



**PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER**

March 17-25, 2017 | 19-27 Adar, 5777  
Parashat Ki Tissa/Shabbat Parah

Friday, March 17   19 Adar				Parashat Ki Tissa/Shabbat Parah Saturday, March 18   20 Adar		
Candle Lighting   6:47PM Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu   6:30PM				Shacharit   10:00AM Mini Minyan   Tot Shabbat   JC   11:15AM Shabbat Shmooze   1:30PM		
Sunday March 19 21 Adar	Monday March 20 22 Adar	Tuesday March 21 23 Adar	Wednesday March 22 24 Adar	Thursday March 23 25 Adar	Friday March 24 26 Adar	Saturday March 25 27 Adar
Shaarei Mitzvah 9:00AM  Hebrew School 9:30AM		Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM  Hebrew School 4:00PM	Mussar Path of the Mensch 7:00PM	Candle Lighting 6:55PM  It's Friday! 10:30AM  Kabbalat Shabbat with <b>David Rosen</b> 6:30PM  Potluck Dinner with Speaker Gadi Ezra 7:30PM	Shabbat <i>Vayakhel- Pekudei/Shabbat Hodesh</i>  Shacharit   10:00AM  Mini Minyan   Tot Shabbat   JC   11:15AM  Advanced Talmud 1:30PM  Spring Fling & Auction 8:00PM
<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) Sarah Guthartz, Executive Director (executive.director@psjc.org) Aileen Heiman, Director of Youth Education (aileen.heiman@psjc.org) For questions about Accessibility (inclusion@psjc.org)		

**HaMakom Yenachem**

Our condolences go to:

**Jan Orzeck** and her entire family on the death of her familys' friend, **Helen Rosen**, z"l.

**Scott Groom** and his entire family on the death of his mother, **Sally Groom**, z"l.

**Yahrzeits observed 20-26 Adar:**

**Arnold Phillips**, uncle of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Aron Gmach**, father of David Gmach; **Bobbie Lurie**, mother of Loretta Lurie; **Charles D. Lieber**, father of Janno Lieber; **Dora Rudman**, grandmother of David Rosen; **Dorothy Trilling Pravda**, mother of Stewart Pravda; **Esther Kornbluth**, mother of Hanna Ulman; **Eugene Horn**, cousin of Lisa Albin; **George Press**, father of Aric Press; **Hilda Gundersheim**, mother of Ellen Briefel; **Hope Haase**, mother of David Haase; **Ingrid Mazie**, mother of Steven Mazie; **Joan Margalith**, sister of Carol Levy; **Lena Schneid**, aunt of Carol Diamond; **Max Kover**, father of Elihu Kover; **Sarah Greenberg**, grandmother of Dan Greenberg; **Shia Kahanowitch**, grandfather of Alan Palmer; **Sonia Novick**, mother of Eve Blatt; **Sylvia Friedland**, mother of Karen Friedland; **Vivian Esther Sloan Honig**, sister of Sara Sloan and mother of Matt Honig. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

**Rodfei Tzedek Committee**

If anyone is interested in the Rodfei Tzedek Committee's events and/or related issues and opportunities, please email to [rodfei.tzedek@psjc.org](mailto:rodfei.tzedek@psjc.org) to get on the Committee's new Google email group. The group will post information and related opportunities to participate in community service and social justice activities.

**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)

### It's nearly time for the spring fling and auction.

Get a babysitter and buy tickets now! It's going to be so much fun - open bar for the first hour of the evening, great snacks and delicious desserts all evening! Invite your friends to socialize and to bid on amazing items! Live and Silent Auction! And it's all to help support PSJC. We still need donations of good and services, and volunteers to help the night of the party and you can still become an event sponsor. Check us out at [www.psjc.org/auction](http://www.psjc.org/auction) and get ready to have a great night at our fresh, fun and festive fundraising fete! **Ticket price \$50.**



### **Kabbalat Shabbat Kulanu**

Friday, March 17 | 6:30PM

Join us for a musical Shabbat celebration for all ages! Services begin in the sanctuary with Abe and Lena. Everyone is welcome! Main entrees will be provided. Please bring a substantial salad/veggie side or desert to share.

### **Shabbat Shmooze**

Saturday, March 18 | 1:30PM

Hosted by Marjorie, Joel & Sam Rothenberg | 318 10th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues  
Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Pot Luck Lunch (after the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services). Bring a parve/dairy/veggie pot luck dish to share. The Shabbat Shmooze offers the chance to get to know some of the PSJC community and spend time with those you already know. It is a great way to keep the Shabbat vibe going all afternoon long.

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

Friday, March 24 and 31 | 10:30AM | \$12 per class

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

### **Potluck dinner and Speaker Gadi Ezra**

Friday, March 24 | 7:30PM

Following services stay for a potluck and teaching with Gadi Ezra, Israeli Human Rights Lawyer and Soldier.

### **Advanced Talmud**

Saturday, March 25 | 1:30PM

This class is an on-going self-study group appropriate for people who are proficient in Hebrew and have some prior experience in Gemara study. New students are welcome! Email [aronrhalb@gmail.com](mailto:aronrhalb@gmail.com)

### **Hebrew School Shabbat**

Saturday, April 1

Celebrate Shabbat with the Hebrew School families! We'll join the main service for a special dvar Torah and aliyot to honor members of the Hebrew School community before heading downstairs for the April Shabbat Kulanu service, led by Abe and the students. Then join us for Kiddush following services and a surprise treat.



March 17-25, 2017 | 19-27 Adar, 5777  
Parashat Ki Tissa/Shabbat Parah

### Remembering Marlene Schwartz זכרון

Sunday, March 26 | 2:00PM

The PSJC community and family and friends are invited to remember and celebrate the life of our wonderful friend Marlene Schwartz z"l, at PSJC. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 22 to: Necha Sirota [nechisw@yahoo.com](mailto:nechisw@yahoo.com) or Fran Hawthorne [franhawthorne@yahoo.com](mailto:franhawthorne@yahoo.com). Also, please let us know if you can bring veggie/kosher/parve light snacks.

### PSJC Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 28 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

### Tehila Nachalon Friedman: The Struggle for the Soul of Religious Zionism.

(Shacharit Institute's Lecture Series on Israeli Diversity and Politics: Out Of Many Voices, A Common Future)

Wednesday, March 29 | 7:00PM | Kane Street Synagogue

Tehila Nachalon Friedman is a long-time activist in the National Religious community. She is director of the Center for Jewish Leadership at Kolot, co-founder of the Yerushalmim movement, formerly Chair of the Board of Ne'emanai Torah Va'Avodah for a moderate religious Zionist voice. PSJC is co-sponsoring this Lecture Series, please join us on these future dates: April 6, May 10 and May 25.

### First Night Seder at PSJC

Monday, April 10 | 6:00PM

For the second year and in collaboration with Ohel Ayalah and Kings Bay Y of Windsor Terrace, we will be hosting a first night seder in the Lower sanctuary of PSJC. For more information and to register visit <https://www.psjc.org/first-night-seder.html>.

### Brooklyn Celebrates Israel

Mark your calendars. Join us as we celebrate Israel in Brooklyn!

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony | April 30 | 6:30PM.

Idan Raichel in Concert | May 1 | 7:45PM Yom Israel | May 7 | 10:00AM – For children and those who love children.

Be A Mensch...Bring Your Can To Shull!

### PESACH FOOD DRIVE

PSJC's food drive continues. Let's make this a time of giving/sharing our bounty.

Please be sure that all items are in original packaging.

Please do not bring glass jars or bottles, dented cans or expired dates.



For more information about Passover, visit: [www.psjc.org/pesach-at-psjc.html](http://www.psjc.org/pesach-at-psjc.html)

**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. **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) **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); **joining the Hevra Kadisha**, email the coordinators at [hevra.kadisha@psjc.org](mailto:hevra.kadisha@psjc.org).

### **Parashat Ki Tissa/Shabbat Parah**

Triennial (Exodus 30:11-31:17) Etz Hayim p. 523; Hertz p. 352

Maftir (Numbers 19:1-22) Etz Hayim p. 880; Hertz p. 652

Haftarah (Ezekiel 36:16-38) Etz Hayim p. 1286; Hertz p. 999

### **Moses' Finest Hour**

Parshat Ki Tissa or parts of it are read no less than nine times during the year. In addition to its place in the yearly cycle, we read parts of Ki Tissa on five fast days and on two Shabbatot of festivals (Pesach and Sukkot). The beginning of the portion is also read on Shabbat Shekalim.

The dramatic center of the portion is the story of the sin of the Golden Calf that takes place when Moses is on Mount Sinai with God. The dialogues between Moses and God at this moment become the basis of our Torah reading for fast days.

When God first learns of what the people have done, God tells Moses (Ex. 32:7): “Go and descend [lech red], for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have acted basely [shichet].”

According to Rabbi Elazar in Talmud Berachot 32a, God’s statement, “Go and descend” is a direct challenge to Moses and his leadership: “And the Lord said to Moses: ‘Go and descend’.” What is the meaning of ‘go and descend’? Rabbi Elazar said: The Holy One, Blessed be He, said to Moses: “Moses, descend from your greatness. Isn’t it only for the sake of Israel that I granted you prominence; and now that Israel has sinned, why do I need you?” Immediately, Moses’ strength waned and he was powerless to speak.

God tells Moses to leave him alone so that He can destroy the people. In Exodus 32:10, the Hebrew is haniha li, colloquially, “lay off me.” In the retelling in Deuteronomy 9:14, God says, “heref mimeni,” from the root resh-pay-heh, “leave me be”.

The Talmudic explanation continues: “Leave Me be, that I may destroy them” (Deuteronomy 9:14). Moses said, ‘this matter is dependent upon me.’ Immediately he stood up and prayed vigorously and begged that God show mercy.

According to Rabbi Elazar, when God told Moses to “lay off,” Moses immediately realized his power to change the situation. God’s words had a paradoxical effect – Moses became more intent on using his power to save the people. According to Rabbi Abbahu, Moses’ tenacity and audacity are made even more clear from God’s statement, “Leave me be.” “Now leave Me be, that My wrath will be enraged against them and I will consume them; and I will make of you a great nation” (Exodus 32:10). Rabbi Abbahu said: Were the verse not written in this manner, it would be impossible to utter it. “Leave Me be” teaches that Moses grabbed the Holy One, Blessed be He, as a person grabs his friend by his garment, and said before Him: Master of the Universe, I will not leave You be until You forgive and pardon them.

This is perhaps Moses’ finest hour, arguing with God on behalf of the people. The Torah recounts how Moses, rather than backing down, implores God and asks God to “Turn from Your blazing anger and renounce the plan to punish Your people.” (Exodus 32:12). And, perhaps surprisingly, God listens to Moses.

This Talmudic teaching reminds us that great leaders must act on behalf of those they lead, that spiritual audacity is not a luxury but a necessity, and that even the greatest of sins can be forgiven.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion by Rabbi Gail Diamond, from the “Torah Sparks” series produced by the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, <http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/>. Rabbi Gail Diamond, a freelance translator/editor, served as Associate Director and taught at the Conservative Yeshiva from 2001 to 2015. A Haftarah commentary by Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein of the Conservative Yeshiva may be found at <http://www.uscj.org.il/learn/commentaries/>