



## Ki Sisa / Parah

17 b'Adar 5780 • Friday, March 13, 2020

### Shabbos

Candle Lighting ..... **earliest:** 6:29 PM  
20 min: **7:23 PM**

**Mincha / Kab. Shabbos** ..... **7:25 PM**

Chumash..... 8:40 AM  
Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Crystal

**Shacharis**..... **9:00 AM**

Last Shema (Gr"i) .....10:00 AM

PJL..... **OFF**

Pre-Mincha Shiur ..... **after Mincha**  
Rabbi Alt

**Mincha** ..... **7:15 PM**

Sunset..... **7:44 PM**

Shabbos ends (40 min.)..... **8:24 PM**

### The Week of March 15

	SUN	M-F
Daf Yomi.....	7:00 AM.....	6:00 AM
Shacharis.....	8:00 AM.....	6:35 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv <b>plag!</b> .....		6:15 PM

### Classes / Activities

**Mishnayos: Mesechta Shabbos**  
after Ma'ariv

**Intro to Midrash (Shir haShirim)**  
Sundays..... 8:45–9:45 AM

**Hebrew Reading Sundays** .....10 AM

**Torat Eretz Yisrael Mondays**..... 1–2 PM

**Understanding G-d's World**  
Mondays **now at GMS**.... 8–8:40 PM

**Pasuk 2 P'sak in the Board Room**  
Mondays..... 9–9:45 PM

**Tanach Tuesdays (M/W)**  
I Kings 13..... 7:30–8:30 PM

**Tuesdays in the Board Room:**  
**Hands-On Halacha** ..... 8:20–9 PM

**Beginners' Talmud** ..... 9–9:40 PM

**Kiddush, Shalosh Se'udos, and Youth Groups are cancelled.**  
May Hashem accept both our *tefillos* and our *hishtad'lus*—  
our prayers and the practical steps we're taking—and protect all of us!

### Sponsorships

**Shabbos Bulletin** is sponsored by Rabbi Stuart & Karen Lavenda,  
in memory of their son Yehuda Meir, whose *yahrzeit* is next week.

### Shul Announcements

**Pre-Mincha Shiur: Rescheduled.** Please eat Shalosh Se'udos at home, before Mincha.  
The afternoon shiur will be between Mincha and Maariv, not before Mincha. Rabbi Alt will speak.

**Shabbos Haggadol meals**, Friday night and Shabbos day—reserve yours at [bookwhen.com/gms](http://bookwhen.com/gms):  
One meal only (either meal): \$15/adult (13+), \$10/child (2–12). Both meals: \$25/adult, \$18/child.  
Family max (GMS members only): \$70 per meal, \$120 for both.

**Cleaning With Meaning:** Add meaning to your Pesach cleaning  
with a special shiur for women by Rabbi Alt—  
Sunday night, March 22, 7:45 PM; location TBA.

**Website:** Check out our new look! [golfmanorsynagogue.org](http://golfmanorsynagogue.org)

### In the Community

**Mazal tov** to Mr. & Mrs. Zev Herzog, on Zev's promotion to Assistant  
Professor of violin at NKU.

**Pirchei and B'nos** this week: **OFF**

**Women's Shovavim shalom bayis shiur** on March 18: **Cancelled.**

**Community blood drive: Cancelled.** To donate blood as an individual,  
call Hoxworth at 451-0910 or visit <https://hoxworth.org>.

### Refuah Sh'laima

Bracha Leah  
bas Rochel Mushka  
(Barbara Nagler)

Eitan Chaim ben Elisheva  
(Ethan Kadish)

Gavriel ben Peshah  
(Gary Walsh)

Chana Rivka bas Ethel  
(Juanita Weiss)

Nesanel ben Chaya Rochel

Tzvi Michael ben Leah  
(Hirsch Wise)

Chaim Dovid Ephraim  
ben Chana

Daisy bas Lulu  
(Mrs. Daisy Kattan)

Z'ev Shmuel  
ben Malkah Rochel

Reuven ben Malkah

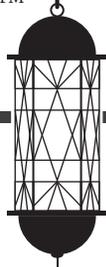
Simcha Leib haLevi  
ben Devorah

Doba bas Sarah Freidel

Tinok ben Elka Miriam

Gershon Avram  
ben Kayla Taiba  
(Jeff Karas)

Esther Hitzel bas Gittel  
(Esther Deutch)



# V'Dibartah Bam

## United in Isolation

THIS WEEK'S PARSHA BEGINS WITH THE MITZVAH of *machatzis hashekel*, in which a half of a silver shekel coin was collected from every man of twenty years and older. The silver was then melted down to produce the *adanim*, the silver sockets that formed the foundation of the Mishkan, into which the wall-planks were inserted.

The silver half-shekels were not only collected to create the sockets for the Mishkan, they were also collected as part of a census. Unlike the conventional method of simply counting heads, Hashem commanded Moshe (Shemos 30:12) to collect the half-shekel, "So that there will not be a plague among them when counting them." Rashi explains that counting them would place an *ayin hara*, an evil eye, on them, which would bring about a plague.

Why should counting bring about an *ayin hara*? Whoever was performing the census would certainly not be thinking ill of the people being counted!

This Rashi reveals the true meaning of an *ayin hara*: The power of an evil eye is that it singles someone out, causing him to receive extra Divine scrutiny. No person can stand on their own merits; who can say they have never sinned? It is the collective merit of the Jewish People that protects every one of us. Counting each individual would single him out, which could lead to tragic results.

Hashem therefore commanded a half-shekel collection instead. A half-shekel represents the exact opposite—the unity of K'lal Yisroel. Everyone gives a half-shekel, not a whole shekel, because not one of us is complete without the other. Even wealthy people may not give more for this collection, because we are all equals.

The power of unity manifest in the half-shekel protects us from plague, and it allows Hashem's Divine Presence to dwell among us. That is why the half-shekels were used to forge the sockets of the Mishkan, the very foundation of Hashem's resting place.

The Purim story, which we just read this past week, also teaches us this lesson. When Haman approached Achashveirosh to request issue of his evil decree to de-

stroy the Jewish people, he described the Jewish people in a slanderous way: "...Scattered and dispersed." Why did Haman choose this one description? Haman understood that we are only strong when we are united; if we are scattered and dispersed, we become dispensable. When Esther agreed to approach Achashveirosh to beg him to spare the Jewish people, she commanded Mordechai, "Go assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and fast for me." Esther understood that only if the Jews were assembled, if they were fasting and praying together, would their prayers be answered.

This message made it into practice as well: For all future generations, we have a mitzvah to give *mishlo'ach manos*, food gifts to a friend, to increase our brotherly love on Purim.

When thinking about these *divrei Torah*, and reflecting on current events, it struck me that we are currently experiencing a plague—COVID-19 is spreading rapidly and threatening the lives of many. What I find to be even more striking is that *the only response to COVID-19 is isolation*. Those who are infected are put into quarantine for two weeks. High-risk communities are now encouraging community-wide isolation.

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The Rabbinic Council of Bergen County, New Jersey, for example, has closed all public gatherings, including minyanim and shiva houses.

This creates an extra challenge for us to stay connected and remain united through this time—to support those who are ill, and those who have relatives who are ill; to call someone who may feel lonely and afraid; to keep our fellow Jews in the forefront of our thoughts and prayers. It is of utmost importance that we remain united and continue to help each other.

In the merit of our unity, may Hashem protect us from the *ayin hara* that can be created through isolation, and protect us from the 2020 plague of COVID-19. May Hashem answer our communal prayers, with complete healing for all those who are ill and an end to the spread of this dangerous virus. May Hashem accept our efforts as our half-shekel.

Good Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yosef Alt

Shabbos sponsorships  
(weekly)

Kiddush  
\$250 and up

Shalosh Se'udos  
\$150

Bulletin  
\$36

Youth Groups  
\$50

Many other sponsorships available!

Please contact  
Marilyn Horwitz,  
513-600-3684,  
or Shoshana Roodman,  
516-993-5654  
[breaddnspreads613@gmail.com](mailto:breaddnspreads613@gmail.com)