



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Emor

May 9, 2015 20 Iyar, 5775

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 672
HERTZ 513

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1176
HERTZ 528

AUFRUF
AARON GRANT

BNOT MITZVAH
GABRIELLA & ELIANA
STEINBERG

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Emor

A President guilty of sexual abuse. A Prime Minister indicted on charges of corruption and bribery. Rabbis in several countries accused of financial impropriety, sexual harassment and child abuse. That such things happen testifies to a profound malaise in contemporary Jewish life. More is at stake than simply morality. Morality is universal. Bribery, corruption and the misuse of power are wrong, and wrong equally, whoever is guilty of them. When, though, the guilty are leaders, something more is involved: the principles introduced in our parsha of Kiddush ha-Shem and Chillul ha-Shem: "Do not profane My holy name, that I may be sanctified in the midst of the Israelites, I the Lord who sanctify you" (Lev. 22: 32).

The concepts of Kiddush and Chillul ha-Shem have a history. Though they are timeless and eternal, their unfolding occurred through the course of time. In our parsha, according to Ibn Ezra, the verse has a narrow and localized sense. The chapter in which it occurs has been speaking about the special duties of the priesthood and the extreme care they must take in serving God within the sanctuary. All Israel is holy, but the priests are a holy elite within the nation. It was their task to preserve the purity and glory of the Sanctuary as God's symbolic home in the midst of the nation. So the commands are a special charge to the priests to take exemplary care as guardians

of the holy.

Another dimension was disclosed by the prophets, who used the phrase chillul haShem to describe immoral conduct that brings dishonor to God's law as a code of justice and compassion. Amos (2: 7) speaks of people who "trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground, and deny justice to the oppressed ... and so profane my holy name." Jeremiah invokes chillul ha-Shem to describe those who circumvent the law by emancipating their slaves only to recapture and re-enslave them (Jer. 34: 16). Malachi, last of the prophets, says of the corrupt priests of his day, "From where the sun rises to where it sets, My name is honored among the nations ... but you profane it" (Mal. 1: 11-12).

The sages suggested that Abraham was referring to the same idea when he challenged God on his plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if this meant punishing the righteous as well as the wicked: "Far be it from you [chalilah lekha] to do such a thing." God and the people of God must be associated with justice. Failure to do so constitutes a chillul ha-Shem.

A third dimension appears in the book of Ezekiel. The Jewish people, or at least a significant part of it, had been forced into exile in Babylon. The nation had suffered defeat. The Temple lay in ruins. For the exiles this was a human tragedy. They had lost their home, freedom and independence. It was also a spiritual tragedy: "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" But Ezekiel saw it as a tragedy for God also: Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions ... I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their

actions. And wherever they went among the nations they profaned My holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the Lord's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' (Ez. 36: 17-20)

Exile was a desecration of God's name because the fact that He had punished his people by letting them be conquered was interpreted by the other nations as showing that God was unable to protect them. This recalls Moses' prayer after the golden calf:

"Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brou bbh+ght them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people." (Ex 32:11-12)

This is part of the divine pathos. Having chosen to identify His name with the people of Israel, God is, as it were, caught between the demands of justice on the one hand, and public perception on the other. What looks like retribution to the Israelites looks like weakness to the world. In the eyes of the nations, for whom national gods were identified with power, the exile of Israel could not but be interpreted as the powerlessness of Israel's God. That, says Ezekiel, is a chillul ha-Shem, a desecration of God's name.

A fourth sense became clear in the late Second Temple period. Israel had returned to its land and rebuilt the Temple, but they came under attack first from the Seleucid Greeks in the reign of Antiochus IV, then from the Romans, both of whom attempted to outlaw Jewish

Times

Candle Lighting	7:40 pm
Friday Mincha	7:00 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Youth Minyan	8:30 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Main	9:00 am
Beit Medrash	9:15 am
Gemara Shiur	6:35 pm
Mincha	7:35 pm
Shabbat ends	8:49 pm
Sun., May 10	7:30/8:30 am
Mon., Thur.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	7:45 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
May 9	9:19/10:30 am
May 16	9:15/10:27 am
Next Shabbat Behar-BeChukotai	
Candle Lighting	7:47 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

BIMA FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY CHAVA SHALMON IN HONOR OF THE BNOT MITZVAH OF HER GRANDDAUGHTERS, GABRIELLA & ELIANA STEINBERG.

KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY LINDA & RABBI STUART GRANT IN HONOR OF THE UPCOMING MARRIAGE OF THEIR SON AARON TO MELISSA ROTTER AND BY ORLY AND ALAN STEINBERG IN HONOR OF THE BNOT MITZVAH OF THEIR DAUGHTERS, GABRIELLA & ELIANA

SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY PEARL GINSBURG IN HONOR OF THE BNOT MITZVAH OF HER GRANDDAUGHTERS, GABRIELLA & ELIANA STEINBERG.

practice. For the first time martyrdom became a significant feature in Jewish life. The question arose: under what circumstances were Jews to sacrifice their lives rather than transgress Jewish law?

The sages understood the verse, "You shall keep my decrees and laws which a person shall keep and live by them" (Lev. 18: 5) to imply "and not die by them." Saving life takes precedence over most of the commands. But there are three exceptions: the prohibitions against murder, forbidden sexual relations and idolatry, where the sages ruled that it was necessary to die rather than transgress. They also said that "at a time of persecution" one should resist at the cost of death even a demand "to change one's shoelaces," that is, performing any act that could be construed as going over to the enemy, betraying and demoralizing those who remained true to the faith. It was at this time that the phrase kiddush ha-Shem was used to mean the willingness to die as a martyr.

One of the most poignant of all collective responses on the part of the Jewish people was to categorize all the victims of the Holocaust as "those who died al kiddush Hashem," that is, for the sake of sanctifying God's name. This was not a foregone conclusion. Martyrdom in the past meant choosing to die for the sake of God. One of the demonic aspects of the Nazi genocide was that Jews were not given the choice. By calling them in retrospect, martyrs, Jews gave the victims the dignity in death of which they were so brutally robbed in life.

There is a fifth dimension. This is how Maimonides sums it up: There are other deeds which are also included in the desecration of God's name. When a person of great Torah stature, renowned for his piety, does deeds which, although they are not transgressions, cause people to speak disparagingly of him, this is also a desecration of God's name ... All this depends on the stature of the sage ...

People looked up to as role models must act as role models. Piety in relation to God must be accompanied by exemplary behavior in relation to one's fellow humans. When people associate religiosity with integrity, decency, humility and compassion, God's name is sanctified. When they come to associate it with contempt for others and for the law, the result is a desecration of God's name.

Common to all five dimensions of meaning is the radical idea, central to Jewish self-definition, that God has risked his reputation in the world, His "name," by choosing to associate it with a single and singular people. God is the God of all humanity. But God has chosen Israel to be His "witnesses," His ambassadors, to the world. When we fail in this role, it is as if God's standing in the eyes of the world has been damaged.

For almost two thousand years the Jewish people was without a home, a land, civil rights, security and the ability to shape its destiny and fate. It

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For almost two thousand years the Jewish people was without a home, a land, civil rights, security and the ability to shape its destiny and fate. It was cast in the role of what Max Weber called "a pariah people." By definition a pariah cannot be a positive role model. That is when kiddush ha-Shem took on its tragic dimension as the willingness to die for one's faith. That is no longer the case. Today, for the first time in history, Jews have both sovereignty and independence in Israel, and freedom and equality elsewhere. Kiddush ha-shem must therefore be restored to its positive sense of exemplary decency in the moral life.

That is what led the Hittites to call Abraham "a prince of God in our midst." It is what leads Israel to be admired when it engages in international rescue and relief. The concepts of kiddush and chillul ha-Shem forge an indissoluble connection between the holy and the good.

Lose that and we betray our mission as "a holy nation." The conviction that being a Jew involves the pursuit of justice and the practice of compassion is what led our ancestors to stay loyal to Judaism despite all the pressures to abandon it. It would be the ultimate tragedy if we lost that connection now, at the very moment that we are able to face the world on equal terms.

Long ago we were called on to show the world that religion and morality go hand in hand. Never was that more needed than in an age driven by religiously-motivated violence in some countries, rampant secularity in others. To be a Jew is to be dedicated to the proposition that loving God means loving His image, humankind. There is no greater challenge, nor in the twenty-first century is there a more urgent one.



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

HISTORY. HALACHA & HASKAFA SERIES:

Please join us for our bi-monthly series following Kiddush on Shabbat mornings in the Beit Medrash from 12:15-12:45 pm.

Parshat Emor May 9th
Rabbi Lichter:

Shavuot: The Nation Gains an Identity

A HEALTH AND HALACHA EVENING

INTROSPECTION FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN

ENHANCING OUR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING THROUGH SELF-AWARENESS

Tuesday
May 5, 2015

7:30 PM

16 Cherry Lane

PANELISTS



Heather Appelbaum, MD



Dena Block,
Yoetzet Halacha



Rachel Hercman, LCSW

In Memory of Bella Goldwyn, Z"l
Co-sponsored by GNS and YIGN

Annual fundraising event for the North Shore Mikvah Association

Committee: Sarah Akhavan, Ada Berkowitz, Laura Danoff, Nicole Dicker, Miriam Ellenberg, Lynn Glasman, Lisa Greenfield, Netti Herman, Malka Ismach, Nina Karpel, Katie Lichter, Hindi Lunzer, Tovah Marmor, Esther Pinsky, Diane Rein, Roya Samuels, Yael Shayne, Kimmy Soleimani

Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club

Invite you and your family to join us
TUESDAY, JUNE 9 at 7.10pm
At CITIFIELD, QUEENS

METS vs GIANTS

\$50 per ticket (Seats on 1st level)
Please make check payable to
GNS Men's Club
\$46 per ticket for paid-up Men's Club
members (limit 4 per member)
If you are interested, please contact
Jack Lipsky at 384-1482
jlipsky.lipsk01@insuremail.net
or Hilly Milun 448-4890
gnsmensclub@optonline.net

Please join
Congressman Steve Israel
and
Ambassador Ron Prosor

Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations



for an

Update on the State of Israel

Congressman Israel and Ambassador Prosor invite
you to participate in a comprehensive discussion on
the state of play in the Middle East.

Sunday, May 17th, 2015
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Great Neck Synagogue
26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023



Parshat Emor, May 8-9

Welcoming back the nationally renowned speaker
Mrs. Jackie Bilton

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AND ONEG FOR YOUNG WOMEN:

High School seniors, college and
graduate students
Dinner at GNS following davening
Oneg at Atlas home following dinner
RSVP to Samantha Hollander at
Shollander.1991@gmail.com

SEUDAT SHLISHT: SHABBAT AFTERNOON:

Mother - daughter program
Braun youth center at 5:00
"Appreciating the People in your
Life"

DON'T MISS THIS INSPIRING EVENT!

Please contact the shul office
for Sponsorship opportunities

ZUMBA GOLD

Being held at the
Confidance & Fitness Studio
634 Middle Neck Road
On
Wednesday, May 6
At 8 pm

Cost is \$18 prepaid **ONLY**
Call Judy Lillien to reserve and pay for your spot
516 487 6845

Please reserve early as there is limited space.

SISTERHOOD
Great Neck Synagogue

Sponsorships available for the Women's Shabbaton! Honor
your mother for Mother's Day or your daughter for any
reason such as graduating or being wonderful! Sponsorships
will be displayed at the seudat shlishit program. Please
contact Mark Twersky to become a sponsor for this event.

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

HASHKAMA KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by the **Fox and Griffel families** in honor of the anniversary of **Marty Griffel's** Bar Mitzvah

MEN'S CLUB

TUES MAY 12 & MAY 13, (7 to 10 pm) 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.

SUN, MAY 17, 10:00am: Breakfast and talk by author **Dr. Paul Marcus**, who will be discussing "In Quest of Mortality". All welcome.

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.**

TUES. JUNE 9, 7:10pm: The Men's Club invite you to join us at Citi-field where the **NY Mets** will play the **San Francisco Giants**. Tickets are \$50 (\$46 for paid-up Men's Club members). Contact **Jack Lipsky** at 829-6187 jlipsky.lipsk01@insuremail.net or call the GNS office 467-6100.

YOUNG WOMEN'S SHABBATON

GNS Youth presents 3rd annual Women's Shabbaton, Parshat Emor, **May 8-9** Welcoming back the nationally renowned speaker Mrs. Jackie Bitton. Friday night dinner and one for young women: High School seniors, college and graduate students. Dinner at GNS following davening. Oneg at Atlas home following dinner.

RSVP to **Samantha Hollander** at Shollander.1991@gmail.com
Seudat shlishit, Shabbat afternoon: Mother - Daughter program Braun Youth Center at 5:00 "Appreciating the People in your life" Don't miss this inspiring event! Please contact the shul office for Sponsorship opportunities. Honor your daughter (or mother) for any reason such as graduating or being wonderful! Sponsor names and descriptions will be displayed at the seudat shlishit program. Please contact Mark Twersky to become a sponsor for this event.

MONTHLY CHESED COORDINATORS NEEDED FOR:

GNS-May Chesed Collection- Sports equipment
GNS -June Chesed Collection- Spring/Summer clothing
Please contact **Sharon Goldwyn** to volunteer [917-287-7334](tel:917-287-7334).

CANDIDATES FOR SUMMER INTERN AT GNS

If you are interested in volunteering over the summer at GNS, please email Mark Twersky at mtwersky@gns.org.

THE FLORENCE SHAFFER SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for Florence Shaffer Scholarship applications is **May 29**.

LAG BA'OMER Bonfire Wednesday evening, May 6th at 8:30 pm at the home of Leo and Helise Goldstein, 8 Old Colony Lane.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

May 5: Health & Halacha Evening at NSHA Cherry Lane
May 9: Mother/Daughter Shabbaton: Jackie Bitton guest
May 12 & 13: Men's Club Defensive Driving Course
May 14: GNS Annual Congregation Meeting
May 17: Men's Club presents: "In Quest of Immortality" by Paul Marcus
May 17: Cong. Steve Israel & Ambassador Ron Prosor
May 27: Israel Bonds: Malcolm Hoenlein guest
May 30: Sokol Heisler Lunch: Yoram Hazoni guest
May 30: Annual Youth End Of Year Bash
June 7: Men's Club Fishing Trip
June 9: Mets Vs Giants: CitiField
June 20: Graduation Kiddush
June 20: Perek in the Park

Mazal Tov to **Linda & Rabbi Stuart Grant** on the upcoming marriage of their son **Aaron** to **Melissa Rotter** daughter of **Irving and Sandra, z"l Rotter**.
Mazal Tov to **Orly and Alan Steinberg** on the Bnot Mitzvah of their daughters, **Gabriella and Eliana**. **Mazal Tov** also to grandmothers **Pearl Ginsburg and Chava Shalmon**.
Mazal Tov to **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Aryeh** on receiving the **Kesser Shem Tov Award** at the Annual Sh'or YOSHUV Dinner.
Mazal Tov also to proud parents **Lisa and Michael Aryeh**, and proud grandmother **Mrs. Mahin Aryeh**.
Congratulations to **Limor Brody** upon her election as a Senator at Queens College.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOC. ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Please join the North Shore Mikveh Association for its Annual Fund raising Event In Memory of **Bella Goldwyn, z"l**, co-sponsored by Great Neck Synagogue and Young Israel of Great Neck - A Health and Halacha Evening: Introspection For Women By Women. An informative panel discussion: Enhancing our physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing through self-awareness with panelists: Heather Appelbaum, MD FACOG, Dena Block, M.A., GNS Yoetzet Halacha & Rachel Hercman, LCSW at North Shore Hebrew Academy, 16 Cherry Lane on **Tuesday, May 5th at 7:30 PM**.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH REMINDER

Please avoid parking in the parking spots marked for the mikveh during the evening hours of use.

SISTERHOOD ZUMBA GOLD CLASS

Wednesday/ May 6 / 8:00 pm at **ConfiDanZe and Fitness studio**. Zumba Gold is for any age! Class size will be limited. Call **Judy** at 487 6845 for more information on how to pay and reserve your spot.

SAVE THE DATE

Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem will be holding a reception on **Tues., May 12**, at 8 pm at the home of **Davida and Marc Yehaskel**, 9 Willow Lane, GN. **Rabbi Reuven Feinstein** will address the reception whose guest of honor will be Rabbi Adam Acobas of NSHA.

EMUNAH LUNCHEON

Dr. Joyce Rydzinski from Great Neck will be honored at the upcoming **EMUNAH Spring Luncheon "Empowering Women."** The event will be held in NYC on **May 19th**. Anyone interested in making a reservation or a donation in honor of Dr. Rydzinski can contact the EMUNAH office at [212-564-9045 ext 315](tel:212-564-9045). All proceeds will benefit children in EMUNAH's 5

Meryl Friedman and family would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff and Lichter, Cantor Kron and the entire GNS community for their outpouring support and sympathy following the loss of her mother Anita Karten z"l.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 20 Iyar

Ellen Siegel for Avraham Givner

Sunday, 21 Iyar

Helene Bayme for Maurice Asher
Sheila Bachman for Allan Bachman

Monday, 22 Iyar

Ira Lubin for Esther Alberts
Ebrahim Ghabbaizadeh for Yoseph Ghabbaizadeh
Ester Noy for Abraham Nir

Tuesday, 23 Iyar

Ebrahim Ghabbaizadeh for Auma bat Elazar Ghabbaizadeh
Jacqueline Fischer for Menachem Mendel Salomon

Anida Rosman for Marvin Rosman
Paul Wein for Melvin Wein

Wednesday, 24 Iyar

Drora Cassel for Bezalel Bezalel
Harriet Nathel for Harry Chalfin
Philip Hanfling for Isaac Lazar

Thursday, 25 Iyar

Karen Wydra for Deborah Geller
Irvin Spira for Lilly Spira