



PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER

March 1-9, 2019 | 24 Adar I - 2 Adar II 5779
Shabbat Shekalim Parashat Vayakhel

Friday, March 1 24 Adar I				Shabbat Shekalim Parashat Vayakhel Saturday, March 2 25 Adar I		
Candle Lighting 5:29PM Lev Tahor with Rachel Isaacs & Melanie Weiss 6:30PM				Shacharit 10:00AM Hebrew School Shabbat 10:00AM Tot Shabbat 11:15AM Resilience in the Jewish Tradition with Rabbi Rachel Isaacs 1:15PM		
Sunday March 3 26 Adar I	Monday March 4 27 Adar I	Tuesday March 5 28 Adar I	Wednesday March 6 29 Adar I	Thursday March 7 30 Adar I	Friday March 8 1 Adar II	Saturday March 9 2 Adar II
Hebrew School 9:30AM	Purim Spiel and Newsletter Parodies 7:00PM	Hebrew School 4:00PM	Morning Minyan 7:15AM Hebrew School 4:00PM	Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM Biblical Hebrew 7:00PM	Rosh Hodesh Minyan 7:00AM It's Friday Music Class 10:00AM Candle Lighting 5:37PM Kabbalat Shabbat with Elizabeth Schnur 6:30PM	<i>Parashat Pekudei</i> Parashat Hashavua 9:30AM Havurat Shabbat 9:30AM Shacharit 10:00AM Ilan Greenberg Bar Mitzvah Jr. Congregation 11:00AM Tot Shabbat/Mini Minyan 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)		

Yahrzeits observed 25 Adar I-1 Adar II:

Alfred Lewis, father of Roland Lewis; **Bobbie Lurie**, mother of Loretta Lurie; **Clara Radwelsky**, grandmother of Steven Radwell; **David Steinfeld**, father of Alvin Steinfeld; **Dora Rudman**, grandmother of David Rosen; **Dorothy Lane Kerr**, mother of Grace Kerr; **Edith K. Gottlieb**, aunt of Ray Kosarin; **Eric Hollander**, observed by the PSJC community; **Frederick Krochmal**, father of Michelle Krochmal; **Hannah Abrams Marker**, mother of Jeffrey Marker; **Harry Smith**, brother of Ann Smith; **Hope Haase**, mother of David Haase; **Lena Schneid**, aunt of Carol Diamond; **Marion Mark**, mother of Marjorie Rothenberg; **Morris Sinow**, grandfather of Miriam Fleischmann; **Pearl Rothenberg**, mother of Joel Rothenberg; **Sarah Elworth**, grandmother of Steve Elworth; **Sylvia Doro**, mother of Diane Buxbaum; **Vivian Esther Sloan Honig**, sister of Sara Sloan and mother of Matt Honig.

May their memories be for a blessing.



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

Friday, March 1 | 6:30PM

Rachel and Melanie bring multigenerational perspectives and practical experience to Jewish life in the American "diaspora," well beyond the five boroughs. Rabbi Isaacs holds the pulpit at Beth Israel Congregation in Waterville, Maine and leads the Maine Center for Small Town Jewish Life at Colby College. Melanie is Director of Education and Programming at Beth Israel; her work at the Center includes their summer programming. Barack and Michelle know why Mel and Rachel make a difference: See for yourself what makes their professional and personal collaboration so powerful. Come for the singing (and the dairy/pareve pot luck RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/2BNLp4t>), stay for the learning. All voices welcome!!

Saturday, March 2

Parashat Hashavua | 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.

Resilience in the Jewish Tradition with Rabbi Rachel Isaacs | 1:15PM

How do we continue on our journeys in the face of sadness, tragedy, despair, or just boredom? Contemporary scholars and inspirational speakers now speak of the power of grit, but is that contemporary concept the same as traditional approaches resilience? We will look to sources and rituals from our tradition that describe techniques for weathering life's challenges, tragedies, and disappointments. We will also discuss the limits and complexities of a discourse focused on resilience and/or grit in a world of structural inequality. This session will include song, traditional study, and group discussion.

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

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.

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



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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).

Friday, March 15

Pre-Purim Kabbalat Shabbat with Judy Ribnick | 6:30PM

Mock Treif Banquet & Purim Jeopardy | 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

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.

Advanced Talmud

Saturday, March 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.

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.



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Shabbat Shekalim/Parashat Vayakhel

Triennial: Exodus 35:1-36:19 | Etz Hayim p.552; Hertz p.373

Haftarah: 2 Kings 12:1-17 | Etz Hayim p.1276; Hertz p.992

D'var Torah: Revealing Hidden Talents

This week's Torah portion focuses on the construction of the Mishkan. In the three previous portions, the Torah has described everything about this portable place of worship, both the edifice and the holy objects inside. This week and next, we read how the plan was executed in faithful detail.

The "lead architect" for the project was Betzalel. The rabbis understood the name to mean "In God's Shadow," indicating that his appointment was ordained by God, who extended divine providence toward him. Various rabbinic legends convey different aspects of his commission.

Rashi points out that Betzalel was a great-grandson of Miriam. That means he came from a distinguished family which had status in the community. His assistant was Oholiab who, according to Genesis Rabbah, was not considered to be distinguished in stature or status. Nonetheless, the two men worked together, regardless of their family origins. The Rabbis learn from this that the work of the Mishkan was to be a democratic process. Everyone's efforts were welcome and important.

It's legitimate to ask about Betzalel's qualifications for this important task. Certainly, he never had any on-the-job experience, so what were his credentials? To answer this question, the Torah describes him as being *chacham leiv*. The term literally means "wise of heart," but the traditional understanding is that Betzalel (and all who worked on the project) had skills which had been unrealized and untapped. Midrash Tanchuma says that God grants wisdom to those who already have it. God knew Betzalel had artistic potential and allowed him to put it into practice.

In my experience working in a large senior residence, I saw how this can play out. Many residents had never participated in arts or crafts projects. They often said they had been discouraged in their formative years. We encouraged everyone to take part, with or without prior experience. Many who went to these activities discovered talent they never knew they had. Several entered paintings in judged competitions; one woman was thrilled when her painting was actually sold!

This self-discovery extended beyond the creative arts. One 99-year old man had never expressed interest in attending religious services. One morning, he stopped me while he was eating breakfast and asked if I could bring him to our daily minyan. "I've made a new year's resolution," he said. "I want to come to services every day for a year." I was glad to affirm his request and brought him in his wheelchair to the synagogue that same day. He easily kept his resolution and continued for another year. "I never realized I could find so much fulfillment while sitting in the synagogue," he said.

Over the past two months, I've seen another example of this concept. I have been studying at the Conservative Yeshiva, along with many young students, just starting on their path of Jewish learning. Some are rabbinical students, but many others are simply there for *Torah lishmah* – study for its own sake. They come from all over the world. They've discovered skills in Hebrew and Jewish texts and have derived great satisfaction from their studies. It has been an inspiration, one which is available to all.

The old saying goes, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." The concept of *chacham leiv* contradicts that notion. Each person has many untapped skills and talents. We only need to try. Perhaps, like Betzalel, we'll find those new talents and put them to use for personal and universal benefit.

This weekly commentary on the Torah portion is by **Rabbi Jim Michaels**, Conservative Yeshiva Student "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)