



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Terumah

February 21, 2015 2 Adar, 5775

TORAH ARTSCROLL, 444 HERTZ, 326		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Terumah		
MAFTIR ARTSCROLL, 1157 HERTZ, 336		<p>The sequence of parshiyot, Terumah, Tetzaveh, Ki Tissa, Vayakhel and Pekudei, is puzzling in many ways. First, it outlines the construction of the Tabernacle, the portable house of worship the Israelites built and carried with them through the desert, in exhaustive and exhausting detail. The narrative takes almost the whole of the last third of the book of Exodus. Why so long? Why such detail? The Tabernacle was, after all, only a temporary home for the Divine presence, eventually superseded by the Temple in Jerusalem. Besides which, why is the making of the Mishkan in the book of Exodus at all? Its natural place seems to be in the book of Vayikra, Leviticus, which is overwhelmingly devoted to an account of the service of the Mishkan and the sacrifices that were offered there. The book of Exodus, by contrast, could be subtitled, "the birth of a nation." It is about the transition of the Israelites from a family to a people and their journey from slavery to freedom. It rises to a climax with the covenant made between God and the people at Mount Sinai. What has the</p>	<p>Tabernacle to do with this? It seems an odd way to end the book. The answer, it seems to me, is profound. First, recall the history of the Israelites until now. It has been a long series of complaints. They complained when the first intervention of Moses made their situation worse. Then, at the Red Sea, they said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" (Ex. 14: 11-12). After crossing the sea they continued to complain, first about the lack of water, then that the water was bitter, then at the lack of food, then about the lack of water again. Then, within weeks of the revelation at Sinai – the only time in history God appeared to an entire nation – they made a golden calf. If an unprecedented sequence of miracles cannot bring about a mature response on the part of the people, what will?</p>	<p>order them to stop. A remarkable proposition is being framed: It is not what God does for us that transforms us. It is what we do for God. So long as every crisis was dealt with by Moses and miracles, the Israelites remained in a state of dependency. Their default response was complaint. For them to grow to adulthood and responsibility, there had to be a transition from passive recipients of God's blessings to active creators. The people had to become God's "partners in the work of creation." That, I believe, is what the sages meant when they said, "Call them not 'your children' but 'your builders.'" People have to become builders if they are to grow from childhood to adulthood.</p>
BAR MITZVAH SCOTT MAYER				
Times		KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY KIMBERLY & JASON MAYER IN HONOR OF THE BAR MITZVAH OF THEIR SON SCOTT.	BIMA FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY SUSAN MAYER, AND MYRNA & HARVEY GREEN, IN HONOR OF THE BAR MITZVAH OF THEIR GRANDSON SCOTT.	SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY DONNA & JOSEPH HECHT IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER DAVID GAD, Z"L.
Candle Lighting	5:17 pm			
Friday Mincha	5:20 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	4:15 pm			
Mincha	5:15 pm			
Shabbat Ends	6:26 pm			
Sunday Feb. 22	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon. Thur.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tues., Wed. Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Mincha	5:25 pm			

Jewish view of the human condition is that everything we achieve is due to our own efforts, but equally and essentially the result of God's blessing.

The building of the Tabernacle was the first great project the Israelites undertook together. It involved their generosity and skill. It gave them the chance to give back to God a little of what He had given them. It conferred on them the dignity of labor and creative endeavor. It brought to closure their birth as a nation and it symbolized the challenge of the future. The society they were summoned to create in the land of Israel would be one in which everyone would play their part. It was to become – in the phrase I used as the title of one of my books – “the home we build together.”

From this we see that one of the greatest challenges of leadership is to give people the chance to give, to contribute, to participate. That requires self-restraint, tzimtzum, on the part of the leader, creating the space for others to lead. As the saying goes: “When there is a good leader, the people say: The leader did it. When there is a great leader, the people say: We did it ourselves.”

This brings us to the fundamental distinction in politics between State and Society. The state represents what is done for us by the machinery of government, through the instrumentality of laws, courts, taxation and public spending. Society is what we do for one another through communities, voluntary associations, charities and welfare organizations. Judaism, I believe, has a marked preference for society rather than state, precisely because it recognizes – it is the central theme of the book of Exodus – that it is what we do for others, not what others or God does for us, that transforms us. The Jewish formula, I believe, is: small state, big society. The person who had the deepest insight into the nature of democratic society was Alexis de Tocqueville. Visiting America in the 1830s he saw that its strength lay in what he called the “art of association,” the tendency of Americans to come together in communities and voluntary groups to help one another, rather than leaving the task to a centralized government. Were it ever to be

otherwise, were individuals to depend wholly on the state, then democratic freedom would be at risk. In one of the most haunting passages of his masterwork, Democracy in America, he says that democracies are at risk of a completely new form of oppression for which there is no precedent in the past. It will happen, he says, when people exist solely in and for themselves, leaving the pursuit of the common good to the government. This would then be what life would be like: Above this race of men stands an immense and tutelary power, which takes upon itself alone to secure their gratifications and to watch over their fate. That power is absolute, minute, regular, provident and mild. It would be like the authority of a parent if, like that authority, its object was to prepare men for manhood; but it seeks, on the contrary, to keep them in perpetual childhood: it is well content that the people should rejoice, provided they think of nothing but rejoicing. For their happiness such a government willingly labors, but it chooses to be the sole agent and the only arbiter of that happiness; it provides for their security, foresees and supplies their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry, regulates the descent of property, and subdivides their inheritances: what remains, but to spare them all the care of thinking and all the trouble of living?

Tocqueville wrote these words in the 1830s, and there is a risk that this is what some European societies are becoming like today: all state, no society; all government, little or no community. Tocqueville was not a religious writer. He makes no reference to the Hebrew Bible. But the fear he has is precisely what the book of Exodus documents. When a central power – even when this is God Himself – does everything on behalf of the people, they remain in a state of arrested development. They complain instead of acting. They give way easily to despair. When the leader, in this case Moses, is missing, they do foolish things, none more so than making a golden calf. There is only one solution: to make the people co-architects of their own destiny, to get them to build something together, to shape them into a team and show them that they are not helpless, that they are responsible and capable of collaborative action. Genesis begins with God creating the universe as a home for human beings. Exodus ends with human beings creating the Mishkan, as a ‘home’ for God. Hence the basic principle of Judaism, that we are called on to become co-creators with God. And hence too the corollary: that leaders do not do the work on behalf of the people. They teach people how to do the work themselves. It is not what God does for us but what we do for God that allows us to reach dignity and responsibility.



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
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
Dr. 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



Buy your Purim Cards from
Sisterhood
\$3 each or 10 for \$25
See Judy Lillien 516-487-6845

In keeping with a long established tradition of publicly acknowledging gratitude to HaShem, this "thanksgiving meal" will take place as we mark the first anniversary of Rabbi Polakoff's healing. All are invited to join us. There will be babysitting, games and food available for children.

Sunday, February 22
Seudat Hoda'ah for Rabbi Polakoff
Breakfast in Mender Auditorium
Keynote Speaker **Dr. David Pelcovitz**
Remarks from **Rabbi Polakoff**
Minyan 8:30 am
Breakfast 9:15 am
Program: 9:30 am

GNS February Chesed Collection
Don't know what to do with medical supplies you no longer need?

DONATE THEM

To help underserved people, clinics and hospitals, in US, Israel, Haiti, and Africa.

FEBRUARY 3RD – FEBRUARY 23RD
LEAVE SUPPLIES BY FRONT DOOR:
13 CHURCH STREET
GREAT NECK

WE ARE COLLECTING:

wheel chairs, canes, walkers, commodes, eyeglasses, bandages, cribs, drains, tubing, face masks, gloves, catheters, IV kits, soap, autoclaves, shower seats, raised toilet seats, hospital beds, crutches, sutures, braces, etc.
NO PRESCRIPTION MEDS NO POST EXPIRATION DATES

Donations will be distributed by:

www.afyafoundation.org

FOR MORE INFO, CALL Nechama 516-773-3572

Men's Club and Sisterhood Sat. Night, Feb. 21



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, Socialize and Eat or Just Socialize & Eat.

To make a reservation please call Jack Lipsky
516-384-1482 or jblrefl@aol.com



GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE MEN'S CLUB NIGHT WITH THE NEW YORK ISLANDERS

SUNDAY, MAR. 29TH @5PM
VS RED WINGS

TICKETS:

\$40

ATTACK ENJOYING MEZZ
REGULARLY PRICED
AT \$50

Come down for a night of fun with the Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club and support the Islanders in their final season at Nassau Coliseum!

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 EXT 220

RABBI POLAKOFF-OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Rabbi Polakoff is in Israel till Feb. 19th

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), through his cell phone 516-637-3674 (call or text) or through email at rabbi@gns.org.

HASHKAMA KIDDUSH

Hashkama Kiddush is sponsored by **Milt & Ruth Mitzner** in memory of Milt's siblings, **Anne Shapiro, Morris David Mitzner** and **Pearl Drucker**.

YOUTH NEWS

Saturday night youth soccer has been cancelled.

YOUTH SNACKS

Snacks this Shabbat are sponsored by **Galit & Grant Reichlin** in honor of **Leora's 3rd birthday**.

MEN'S CLUB

SAT. FEB. 21, 8:00 – 11:30 PM

Join us for the first TENNIS EXTRAVAGANZA run by both Men's Club and Sisterhood. Additional sponsor Yonni Mrejen, 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.

SUN. MAR 15, 10:00 AM: Breakfast and talk by authors

Hershey Friedman and **Linda Weiser Friedman** on their new book, **God Laughed: Sources of Jewish Humor**.

SUN MAR 29, 9:30 AM: The Annual Rabbinic Dialogue to be held at Temple Beth El this year.

SUN MAR. 29, 5:00 PM: Join us as the Islanders Hockey team play the Detroit Red Wings at the Coliseum. Tickets \$40 (for paid-up Men's Club members). Contact **Steve Blummer 639-8941**.

GN EIRUV ASSOCIATION APPEAL

Our annual appeal for the GN Eiruv Association was sent out in January. For those of you who have already donated, we sincerely appreciate your support. For those who have not, we would greatly appreciate your support at this time. The suggested donation is \$180 per family. If you are able to give more that is a tremendous help; if you are unable to give the suggested donation, any contribution is greatly appreciated. Please mail your checks to GN Eiruv Association, P.O. Box 234243, Great Neck, NY 11023. You may also donate on line at www.greatneckeiruv.org/donate. Thank you for your support!!

DIARIES

This year we will not be mailing the **Jack Herskowitz Emergency Fund Diaries** as in the past. We have them available in the office for pick-up where you can drop off your donation and get it at the same time.

PURIM CARDS

The Sisterhood will once again have Purim cards. Please email **Judy Lillien** at syny98@gmail.com or call 516-487-6845 to place your order. You may call the shul office as well. Cards are 10 for 25 dollars or 3 dollars each. There is a limited supply. Don't be left out.

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. or mtwersky@gns.org. There are a limited number of key fobs available (no need to enter a code if you have a key fob). The cost is \$25 to obtain a key fob: Contact **Jim Frisch** in the office.

AIPAC CONVENTION

The AIPAC Policy Conference will take place March 1-3 in Wash. DC. Rabbi Polakoff will be leading our delegation. Visit aipac.org/pc to register and take part in this historic event.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to Kimberly & Jason Mayer on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Scott**. **Mazal Tov to Paige & Aidan** on the Bar Mitzvah of their big brother, also to the proud grandparents, to our member **Susan Mayer**, and to **Myrna & Harvey Green**, on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson.

Mazal Tov to Shulamit & Moosa Soleimani on the birth of a grandson born to their children **Talia & Liron David**.

Mazal Tov to Susan Mayer on the birth of granddaughter, born to her children, **Stuart & Stacy Mayer**.

Mazal Tov to Brenda & Ed Parver on birth of a granddaughter born to **Rebecca & Elly Gamss**, sister to **Elisha, Atara** and **Yakira**.

Mazal Tov to Charles & Rori Sassoon & Brenda Sassoon-Rosmarin on the birth of a granddaughter born to **Carolyn & Ronnie Ebrani**.

MATAN BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

If you are interested in participating, please contact Rabbi Lichter at ilichter@gns.org. In order for the program to take place, there needs to be interest of a minimum of ten girls.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NSHA DIAMOND JUBILEE JOURNAL DINNER, MARCH 24TH

Celebrating 60 years, 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 Principal, **Rabbi Nathan Horowitz** and its long time former Dean Of Students, **Rabbi Aron Sternberg, z"l**. Those wishing to help, please contact **Glenn Zuckerman** or **Laura Cohen**. They are asking for any old photos of Rabbi & Rebbetzin Wolf, Rabbi Horowitz or Rabbi Sternberg from their yearbooks, old journals or personal photos that will help in the video tribute chaired by **Sharon Goldwyn, Judy Blatter and Debbie Hollander**. 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**.

MAGAZINES

Still collecting for N.S.U. Hospital. **Must be no older than three (3) months**. Please cut off your name and address labels (**do not rip off**) and bring them to shul office.

**Y
A
H
R
Z
E
I
T**

Saturday, 2 Adar

Michele Wolf for Philip Berman

Sunday, 3 Adar

Milton Mitzner for Pearl Ducker
Leon Schwechter for Israel Schwechter
William Wolff for Rebecca Rachel Wolff

Monday, 4 Adar

Steven Berkowitz for Jack Berkowitz
Lev Dynkin for Shasha Mindel Lider
Donna Hecht for David Gad
Milton Mitzner for Anne Shapiro

Tuesday, 5 Adar

Brenda Parver for Ida Altman
Shellie Zuckerman for Aaron Feinerman

Wednesday, 6 Adar

Melvin Breite for Stanley Breite
Phillis Kirsch for Charles Zuckerman
Ina Lax for Ethel Schoenfeld
Phillis Weinberg for Sadye Herschkowitz
Gerda Weissfeld for Max Weissfeld

Thursday, 7 Adar

Gilbert Aronowitz for Fannie Aronowitz
Robin Bours for Harold David Siegel
Dan Horowitz for Robert Horowitz
Michelle Landsman for Robert Horowitz
Mitchell J. Siegel for Rachel Siegel
Murray Weiss for Anna Weiss

Friday, 8 Adar

Norman Fisher for Henry Fisher
Naeema Pomerantz for Rachamim Soleimani
Moosa Soleimani for Rahamim Soleimani
Miki Yakubovich for Reuven Yehuda ben Dov