



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Ki Tisa

March 7, 2015 16 Adar, 5775

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Ki Tisa

TORAH
ARTSCROLL, 484
HERTZ, 352

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL, 1160
HERTZ, 369

BAT MITZVAH
SOPHIA REIN

Times

Candle Lighting	5:33 pm
Friday Mincha	5:35 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	4:30 pm
Mincha	5:30 pm
Shabbat Ends	6:42 pm
Sunday March 8	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. Thurs.,	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	6:40 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
March 7	9:14/10:11 am
March 14	10:07/11:06 am
Next Shabbat Vayakhel-Pekudei-Parah	
Candle Lighting	6:41 pm
Mincha	6:40 pm

Leaders can fail for two kinds of reason. The first is external. The time may not be right. The conditions may be unfavorable. There may be no one on the other side to talk to. When British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was asked what was the most difficult thing he had to deal with in government, he replied, "Events, dear boy, events." Machiavelli called this Fortuna: the power of bad luck that can defeat even the greatest. Sometimes despite your best efforts, you fail. Such is life. The second kind of failure is internal. A leader can simply lack the courage to lead. Sometimes leaders have to oppose the crowd. They have to say No when everyone else is crying Yes. That can be terrifying. Crowds have a will and momentum of their own. To say No may be to put your career, even your life, at risk. That is when courage is needed, and not showing it can constitute a moral failure of the worst kind.

The classic example is King Saul, who failed to carry out Samuel's instructions in his battle against the Amalekites. Saul was told to spare no one and nothing. This is what happened, as told in 1 Samuel 15: When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions." But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle

to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." "Enough!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. Samuel said, "Although you may be small in your own eyes, are you not head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.' Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?" "But I did obey the Lord," Saul said. "I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal." Saul makes excuses. The failure was not his; it was his soldiers'. Besides which, he and they had the best intentions. The sheep and cattle were spared to offer as sacrifices. Saul did not kill King Agag but brought him back as a prisoner. Samuel is unmoved. He says, "Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king." Only then does Saul admit, "I have sinned." But by then it was too late. His career as a leader was at an end.

There is an apocryphal quote attributed to several politicians: "Of course I follow the party. After all, I am their leader." There are leaders who follow instead of leading. Rabbi Yisrael Salanter compared them to a dog taken by its master for a walk. The dog runs on ahead, but keeps turning around to see whether it is going in the direction the master wants it to go. The dog may think it is leading but actually it is following. That, on a plain reading of the text, was the fate of Aaron in this week's

parsha. Moses had been up the mountain for forty days. The people were afraid. Had he died? Where was he? Without Moses they felt bereft. He was their point of contact with God. He performed the miracles, divided the Sea, gave them water to drink and food to eat. This is how the Torah describes what happened next: When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered round Aaron and said, 'Come, make us a god who will go before us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' Aaron answered them, 'Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and he fashioned it with a tool and made it into a molten calf. Then they said, 'This is your god, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' (Ex. 32: 1-4)

God became angry. Moses pleaded with Him to spare the people. He then descended the mountain, saw what had happened, smashed the tablets of the law he had brought down with him, burned the idol, ground it to powder, mixed it with water and made the Israelites drink it. Then he turned to Aaron his brother and said, "What have you done?" "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. They said to me, 'Make us a god who will go before us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and

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IN MEMORY OF HIS
MOTHER
HOORI SHAVOLIAN, Z"L.

I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" (Ex. 32: 22-24)

Aaron blamed the people. It was they who made the illegitimate request. He denied responsibility for making the calf. It just happened. "I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" This is the same kind of denial of responsibility we recall from the story of Adam and Eve. The man says, "It was the woman." The woman says, "It was the serpent." It happened. It wasn't me. I was the victim not the perpetrator. In anyone such evasion is a moral failure; in a leader, all the more so. The odd fact is that Aaron was not immediately punished. According to the Torah he was condemned for another sin altogether when, years later, he and Moses spoke angrily against the people complaining about lack of water: "Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land I give the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against my command at the waters of Meribah" (Num. 20: 24).

It was only later still, in the last month of Moses' life, that Moses told the people a fact that he had kept from them until now: I feared the anger and wrath of the Lord, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the Lord listened to me. And the Lord was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I prayed for Aaron too. (Deut. 9: 19-20) God, according to Moses, was so angry with Aaron for the sin of the golden calf that He was about to kill him, and would have done so had it not been for Moses' prayer.

It is easy to be critical of people who fail the leadership test when it involves opposing the crowd, defying the consensus, blocking the path the majority are intent on taking. The truth is that it is hard to oppose the mob. They can ignore you, remove you, even assassinate you. When a crowd gets out of control there is no elegant solution. Even Moses was helpless in the face of the people at the later episode of the spies (Num. 14: 5).

Nor was it easy for Moses to restore order now. He did so only by the most dramatic action: smashing the tablets and grinding the calf to dust. He then asked for support and was given it by his fellow Levites. They took reprisals against the crowd, killing three thousand people that day. History judges Moses a hero but he might well have been seen by his contemporaries as a brutal autocrat. We, thanks to the Torah, know what passed between God and Moses at the time. The Israelites at the foot of the mountain knew nothing of how close they had come to being utterly destroyed.

Tradition dealt kindly with Aaron. He is portrayed as a man of peace. Perhaps that is why he was made High Priest. There is more than one

kind of leadership, and priesthood involves following rules, not taking stands and swaying crowds. The fact that Aaron was not a leader in the same mould as Moses does not mean that he was a failure. It means that he was made for a different kind of role. There are times when you need someone with the courage to stand against the crowd, others when you need a peacemaker. Moses and Aaron were different types. Aaron failed when he was called on to be a Moses, but he became a great leader in his own right in a different capacity. Aaron and Moses complemented one another. No one person can do everything. The truth is that when a crowd runs out of control, there is no easy answer. That is why the whole of Judaism is an extended seminar in individual and collective responsibility. Jews don't, or shouldn't, form crowds. When they do, it may take a Moses to restore order. But it may take an Aaron, at other times, to maintain the peace.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 22

YOM HAZIKARON

YOM HAATZMAUT

An Inspiring Guest Speaker:

STEPHEN FLATOW



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

Rabbi Dale Polakoff, Rabbi
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

Great Neck Synagogue
Hunger Initiative
wants to make your Purim
more meaningful
USE BEANS or a BOX OF PASTA
As a Grogger!
We are collecting
CANS, CEREAL, PASTA
Wed night March 4th
& Thurs morning March 5th
BEFORE THE MEGILLA READING
Leave your donations
at the coat lobby
Food will be donated to local food pantries
(JUST FOUR WEEKS TILL PESACH!)



PURIM SCHEDULE



TAANIT ESTHER Wed. March 4, 2015
Fast begins at 5:03 am and ends at 6:23 pm
Shacharit 6:20 am/ 7:45 am (with selichot)
Mincha at 5:25 pm

PURIM EVENING Wednesday night, March 4, 2015

- Please note that there will be four Megilah readings this year
- 1) Ma'ariv & Megilah at 6:15 pm in Youth Center (not child friendly)
 - 2) Ma'ariv & Megilah at 6:15 pm in Beit Midrash (not child friendly)
 - 3) Ma'ariv & Megilah at 6:30 pm in Main Shul (yes child friendly)
 - 4) Ma'ariv & Megilah at 7:30 pm in Youth Center (not child friendly)

Youth Purim program at 7:30 pm in Gym
Purim Extravaganza at 8:30 pm in Main Ballroom
Purim Tisch @ Lichter Home 10:15 pm



PURIM DAY Thursday, March 5, 2015
1st shacharit at 6:00 am in Beit Midrash
2nd shacharit at 7:45 am in Main Shul
3rd Shacharit at 9:00 am in Youth Center



Megilah reading approximately 25 minutes after start of minyan
Women's Tefilah 8:15 am davenning, 9 am Megilah reading in Beit Midrash

Purim Carnival @ Cherry Lane 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Additional Megillah Reading in Beit Medrash 12:30 pm
Early Mincha 1:35 pm
Regular Mincha 5:35 pm

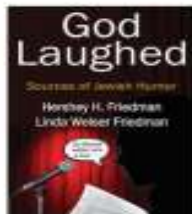
Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club

MARCH 15, 2015 at 10:00 am

Sunday Breakfast and Talk By

Hershey and Linda (Weiser) Friedman
AUTHORS OF THEIR LATEST BOOK

God Laughed: Sources of Jewish Humor



What's Jewish about Jewish humor? How far back does it go? Humor has had a profound effect on the way the Jewish people see the world, sustaining them through millennia of hardship and suffering. Believe it or not, there is a great deal of humor and wit in the ancient Jewish texts – the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, and Midrash. Inevitably, this genre of Jewish humor has itself influenced generations of comics, as well as genres of humor.

In what is sure to be a lively and entertaining discussion of Jewish humor, the speakers, who have written numerous books and articles, present material from their new book – *God Laughed: Sources of Jewish Humor*.

Books available for purchase and
BOOK SIGNING ON MARCH 15

All WELCOME



Yeshiva University Community Weekend

-with-

**Rabbi Lord
Jonathan Sacks**

Francis and Ruth Weiser University Professor of Jewish Thought,
Harvard University, and University and its Pluralistic Dialogue
Professor of Jewish Thought, New York University

Shabbat Parash - Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei

March 13-14, 2015

Friday Night Communal Dinner at Great Neck Synagogue
Cost: \$40 per person - Special Program for Children
RSVP online at www.gns.org, or call 516.467.6100
Program and dinner open to all - Presented by Ladies' Committee

Mikdash Shabbat - 8:00 pm
Communal Dinner - 7:45 pm
Friday Night Lecture - 9 pm
Great Neck Synagogue
**The Three Greatest
Challenges Facing the
Orthodox Community
Today and their Solutions**

Machzor - 9 am
Shabbat Morning Drasha - 11 am
Young Israel of Great Neck
**From Exodus to the
Modern Age: Living A
Passionate Judaism**

Weekend sponsorships are available and include:
Private seudat shishit with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks
Book signing with pictures following Havdalah

For more information, please contact:
Julia Scherer, Director, Long Island Region,
516.972.2019 or julie.scherer@yeshiva.org



Great Neck Synagogue
20 Old Mill Road,
Great Neck, NY 11023
Rabbi Josh Pollack
Rabbi Avi Lickler



Young Israel of Great Neck
236 Middle Neck Road,
Great Neck, NY 11023
Rabbi Tzvi Lerner
Rabbi Howard Jacob



Yeshiva University

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 will be at AIPAC meeting until March 4th.
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.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast is sponsored by **Gilbert & Gitty Louzoun** and family in memory of her father **Israel Malek,z"l**.

WOMEN'S TEFILA MEGILLA READING

THURSDAY MORNING
March 5th in the Bet Midrash
Davening at 8:15 am
Megila reading at 9:00 am sharp
Kiddush is sponsored by **Ruth Mitzner** in honor of Women's Tefila.

MEN'S CLUB

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 \$45 (\$40 for paid-up Men's Club members). Contact **Steve Blumner 639-8941**.

SAVE THE DATE

Ambassador **John Bolton**, nationally known TV foreign affairs analyst and author, will speak at Great Neck Synagogue Sunday evening May 3rd. The event is sponsored by Zionist Organization Of America (ZOA) Long Island Chapter and Men's Club of Great Neck Synagogue. There is no charge for admission.

SISTERHOOD

It is time to begin our application process for the **Florence Schaffer Memorial Fund for deserving female students!** If your daughter, or someone you know in our Shul, will be studying in Israel next year, and could use some support, please contact Cindy Hodkin at koshercookinggn@gmail.com for an application and consideration.

SHALOM CHAVERIM!

Our new GNS Committee wants to know if you have everything you need this stormy winter. Do you need food or other essentials because you can't get out in the storm, or can't drive? Do you need help with your computer, or would you just like a visit during these cold, dark days? — Pesach is not that far away, please let us know if you would like to host guests for Seder this year or if you would like to attend a Seder in the Community. In either case PLEASE let us know and give us your address so we can pair you appropriately. If you wish to join our Committee or communicate with us, please contact: **Cindy Hodkin** koshercookinggn@gmail.com, 516.482.7771 or **Ellen Polakoff** espp40@gmail.com or **Katie Lichter** at Katielichter@gmail.com

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!!

PURIM ALERT

Parking permits for Purim are in the mail. To enter the lot (if there is room) you must have the permit visible on your dashboard. In addition there are bracelets that will be needed for access to the Purim show.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to David & Diane Rein on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, **Sophia**. **Mazal Tov** to big brothers, **Alexander** and **Oliver** and to grandparents **Howard & Corinne Rein** of Bournemouth, England and **David & Masha Fink** of Houston, Texas.

Mazal Tov to Susan & Bruce Decter on the engagement of his son **Jacob Decter** to **Rachel Varon** daughter of **Heidi & Jack Varon** of Teaneck.

Mazal Tov to Karen and Edward Wydra on the engagement of their son **Nathaniel** to **Garri Aronson**, daughter of **Paul and Wendy Aronson** of Roslyn, NY

Mazal Tov to Dr. Isaac Sachmechi who was elected co-president of the Sephardic American Medical Society.

COMMUNITY NEWS

JERUSALEM MARATHON

Alex Hollander will be running with the NSHA High School team in the upcoming Jerusalem Marathon in March. NSHA HS is once again raising money for SHALVA- The Assoc. for Mentally & Physically Challenged Children in Israel. Each student has been asked to raise a minimum of \$2700.00, last year the school raised over \$40,000.00. Please help Alex to reach his goal. You can sponsor him by visiting his personal profile page https://www.run4shalva.org/en/runner_control_panel.php and donate via credit card; or send a check payable to SHALVA and mail directly to Alex Hollander, 7A Sycamore Drive Great Neck, NY 11021

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**.

KASHRUT ALERT—Lamed Vav Restaurant is back under the Vaad Rabbonim of Queens to supervise kashrut at the restaurant.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 16 Adar

Frank Bachrach for Lotte Bachrach
Peter Epstein for Ann Epstein
Ivan Kaufman for Morris Enoch Kaufman
Ellen Polakoff for Helene Pinsker
Phyllis L. Ringel for Minnie Gitter
Hadassah Wachstock for Frieda Kessler

Sunday, 17 Adar

Stanley Dacher for Lena Dacher
Myra Honig for Abraham Mathews
Louise Kahn for Sarah Tuch

Monday, 18 Adar

Sari Braunstein for Ben Dweck
Murray Frank for Yetta Frank
Edwin Frederick for Bertha Frederick

Jamie Katz for Ben Dweck

Ben Shavolian for Hoori Shavolian
Mervin Verbit for Yetta Verbit

Tuesday, 19 Adar

Brenda Parver for Sol Altman

Wednesday, 20 Adar

Carol Adamsky for Anna Adamsky
Jeroen Bours for Eric Bours
Hannah Lee Freidman for Sol Freidman

Meryl Friedman for Hyman Karten

Mali Meisel for Samuel Maultasch

David Wagner for Rose Wagner

Thursday, 21 Adar

Gilbert Aronowitz for Isidore Luchansky

Tricia Moslin for Estelle Solomon

Judy Weinstein for Edward Eichenhon

Friday, 22 Adar

Perry Schneider for Phillip Schneider