2018 | 15-23 Adar 5778  
Parashat Ki Tisa

Friday, March 2   15 Adar				Parashat Ki Tisa Saturday, March 3   16 Adar		
Candle Lighting   5:30PM Lev Tahor with <b>Pamela Laskin</b>   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM <b>Asher Josephson Bar Mitzvah</b> Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan Combined   11:15AM Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Hevra Kadisha But Were Afraid to Ask   1:20PM Teen Purim Carnival Decorating   8:30PM		
Sunday March 4 17 Adar	Monday March 5 18 Adar	Tuesday March 6 19 Adar	Wednesday March 7 20 Adar	Thursday March 8 21 Adar	Friday March 9 22 Adar	Saturday March 10 23 Adar
Sing-a-long with Bracha 10:30AM  Purim Carnival 11:00AM	PSJC Knitters 7:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM		Candle Lighting 5:38PM  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>Leora Kling Perkins</b> 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Parah Vayakhel-Pekudei</i>  <b>Simcha Shabbat</b>  Havurat Shabbat   9:30AM  Parashat Hashavua   9:30AM  Shacharit   10:00AM  Family Torah/ Shabbat Kulanu 11:15AM  Taking Your Seder to the Next Level: How to lead an Engaging Seder for all ages with <b>Leora Kling Perkins</b>   1:20PM  <b>Mincha - Elan Rabiner Bar Mitzvah</b>   4:00PM
<b>Park Slope Jewish Center</b> 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, PSJC's 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)		

**Mazal Tov!**

To **Asher**, Sarah, Isaac and Leah on **Asher's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!

**Todah Rabbah**

To **Sarah** and **Isaac Josephson** for contributing to the Kiddush Fund this Shabbat in honor of **Asher's** Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat.

**SAVE THE DATE! PSJC Auction & Tropical Party | Saturday, April 14 | 8:15PM**

Slip on your flip flops, pop on your aloha shirt and join us for some tropical fun! Delicious margaritas, yummy desserts & funky music, plus exciting live & silent auction to benefit PSJC! More info to come regarding soliciting goods & services, ads and sponsorship, so keep your eyes peeled! Purchase your early bird tickets [www.psjc.org/evening-in-margaritaville#](http://www.psjc.org/evening-in-margaritaville#) until March 15. Please contact [auction@psjc.org](mailto:auction@psjc.org) to help with this fun event.



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### **Yahrzeits observed 16-22 Adar:**

**Abram Joel Snyder**, brother of Michael Snyder; **Bob Weinstein**, friend of Sara Sloan; **Dorothy Trilling Pravda**, mother of Stewart Pravda; **Eugene Horn**, cousin of Lisa Albin; **Helen Hochman**, great aunt of Ellen Hollander-Sande; **Henrietta Fox**, observed by the PSJC community; **Herman Hollander**, observed by the PSJC community; **Hilda Gundersheim**, mother of Ellen Briefel; **Joan Margalith**, sister of Carol Levy; **Max Elworth**, father of Steve Elworth; **Max Kover**, father of Elihu Kover; **Michael Ryvicker**, father of Miriam Ryvicker; **Murray Lehrer**, father of Susan Lehrer; **Ralph Robins**, father of Susan Robins; **Roberto Ferdman**, father of Bertie Ferdman; **Rubin Sandler**, grandfather of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Sarah Greenberg**, grandmother of Dan Greenberg; **Shia Kahanowitch**, grandfather of Alan Palmer; **Sidney I. Roberts**, father of Russell Roberts; **Vera Frank Levine**, Aunt of Elizabeth Schnur; **Warren Lewis**, uncle of Roland Lewis; **Ze'ev Koznbluth**, father of Hanna Ulman. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

### **Lev Tahor Services followed by Potluck Dinner and Talk Author Pamela Laskin will discuss her novel *Ronit and Jamil***

Friday, March 2 | 6:30 PM

Come out and sing during services. Following a dairy/pareve potluck dinner, Pam will lead a discussion of Ronit and Jamil. If you have questions, please contact [lev.tahor@psjc.org](mailto:lev.tahor@psjc.org).

### **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Hevra Kadisha But Were Afraid to Ask: An Informal Discussion**

Saturday, March 3 | 1:20PM

Would you like to learn more about Hevra Kadisha ("Holy Society"), whether you plan to volunteer with us or not? We understand--we are often so busy working under the veil of anonymity that we don't always get the chance to gauge your interest or answer your questions. Please join us for a casual roundtable discussion featuring some of our newer shmira and tahara volunteers; members of the Hevra organizing team will be on hand as well. Please stop by and visit with us.

### **Purim Carnival**

Sunday, March 4 | 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Fun for adults and kids, with carnival games, bounce house, BBQ, and more!  
Tot Sing-a-long with Bracha | 10:30AM

### **PSJC Knitters**

Monday, March 5 | 7:30PM

For more information contact [marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.rothenberg@gmail.com).

### **PJ Library Class: It's Friday!**

Friday, March 9, 16 and 23 | 10:00AM | \$12 per class (\$10 per members)

It's Friday! is a series of classes for children 3 and under and their caregivers. Join PSJC Tot Shabbat Leader, Abe, for music and stories each week. For more information, [www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html](http://www.psjc.org/event/its-friday.html)

### **Parashat Hashavua**

Saturday, March 10 and 24 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with our Rabbinic Intern, Leora Kling Perkins. It's a great lead in to the Shabbat morning services.

### **Taking Your Seder to the Next Level: How to lead an Engaging Seder for all ages**

Saturday, March 10 | 1:20PM

Hosting a Seder this year for the first time or the fiftieth? Not sure how to get started? Or, are you out of new ideas? Join Rabbinic Intern Leora Kling Perkins for a conversation about ways to create an engaging Seder for the whole family.

**Got announcements?** Email by Monday 5:00PM ([office@psjc.org](mailto:office@psjc.org))



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### **Simcha Shabbat**

Saturday, March 10 | 10:00AM

Join us for our first Simcha Shabbat when we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their March birthdays & anniversaries. They will receive a special blessing during the Torah service and we will all enjoy a lovely Simcha Shabbat Kiddush (cake included)! Please update your PSJC account and add your birthdays and anniversaries (no year needed) so we may send you a personal invitation in the future. If you or your family would like to contribute toward the Simcha Shabbat Kiddush, please contact the office@psjc.org.

### **The Rabbi Who Killed His Purim Guest: An Exploration of the Talmud through the Jewish Year**

Monday, March 12, 19 and 26 | 12:00PM

Join Leora Kling Perkins, as we follow the Jewish year by reading selections of the Talmud related to Jewish holidays. We'll learn about who the rabbis were and what they were doing when they created the Talmud. This class will be taught primarily using English translations and is aimed at beginning to advanced learners.

### **Café Ivrit - Mid-Level Hebrew with our Community Shaliach Noam Willner**

Thursday, March 15 | 7:00PM

Would you like to practice speaking Hebrew over coffee with other Brownstone Brooklyn friends? Café Ivrit is the right place for you! The group discusses different issues in Hebrew and practice new words and ways to express yourself better in Hebrew. To determine if this is the class for you, or to RSVP, please contact Noam at NoamW@jafi.org.

### **Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu**

Friday, March 16 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe. Then we'll head downstairs for a communal dinner. Everyone is welcome! Main Entrees will be provided. RSVPs are not required, but are strongly encouraged. RSVP now [www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu1.html](http://www.psjc.org/event/kabbalat-shabbat-kulanu1.html). **Please bring a substantial salad/veggie side or dessert to share.** \*\*If you have specific food allergies or needs, please make sure you bring something you can eat, as we are unable to take special food requests for this meal.

### **Kishkush Acharei Kiddush**

Saturday, March 17 | 1:00PM

Join other fluent Hebrew Speaker after services and Kiddush where we will have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Contact Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

### **Shabbat Shmooze**

Saturday, March 17 | 1:30PM

Our community is invited to a vegetarian pot-luck lunch following service and Kiddush. This is a child-friendly home. The kish-kush Hebrew conversation can continue at the Shmooze. Please join us!

### **Rodfei Tzedek Action**

Sunday, March 18 | 12:00PM

**PSJC runs on community participation.** If you are interested in: **leading Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Services**, email [freddie.brooks@psjc.org](mailto:freddie.brooks@psjc.org); **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at [davening@psjc.org](mailto:davening@psjc.org); **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at [haftarah@psjc.org](mailto:haftarah@psjc.org). **To request an Aliyah or other honor**, email Rabbi Carter a week in advance ([rabbicarie@psjc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ira.drucker@psjc.org). **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](mailto:gmach@psjc.org) or [hevrakadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevrakadisha@psjc.org).



## Parashat Ki Tisa

Triennial: Exodus 31:18-33:11 | Etz Hayim p.529; Hertz p.356; Plaut p.635  
Haftarah: 1 Kings 18:1-39 | Etz Hayim p.1286; Hertz p.999; Plaut p.722

## Dvar Torah: The Gift of Oral Torah

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.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein**, *Conservative Yeshiva Faculty* from the "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.