

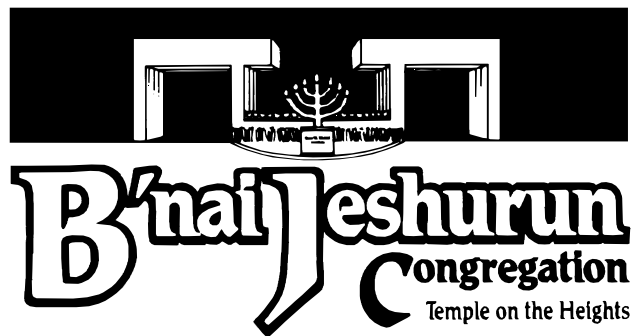
Shabbat Shalom!

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."

This Shabbat, we read the blessing for the new month of Nisan, which begins next Shabbat.

Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei וַיַּקְהֵל-פְּקוּדֵי

Shabbat Parah

March 9/10, 2018 - 23 Adar 5778

	<u>Hertz</u>	<u>Etz Hayim</u>	<u>Verse</u>
Rishon	379	560	Ex. 37:17 - 37:24
Sheni	380	561	37:25 - 37:29
Shlishi	380	561	38:1 - 38:8
Revi'i	381	562	38:9 - 38:20
Chamishi	385	564	38:21 - 39:1
Shishi	386	565	39:2 - 39:7
Shevi'i	386	566	39:8 - 39:21
Maftir	652	880	Num. 19:1 - 19:22
Haftarah	999	1287	Ezekiel 36:16 - 36:38

Thank you to our Torah readers: Yossi Zomber, Robin Rood, Rabbi Alan Lettofsky, Rabbi Shalom Plotkin, Michael Milgrom, Aaron Sukert, Ruth Dobres, Max Wiznitzer. Thank you to Max Wiznitzer 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

FRIDAY

Thank you to our Board member on the bima, Steve Eisenberg, and our greeter, Lynn Wasserman.



SATURDAY

Our Starbucks, Bread & Torah teacher this week is Rabbi Shalom Plotkin. Thank you to Abraham Kay 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, Wendy Dahar and our ushers: David Cohen, Maury Greenstein, Dan Jacobs, Harriet Rosenberg Mann, Paula Schaffer-Polakof and Daniel Umansky.

Today's Torah portion, Vayakhel, was dedicated in the New Torah Scroll by Mark & Marija Rosenfeld in honor of Daniel Rosenfeld's Bar Mitzvah.

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

Opioid Addiction Awareness

Shabbat, March 17 • during the Shabbat morning service

The opioid crisis has touched all of us in one way or another. Too many are struggling with addiction, or have family members who are. And we have lost too many lives in our community to this scourge. Please join us on this special Shabbat to raise awareness, to learn how to support those who struggle and what you can do to help end this affliction. Cantor Laurel Barr will speak to us during the service about her family's personal struggle with addiction over the years. Please also 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.



Your presence adds to the joy of our service!

Pesach Is Almost Upon Us!

Pesach Guide: Copies are available on the information table in **Gross Atrium** or at www.rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide.

Hametz Transfer of Ownership: Forms are available on the information table in **Gross Atrium**, in *March Tidings* and on our website.

Looking for a Seder?: Contact Rabbi Hal or www.projectreconnect.org.

Passover & Hametz Food Collections: Chesed is collecting non-perishable and non-expired food items. Kosher for Passover items will be distributed to needy Jewish families. *Hametz* items will be donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank as part of Harvest for Hunger. Food may be dropped off in the bins in **Gross Atrium** through Thursday, March 29.

Pesach Schedule of Services

Thursday, March 29: Search for *hametz* (evening)

Friday, March 30: Erev Pesach – 1st Seder

No eating of *hametz* after 11:23 am; sell & burn *hametz* before 12:26 pm

7:00 am Combined Minyans; *Siyyum b'Chorim* (Fast of the First Born)

6:00 pm Mincha/Evening Service

Saturday, March 31: 1st Day of Pesach – 2nd Seder

9:30 am Shabbat/Festival Service

6:00 pm Mincha

Sunday, April 1: 2nd Day of Pesach

9:30 am Festival Service

6:00 pm Mincha

First days of *Yom Tov* end at 8:33 pm.

Thursday, April 5: Erev 7th Day of Pesach

6:00 pm Mincha/Evening Service

Friday, April 6: 7th Day of Pesach

9:00 am Festival Service

10:30 am Kinder Shabbat: Pesach Edition

6:00 pm Mincha/Evening Service

Saturday, April 7: 8th Day of Pesach

9:00 am Shabbat/Festival Service/Yizkor/Dedication of Memorial Plaques

11:00 am Children's Programming during Yizkor

6:00 pm Mincha

8:40 pm Passover ends

If you sold your *hametz* through the shul, you may eat it right away, as the sale reverts immediately.



Passover Extravaganza
Journey Through the Seder Together
Shabbat, March 17 • 10:30 am

Join your Pre-K through 6th grade children as we take a journey through the seder together:

Pre-K- 2nd Grade – Meet in Nickman Chapel

3rd – 6th Grade – Meet in Halpern Hall

Plus. . . .check out the Dennis Library for a wide array of Passover books.

Then join us at noon for lunch!

Bessie Hershey Religious School students will have regular classes at 9 am and will join in all the activities at 10:30 am. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Rabbi Foster.

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. Register at bnaijeshurun.org/ratatouille.

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.

We welcome your children in the Main Sanctuary!

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.**” Copies of the book, *100th anniversary of Cleveland’s Mt Sinai Hospital* are available in Jacobson Library.

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.

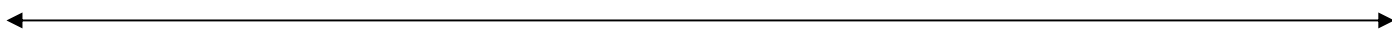
Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon
Tuesday, April 17 • 11:30 am • Park Synagogue East



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.



Kiddush or Oneg Sponsorships

“May He who blessed our ancestors bless those who give funds for kiddush.” (excerpted from A Prayer for our Congregation)

The mitzvah of a donation for sponsorship of a kiddush or oneg is a beautiful way to share the happiness of your milestone or remember a loved one with the congregation. Sponsorships are acknowledged in the Shabbat handout and in *Tidings*. The cost of a kiddush is \$500 and an oneg is \$250; partial sponsorships are available and they are tax deductible. Please contact Paula Botkin.

MISHABERAH

JAYDEN BARBER
FRUMA BAT JANETTE
YISRAEL BEN MEIRA
MATANA DVORAH BAT SARAH
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 ADELINE
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 LEIB BEN BASHA
SHMUEL YEHUDA BEN FAIGA
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
YITZKAH BEN TZIVIA
AVRAHAM BEN YAKOV

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 Whirleyball/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:

Linda Siegan & family on the death of her husband, our member, Jerome Siegan
William Leizman & family on the death of his wife, our member, Eunice Leizman
Amy, Emily and Jessica Hoffman on the death of their mother and grandmother,
Suzanne Roseman

Yahrzeits: March 10 - 16, 2018

Blanche Sheber Adelman	Abe E. Goldstein	Bertha Leb
Irving J. Bailey	Samuel Goldstein	Max Lefkowich
Eli Becker	Harry Golub	Blanche Leubitz
Abram Bellin	Norton Gordon	Anna Levin
Ida Berkowitz	Samuel Gorrin	Esther Liebman
Lillian Berman	Renee Gottlieb	Norman Lynn
Sara Ethel Bobrin	Marcia Green	Dr. Harry Lyons
Shirley Boman	Mollie Green	Harry Magar
Rhoda Joyce Bordman	Army Greenfield	Edward Malkis
Evelyn Boxerbaum	Elaine Greenstein	Elias Mantel
Rae Bradley	James J. Grossman	Morris Marsh
Gabriel Brown	Mildred D. Gruskza	Sanford L. Meltzer
Isadore (Issie) Brownstein	Hyman Gurland	Sanford J. Mintz
Jacob Chaim	Gary A. Hamos	Becky Singer Morgenstern
Mildred Levy Coe	Donald Harris	Judy Apt Nathenson
Morris Cooper	Kenny Harris	Albert Newman
Jeanette Danowitz	Rose Heiser	Sylvia Oleinick
Ray Esther Davis	Rosalind Held	Eva Palchick
Hayim Derazon	Rachel Hellering	Herbert Palkovitz
Nathan Dobres	Morris Herman	Marvin Pearlman
Hyman Dollinger	Sylvia Himmel	Herbert H. Perla
Dr. Jack A. Dorman	Paul Himmel	Shirley L. Perry
Rabbi Sigmund Drechsler	Betty Holden	Morton O. Perry
Lillian B. Edelman	Vicki Helstein Howard	Vicki Peters
Leona Edelman	Morris B. Jacobs	Jack Pierson
Emil Edelman	Sallie Jacobs	Elmer Porris
David Elman	Lillian Joseph	Alice Glazer Brown Presser
David Faller	Edward J. Kaplin	Sylvia Price
Grace Finesilver	Jack M. Katz	Sam Prizant
Herman Fleisher	Sam Kaufman	James Reider
Walter M. Freed	Ben Klausner	Alyssa Rachel Rose
Aron Freilich	Phillip Klein	Edward A. Rose
Lillian Fried	Morris Klein	Sari Elizabeth Rose
Lillian Friedman	Amalia Klein	Kate Rosenberg
Benjamin Friedman	Konrad Klein	Irving N. Rosenblatt
Ida Gellman	Jeffrey Kline	Dora Rosenthal
Sylvia Goldstein Gersch	Cecilia Kohn	Mervin Roth
Eisig Gettenberg	Elias Kohn	George Rothstein
Mae E. Glasser	Lila Krangle	David A. Schemnitz
Milton Glick	Hyman Kronenberg	Harry Schermer
Myron Gloger	David Labowitch	Albert Schindler
Shlomo Zalka Goldner	Max Lager	Kay Schlessinger
Martha Goldstein	Lee Lauer	Jennie Schlossberg

Yahrzeits continued

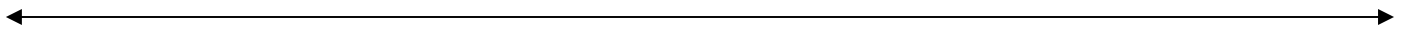
Minnie Schwartz
Harry S. Schwarz
Sarah Schwebel
David Sebo
Mary Loveman Shaw
Nesya Shpaner
Mollie E. Siegel
Ruth M. Siegel
Morry Sigman
David W. Silberberg
Bertha Simon
Sanford Smylie

Dorothy Spevak
Askol Steigman
Hermina Sternfeld
Morris Stoller
Gertrude Sunshine
Mary Sutton
Lillian Task
Joseph Tucker
Joseph H. Vogel
Jean Wald
Florence B. Wasserman
Hyman Weinberg
Max Weinberg
Frieda Weiner

Bertha Weisman
Beatrice Weissman
Ben Weltman
Clara Isabell Whalley
Nathan Wiederhorn
Sanford J. Wine
Celia Woldman
Nathan Woronkoff
Marian Yalowitz
Abraham Yomtovian
Roy Zamsky
Ethel Zamsky
Golda Zeit
Lillian Zimmerman
Fred Zubrinsky

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.



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.



**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.

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 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 hmiller@ttti.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; USY Kinnus Pittsburgh

6:00 pm Service; Anniversary Shabbat

Saturday, March 17 - Rosh Hodesh Nisan; USY Kinnus Pittsburgh

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

10:30 am Passover Extravaganza

Sunday, March 18 - USY Kinnus Pittsburgh

9:00 am Men's Club Breakfast & Adventure Road

9:30 am Chesed @Kosher Food Pantry

1:45 pm Jr. Kadima/Kadima @Whirlyball

4:00 pm Sisterhood/Young Families *Ratatouille* Dinner & Program

8:00 pm Fuchs Mizrachi Spring Gala w/Maccabeats

Monday, March 19

7:00 pm Mohammed Al Samawi, *To Save the World: A Harrowing Escape, an Unexpected Hero and the Power of Friendship*, Fairmount Temple, Free, co-sponsored by AJC; RSVP requested

7:00 pm Tribe Talk with Debbie Hoffman, CWRU @Siegal Lifelong Learning, call 216.368.2091

Friday, March 23

6:00 pm Service

Spring Break: No School March 21 - April 9

D'var Torah: A Woman's Gifts

Rabbi Joel Levy, Rosh Yeshiva, Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem

This double parasha, which describes the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness, mentions various contributions made specifically by the Israelite women. The first is found in Exodus 35:25-26: "...every woman wise of mind with their hands they spun ... the goats'-hair." By way of the ancient and time consuming activity of hand-spinning - twisting fibres together to produce thread - they played an essential role in the manufacture of the cloth that hung on the tabernacle walls and adorned its holy vessels. A second contribution, this time of goods rather than services, is mentioned in Exodus 38:8:

What should we make of this contribution? How does it compare to the time-consuming labor of hand-spinning thread? Beyond giving Betzalel the raw material needed to make the tabernacle's bronze basin, is there significance to the contribution being mirrors?

Two medieval commentators, Rashi and Ibn Ezra, come to answer these questions. Incorporating a midrash in his commentary, Rashi writes that Moses was initially angry when he saw the offering of mirrors and wanted to reject them. Moses associated the mirrors with the "Yetzer HaRa" - the lustful Evil Inclination - because they are used by women to beautify themselves and arouse their partners. But God told Moses to think again - to consider the mirrors an extra special gift because they had been used by the Israelite women in Egypt to entice their partners, weary from long days of back-breaking slave labor. According to Rashi, the mirrors should be seen not as tools of vanity, but as objects made holy by their role in ensuring Jewish survival. It may be a stretch, but one could also read Rashi, and this midrash, as affirming beauty and sexuality.

Ibn Ezra, however, takes a different approach. He writes that the donation of the mirrors signaled a new breed of women - women no longer interested in playing upon their appearance to become wives and mothers. This "women's collective" came regularly to the Tent of Meeting to pray and hear words of Torah; the new spiritual life offered by the Tabernacle enabled such women to find meaning outside the traditional roles assigned to them by society. So giving up a mirror is more properly read as a symbolic gesture indicating a rejection of beauty and sexuality.

This rich and timely argument speaks to a deep tension within Judaism and religion in general. Our society encourages young and old alike, either implicitly or explicitly, to care about how they look - often at the expense of more significant and meaningful accomplishment. Synagogues spend precious resources for interior decorators to come beautify the spaces in which we learn and pray, leaving less to spend on the learning and praying activities themselves!

For Rashi, aesthetics and being "turned on by what we see" are necessary and even holy when harnessed to ensure continuity. For Ibn Ezra, scruffiness is next to godliness because there are simply more interesting and important things to think about than how things look. Are we striking the right balance?

For Discussion: Should physical beauty, and the efforts to enhance it, be celebrated or transcended? And more generally, should Judaism accept, leverage, and even valorise social norms, or should it seek to subvert them?

Parashat Vayakhel & Pekudei Self-Study
Vered Hollander-Goldfarb, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty

We have reached the point of action. After receiving lengthy instructions for building the Mishkan (Tabernacle), it is finally happening. Note that this is a double Parasha and it brings us to the end of the book of Shmot (Exodus). This Shabbat is also Shabbat Parah (before Rosh Chodesh Nisan.)

1) The Parasha opens (35:1-3) with Moshe gathering all of the People of Israel to tell them about Shabbat. Why do think that it is important that all the people hear the instructions regarding Shabbat?

2) Moshe gives the instructions for all that is to be donated and all that is to be made for the Mishkan to all the people of Israel (35:4-20). What might this setting tell us about the place of the people in the process?

3) The involvement of women in the making of the Mishkan is noticeable. What was the special art that the women donated to the Mishkan (35:25-26)? What does the Torah call a person who is talented in an art?

4) The chief artist/architect who built the Mishkan was Betzalel. He made everything that God commanded (38:22-23). With him was Oholiav for whom more specific skills are listed. What do you think might have been the relationship between them in their work?

5) The Mishkan is put up on the first day of the first month, Nissan, which is starting this week (40:1-2). How long passed since the people left Egypt? In what ways do you think that the Mishkan reflects what has happened to the people?

At The Crossroads: Jewish Law for Our Time

Weekly Lunch & Learn

Commerce Park IV (corner of Chagrin and Green) Room 130

Thursdays • 12:10 - 1 pm

Bring a brown bag lunch and join Rabbi Weiss or Rabbi Rudin-Luria for a lively study of Talmud and Responsa (Jewish Law) examining what Judaism has to say about contemporary issues. Topics covered include personal, business, legal and medical ethics as well as areas of Jewish belief and ritual. Each session is complete in itself. To be on the group's mailing list, please contact David Shifrin (semaninc@ameritech.net).

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