



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei-Parah

March 14, 2015 23 Adar, 5775

**TORAH**  
ARTSCROLL, 516  
HERTZ, 373

**MAFTIR**  
ARTSCROLL, 838  
HERTZ, 999

**HAFTARAH**  
ARTSCROLL, 1216  
HERTZ, 383

**BAR MITZVAH**  
NOAH KRON

**AUFRUF**  
JEREMY MARKOWITZ

**MEVORCHIM CHODESH NISSAN**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 21**  
**MOLAD:FRIDAY 1:43:03 PM**

**Times**

Candle Lighting	6:41 pm
Friday Mincha	6:40 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	5:35 pm
Mincha	6:35 pm
Shabbat Ends	7:50 pm
Sun., March 15	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. Thurs.,	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	6:50 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
March 14	10:07/11:06 am
March 21	10:00/11:01 am
Next Shabbat Vayikra-HaChodesh	
Candle Lighting	6:48 pm
Mincha	6:50 pm

## Rabbi Sacks on Parshiot Vayakhel-Pekudei-Parah

If leaders are to bring out the best in those they lead, they must give them the chance to show they are capable of great things, and then they must celebrate their achievements. That is what happens at a key moment toward the end of our parsha, one that brings the book of Exodus to a sublime conclusion after all the strife that has gone before. The Israelites have finally completed the work of building the Tabernacle. We then read: So all the work on the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed. The Israelites did everything just as the Lord commanded Moses ... Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses blessed them. (Ex. 39: 32, 43)

The passage sounds simple enough, but to the practiced ear it recalls another biblical text, from the end of the creation narrative in Genesis: The heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. On the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. (Gen. 2: 1-3)

Three key words appear in both passages: "work," "completed" and "blessed." These verbal echoes are not accidental. They are how the Torah signals intertextuality, that is, hinting that one law

or story is to be read in the context of another. In this case the Torah is emphasizing that Exodus ends as Genesis began, with a work of creation. Note the difference as well as the similarity. Genesis began with an act of Divine creation. Exodus ends with an act of human creation.

The closer we examine the two texts, the more we see how intricately the parallel has been constructed. The creation account in Genesis is tightly organized around a series of sevens. There are seven days of creation. The word "good" appears seven times, the word "God" thirty-five times, and the word "earth" twenty-one times. The opening verse of Genesis contains seven words, the second fourteen, and the three concluding verses 35 words. The complete text is 469 (7x67) words.

The account of the construction of the Tabernacle in Vayakhel-Pekudei is similarly built around the number seven. The word "heart" appears seven times in Exodus 35: 5-29, as Moses specifies the materials to be used in the construction, and seven times again in 35: 34 - 36: 8, the description of how the craftsmen Bezalel and Oholiav were to carry out the work. The word *terumah*, "contribution" appears seven times in this section. In chapter 39, describing the making of the priestly vestments, the phrase "as God commanded Moses" occurs seven times. It occurs again seven times in chapter 40.

A remarkable parallel is being drawn between God's creation of the universe and the Israelites' creation of the Sanctuary. We now understand what the Sanctuary represented. It was a micro-cosmos, a universe in miniature, constructed with the same precision and "wisdom" as the universe itself, a place of order as against the formlessness of the wilderness and the ever-threatening

chaos of the human heart. The Sanctuary was a visible reminder of God's presence within the camp, itself a metaphor for God's presence within the universe as a whole. A large and fateful idea is taking shape. The Israelites, who have been portrayed throughout much of Exodus as ungrateful and half-hearted, have now been given the opportunity, after the sin of the golden calf, to show that they are not irredeemable. They are capable of great things. They have shown they can be creative. They have used their generosity and skill to build a mini-universe. By this symbolic act they have shown they are capable of becoming, in the potent rabbinic phrase, "God's partners in the work of creation."

This was fundamental to their re-moralization and to their self-image as the people of God's covenant. Judaism does not take a low view of human possibility. We do not believe we are tainted by original sin. We are not incapable of moral grandeur. To the contrary, the very fact that we are in the image of the Creator means that we - uniquely among life forms - have the ability to be creative. As Israel's first creative achievement reached its culmination Moses blessed them, saying, according to the sages, "May it be God's will that His presence rests in the work of your hands." Our potential greatness is that we can create structures, relationships and lives that become homes for the Divine presence.

Blessing them and celebrating their achievement, Moses showed them what they could be. That is potentially a life-changing experience. Here is a contemporary example. In 2001, shortly after 9/11, I received a letter from a woman in London whose name I did not immediately recognize. The

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**IN MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS**  
**BELLA & MURRAY ADLER, Z"l.**

morning of the attack on the World Trade Center, I had been giving a lecture on ways of raising the status of the teaching profession, and she had seen a report about it in the press. This prompted her to write and remind me of a meeting we had had eight years earlier.

She was then, in 1993, head-teacher of the school that was floundering. She had heard some of my broadcasts, felt a kinship with what I had to say, and thought that I might have the answer to her problem. I invited her, together with two of her deputies, to our house. The story she told me was this: morale within the school, among teachers, pupils and parents alike, was at an all-time low. Parents had been withdrawing their children. The student roll had fallen from 1000 children to 500. Examination results were bad: only 8 percent of students achieved high grades. It was clear that unless something changed dramatically, the school would have to close.

We talked for an hour or so on general themes: the school as community, how to create an ethos, and so on. Suddenly, I realized that we were thinking along the wrong lines. The problem she faced was practical, not philosophical. I said: 'I want you to live one word - celebrate.' She turned to me with a sigh: 'You don't understand - we have nothing to celebrate. Everything in the school is going wrong.' 'In that case', I replied, 'find something to celebrate. If a single student has done better this week than last week, celebrate. If someone has a birthday, celebrate. If it's Tuesday, celebrate.' She seemed unconvinced, but promised to give the idea a try.

Now, eight years later, she was writing to tell me what had happened since then. Examination results at high grades had risen from 8 to 65 percent. The roll of pupils had risen from 500 to 1000. Saving the best news to last, she added that she had just been made a Dame of the British Empire - one of the highest honors the Queen can bestow - for her contribution to education. She ended by saying that she just wanted me to know how one word had changed the school and her life. She was a wonderful teacher, and certainly did not need my advice. She would have discovered the answer on her own anyway. But I was never in any doubt that the strategy would succeed. We grow to fill other people's expectations of us. If they are low, we remain small. If they are high, we walk tall.

The idea that each of us has a fixed quantum of intelligence, virtue, academic ability, motivation and drive is absurd. Not all of us can paint like Monet or compose like Mozart. But we each have gifts, capacities, that can lie dormant a throughout life, until someone awakes them. We can achieve heights of which we never thought ourselves capable. All it

takes is for us to meet someone who believes in us, challenges us, and then, when we have responded to the challenge, blesses and celebrates our achievements. That is what Moses did for the Israelites after the sin of the golden calf. First he got them to create, and then he blessed them and their creation with one of the simplest and most moving of all blessings, that the Shekhinah should dwell in the work of their hands. Celebration is an essential part of motivating. It turned a school around. In an earlier age and in a more sacred context it turned the Israelites around. When we celebrate the achievements of others, we change lives.



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

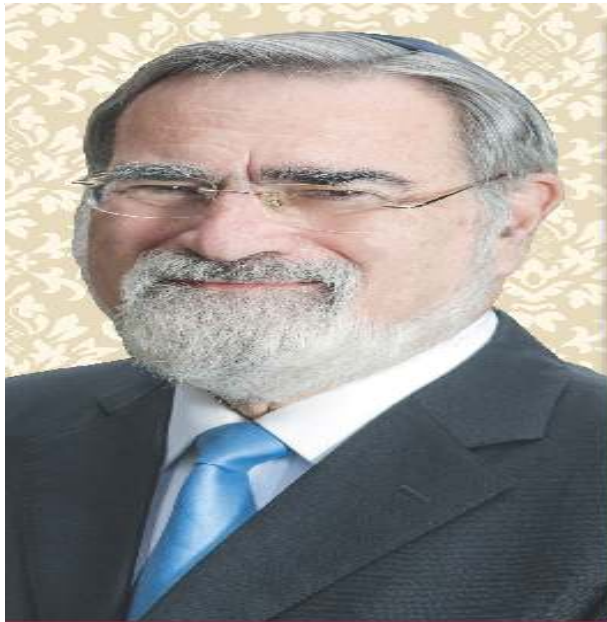


**Great Neck Synagogue**  
 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
 516-487-6100

**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**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 22**  
**YOM HAZIKARON**  
**YOM HAATZMAUT**  
 An Inspiring Guest Speaker:  
**STEPHEN FLATOW**





Yeshiva University Community Weekend

-with-

# Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Kresel and Ephraïm Family University Professor of Jewish Thought, Yeshiva University, and Ingeborg and Ira Rennert Global Distinguished Professor of Judaic Thought, New York University

Shabbat Parah • 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](http://www.gns.org) or call 516.487.6100

Program and dessert open to all • Presented by Lederman Caterers

Kabbalat Shabbat • 6:45 p.m.  
Communal Dinner • 7:45 p.m.  
Friday Night Lecture • 9 p.m.  
Great Neck Synagogue  
The Three Greatest  
Challenges Facing the  
Orthodox Community  
Today and their Solutions

Shacharit • 9 a.m.  
Shabbat Morning Drasha • 11 a.m.  
Young Israel of Great Neck  
From Exodus to the  
Modern Age: Living A  
Passionate Judaism

Sponsors of the weekend are invited to a private seudah shlishit with Rabbi Sacks at the home of Gail and Maurice Setton, in memory of Gail's father, Mr. Morton Sorokin, z"l  
Mincha • 6 p.m. at the Setton Residence (Followed by Seudah Shlishit, Dvar Torah with Q & A, Maariv and Havdalah)

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorships will directly support scholarships for Long Island Students

\$2500 Event Sponsor • \$1800 Chai Sponsor • \$1000 Elef Sponsor

\$750 Patron • \$500 Supporter • \$250 Friend

All sponsorship levels include a signed copy of *Covenant and Conversation: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible- Leviticus: The Book of Holiness*

For more information, please contact Julie Schreier,  
Director, Long Island Region, 516.972.2920 • [Julie.Schreier@yu.edu](mailto:Julie.Schreier@yu.edu)



Yeshiva University



Great Neck Synagogue  
24 Old Mill Road  
Great Neck, NY 11023  
Rabbi Dale Fishhoff  
Rabbi Ben Leichter



Young Israel of Great Neck  
326 Middle Neck Road  
Great Neck, NY 11021  
Rabbi Yonah Lerner  
Rabbi Shmuel Serech

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

The Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood  
presents

## “CATCH ME BEFORE I FALL”

By Pamela Toledano, Ed D, PT,  
Certified physical therapist, doctorate and masters  
in health education and masters in motor learning

Are you or someone you love at risk of falling?  
Come to our interactive seminar to learn how to  
prevent falls in the home and outside

Tuesday evening,  
March 10th at 8 PM  
in the Braun Youth Center

Refreshments will be served!



# 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**

## WITHIN OUR FAMILY

### 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).

**Mazal Tov to Vivian & Nikolas Kron** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Noah**. **Mazal Tov** to siblings **Samantha, Michael & Ryan** and grandparents **Odette Mahlab, and Marilyn & Alan Kron**. **Mazal Tov to Addy & Avrom Markowitz** on the upcoming marriage of their son **Jeremy** to **Danielle Shmueli**, daughter of **Edit & Sandy Shmueli**.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### MARCH CHESED VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers needed to collect non Passover food (chametz) and to collect kosher for Passover food at their homes. Please call Sharon Goldwyn [917-287-7334](tel:917-287-7334) to help out with this mitzvah.

### JERUSALEM MARATHON

Alex Hollander will be running with the NSHA High School team in the upcoming Jerusalem Marathon in March. NSHA HS is 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. Please help Alex to reach his goal. You can sponsor him or any other student by visiting their personal profile page [https://www.run4shalva.org/en/runner\\_control\\_panel.php](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.

### 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**.

### NSHA DIAMOND JUBILEE JOURNAL DINNER

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH** -celebrating its 60 year tradition of excellence in education, honoring its Exec. board member families, **Daniel and Marcy Aharon & Jonathan and Stefanie Hazghyan**. In addition, there will be a memorial tribute to its Honorary Dean and First Principal, Rabbi Dr. Ephraim & Rebbetzin Elaine Wolf, its former Principal, Rabbi Nathan Horowitz and former Dean Of Students, Rabbi Aron Sternberg, z"l. In addition, NSHA alumni and former parents are encouraged to join its Mishna learning project in memory of **Rabbi Ephraim and Rebbitzin Elaine Wolf, Rabbi Nathan Horowitz and Rabbi Aron Sternberg z'l.** Please go to [www.shloshim.org](http://www.shloshim.org), search for Rabbi Ephraim Wolf and select a mishna to learn. There will be a Siyum at the dinner on March 24th. For further information, please contact Arnie Flatow at [afiatow@nsha.org](mailto:afiatow@nsha.org) or call the Business office at 487-8687x2. PS. If you are an alumni parent, pls email Arnie Flatow your name and year of graduation so we can include you in our scroll of honor for the memorial tribute.

### 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.

*Sharon Twersky and Randi Barenholtz wish to thank Rabbi Polakoff, Rabbi Lerner and the entire community for their outpouring of sympathy and support they recieved following the loss of their father Royal Leff, z"l.*

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

*The Bilfeld family would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff, Lichter and the entire GNS community for their outpouring of support and sympathy following the loss of her beloved mother Arline Grant z"l.*

### CHAMETZ BURNING

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

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

To **Judy Lillien** for chairing the annual Purim Card Sale! Supporting your Sisterhood helps fund all our good and charitable works, including the Shiva meals, Bat/Bar Mitzvah gifts and the Florence Shaffer Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who bought our cards! Now that Purim is over, it is time to think of Pesach!! The Sisterhood is again offering our annual Pesach Wine Sale. We've located a local vendor who is able to deliver to Great Neck, You can fillout the order form at the shul office and leave it with your payment prior to Monday March 30th. Please remember 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 Schaffer Memorial Fund for her studies. Applications are being accepted now for next year.

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

### SHMURA MATZAH

Matzah from the Charedim Bakery in Brooklyn is on sale once again through Great Neck Synagogue. The price will be \$29 per pound and the pickup will be on Monday evening, March 30, between 6:30 and 8:30 pm.

## Y A H R Z E I T

### Saturday, 23 Adar

Gary Chubak for Ida Chubak  
Cindy Hodkin for Bernard Korman  
Roslyn Korman for Bernard Korman  
Elaine Miller for Ethel Grant  
Raphael Shaya for David Shaya

### Sunday, 24 Adar

Cindy Ludwig for Alvin Gelber  
Myles Mittleman for Sophie Mittleman  
Myra Sutin for Harry Joffe

### Monday, 25 Adar

Madeline Belonsky for Raymond Belonsky  
Paul Brody for Rose Goldsmith  
Erran Kagan for Shlomo Kagan  
Jack Lipsky for Corrine Lipsky  
Mark Twersky for David Twersky

### Tuesday, 26 Adar

Charles Berger for William Berger  
Elena Berkowitz for Florita Fridman  
Dov Dovidovics for Helen Davidovics  
Mali Meisel for Robert Meisel  
Annie Mendelson for Robert Meisel

### Wednesday, 27 Adar

Alan Adler for Murray Adler  
Alan Adler for Bella Adler  
Donna Hecht for Tvuz Hakimi  
Leslie Khan for Sam Krawchuk  
Aaron Seligson for Hyman Seligson  
Cheryl Sneag for Esther Sneag

### Thursday, 28 Adar

Michael Aryeh for Morris Schulz  
Joan Katz for Frank Sadinoff  
Richard Lillien for Frances Engelhard  
Yaffa Lukash for Lou Schwartz  
Nadine Eckstein for Lila Gittleman

### Friday, 29 Adar

Frederick Shaw for Selma Shaw