



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayechi

January 3, 2015 12 Tevet, 5775

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Vayechi

TORAH
ARTSCROLL, 268
HERTZ, 180

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL, 1145
HERTZ, 191

THURSDAY, JAN. 1ST
FAST OF 10TH OF TEVET
FAST BEGINS: 5:51 AM
SHACHARIT: 7:30/8:30AM
MINCHA: 4:15 PM
FAST ENDS: 5:16 PM

Times

Candle Lighting	4:20 pm
Friday Mincha	4:20 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Main Shul	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Youth Minyan	8:30 am
Shiur	3:45 pm
Mincha	4:15 pm
Shabbat Ends	5:29 pm
Sunday Dec., 28	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed. Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	4:30 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
January 3	9:40/10:27am
January 10	9:41/10:28am
Next Shabbat Shemot	
Candle Lighting	4:27 pm
Mincha	4:30 pm

Bereishit ends on a sublime note of reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers. His brothers were afraid that he had not really forgiven them for selling him into slavery. They suspected that he was merely delaying his revenge until their father died. So after Jacob's death they express their fear. Joseph however insisted: "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. (Gen. 50: 19-21)

This is the second time he had said something like this to them. Earlier he had spoken similarly when he first disclosed that he – the man they thought was an Egyptian viceroy called Zopenat Paneakh – was in fact their brother Joseph: "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not

be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God." (Gen. 45: 3-8)

This is a crucial moment in the history of faith. It marks the birth of forgiveness, the first recorded moment at which one person forgives another for a wrong they have done. But it also establishes another important principle: the idea of divine providence. History is not what Joseph Heller called it, "a trash bag of random coincidences blown open in the wind." It has a purpose, a point, a plot. God is at work behind the scenes. "There's a divinity that shapes our ends," says Hamlet, "rough-hew them how we will."

Joseph's greatness was that he sensed this. Nothing in his life, he now knew, had happened by accident. The plot to kill him, his sale as a slave, the false accusations of Potiphar's wife, his time in prison, and his disappointed hope that the chief butler would remember him and secure his release – all

these events that might have cast him into ever deeper depths of despair, turned out in retrospect to be necessary steps in the journey that eventuated in his becoming second-in-command in Egypt and the one person capable of saving the whole country – as well as his own family – from starving in the years of famine.

Joseph had in double measure one of the necessary gifts of a leader: the ability to keep going despite opposition, envy, false accusation and repeated setbacks. Every leader who stands for anything will face opposition. This may be a genuine conflict of interests. A leader elected to make society more equitable will almost certainly win the support of the poor and the antagonism of the rich. One elected to reduce the tax burden will do the opposite. It cannot be avoided. Politics without conflict is a contradiction in terms.

Any leader elected to anything, or more loved or gifted than others, will face envy. Rivals will say, "Why wasn't it me?" That is what Korach thought about Moses and Aaron. It is what the brothers thought about

KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY LILLIAN & GARY CHUBAK IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER BENJAMIN CHUBAK, Z"l, AND BY AMY & MARTIN GRIFFEL IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER MARION GRIFFEL, Z"l.

Joseph when they saw that their father loved him more than them. It is what Antonio Salieri thought about the more gifted Mozart according to Peter Shaffer's play Amadeus.

As for false accusations, they have occurred often enough in history. Joan of Arc was accused of heresy and burned at the stake. A quarter century later she was posthumously declared innocent by an official court of inquiry. More than twenty people were put to death as a result of the Salem witch trials in 1692-3. Years later, as their innocence began to be perceived, a priest present at the trials, John Hale, admitted, "Such was the darkness of that day ... that we walked in the clouds, and could not see our way." The most famous false accusation of modern times was the trial of Alfred Dreyfus, a French officer of Jewish descent accused of being a German spy. The affair rocked France during the years 1894 and 1906 before Dreyfus was finally acquitted.

Setbacks too are part of the life-story of the most successful. J. K. Rowling's initial Harry Potter novel was rejected by the first twelve publishers she sent it to. Another writer of a book about children suffered twenty-one rejections. The book was called "Lord of the Flies," and its author, William Golding, was eventually awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.

In his famous commencement address at Stanford University the late Steve Jobs told the story of the three blows of fate that shaped his life: dropping out of university, being fired from Apple, the company he founded, and being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Rather than being defeated by them, he turned them all to creative use.

For twenty-two years I lived close to Abbey Road, North London, where a famous pop group recorded all their hits. At their first audition, they performed for a record company who told them that guitar bands were "on their way out."

The verdict on their performance (in January 1962) was: "The Beatles have no future in show business." All this explains Winston Churchill's great remark that "success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."

It may be that what sustains people through repeated setbacks is belief in themselves, or sheer tenacity, or lack of alternatives. What sustained Joseph, though, was his insight into Divine providence. A plan was unfolding whose end he could only dimly discern, but at some stage he seems to have realized that he was one of the characters in a far larger drama and that all the bad things that had happened to him were necessary if the intended outcome was to occur. As he said to his brothers, "It was not you who sent me here, but God."

This willingness to let events work themselves out in accordance with providence, this understanding that we are at best no more than co-authors of our lives, allowed Joseph to survive without resentment about the past or despair in the face of the future. Trust in God gave him immense strength, which is what we will need if we are to dare greatly. Whatever malice other people harbor against us – and the more successful you are, the more malice there is – if we can say, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good," we will survive, our strength intact, our energy undiminished.



GNS Yoetzet Halacha Dena Block welcomes your questions about mikvah, observance of taharat mishpacha (halacha relating to married life) and women's health, as it connects to Jewish law. Reach out to her at:
 Phone: (516) 320-9818
 Email: gnsyoetzet@gmail.com All conversations/ emails are strictly confidential.



Great Neck Synagogue
 Shabbat Activities Program
 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023
 516-487-6100

- Dale Polakoff, Rabbi
- Ian Lichter, Assistant Rabbi
- Dr. Ephraim Wolf, z"l, Rabbi Emeritus
- Zeev Kron, Cantor
- Eleazer Schulman, z"l, Cantor Emeritus
- Rabbi Sholom Jensen, Youth Director
- Zehava & Dr. Michael Atlas, Youth Directors
- Mark Twersky, Executive Director
- James Frisch, Assistant Director
- Rabbi Avraham Bronstein, Program Director
- Ari Lipsky, Rabbinic Intern
- Dr. Hal Chadow, President
- Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
- Dena Block, Yoetzet Halacha 516-320-9818

Great Neck Synagogue congratulates all participants of the **CHOLENT COMPETITION**.

The hallways of GNS on Thursday night and Friday morning were filled with the scent of many different recipes of cholent.

Based on your votes, the winner was...

ELIE COHEN and his cholent, **GAME OF BONES**.

We thank all of the chefs:

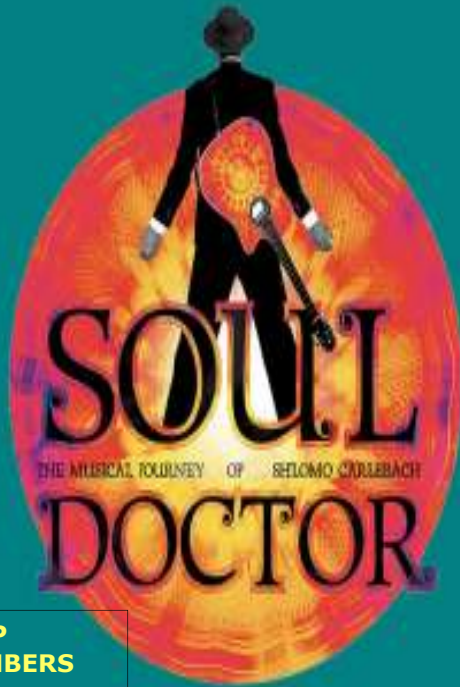
Isaac Aryeh, Elie Cohen, Lynn Glasman, Sharon Goldwyn & Daniella Muller, Cindy Hodkin, Rabbi Jensen & Erran Kagan.

We additionally thank all of you, the tasters, who put their lives on the line for this Shabbos cuisine. If you think you can cook a better cholent, we look forward to tasting yours next year.



**GNS
MEN'S
CLUB**

Thursday
Evening
January 15
Tickets \$60
See
Steve Blummer
Or
Hilly Milun



**\$55 FOR PAID UP
MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS**



MOVIE NIGHT

Great Neck Synagogue
presents on
Saturday night February 7th

7:30 pm

**A Spy Shaped by Manipulation
and Shame
'The Green Prince,'
About a Hamas Son
Recruited by Israel**

**MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS
LEARN TO SHOOT
LIKE WILLIAM TELL**

**Sunday Feb. 8th
4-6 pm**

CRR Archery
11 Commercial Street
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-933-2697

Ages 8 & up

PIZZA & SUSHI

Cost \$40 pp
Advance purchase only
(only 40 spots available)
Prize for high score!

Contact:
• Hilly Milun 504-0320
• Mark Friedman 384-5491
or mfriedman@aol.com
• GNS office



Shabbat Speaker Series
January 30, 2015

Dr. Bernd
Wollschlaeger
Int'l. Holocaust
Remembrance Day



**Friday Night Dinner
Reservations**

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Adults _____ at \$36

Teens _____ at \$25

Children under 12 _____ at \$15

\$125 FAMILY MAX

Amount enclosed _____

Credit card # _____

exp date _____

You can reserve online at gns.org

Or call the shul office 487-6100

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5775, IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF PINCHAS BEN YOSEPH FOR OTHER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD WOLF [212-686-9800](tel:212-686-9800) EXT 220

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast is sponsored by the Family of **Sam Levitt** in honor of his 90th birthday.

RABBI POLAKOFF-OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Rabbi Polakoff will have open office hours each week on Tuesday from 10am - noon and on Thursday from 1:00pm - 3:30 pm. Barring any emergencies, he will be in his office during these times so please feel free drop by to shmooze, discuss issues about GNS, share personal concerns or learn some Torah. He can be reached at other times through the synagogue office ([516-487-6100](tel:516-487-6100)), through his cell phone [516-637-3674](tel:516-637-3674) (call or text) or through email at rabbi@gns.org.

MEN'S CLUB

Thur. Jan 15, 7:00pm: The Men's Club invites you to join us to see "**SOUL DOCTOR**", the Broadway musical on the life of **Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach**. Discounted tickets are \$60 each (\$55 for paid-up Men's Club members) for front orchestra seats. Car-pool can be arranged, if required. To reserve seats please contact Steven Blumner 639-8941, Hilly Milun 504-0320 or the Shul office.

Sat Feb 21, 8:00 - 11:30 PM

Announcing The Men's Club First **Tennis Extravaganza**. Tennis, Food and Good Friends, Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles. Please let us know if you are a Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced. \$50 per Couple for Food, \$75 per Couple for Food & Tennis Come to Play, Socialize and Eat or Just Socialize & Eat. For info: Jack Lipsky (516) 384-1482, jlipsky.lipsk01@insuremail.net.

THANK YOU GNS TOYS & GAMES COLLECTION

Thank you to Rabbi Ian & Katie Lichter for their help with the toys and games collection for Chai Life Line.

THE JANUARY CHESED COLLECTION

January will be a collection of sweaters for men ,women and children. The sweaters will be given to Oneg Shabbos. Please make sure that the sweaters are either new or in good condition. Please call Judy Lillien for further information [516 487 6845](tel:516-487-6845)

SOLICITING NOMINEES

We are currently soliciting nominees to be considered for the **David and Ellie Werber Chesed Award**. This is an award presented to a child/teenager from our community who performs chesed in a notable way. Please email Mark Twersky mtwersky@gns.org with the name of your nominee and a brief description of why you think he or she is deserving of this award. All nominees will be considered by the committee, and are confidential.

E-MAIL INFORMATION

To be put on the shul's e-mail list please send your e-mail address to mtwersky@gns.org. There are many important notices and reminders that are sent only this way.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to **Irene & Paul Marcus** on the upcoming wedding of their daughter **Gabriela** to **Jonathan Benjamin Schwartz** of Los Angeles, Ca.
Mazal Tov to **Susan & Jim Frisch** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter **Penelope** daughter of **Lara & Gregory Rhine** in Efrat, Israel.
Mazal Tov to **Bracha & Cantor Kron** on the birth of a granddaughter **Sarah** born to their children **Rivi & Moshe Moskovitz** in Lakewood, NY.
Mazal Tov to the Rabbi's secretary **Susan & Morris Altintas** on the birth of a granddaughter **Avigael** born to their children **Stella & Joseph Altintas**.

COMMUNITY NEWS

EIRUV ASSOCIATION

Our yearly fundraising for the Great Neck Eiruv will be in January. We depend on your generosity to maintain our Eiruv. The minimum suggested donation will remain at \$180.00, though, if you are able, a larger donation would be GREATLY appreciated. If you would like to make your fully tax deductible charitable donation before year end, you may do so by either: Mailing a check to the GN Eiruv Association P.O. Box 234243 Great Neck, NY 11023 Donating on line at: <http://greatneckeiruv.org/donate> Thanking you in advance for your support of our Eiruv. GN Eiruv Association

FOUND

Brown & black triangle paisley neck scarf.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 12 Tevet

Martin Griffel for Marion Griffel
Edwin J. Rosman for Romy Rosman
Marvin Rotman for Herman Zelman Rotman

Sunday, 13 Tevet

Milton Mitzner for Gitl Mitzner
Israel Slochowsky for Miriam Slochowsky

Monday, 14 Tevet

Judy Blatter for Raymonde Katz
Sadie Frank for Meyer Leshkowitz
Helen Ishofsky for Willie Herskovits
Henry Katz for Raymonde Katz
Michael Katz for Raymonde Katz
Murray Weiss for Harry Weiss
William Wolff for Bernard Wolff

Tuesday, 15 Tevet

Shoshanah Ambalo for Sarah Raphael
Leon Fuks for Emanuel Fuks
Jerome Lippman for Max Lippman
Goldie Lorber for Ethel Winter
Kenneth S. Magida for Jacob Magida
Ellen Polakoff for Casper Pinsker

Wednesday, 16 Tevet

Gary Chubak for Benjamin Chubak
Ronald Malen for Eli Malen
Dorothy Reiser for Theodore Cohen
Henry Schwartz for Max Schwartz
Mitchell J. Siegel for Morris Turner

Thursday, 17 Tevet

Norman Fisher for Molly Fisher
Sigmund Horowitz for Liba Horowitz
Ester Noy for Rachel Nir
Daniel Oster for Joseph Abraham Oster
Cheryl Sperber for Isaac Forst
Annabelle Zackheim for Harold Osman

Friday, 18 Tevet

Mahin Aryeh for Malka Aryeh
Michelle Berman for Naomi Kahn
Trudy Jettelson for Lena Sirota
Leslie Kahn for Naomi Kahn