



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Va'era

January 17, 2015 26 Tevet, 5775

TORAH
ARTSCROLL, 318
HERTZ, 232

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL, 1149
HERTZ, 244

ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT
MOLAD: TUES JAN. 20
11:15:01 AM
WEDNESDAY

Rabbi Sacks on Parshat Va'era

At first, Moses' mission seemed to be successful. He had feared that the people would not believe in him, but God had given him signs to perform, and his brother Aaron to speak on his behalf. Moses "performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped." (Ex. 4: 30-31?) But then things start to go wrong, and continue going wrong. Moses' first appearance before Pharaoh is disastrous. Pharaoh refuses to recognize God. He rejects Moses' request to let the people travel into the wilderness. He makes life worse for the Israelites. They must still make the same quota of bricks, but now they must also gather their own straw. The people turn against Moses and Aaron: "May the Lord look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us" (Ex. 5: 21). Moses and Aaron return to Pharaoh to renew their request. They perform a sign – they turn a staff into a snake – but Pharaoh is unimpressed. His own magicians can do likewise. Next they bring

the first of the plagues, but again Pharaoh is unmoved. He will not let the Israelites go. And so it goes, nine times. Moses does everything in his power and finds that nothing makes a difference. The Israelites are still slaves.

We sense the pressure Moses is under. After his first setback, at the end of last week's parsha, he turns to God and bitterly complains: "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all" (Ex. 5: 22-23). In this week's parsha, even though God has reassured him that he will eventually succeed, he replies, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?" (Ex. 6: 12). There is an enduring message here. Leadership, even of the very highest order, is often marked by failure. The first Impressionists had to arrange their own exhibition because their work was rejected by the Paris salons. The first performance of Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring caused a riot, with the audience booing throughout. Van Gogh sold only one painting in his lifetime despite the fact that his brother Theo was an art dealer. So it is with leaders. Lincoln faced countless setbacks during the civil war. He was a deeply divisive figure, hated by many in his lifetime. Gandhi failed in his dream of uniting Muslims and

Hindus together in a single nation. Nelson Mandela spent twenty-seven years in prison, accused of treason and regarded as a violent agitator. Churchill was regarded as a spent force in politics by the 1930s, and even after his heroic leadership during the Second World War was voted out of office at the first General Election after the war was over. Only in retrospect do heroes seem heroic and the many setbacks they faced reveal themselves as stepping stones on the road to victory.

In every field, high, low, sacred or secular, leaders are tested not by their successes but by their failures. It can sometimes be easy to succeed. The conditions may be favorable. The economic, political or personal climate is good. When there is an economic boom, most businesses flourish. In the first months after a general election, the successful leader carries, with him or her, the charisma of victory. In the first year, most marriages are happy. It takes no special skill to succeed in good times. But then the climate changes. Eventually it always does. That is when many businesses, and politicians, and marriages fail. There are times when even the greatest people stumble. At such moments, character is tested. The great human beings are not those who never fail. They are those who survive

Times

Candle Lighting	4:34 pm
Friday Mincha	4:35 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	4:30 pm
Shabbat Ends	5:44 pm
Sunday Jan., 18	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Wednesday	6:30/7:45 am
Tues., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	4:45 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
January 17	9:40/10:27am
January 24	9:40/10:29am
Next Shabbat Bo	
Candle Lighting	4:43 pm
Mincha	4:45 pm

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 AND HER MOTHER
 CELESTE WEBER A"H
 AND BY ANONYMOUS**

failure, who keep on going, who refuse to be defeated, who never give up or give in. They keep trying. They learn from every mistake. They treat failure as a learning experience. And from every refusal to be defeated, they become stronger, wiser and more determined. That is the story of Moses' life in last week's parsha and in this.

Jim Collins, one of the great writers on leadership, puts it well: The signature of the truly great versus the merely successful is not the absence of difficulty, but the ability to come back from setbacks, even cataclysmic catastrophes, stronger than before ... The path out of darkness begins with those exasperatingly persistent individuals who are constitutionally incapable of capitulation. It's one thing to suffer a staggering defeat... and entirely another to give up on the values and aspirations that make the protracted struggle worthwhile. Failure is not so much a physical state as a state of mind; success is falling down, and getting up one more time, without end.

Rabbi Yitzhak Hutner once wrote a powerful letter to a disciple who had become discouraged by his repeated failure to master Talmudic learning: A failing many of us suffer is that when we focus on the high attainments of great people, we discuss how they are complete in this or that area, while omitting mention of the inner struggles that had previously raged within them. A listener would get the impression that these individuals sprang from the hand of their creator in a state of perfection . . . The result of this feeling is that when an ambitious young man of spirit and enthusiasm meets obstacles, falls and slumps, he imagines himself as unworthy of being "planted in the house of God" . . . Know, however, my dear friend, that your soul is rooted not in the tranquility of the good inclination, but in the battle of the good inclination . . . The English expression, "Lose a battle and win the war," applies. Certainly you have stumbled and will stumble again, and in many battles you will fall lame. I promise you, though, that after those losing campaigns you will emerge from the war with laurels of victory on your head . . . The wisest of men said, "A righteous man falls seven times, but rises again" (Proverbs 24:16). Fools believe the intent of the verse is to teach us that the righteous man falls seven times

and, despite this, he rises. But the knowledgeable are aware that the essence of the righteous man's rising again is because of his seven falls.

Rabbi Hutner's point is that greatness cannot be achieved without failure. There are heights you cannot climb without first having fallen. For many years, I kept on my desk a quote from Calvin Coolidge, sent by a friend who knew how easy it is to be discouraged. It said, "Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." I would only add, "And seyata diShmaya, the help of Heaven." God never loses faith in us even if we sometimes lose faith in ourselves.

The supreme role model is Moses who, despite all the setbacks chronicled in last week's parsha and this, eventually became the man of whom it was said that he was "a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were undimmed and his energy unabated" (Deut. 34: 7). Defeats, delays and disappointments hurt. They hurt even for Moses. So if there are times when we too feel discouraged and demoralized, it is important to remember that even the greatest people failed. What made them great is that they kept going. The road to success passes through many valleys of failure. There is no other way.

Did you know the difference between men's mikvah use and women's mikvah use?

While some men have the custom to immerse before Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, or every week before Shabbat, or some even every day before davening, because we don't have Temple service today, and therefore men do not need to be in a state of ritual purity, these dunks are customary in nature and not obligatory. Therefore, men do not need to do any preparations before immersion to remove potential barriers that could invalidate their immersion.

For women however, in order for their immersion to successfully reverse their niddah status (a state of ritual impurity), their immersion must be in accordance with the strict laws of immersion and not have any barriers. Therefore, women must prepare for mikvah immersion by bathing and grooming.



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



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
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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

HISTORY. HALACHA & HASHKAFIA SERIES:

Please join us for our bi-monthly series following Kiddush on Shabbat mornings in the Beit Medrash from 12:15-12:45 pm. This month's focus will be on the Impact of the Rabbis on Shabbat.

This Shabbat Parshat Va'era Jan. 17th Rabbi Lichter: Mechanics of Muktzah



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**

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Great Neck Synagogue
January Chesed Project

We are collecting only
NEW or GENTLY USED
sweaters for men, women and children.

Drop off will be at Hindi Lunzer's
91 Bayview Ave(side porch only)
516 829 4034

Or

Judy Lillien
35 Margaret Court
516 487 6845

You can drop off through January 26.
These sweaters will be going to Oneg Shabbos



MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS



LEARN TO SHOOT LIKE WILLIAM TELL

SUNDAY FEBUARY 8TH / 4-6 PM / AGES 8 AND UP

C & B ARCHERY
11 COMMERCIAL STREET
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801 / 516 933 2697

ARCHERY / PIZZA & SUSHI
COST \$40 PP
ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY /
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PRIZE FOR HIGH SCORE

CONTACT

HILLY MILUN 504 0320/ GNS OFFICE
MARK FRIEDMAN 384 5491 MFriedman@aol.com

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 30

**GNS SHABBAT DINNER
& GUEST SPEAKERS SERIES**

*International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Commemorating the 70th Anniversary
of the liberation of Auschwitz*

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger



*His Father Was A Nazi Tank Commander,
awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler himself*

*He emigrated to Israel, converted to Judaism,
and served in the IDF as a medical officer.*

Don't miss his remarkable story.

Copies of Dr. Wollschlaeger's "A German Life:
Against All Odds Change is Possible" are available
for pre-order from the synagogue office and will be
signed following Shabbat.

RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED BY:
Tuesday,
January 27

\$30/PERSON
\$25/TEEN
\$15/CHILD
\$125 FAMILY MAX

SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE
Contact the
Synagogue Office

RSVP: 516.487.6100
mhworsky@gns.org
www.gns.org



26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

**Friday Night Dinner
Reservations**

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Adults _____ at \$36

Teens _____ at \$25

Children under12 _____ 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

HASHKAMA MINYAN

Kiddush is sponsored by **Robin & Jeroen Bours** in memory of her mother **Teddy Lynn Siegel**.

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

SUN. FEB. 8th ARCHERY: See page three for details.

SAT FEB. 21, 8:00 - 11:30 PM

Announcing jointly run by Men's Club and Sisterhood, additional sponsor Yonni Mrejen, 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. Come to Play. Prices for Couples, \$75 for Food & Tennis, \$50 for Food. Prices for Singles, \$37.50 for Food & Tennis, \$25 for Food. Play and Eat or Just Socialize & Eat. For info: Jack Lipsky (516) 384-1482 jblrefl@aol.com.

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 drop off donations at the home of **Hindi Lunzer, 91 Bayview Ave.** (side porch only) or at home of **Judy Lillien, 35 Margaret Court, until Jan. 26th.**

YOETZET HALACHA EVENT

"The Mitzvah of Intimacy: Behind the Scenes of Jewish Marriage, Part II"? This Fireside Chat with Yoetzet Halacha Dena Block and Rabbi Dale Polakoff will address common challenges that couples face regarding physical intimacy and give women tools to better communicate about these issues." February 3rd at the home of Karen Hammerman, 2 North Clover Drive at 8 pm.

PESACH SCOPE DEADLINE

Please submit all articles, advertisements, photos, recipes, sponsorships and any other matters of interest for our membership for the upcoming Pesach issue of SCOPE magazine to **Diane Rein** at drein@verizon.net. The deadline for all submissions is **Monday, January 26th** thank you so much!

SECURITY

In an effort to improve security in accessing our building, the code to enter the building has been changed effective 1/13/15. To obtain the new code, please email jfrisch@gns.org. There are a limited number of key fobs available (no need to enter a code if you have a key fob). \$25 to obtain a key fob. Contact Jim Frisch.

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.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to Lori & Ira Rosenfeld on the marriage of their daughter **Dena** to **Daniel Fromm**.

Mazal Tov to Adam & Stacey Rapp on the birth of a daughter.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NSHA DIAMOND JUBILEE JOURNAL DINNER TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH

Celebrating 60 years of excellence in education, honoring, **Daniel and Marcy Aharon & Jonathan and Stefanie Hazghyian**. There will be a memorial tribute to its Honorary Dean and First Principal, **Rabbi Dr. Ephraim & Rebbetzin Elaine Wolf**, its long time former Dean of Students, **Rabbi Nathan Horowitz** and its long time former Dean of Students, **Rabbi Aron Sternberg, z"l**, who were not only instrumental in making NSHA, the vitally important institution that serves our community families but who also had such a profound and positive life changing influence on so many in our community. Those wishing to help on the tribute, please contact **Glenn Zuckerman** or **Laura Cohen**. They are asking the parent body, many of whom are alumni, for any old photos that they have of Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wolf, Rabbi Horowitz or Rabbi Sternberg from their yearbooks, old journals or personal photos of the school that will help in the video tribute chaired by **Sharon Goldwyn, Judy Blatter and Debbie Hollander**. Please submit these photos to Arnie Flatow at the NSHA Office ASAP and put your info on the back so they can be returned afterwards. For further info, to place an ad and/or to make a reservation, please contact **Arnie Flatow** at aflatow@nsha.org or call the Business office at **487-8687 x2**.

LOST

Brown long fur scarf. Please return to shul office.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 26 Tevet

Seymour Cooper for Miriam Cooper
Myrna Horowitz for Herman Tempelman
Sonia Mauthner for Felix Epstein
Ruth Shalit-Apelbaum for Meir Shevili

Sunday, 27 Tevet

Sydelle Knepper for Michael Marin
Al Leiderman for Ralph Dobrow
Tina Machnikoff for William Machnikoff
Ira Rosenberg for Abraham Rosenberg

Monday, 28 Tevet

Mel Fox for Sally Fox
Amy Fox Griffel for Sally Fox
Thelma Kattan for Naim Ben Harun
Mindy Leventhal for Edward Scheinkman
Susan Mandelbaum for Irvin Justin

Tuesday, 29 Tevet

Anne Gold for Murray Gold
Gedale Horowitz for Barbara Horowitz
Gladys Moslin for Paul Moslin
Sandy Nissenbaum for Saul Nissenbaum
Osnass Shein for Bessie Miller
Arnold Swartz for Robert Swartz
Jill Swartz for Enid J. Lee
George Zobel for Hillel Zobel

Wednesday, 1 Shevat

Jonathan Brisman for Joan Brisman
Michael Brisman for Joan Brisman
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Shmuel Gabbazadeh
Myles Mittleman for Jack Mittleman
Eli Moradi for Jahan bat Bibijan
Anne Sandler for Harry Usher

Thursday, 2 Shevat

Linda Horowitz for Arthur Kagan
Liza Novogrudsky for Helen Young
Ehsan Reyhanian for Aharon Reyhanian
Chava Shalmon for Sh'maye Grinszpan

Friday, 3 Shevat

Ronnie Davidowitz for Melvyn Goldman