



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Chukat

June 27, 2015 10 Tammuz, 5775

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Chukat

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 838
HERTZ 652

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1187
HERTZ 664

Times

Candle Lighting	8:12 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	7:10 pm
Mincha	8:10 pm
Shabbat ends	9:20 pm
Sunday	7:30/8:30 am
Mon., Thur.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	8:15 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
June 27	9:12/10:28 am
July 4	9:15/10:30 am
Next Shabbat Balak	
Candle Lighting	8:11 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

It is one of the great mysteries of the Torah. Arriving at Kadesh the people find themselves without water. They complain to Moses and Aaron. The two leaders go to the Tent of Meeting and there they are told by God to take the staff and speak to the rock, and water will emerge. Moses' subsequent behavior is extraordinary. He takes the staff. He and Aaron gather the people. Then Moses says: "Listen now, you rebels, shall we bring you water out of this rock?" Then "Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff" (Num. 20: 10-11). This was the behavior that cost Moses and Aaron their chance of leading the people across the Jordan into the Promised Land. "Because you did not have enough faith in Me to sanctify me in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I have given them" (ibid, v.12).

The commentators disagree as to which aspect of Moses' behavior was wrong: His anger? His act of striking the rock instead of speaking to it? The implication that it was he and Aaron, not God, who were bringing water

from the rock? I argued in an earlier Covenant and Conversation that Moses neither sinned nor was punished. He merely acted as he had done almost forty years earlier when God told him to hit the rock (Ex. 17:6), and thereby showed that though he was the right leader for the people who had been slaves in Egypt, he was not the leader for their children who were born in freedom and would conquer the land.

This time, though, I want to pose a different question. Why then? Why did Moses fail this particular test? After all, he had been in a similar situation twice before. After emerging from the Red Sea the people had travelled for three days without finding water. Then they found some but it was bitter and they complained. God showed Moses how to make the water sweet (Ex. 15: 22-26). Arriving at Rephidim, again they found no water and complained. Despairing, Moses said to God, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." God patiently instructs Moses as to what to do, and water flows from the rock. (Ex. 17:1-7). So Moses had successfully overcome two similar challenges in the past. Why on this third occasion did he lose emotional control? What was different? The answer is stated explicitly in the text, but in so understated a way that we may fail to grasp its significance. Here it is: In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at

the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried. (Num. 20:1) Immediately after this we read: "Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron." A famous Talmudic passage explains that it was in Miriam's merit that the Israelites had a well of water that miraculously accompanied them through their desert journeys. When Miriam died, the water ceased. This interpretation reads the sequence of events simply and supernaturally. Miriam died. Then there was no water. From this, you can infer that until then there was water because Miriam was alive. It was a miracle in her merit. However there is another way of reading the passage, naturally and psychologically. The connection between Miriam's death and the events that followed had less to do with a miraculous well and more to do with Moses' response to the complaints of the Israelites. This was the first trial he had to face as leader of the people without the presence of his sister. Let us recall who Miriam was, for Moses. She was his elder sister, his oldest sibling. She had watched over his fate as he floated down the Nile in a pitched basket. She had the presence of mind, and the audacity, to speak to Pharaoh's daughter and

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arrange for the child to be nursed by an Israelite woman, that is, by Moses' own mother Yocheved. Without Miriam, Moses would have grown up not knowing who he was and to which people he belonged. Miriam is a background presence throughout much of the narrative. We see her leading the women in song at the Red Sea, so it is clear that she, like Aaron, had a leadership role. We gain a sense of how much she meant to Moses when, in an obscure passage, she and Aaron "began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite" (Num. 12: 1). We do not know exactly what the issue was, but we do know that Miriam was smitten with leprosy. Aaron turns helplessly to Moses and asks him to intervene on her behalf, which he does with simple eloquence in the shortest prayer on record – five Hebrew words – "Please, God, heal her now." Moses still cares deeply for her, despite her negative talk.

It is only in this week's parsha that we begin to get a full sense of her influence, and this only by implication. For the first time Moses faces a challenge without her, and for the first time Moses loses emotional control in the presence of the people. This is one of the effects of bereavement, and those who have suffered it often say that the loss of a sibling is harder to bear than the loss of a parent. The loss of a parent is part of the natural order of life. The loss of a sibling can be less expected and more profoundly disorienting. And Miriam was no ordinary sibling. Moses owed her his entire relationship with his natural family, as well as his identity as one of the children of Israel.

It is a cliché to say that leadership is a lonely undertaking. But at the same time no leader can truly survive on his or her own. Yitro told Moses this many years earlier. Seeing him leading the people alone he said, "You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone" (Ex. 18: 18). A leader needs three kinds of support: (1) allies who will fight alongside him, (2) troops or a team to whom he can delegate, and (3) a soul-mate or soul-mates to whom he can confide his doubts and fears, who will listen without an agenda other than being a supportive presence, and who will give him the courage, confidence and

sheer resilience to carry on. Having known through personal friendship many leaders in many fields, I can say with certainty that it is false to suppose that people in positions of high leadership have thick skins. Most of those I have known have not. They are often intensely vulnerable. They can suffer deeply from doubt and uncertainty. They know that a leader must often make a choice between two evils, and you never know in advance how a decision will work out. Leaders can be hurt by criticism and the betrayal of people they once considered friends. Because they are leaders, they rarely show any signs of vulnerability in public. They have to project a certainty and confidence they do not feel. But Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky, the Harvard leadership experts, are right to say, "The hard truth is that it is not possible to experience the rewards and joy of leadership without experiencing the pain as well." Leaders need confidants, people who "will tell you what you do not want to hear and cannot hear from anyone else, people in whom you can confide without having your revelations spill back into the work arena." A confidant cares about you more than about the issues. He or she lifts you when you are low, and gently brings you back to reality when you are in danger of self-congratulation or complacency. Heifetz and Linsky write, "Almost every person we know with difficult experiences of leadership has relied on a confidant to help them get through."

Maimonides in his Commentary to the Mishnah counts this as one of the four kinds of friendship. He calls it the "friendship of trust" [chaver habitachon] and describes it as having someone in whom "you have absolute trust and with whom you are completely open and unguarded," hiding neither the good news nor the bad, knowing that the other person will neither take advantage of the confidences shared, nor share them with others. A careful reading of this famous episode in the context of Moses' early life suggests that Miriam was Moses' "trusted friend," his confidante, the source of his emotional stability, and that when she was no longer there, he could no longer cope with crisis as he had done until then. Those who are a source of strength to others need their own source of strength. The Torah is explicit in telling us how often for Moses that source of strength was God himself. But even Moses needed a human friend, and it seems, by implication, that this was Miriam. A leader in her own right she was also one of her brother's sources of strength. Even the greatest cannot lead alone.



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 are strictly confidential.



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
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Ari Lipsky, Rabbinic Intern
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Dena Block, Yoetzet Halacha 516-320-9818

JUNE
GNS CHESED COLLECTION

Mens, Womens
and Children's Clothing
 Please drop off all
 gently used clothing from
 Sunday to Friday
 until Sunday, June 28th
 at Ada and Dov Berkowitz's house,
 108 Beach Road, Great Neck
 Please leave all bags
 at their garage door.
 If it's raining please leave at front door.

Great Neck Community
HALACHIC ORGAN DONATION

MONDAY, JULY 6TH AT 8 PM
 Great Neck Synagogue
 26 Old Mill Road
 Great Neck, NY

Keynote speaker Rabbi Edward Reichman, MD
 Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine
 Professor of Education & Bioethics
 Albert Einstein College of medicine of Yeshiva University

Come hear 1st hand experiences from 3 organ donors/families



Sponsored by:

- HODS (Halachic Organ Donor Society) • GNS • Beil Hadvaich
- Great Neck Community Council of Shul Presidents • SHAI (Sephardic Heritage Alliance, Inc.)
- WIA (Jewish Mother's Association) • Hadassah - Ester Chapter

Shabbat, June 27th, Seudah Shlishit

Guest Speaker Rabbi Menachem Schrader

Founding Director, Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC)

Rabbi Menachem Schrader has lived in Israel with his family since 1981, serving as Rabbi of Moshav Carmel from 1991 to 1995, and of Congregation Tiferet Avot in Efrat from 1998 to 2011. He is the Founding Director of the Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC) of the Orthodox Union, which places Orthodox Rabbinic couples to serve as Torah educators within the Hillels on local college campuses. Now on twenty-one campuses in North America, the JLIC educators strive to enhance the learning opportunities available to students, and also to bolster an infrastructure for Orthodox life to flourish.



You Are Invited!

Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club
 and

The Zionist Organization of America /ZOA
 Long Island Queens Chapter

are co-sponsoring a **panel and discussion** on:

"Fighting For Israel on the Internet"

featuring effective Internet pro-Israel activists who will share their experiences and advice, and answer your questions:

- Devorah Yarmush, ZOA Director of Social Media
- Bob Sidi, Esq., Israel Advocacy Calendar founder
- Gary Emmanuel, Internet activist
- Richard Allen, JCCWatch.com founder, huge twitter & email following
- Dan Friedman, Topcopy pro-Israel emails founder, huge following
- Eli Hertz, ZOA board member, "Myths & Facts" author

Come bring your ideas and questions and learn more about how to help the pro-Israel cause on line!

When: Sunday morning June 28, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Great Neck Synagogue

Contact: Martin@zoa.org or Liz@zoa.org

BREAKFAST AVAILABLE - ALL WELCOME

Sally & Seymour Olshin
Adult Education Program
Summer Learning Program



Sandra Rapaport
 Tuesday, July 14 at
 8:30 pm



Dr. Elana Stein Hain
 Tuesday, August 11 at
 8:15 pm



Dr. Edward Reichman
 Tuesday, July 21 at
 8:30 pm



Lisa Septimus
 Tuesday, August 18 at
 8:15 pm

Sponsors welcome! Please see Rabbi Lichter

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

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.

HASHKAMA MINYAN

Kiddush is sponsored by **Annie & Robert Mendelson** in honor of their son **Russell** on his graduation from University of Chicago.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast is sponsored by **Michele & Howard Wolf** in memory of his mother **Carrie Wolf, z"l**.

MEN'S CLUB

SUN. JUNE 28: Men's Club with ZOA. "Fighting for ISRAEL on the INTERNET". See page 3 for more details.

MONTHLY CHESED

June Chesed Collection - Drop off Spring/Summer men's, women's & children's clothing at **Ada & Dov Berkowitz's** home, 108 Beach Road until June 28th. Please leave all bags at garage door or front door if raining.

THE NEW GNS WEBSITE

Have you visited the GNS website with its new features (www.gns.org)? In addition to davening /candle lighting times and a listing of upcoming events (including the Great Neck calendar), you can make any donations or reservations there. Check out the weekly Parsha, and you can even find an Aliya-by-Aliya explanation of the Shabbat morning laining. There are also answers to the parsha picture puzzle sheets that challenge you every Shabbat.

ATTENTION

We have received numerous complaints from officials and local residents concerning the danger of walking in the streets on Shabbat. We request that you adhere to the following: 1) always use the sidewalk where available; 2) when walking in the street walk facing traffic, as close as possible to the side of the road, and in single file wherever possible; 3) at night wear something reflective to help drivers spot you. By following these guidelines not only will we help to prevent a tragic accident, but we will also be avoiding a possible chilul HaShem.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

June 28: Men's Club with ZOA:
 " Fighting for ISRAEL on the INTERNET"
 July 14: Summer Series: Sandra Rapoport
 July 21: Summer Series: Dr. Edward Reichman
 August 11: Summer Series: Dr. Elana Stein Hain
 August 18: Summer Series: Lisa Septimus

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Dale & Ellen Polakoff on the birth and brit milah of their grandson, **Yaakov Yisrael**, born to their children, **Yosef & Shoshana Polakoff**.

Mazal Tov to Annie Mendelson on her election as trustee in the Village of Great Neck.

SAVE THE DATE: NSHA 12th ANNUAL GOLF, TENNIS, MAHJONG & SPA CLASSIC- Honoring **Larry Horn-Mon., July 13th** at Fresh Meadows County Club for a wonderful day of great golf, an all day BBQ, ladies tennis and lunch, a spa/pool day, card games/mahjong lessons, men's tennis and a sunset cocktail party followed by a buffet dinner, with entertainment, prizes raffles and auctions. For additional information re: sponsorships/participation, please contact **Glenn Zuckerman, Jonathan Muller, Andrew Feldschreiber** or **Ryan Ostrow** or email **Arnie Flatow** at aflatow@nsha.org or call 487-8687 extension 133.

THE SECURITY CODE

The code has been changed. Call the office or email mtwersky@gns.org or jfrisch@gns.org for the new code.

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY, KEEP THE CODE TO YOURSELF WHEN ENTERING THE BUILDING, AND DO NOT SHARE THE CODE WITH NON-MEMBERS.

ROSH HASHANAH SCOPE MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Please submit all SCOPE magazine articles, recipes, photos, ads, sponsorships and any other material by Monday, July 6th to Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net. Thank you!

**Y
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Saturday, 10 Tammuz

Jerrald Weinstein for Leonard Greenberg
 Ron Malen for Yitzchak ben Avraham Noveck

Sunday 11 Tammuz

Oded Daskal for Eitan Daskal
 Frederick Shaw for Lillian Shaw
 Mansour Farhadian for Avraham Sohayegh

Monday, 12 Tammuz

Gilbert Aronowitz for Richard Luchansky
 Joan Katz for Bessie Sadinoff
 Elain Berger for Murray Sobol

Wednesday, 14 Tammuz

Hyman Katz for Israel Katz
 Trudy Friedman for Carl Lederer
 Edward Mazur for Phil Mazur
 Rabbi Dale Polakoff for William Rosenzweig
 Phillis Safdieh for Aaron Shampam

Thursday, 15 Tammuz

Payman Rabiei for Gohar bat Benyamin
 Harry Lumerman for Beila Rifka Kantar

Samuel Levitt for Geraldine Levitt
 Daniella Muller for Philip Machnikoff
 Tina Machnikoff for Philip Machnikoff

Zehava Atlas for Philip Machnikoff
 Kenneth Magida for Bessie Magida

Friday, 16 Tammuz

Tami Kramer for Irving Secunda