



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Tzav-Shabbat HaGadol

March 28, 2015 8 Nissan, 5775

**TORAH**  
**ARTSCROLL, 568**  
**HERTZ, 429**

**HAFTORAH**  
**ARTSCROLL, 1220**  
**HERTZ, 439**

BAR MITZVAH  
 REUBEN PRAWER

## Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Tzav

The great leaders know their own limits. They do not try to do it all themselves. They build teams. They create space for people who are strong where they are weak. They understand the importance of checks and balances and the separation of powers. They surround themselves with people who are different from them. They understand the danger of concentrating all power in a single individual. But learning your limits, knowing there are things you cannot do – even things you cannot be – can be a painful experience. Sometimes it involved an emotional crisis.

The Torah contains four fascinating accounts of such moments. What links them is not words but music. From quite early on in Jewish history, the Torah was sung, not just read. Moses at the end of his life calls the Torah a song. Different traditions grew up in Israel and Babylon, and from around the tenth century onward the chant began to be systematized in the form of the musical notations known as taamei ha-mikra, cantillation signs, devised by the Tiberian

Masoretes (guardians of Judaism's sacred texts). One very rare note, known as a shalsholet ("chain"), appears in the Torah four times only. Each time it is a sign of existential crisis. Three instances are in Bereishit. The fourth is in our parsha. As we will see, the fourth is about leadership. In a broad sense, the other three are as well.

The first instance occurs in the story of Lot. Lot had separated from his uncle Abraham and settled in Sodom. There he had assimilated into the local population. His daughters had married local men. He himself sat in the city gate, a sign that he had been made a judge. Then two visitors came to tell him to leave. God was about to destroy the city. Yet Lot hesitates, and above the word for "hesitates" – vayitmahmah – is a shalsholet. (Genesis 19: 16). He is torn, conflicted. He senses that the visitors are right. The city is indeed about to be destroyed. But he has invested his whole future in the new identity he has been carving out for himself and his daughters. Had the angels not seized him and taken him to safety he would have delayed until it was too late.

The second occurs when Abraham asks his servant – traditionally identified as Eliezer – to find a wife for Isaac his son. The commentators suggest that he felt a profound ambivalence

about his mission. Were Isaac not to marry and have children, Abraham's estate would eventually pass to Eliezer or his descendants. Abraham had already said so before Isaac was born: "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" (Genesis 15: 2). If Eliezer succeeded in his mission, bringing back a wife for Isaac, and if the couple had children, then his chances of one day acquiring Abraham's wealth would disappear completely. Two instincts warred within him: loyalty to Abraham and personal ambition. Loyalty won, but not without a deep struggle. Hence the shalsholet (Genesis 24: 12).

The third brings us to Egypt and the life of Joseph. Sold by his brothers as a slave, he is now working in the house of an eminent Egyptian, Potiphar. Left alone in the house with his master's wife, he finds himself the object of her desire. He is handsome. She wants him to sleep with her. He refuses. To do such a thing, he says, would be to betray his master, her husband. It would be a sin against God. Yet over "he refused" is a shalsholet, (Genesis 39: 8) indicating – as some rabbinic sources and mediaeval commentaries suggest – that he did so at the

### Times

Candle Lighting	6:56 pm
Friday Mincha	6:55 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
Mincha	6:30 pm
Shabbat HaGadol Drasha	6:55 pm
Shabbat Ends	8:05 pm
Sun., March 22	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. Thurs.,	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	7:00 pm

Latest Times for  
 Shema/Shemoneh Esrei

March 28	9:54/10:56 am
April 4	9:47/10:51 am

Next Shabbat  
 Pesach

Candle Lighting	7:03 pm
Mincha	7:05 pm

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### SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

HELP! I CAN'T FIND  
 THE AFIKOMEN:  
 REFLECTIONS ON  
 AN ALL NIGHT SEDER  
 MINCHA: 6:30  
 DRASHA: 6:55

cost of considerable effort. He nearly succumbed. This was more than the usual conflict between sin and temptation. It was a conflict of identity. Recall that Joseph was now living in, for him, a new and strange land. His brothers had rejected him. They had made it clear that they did not want him as part of their family. Why then should he not, in Egypt, do as the Egyptians do? Why not yield to his master's wife if that is what she wanted? The question for Joseph was not just, "Is this right?" but also, "Am I an Egyptian or a Jew?"

All three episodes are about inner conflict, and all three are about identity. There are times when each of us has to decide, not just "What shall I do?" but "What kind of person shall I be?" That is particularly fateful in the case of a leader, which brings us to episode four, this time about Moses.

After the sin of the golden calf Moses had at God's command instructed the Israelites to build a sanctuary which would be, in effect, a permanent symbolic home of God in the midst of the people. By now the work is complete and all that remains is for Moses to induct his brother Aaron and his sons into office. He robes Aaron with the special garments of the high priest, anoints him with oil, and performs the various sacrifices appropriate to the occasion. Over the word *vayishchat*, "and he slaughtered [the sacrificial ram]" (Leviticus 8: 23) there is a *shalshet*. By now we know that this means there was an internal struggle in Moses' mind. But what was it? There is not the slightest sign in the text that suggests that he was undergoing a crisis.

Yet a moment's thought makes it clear what Moses' inner turmoil was about. Until now he had led the Jewish people. Aaron his older brother had assisted him, accompanying him on his missions to Pharaoh, acting as his spokesman, aide and second-in-command. Now, however, Aaron was about to undertake a new leadership role in his own right. No longer would he be a shadow of Moses. He would do what Moses himself could not. He would preside over the daily offerings in the tabernacle. He would mediate the *avodah*, the Israelites' sacred service to God. Once a year on Yom Kippur he would

perform the service that would secure atonement for the people from its sins. No longer in Moses' shadow, Aaron was about to become the one kind of leader Moses was not destined to be: a High Priest.

The Talmud adds a further dimension to the poignancy of the moment. At the burning bush, Moses had repeatedly resisted God's call to lead the people. Eventually God told him that Aaron would go with him, helping him speak (Ex. 4: 14-16). The Talmud says that at that moment Moses lost the chance to be a priest. "Originally [said God] I had intended that you would be the priest and Aaron your brother would be a Levite. Now he will be the priest and you will be a Levite."

That is Moses' inner struggle, conveyed by the *shalshet*. He is about to induct his brother into an office he himself will never hold. Things might have been otherwise – but life is not lived in the world of "might have been." He surely feels joy for his brother, but he cannot altogether avoid a sense of loss. Perhaps he already senses what he will later discover, that though he was the prophet and liberator, Aaron will have a privilege Moses will be denied, namely, seeing his children and their descendants inherit his role. The son of a priest is a priest. The son of a prophet is rarely a prophet.

What all four stories tell us is that there comes a time for each of us when we must make an ultimate decision as to who we are. It is a moment of existential truth. Lot is a Hebrew, not a citizen of Sodom. Eliezer is Abraham's servant, not his heir. Joseph is Jacob's son, not an Egyptian of easy-going morals. Moses is a prophet not a priest. To say Yes to who we are we have to have the courage to say No to who we are not. There is pain and conflict involved. That is the meaning of the *shalshet*. But we emerge less conflicted than we were before. This applies especially to leaders, which is why the case of Moses in our parsha is so important. There were things Moses was not destined to do. He would not become a priest. That task fell to Aaron. He would not lead the people across the Jordan. That was Joshua's role. Moses had to accept both facts with good grace if he was to be honest with himself. And great leaders must be honest with themselves if they are to be honest with those they lead.

A leader should never try to be all things to all people. A leader should be content to be what he or she is. A leader must have the strength to know what he cannot be if he is to have the courage to be himself.




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](mailto:gnsyoetzet@gmail.com) All conversations/ emails



**Great Neck Synagogue**  
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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**

**YOM HASHOA**  
**Wednesday, April 15**  
**Martin Greenfield**



**From Auschwitz Survivor**  
**To President's Tailor**  
**7:45 pm**

# PESACH ARTS N' CRAFTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

10:00-11:30

PRESCHOOL-2ND GRADE



DROP OFF PROGRAM

SNACK WILL BE PROVIDED



## TWO WAYS TO GET A MITZVAH THIS PASSOVER

### GNS -Passover Food Chesed Collection 2015 :

Got Matzah??

Please drop off Passover canned & boxed food items to donate to Needy Families!!

Drop off at the

Lunzer Home, 91 Bayview Ave

Sun.- Fri.: until March 30th

Please Leave on porch on the side of the house

You can also drop matzah off at the shul.

**Please Do Not bring items in Glass containers.**

### Chometz Chesed Collection 2015 :

Don't throw out your Chometz!

Please donate your Chometz now!!!

Please drop off your Chometz

at Sharon Noy's home

at 5 Byron Lane

Until March 30th

Thank you for being a part of this special Mitzvah!

*Thou shalt attend the  
Annual Rabbinic Dialogue!*



Join us as Rabbi Dale Polakoff, Rabbis Meir and Tara Feldman and Rabbi Howard Stecker engage in an enjoyable, stimulating and provocative debate on Jewish issues and current topics of interest

*This lively exchange is sponsored by:  
Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club  
Temple Beth-El Brotherhood  
Temple Israel Men's Club*

SUNDAY, MARCH 29  
AT  
TEMPLE Beth-El  
5 OLD MILL ROAD  
COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST  
AT 9:15 AM  
THE DIALOGUE BEGINS AT 10:00 AM

All Invited - Don't miss it!

## SISTERHOOD WINE SALE



Pick up order form in  
synagogue office

## KASHER IN



Monday  
evening  
March 30  
6:30-9:30 pm

# 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**

**RABBI POLAKOFF-OPEN OFFICE HOURS**

Rabbi Polakoff will have open office hours each week on Tues. 10am - noon and on Thur. 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](mailto:rabbi@gns.org).

**MEN'S CLUB**

**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**.

**TUES MAY 12 & MAY 13,** The Men's Club annual **Defensive Driving** Course will be presented by AAA. Take the course every 3 years to save on your car insurance, premiums and reduce any points you may have. The cost is \$30.00. Please make checks payable to GNS Men's Club. Please contact Jerry Siegelman 516-712-7538. [jerrysiegelman@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrysiegelman@hotmail.com).

**SUN JUNE 7, 9:00AM** Annual Fishing Trip, \$50 adults, \$40 children 6-11 (no children under 6). Breakfast and Lunch included. Details to follow. **Mark Friedman 448-4890, Hilly Milun 482-1062.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Ambassador **John Bolton**, nationally known TV foreign affairs analyst and author, will speak at GNS **Sun. 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.

**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 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](mailto:koshercookinggn@gmail.com), 516.482.7771; Ellen Polakoff [espp40@gmail.com](mailto:espp40@gmail.com); or **Katie Lichter at [katielichter@gmail.com](mailto:katielichter@gmail.com)****

**CHAMETZ BURNING**

On **Fri., Apr., 3rd**, at Kings Point Park, Steamboat Road, there will be a community burning of chametz (8am to 11am). Volunteers needed for 1-2 hrs to help direct people to parking and to the burning. Please e-mail [drsiegel32@aol.com](mailto:drsiegel32@aol.com) or call 487-6278 to help. We are also collecting donations for the volunteers of the Alert Fire Company who give of their time to monitor the fire.

**WINE SALE**

The Sisterhood is again offering our annual Pesach Wine Sale. You can fill out the order form at the shul office and leave it with your payment prior to Mon., Mar. 30th for delivery to Great Neck.

**FLORENCE SHAFER MEMORIAL FUND**

Please to contact Cindy Hodkin at [koshercookinggn@gmail.com](mailto:koshercookinggn@gmail.com) if you know of a deserving student who could use help via our Florence Shafer Memorial Fund for her studies. Applications are being accepted now for next year.

**PASS IT FORWARD**

We will be delivering Seder food from GNS on **Mon., Mar 30 from 2-4**. The deliveries are mostly in nearby Queens. Please let Michelle Berman at [michberman@gmail.com](mailto:michberman@gmail.com) or Cindy Hodkin at [koshercookinggn@gmail.com](mailto:koshercookinggn@gmail.com) know if you can drive or help with the deliveries. If you would like to help fund this project, please send a check to the Shul with a memo that it is for the Hunger Initiative Pesach Food Program.



SAVE THE DATE  
Wednesday evening, April 22,  
we are privileged to have  
**Stephen Flatow**  
as our guest speaker at our  
Annual Yom Hazikaron/Yom Haatzmaut  
Celebration.

**WITHIN OUR FAMILY**

**Mazal Tov to Louisa & Alan Prawer** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Reuben**.

**Mazal Tov to Phyllis & Arthur Kirsch** on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children **Allison & David Kirsch**. **Mazal Tov** also to big sister **Sophia**.

**Mazal Tov to Bonnie & Elliot Diamond** on the birth of a grandson born to their children **Audrey & Andrew Kent**.

**Mazal Tov to Lisa & Jeff Benjamin** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Lauren** and **Mazal Tov** to grandparents **Rivka & Carl Rosenberg** and **Rose & David Benjamin**.

**CLEANING FOR PASSOVER**

Please clean out your lockers and Talit bags of chametz this weekend before Passover.

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

**REMEMBER**

**YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION**

70 YEARS AFTER AUSCHWITZ-WHY WE STILL REMEMBER

COME HEAR THE CHILLING TALE OF  
**MARTIN GREENFIELD**  
FROM AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR TO PRESIDENTS' TAILOR

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2015**  
7:45 PM

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

**NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

Please save the date - **Tues, May 5th at 7:30 PM** - NSHA Cherry Lane Auditorium A "Health and Halacha Evening" featuring an informative panel discussion for women on the topic of "self-awareness". Details to follow.

**The Ester Chapter of Hadassah** cordially invites you to join them to celebrate the **Festival of Purim and the Persian New Year** honoring the three ladies who brought the Shabbat Project to Great Neck: Mrs. Rebecca Sassouni, Mrs. Farangiss Sedaghatpour & Mrs. Sarah Rabizadeh. Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Ornah Simkhai, Owner/designer of Shema-Or Jewellery, Wed. Mar. 25th, 11am at Temple Israel GN.

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- Saturday, 8 Nissan**  
Ronald Braun for Renee Braun  
Mark Bunim for Gladys Bunim  
Amy Goldberg-Reis for Joseph Goldberg  
Benjamin Greszes for Moises Greszes  
Malka Gad for Tvuz Hakimi  
Joyce Dacher for Ida Wolfman
- Sunday, 9 Nissan**  
Elie Cohen for Michael Cohen  
Samuel Levitt for Sadie Lederman  
Jack Cohen for Bessie Poretsky
- Monday, 10 Nissan**  
Randi Luxenberg for Bernard Beeber  
Iraj Kashani for Yousef Kashani  
Sheila Bachman for Mildred Lewit  
Bracha Kron for Sara bat Naftali Menachem
- Tuesday, 11 Nissan**  
Paul Brody for Harvey Brody  
Sharon Goldwyn for Belle Goldwyn  
Laura Danoff for Ernest Herman  
Phyllis Jadidian for Diana Shapiro  
Lev Dynkin for Meishe Ber Shifman  
Semyon Dynkin for Moshe Ber ben Harav Aryeh Leib  
Steven Zuckerman Evelyn Zuckerman
- Wednesday, 12 Nissan**  
Miriam Glaubach for Rachel Herlinger  
Mitchell Siegel for Edith Turner
- Thursday, 13 Nissan**  
Nadine Eckstein for Tillie Engel
- Friday, 14 Nissan**  
Robert Herman for Frank Herman