



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Ki Teitzei

August 29, 2015 14 Elul, 5775

TORAH ARTSCROLL 1046 HERTZ 840		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Ki Teitzei	
HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1201 HERTZ 857		<p>Ki Teitzei contains more laws than any other parsha in the Torah, and it is possible to be overwhelmed by this embarrass de richesse of detail. One verse, however, stands out by its sheer counter-intuitiveness: Do not despise an Edomite, because he is your brother. Do not despise the Egyptian, because you were a stranger in his land. (Deut. 23:8) These are very unexpected commands.</p> <p>Understanding them will teach us an important lesson about leadership. First, a general point. Jews have been subjected to racism more and longer than any other nation on earth. Therefore we should be doubly careful never to be guilty of it ourselves. We believe that God created each of us, regardless of color, class, culture or creed, in His image. If we look down on other people because of their race, then we are demeaning God's image and failing to respect kavod ha-briyot, human dignity. If we think less of a person because of the color of his or her skin, we are repeating the sin of Aaron and Miriam – "Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman" (Num. 12:1). There are midrashic interpretations that read this passage differently but the plain sense is that they looked down on Moses' wife because, like Cushite women generally, she had dark skin, making this one of the first recorded instances of color prejudice. For this sin Miriam was struck with leprosy. Instead we should remember the lovely line from The Song of Songs: "I am black but beautiful, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. Do not stare at me because I am dark, because the sun has looked upon me" (Song 1:5). Jews cannot complain that others have racist attitudes toward them if they hold racist attitudes toward others. "First correct yourself then [seek to] correct others," says the Talmud. Tanakh contains negative evaluations of some other nations, but always and only because of their moral failures, never because of ethnicity or skin color.</p> <p>Now to Moses' two commands against hate, both of which are surprising. "Do not despise the Egyptian, because you were a stranger in his land." This is extraordinary. The Egyptians enslaved the Israelites, planned a program against them of slow genocide, and then refused to let them go despite the plagues that were devastating the land. Are these reasons not to hate? True: but the Egyptians had initially provided a refuge for the Israelites at a time of famine. They had honored Joseph and made him second-in-command. The evils they committed against them under "a new king who did not know of Joseph" (Ex. 1:8) were at the instigation of Pharaoh himself, not the people as a whole. Besides which it was the daughter of that Pharaoh who had rescued Moses and adopted him. The Torah makes a clear distinction between the Egyptians and the Amalekites. The latter were destined to be perennial enemies of Israel, but not the former. In a later age Isaiah would make a remarkable prophecy, that a day would come when the Egyptians would suffer their own oppression. They would cry out to God, who would rescue them just as he had rescued the Israelites: When they cry out to the Lord because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and he will rescue them. So the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge the Lord. (Isaiah 19:20-21) The wisdom of Moses' command not to despise Egyptians still shines through today. If the people continued to hate their erstwhile oppressors, Moses would have taken the Israelites out of Egypt but would have failed to take Egypt out of the Israelites. They would still be slaves, not physically but psychologically. They would be slaves to the past, held captive by the</p>	
Times			
Candle Lighting	7:15 pm		
Friday Mincha	7:00 pm		
Hashkama	8:00 am		
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am		
Youth Minyan	8:30 am		
Main	9:00 am		
Beit Medrash	9:15 am		
Gemara Shiur	6:10 pm		
Mincha	7:10 pm		
Shabbat ends	8:22 pm		
Sunday, Aug 30	7:30/8:30 am		
Mon., Thur.	6:35/7:45 am		
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am		
Mincha	7:10 pm		
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei			
August 29	9:38/10:44 am		
September 5	9:40/10:45 am		
Next Shabbat Ki-Tavo			
Candle Lighting	7:04 pm		
Mincha	7:00 pm		
		KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE	SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY KAREN & ROBERT SPITALNICK IN HONOR OF THE WEDDING OF THEIR DAUGHTER ARIELLA TO SHMUEL GILAD.

chains of resentment, unable to build the future. To be free, you have to let go of hate. That is a difficult truth but a necessary one. No less surprising is Moses' insistence: "Do not despise an Edomite, because he is your brother." Edom was, of course, the other name of Esau. There was a time when Esau hated Jacob and vowed to kill him. Besides which, before the twins were born, Rebecca received an oracle telling her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the elder will serve the younger" (Gen. 25:23). Whatever these words mean, they seem to imply that there will be eternal conflict between the two brothers and their descendants. At a much later age, during the Second Temple period, the prophet Malachi said: "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated..." (Malachi 1:2-3). Centuries later still, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai said, "It is a halakhah [rule, law, inescapable truth] that Esau hates Jacob." Why then does Moses tell us not to despise Esau's descendants? The answer is simple. Esau may hate Jacob. It does not follow that Jacob should hate Esau. To answer hate with hate is to be dragged down to the level of your opponent. When, in the course of a television program, I asked Judea Pearl, father of the murdered journalist Daniel Pearl, why he was working for reconciliation between Jews and Muslims, he replied with heartbreaking lucidity, "Hate killed my son. Therefore I am determined to fight hate." As Martin Luther King said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Or as Kohelet said, there is "a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace" (Eccl. 3:8). It was none other than Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai who said that when Esau met Jacob for the last time, he kissed and embraced him "with a full heart." Hate, especially between brothers, is not eternal and inexorable. Always be ready, Moses seems to have implied, for reconciliation between enemies.

Contemporary Games Theory suggests the same. Martin Nowak's program "Generous Tit-for-Tat" is a winning strategy in the scenario known as the Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma.

Tit-for-tat says: start by being nice to your opponent, then do to him what he does to you (in Hebrew, middah kneged middah). Generous Tit-for-Tat says, don't always do to him what he does to you or you may find yourself locked into a mutually destructive cycle of retaliation. Every so often ignore (i.e. forgive) your opponent's last harmful move. That, roughly speaking, is what the sages meant when they said that God originally created the world under the attribute of strict justice but saw that it could not survive. Therefore He built into it the principle of compassion. Moses' two commands against hate are testimony to his greatness as a leader. It is the easiest thing in the world to become a leader by mobilizing the forces of hate. That is what Radovan Karadzic and Slobodan Milosevic did in the former Yugoslavia and it less to mass murder and ethnic cleansing. It is what the state controlled media did - describing Tutsis as inyenzi, "cockroaches" - before the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. It is what dozens of preachers of hate are doing today, often using the Internet to communicate paranoia and incite acts of terror. This was the technique mastered by Hitler as a prelude to the worst-ever crime of man against man. The language of hate is capable of creating enmity between people of different faiths and ethnicities who have lived peaceably together for centuries. It has consistently been the most destructive force in history, and even knowledge of the Holocaust has not put an end to it, even in Europe. It is the unmistakable mark of toxic leadership.

In his classic work, Leadership, James MacGregor Burns distinguishes between transactional and transformational leaders. The former address people's interests. The latter attempt to raise their sights. "Transforming leadership is elevating. It is moral but not moralistic. Leaders engage with followers, but from higher levels of morality; in the enmeshing of goals and values both leaders and followers are raised to more principled levels of judgment." Leadership at its highest transforms those who exercise it and those who are influenced by it. The great leaders make people better, kinder, nobler than they would otherwise be. That was the achievement of Washington, Lincoln, Churchill, Gandhi and Mandela. The paradigm case was Moses, the man who had more lasting influence than any other leader in history. He did it by teaching the Israelites not to hate. Hate the sin but not the sinner. Do not forget the past but do not be held captive by it. Be willing to fight your enemies but never allow yourself to be defined by them or become like them. Learn to love and forgive. Acknowledge the evil men do, but stay focused on the good that is in our power to do. Only thus do we raise the moral sights of humankind and help redeem the world we share.



GNS Yoetzet Halacha Lisa Septimus
 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: 516.415.1111
 Email: gnsyoetzet@gmail.com.
 All conversations and emails are kept confidential.



Great Neck Synagogue
 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023
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**SALLY & SEYMOUR OLSHIN
ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM
GNS 2015
TESHUVAH DRASHA**

Guest Speaker:

Rabbi Baruch Simon

"Teshuvah in the Depths of Our Hearts"



Rabbi Baruch Simon is the Colonel James R. Eisehart Professor of Talmud at the Yeshiva Program/Moshe Center of Yeshiva University and a co-author of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Simon is the author of three books on the weekly Torah Parashah, which have been published in numerous editions. He recently published his first volume of Torah Parashah on Hoshana, which discusses the laws of women and marriage. Rabbi Simon received semichah (rabbinic ordination) from BECS in 1986. A graduate of Yeshiva University High School for Boys, Rabbi Simon earned his BA, magna cum laude, in Judaic studies from Yeshiva College, where he followed the liberal program (graduate studies), a singular honor given the Yeshiva Program's selectivity. Rabbi Simon was a fellow of the prestigious Cardinale and Joseph Louis Kibel Dym and a fellow of the Marquis and Adina Katz Kibel. Before teaching in the Yeshiva Program, Rabbi Simon was a member of the Rabbinical faculty at the Louis Brandeis College of Hebrew Studies.

Tuesday evening,
September 8th
following 7:30pm
Mincha

Series
Sponsorships - \$180

To dedicate a
lecture, contact the
synagogue office

516.487.6100
mtwarsky@gns.org



20 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club

Invite you and your family to join us

SUNDAY, Sept. 20 at 8:00pm

At CITIFIELD, QUEENS



YANKEES vs METS

\$60 per ticket

\$55 per ticket for paid-up Men's Club members (limit 4)

Please make checks to GNS Men's Club

If you are interested, please contact Jack Lipsky at 384-1482

jlipsky.lipsky01@insuremail.net or Hilly Milun 448-4890

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We have a limited number of tickets available so please order early.

Yes! We will be joining you at the Ball Game!

Name _____ Phone # _____

Number of tickets _____ at \$55 each \$ _____

Please make checks to **GNS Men's Club** and send to Synagogue office

STOP IRAN NOW
JOIN OUR RALLY
TUESDAY 5:30PM - 7:30PM
SEPTEMBER 1
In front of the offices of Senators Schumer & Gillibrand
780 Third Ave, At 48th St. NYC
SEN. GILLIBRAND:
DON'T SURRENDER AMERICA - JOIN SEN. SCHUMER

"THE BEAUTIFUL CRY OF
DEATH TO AMERICA
UNITES OUR NATION."
-HASSAN ROUHANI
President of Iran

DOWN WITH U.S.A.
الموت لامريكا

ORGANIZED BY THE STOP IRAN RALLY COALITION AND THE JEWISH RAPID RESPONSE COALITION

GNS Youth Carnival!!!
Kickoff Event

MONDAY AUGUST 31
PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE
New York Fun Factory
GNS PARKING LOT
4:00-6:00PM

PREPARE TO GET WET!!
WATER SLIDES, PETTING ZOO & MORE!
*Be mindful this is a shul event, please dress in shorts and t-shirt

\$25 per member family
\$36 per non-member family
BBQ Dinner options available for purchase

GNS YOUTH

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 in honor of the 76th anniversary of **Mel Fox's** Bar Mitzvah.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast is sponsored by **Marianna & George Naim** in memory of her father **Eliyahu Yeroshalmi, z"l**.

GNS CHESED FOR AUGUST

We are collecting school supplies to be used by families in need. Please drop off at the home of **Louise & Len Kahn, 18 Oak Dr., Sun-Fri**. Please leave supplies at garage.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Many individuals and families in our Shul Community would like to host Shul members for meals during the Chagim. Other individuals and families would like to attend Yom Tov meals. Our Chaverim Committee would like to facilitate the hosting and guesting process. Please email or call Ellen Polakoff [516.317.7338](tel:516.317.7338), Katie Lichter [516.859.5124](tel:516.859.5124) or Cindy Hodkin [516.317.9632](tel:516.317.9632) if you would like to guest or host.

GNS PASS IT FORWARD

The following words are from a woman whose family has been receiving food from a pantry that PASS IT FORWARD supplies for Rosh HaShana.

"I've been thinking of texting you lately, but I can't find the words to express what I feel. My summer has been quite rough. My husband had surgery for cancer and the recovery is slow. He was also laid off his job unexpectedly. Please keep me in mind if you have anything in the pantry, even dry goods. What you do for me and for so many others saves lives. You see it's not just food for the body that you provide, it's also food for the soul. Knowing that people care about others is inspiring. May Hashem bless you with the ability to always be a giver and the strength to see it through."

ON THURSDAY SEPT 10TH, WE NEED:

DRIVERS FOR DELIVERIES (2-4 pm) PACKERS (12-2 pm)
Contact: Cindy at koshercookinggn@gmail.com or Michelle at michberman@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. If you save one life, it's as though you've saved the world.....

Pass it Forward's Rosh Hashana delivery program is requesting FROZEN QUARTS of SOUP, to be brought to GNS Coat Lobby on Thursday, Sept. 10th, between 11am and 12 noon.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

August 31: Youth Carnival Kickoff
September 8: Teshuva Lecture: Rabbi Baruch Simon
September 12: Yoetzet Halacha: Lisa Septimus
September 19: Shabbat Scholar: Dr. Erica Brown
September 20: Men's Club: Yankees vs. Mets
September 21: R' Frand Teshuvah Drasha (webcast)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Yafa & Ebrahim Gabbazadeh on the upcoming marriage of their grandson **Avraham Jeremy Kohansimeh** to **Liora Nicole Silver**.

Mazal Tov to Rachel & Carl Mosesson on the upcoming wedding of their son **Daniel to Tova Baars**, daughter of **Ruth & Rabbi Stephen Baars** of Rockville, Md. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents, **Roz & Zack Dicker**.

RALLY

Join the important press conference/rally in front of the Senators' offices at 780 3rd Ave. (between 48-49 streets) on **Tuesday, Sep., 1st at 5:30 pm** to praise Senator Chuck Schumer and protest Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's standing on the Iran Deal. For more information, contact **Dr. Paul Brody and Jeff Wiesenfeld**.

BREAKFAST RECEPTION

A reception for **Cong. Lee Zeldin** will be held on Sunday, **Sept. 20th at 10-11:30am** at the **Spitalnick home**, 10 Birchwood Lane, Kings Point. To RSVP please call **Nancy Marks: [631-772-1900](tel:631-772-1900)**.

ROSH HASHANA CARDS

Sisterhood is selling beautiful Rosh Hashana cards. Early bird special rates will be 10 cards for \$18 until **Sept. 1st**. After that date they will be \$2.50 each. Please call **Judy Lillien** at [516.487.6845](tel:516.487.6845) to pick up your cards. Cards can also be picked up in shul office.

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Saturday, 14 Elul

Edith Lubin for Harry Feigenbaum
Harriet Frederick for Erwin Sillem

Monday, 16 Elul

Susan Mindick for Rose Kaufman
Michail Litvin for Elik Litvin

Tuesday, 17 Elul

Marilyn Freedman for Ivan Cohen
Leo Mindick for Gertude Mindick
Claire Behar for Bella Winston

Wednesday, 18 Elul

Judith Weinstein for Estelle Sandler
Sonia Movsas for Alec Serlin
Shimon Wolf for Rebettzin Elaine Wolf

Thursday, 19 Elul

Blossom Kutcher for Miriam Chaney
Ronnie Shaban for Rochelle Cohen
Jerome Goodman for Sol Goodman
Amy Goldberg-Reiss for David Reifle

Friday, 20 Elul

Jason Mayer for Lena Mayer
Netti Herman for Harry Minsker
Joyce Dacher for Howard Wolfman