

Friday, February 22 17 Adar I				Parashat Ki Tisa Saturday, February 23 18 Adar I		
Candle Lighting 5:21PM Kabbalat Shabbat with David Rosen 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Tot Shabbat 1:00PM Advanced Talmud 1:30PM		
Sunday February 24 19 Adar I	Monday February 25 20 Adar I	Tuesday February 26 21 Adar I	Wednesday February 27 22 Adar I	Thursday February 28 23 Adar I	Friday March 1 24 Adar I	Saturday March 2 25 Adar I
PAI Benefits & Entitlements for Seniors 1:30PM		Hebrew School 4:00PM Board Meeting 7:15PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM PAI Book Club 9:30AM Hebrew School 4:00PM Gesher 6:15PM	Biblical Hebrew 7:00PM	PAI Walking Group 9:30AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 5:29PM Lev Tahor with Rachel Isaacs & Melanie Weiss 6:30PM	<i>Shabbat Shekalim Parashat Vayakhel</i> Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Hebrew School Shabbat 10:00AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM
Park Slope Jewish Center 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, 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)		

Todah Rabbah

To **Loretta Lurie** for hosting the Shabbat Shmooze last Shabbat.

Yahrzeits observed 18-24 Adar I:

Aron Gmach, father of David Gmach; **David Auslander**, father of Andrew Auslander; **Dorothy Trilling Pravda**, mother of Stewart Pravda; **George Press**, father of Aric Press; **Herman Hollander**, observed by the PSJC community; **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; **Rubin Sandler**, grandfather of Rabbi Regina Sandler-Phillips; **Sharlene Harris**, sister of Diane Buxbaum and aunt of Audrey Buxbaum; **Shia Kahanowitch**, grandfather of Alan Palmer; **Sylvia Friedland**, mother of Karen Friedland; **Vera Frank Levine**, aunt of Elizabeth Schnur. *May their memories be for a blessing.*

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 or hevrakadisha@psjc.org



Order your Shalach Manot

by March 4 to guarantee an upgrade in your bag!

Get ready for Purim!

<https://www.psjc.org/campaign/shalach-manot-2019.html>



February 22-March 2, 2019 | 17-25 Adar I 5779
Parashat Ki Tisa

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, February 23 | 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.

PAI Benefits and Entitlements for Seniors

Sunday, February 24 | 1:30PM

Do you or your aging parents know: How to reduce costs in retirement or obtain financial assistance? The options for care in or outside of the home and how much they cost? What senior discounts there are beside the movies? There is a FREE plan to supplement the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan? There are workarounds for low-income seniors who are not eligible for food stamps? A speaker from LiveOn NY, the foremost advocacy group for seniors in NYC, will educate us about what benefits to which you or your loved ones may be entitled, and when and how to apply. If you think you may already know everything you need to, you may be surprised! Please register: <https://www.psjc.org/event/pai-benefits-and-entitlements-for-seniors.html#>.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 26 | 7:15PM

PSJC Board meetings are open to members in good standing.

PAI Book Club - "In The Time Of The Butterflies" By Julia Alvarez

Wednesday, February 27 | 9:30AM

Being Jewish Beyond NYC: Learn about Small-Town Jewish Life at Lev Tahor

Friday, March 1 | 6:30PM

Join beloved PSJC alums Rabbi Rachel Isaacs and Melanie Weiss for Lev Tahor, PSJC's all-sung, community-led Kabbalat Shabbat service. Rabbi Isaacs leads the Maine Center for Small Town Jewish Life at Colby College; she brings a multigenerational perspective and practical experience well beyond the five boros. Come for the singing (and the dairy/pareve pot luck RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/2BNLp4t>), stay for the learning. All voices welcome!!

Parashat Hashavua

Saturday, March 2 | 9:30AM

Get a brief taste of the week's Torah portion with Cornelia Dalton, PSJC Rabbinic Intern. It's a great lead into the Shabbat morning services.

Purim Spiel and Newsletter Parodies

Monday, March 4 | 7:00PM-9:00PM

Get ready to make merry! The Not-Quite-Ready-For-Purim-Time Players welcome singers who want to participate in PSJC's Purim Spiel celebration of Queen (Esther and Freddie M) to join us for a first rehearsal. Two more rehearsals are scheduled: Sunday, March 10, 2:00PM-5:00PM and Sunday, March 17, 2:00PM-5PM. Megillah reading with accompanying Purim Spiel starts after 6:00PM on Wednesday, March 20. Contact Elizabeth if you are interested in participating or for more information (davening@psjc.org). AND if you are feeling funny and literary, the Spring Newsletter is happy to receive silly, parody articles and items. Send to davening@psjc.org by the end of March.

Rosh Hodesh Adar II Minyan

Thursday, March 7 | 7:00AM

Friday, March 8 | 7:00AM

PSJC runs on community participation. If you are interested in: **leading Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Services**, email freddie.brooks@psjc.org; **leading Shabbat Morning Services**, email Elizabeth Schnur at davening@psjc.org; **chanting Haftarah**, email Alan Palmer at haftarah@psjc.org, reading Torah, email Rabbi Sue Oren at leyning@psjc.org. **To request an Aliyah or other honor**, email Rabbi Carter a week in advance (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.



February 22-March 2, 2019 | 17-25 Adar I 5779
Parashat Ki Tisa

It's Friday Music Class

Friday, March 8, 15, 22 and 29 | 10:00AM

Come sing and play with Abe every week for a fun-filled music class that combines your favorite Shabbat and children's songs, with a story, movement and more. Taught by a professional music instructor, our open-space, informal class allows children ages 0 - 3 and their grownups to explore music and Shabbat! Each class ends with a snack and open-play so that caregivers can connect with each other. We look forward to having you join us! \$15/drop-in class* or \$120 for a 10-class series (paid in advance) RSVP: https://www.psjc.org/sing_play_connect

Hebrew Cooking with our fabulous Shlichim and Shinshinim

Sunday, March 10 | 4:00PM-6:00PM

We will use our Hebrew to cook delicious food and then share those treats at a meal. It is a great way to hang out with friends, meet new people, hone your cooking skills, practice your Hebrew and have a great time with our shinshinim. Great for children and adults alike. Contact Rabbi Carie Carter at rabbicarie@psjc.org to let us know you are coming.

Saturday, March 16

Simcha Shabbat | 10:00AM

Join us as we will acknowledge our members who are celebrating their March birthdays & anniversaries.

Kishkush Acharei Kiddush | 1:00PM

Are you comfortable speaking Hebrew? Do you want a place to speak with other fluent Hebrew speakers? Join us after services and kiddush where we have a Shulchan Ivrit - a table to sit around, drink coffee and talk with one another in Hebrew. Those who aren't sure if they are "fluent" or not are all welcome! Contact Michal: Kishkush.at.PSJC@gmail.com for more details.

Shabbat Shmooze | 1:30PM

Let's walk together over to the Shabbat Shmooze Potluck 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.

Purim 2019 is near!

Get ready to make merry! The Not-Quite-Ready-For-Purim-Time Players welcome singers who want to participate in PSJC's Purim Spiel celebration of Queen (Esther and Freddie M) to join us for a first rehearsal. Contact Elizabeth if you are interested in participating or for more information (davening@psjc.org).

Mock Treif Banquet & Purim Jeopardy

Friday, March 15 | 7:30PM

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 17 | 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Tot event | 10:30AM

Fun for adults and kids, with carnival games, bounce house, BBQ, Beer Garden and more!

Main Service & Community Megillah Reading & Purim Spiel

Wednesday, March 20 | 6:30PM

Join us to celebrate Purim! In addition to services and our main Megillah reading and Purim Spiel, we have Purim fun for all ages.

Tot Megillah & Sing-a-long | 6:15PM

Family Megillah & Puppets | 6:45PM

Costume Parade | 7:30PM

Community Megillah Reading

Thursday, March 21 | 7:00AM



Parashat Ki Tisa

Triennial: Exodus 33:12-34:35 | Etz Hayim p.538; Hertz p.362

Haftarah: 1 Kings 18:1-39 | Etz Hayim p.1286; Hertz p.999

D'var Torah: Brokenness & Forgetting

Following completion of the Mishkan this week's parashah focuses on the sin of the Golden Calf and its aftermath. In 32:15 Moshe is descending from Mt. Sinai holding the original God-given Luchot HaBrit - the Tablets of the Covenant - when he hears what has happened. These original tablets "were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets." But upon hearing the news he throws down the tablets, smashing them at the foot of the mountain.

What follows is a long back and forth between God and Moshe as to whether and how each side of the triangular God-Moshe-Israel relationship can be repaired. In the end, of course, there is a reconciliation and a new set of tablets. But as we see in chapter 34 the new tablets are different - it is Moshe who does the carving and inscribing.

According to an account of this event in Deuteronomy 10 both sets of tablets, the original broken tablets and the second set, are placed in the Ark of the Covenant. (Interestingly according to Deuteronomy's retelling the second tablets were constructed by Moshe but the writing was God's). In a midrash found in the Babylonian Talmud Bava Batra 17b (and various other texts), we see that the sages understood the inclusion of the first tablets as divine endorsement of Moshe's having smashed them. Reish Lakish goes so far as to say that God congratulated Moshe saying, "*yashar koach* that you broke them!"

What does it mean that God congratulated Moshe for breaking the tablets? R. Yitzchak Hutner, a 20th-century rabbi who spanned the Hasidic and Lithuanian traditions and served as the rosh yeshiva of the Rav Hayim Berlin yeshiva for many years, connects this midrash on the broken tablets to another found in the Babylonian Talmud Eruvin 54a. There Rabbi Eliezer says that because they had been inscribed directly by God, "had the first tablets not been broken, the Torah would never have been forgotten from the Jewish people."

At first glance it seems like Rabbi Eliezer is saying a bad thing - that is if it hadn't been for the sin of the Golden Calf and the breaking of the tablets Israel would have a clear and direct picture of God's will in the world.

However if we read these two midrashim together - "*yashar koach* for breaking" and "Torah would never have been forgotten" we are forced to reconsider.

There are times, explains Rav Hutner, that the forgetting of Torah is actually the way that it survives. He connects this idea to Hanukkah, when, according to the Al haNisim prayer the Greeks came to make the Jews "forget the Torah." He points out that it was at the point in Jewish history that the Oral Torah came into being. This happened because people began to forget the Torah and they needed to debate and reconstruct its content.

While this is an interesting and important historical point it also can give us more insight on Torah learning and on brokenness. Real creativity and learning most often happen from a sense of deep need. When something is missing we are most inspired to delve deep and apply our God-given intellect to create new and innovative ideas. Moreover, in places of darkness and confusion, when we recognize that something is missing we are most likely to turn to others to help us make sense of the world and fill the void with wisdom.

The broken tablets in the ark remind us of the power of brokenness, of forgetting, to spark innovation and the building of intellectual and spiritual community. In the words of Leonard Cohen, "there is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets through."

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Shoshana Cohen**, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty "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.

Have announcements? Email by Monday 5:00PM (office@psjc.org)