



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Eikev

August 8, 2015 23 Av, 5775

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 980
HERTZ 780

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1197
HERTZ 794

Shabbat Mevarchim Elul:
Molad is next Shabbat Aug.15
at 4:23:8 am
Rosh Chodesh:
Shabbat & Sunday
8/15- 8/16

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Eikev

What is the real challenge of maintaining a free society? In parshat Ekev, Moses springs his great surprise. Here are his words: Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your G-d... Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your G-d, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery... You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ...If you ever forget the Lord your G-d...I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. (Deut. 8: 11-19)

wilderness were the real challenge, and that once you conquer and settle the land, your problems will be over. The truth is that it is then that the real challenge will begin. It will be precisely when all your physical needs are met – when you have land and sovereignty and rich harvests and safe homes – that your spiritual trial will begin. The real challenge is not poverty but affluence, not insecurity but security, not slavery but freedom. Moses, for the first time in history, is hinting at a law of history. Many centuries later it was articulated by the great 14th century Islamic thinker, Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406), by the Italian political philosopher Giambattista Vico (1668-1744), and most recently by the Harvard historian Niall Ferguson. Moses is giving an account of the decline and fall of civilizations. Ibn Khaldun argued that when a civilization becomes great, its elites get used to luxury and comfort, and the people as a whole lose what he called their *asabiyah*, their social solidarity. The people then become prey to a conquering enemy, less civilized than they are but more cohesive and driven.

cycle: "People first sense what is necessary, then consider what is useful, next attend to comfort, later delight in pleasures, soon grow dissolute in luxury, and finally go mad squandering their estates." Bertrand Russell put it powerfully in the introduction to his *History of Western Philosophy*. Russell thought that the two great ages of mankind were to be found in ancient Greece and Renaissance Italy. But he was honest enough to see that the very features that made them great contained the seeds of their own demise: What had happened in the great age of Greece happened again in Renaissance Italy: traditional moral restraints disappeared, because they were seen to be associated with superstition; the liberation from fetters made individuals energetic and creative, producing a rare fluorescence of genius; but the anarchy and treachery which inevitably resulted from the decay of morals made Italians collectively impotent, and they fell, like the Greeks, under the domination of nations less civilized than themselves

Vico described a similar

You thought, Moses says to the new generation, that the forty years of wandering in the

Times

Candle Lighting	7:45 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	6:40 pm
Mincha	7:40 pm
Shabbat ends	8:53 pm
Sunday, Aug 9	7:30/8:30 am
Mon., Thur.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	7:40 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
August 8	9:30/10:40 am
August 15	9:28/10:39 am
Next Shabbat Re-eh	
Candle Lighting	7:36 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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but not so destitute of social cohesion. Niall Ferguson, in his recent book Civilization, argues that the West rose to dominance because of what he calls its six "killer applications": competition, science, democracy, medicine, consumerism and the Protestant work ethic. Today however it is losing belief in itself and is in danger of being overtaken by others.

All of this was said for the first time by Moses, and it forms a central argument of the book of Devarim. If you assume you yourselves won the land and the freedom you enjoy, Moses implies, you will grow complacent. In an earlier chapter he uses the graphic word venoshantem, "you will grow old" (Deut. 4:25). You will no longer have the moral and mental energy to make the sacrifices necessary for the defense of freedom. Inequalities will grow. The rich will become self-indulgent. The poor will feel excluded. There will be social divisions, resentments, injustices. Society will no longer cohere. People will not feel bound to one another by a bond of collective responsibility. Individualism will prevail. Trust will decline. Social capital will wane. This has happened, sooner or later, to all civilizations, however great. To the Israelites – a small people surrounded by large empires – it would be particularly disastrous. As Moses makes clear towards the end of the book, in the long account of the curses that would overcome the people if they lost their spiritual bearings, Israel would find itself defeated and devastated.

Only against this background can we understand the momentous project the book of Devarim is proposing: the creation of a society capable of defeating the normal laws of the growth-and-decline of civilizations. It is an astonishing idea. How is it to be done? By each

person bearing and sharing responsibility for the society as a whole. By each knowing the history of his or her people. By each individual studying and understanding the laws that govern all. By teaching their children so that they too become literate and articulate in their identity.

Rule 1: Never forget where you came from. Next, you sustain freedom by establishing courts, the rule of law and the implementation of justice. By caring for the poor. By ensuring that everyone has the basic requirements of dignity. By including the lonely in the people's celebrations. By remembering the covenant daily, weekly, annually in ritual, and renewing it at a national assembly every seven years. By making sure there are always prophets to remind the people of their destiny and expose the corruptions of power.

Rule 2: Never drift from your foundational principles and ideals. Above all by recognizing a power greater than ourselves. This is Moses' most insistent point. Societies start growing old when they lose faith in the transcendent. They then lose faith in an objective moral order and end by losing faith in themselves.

Rule 3: A society is as strong as its faith. Only faith in G-d can lead us to honor the needs of others as well as ourselves. Only faith in G-d can motivate us to act for the benefit of a future we will not live to see. Only faith in G-d can stop us from wrongdoing when we believe that no other human will ever find out. Only faith in G-d can give us the humility that alone has the power to defeat the arrogance of success and the self-belief that leads, as Paul Kennedy argued in The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers, to military overstretch and national defeat.



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.

Moses' argument recently received endorsement from an unlikely source. In Civilization, Niall Ferguson quotes a member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, part of a team tasked with the challenge of discovering why it was that Europe, having lagged behind China until the 17th century, overtook it, rising to prominence and dominance. At first, he said, we thought it was your guns. You had better weapons than we did. Then we delved deeper and thought it was your political system. Then we searched deeper still, and concluded that it was your economic system. But for the past 20 years we have realized that it was in fact your religion. It was the (Judeo-Christian) foundation of social and cultural life in Europe that made possible the emergence first of capitalism, then of democratic politics. A society is as strong as its faith, and only faith can save a society from decline and fall. That was one of Moses' greatest insights, and it has never ceased to be true.



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
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Dr. James Frisch, Assistant Director
Ari Lipsky, Rabbinic Intern
Dr. Hal Chadow, President
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Dena Block, Yoetzet Halacha 516-320-9818

GNS 8TH ANNUAL ROSH HASHANA
PASS IT FORWARD HUNGER INITIATIVE
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

BRING THE SWEETNESS OF ROSH HASHANA TO THOSE IN NEED!

Now in its 8th year, the **PASS IT FORWARD** program of the GNS Hunger Initiative provides food to families for Yom Tov. Last year, volunteers packed and delivered **over 1000 meals** to needy individuals, families and kosher food pantries. Those being helped include the elderly, homebound, Holocaust survivors and those suffering from unemployment and illness.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Donate Food: If you have a kosher kitchen (separate meat and dairy utensils and kosher certification on all processed foods), make extra food (soup, main, side or dessert) and pack it in containers serving 4-8 (NO BAGS please!) **Deliver it to GNS COAT ROOM LOBBY** on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10th, from 11 am to 12 noon. We also welcome donations of pomegranates, dates, challahs and desserts!

Donate \$\$: Purchase a special meal for an \$18 contribution at Everfresh or Shop Delight, which will be delivered on your behalf. Or send a check made out to "Great Neck Synagogue", and MARKED clearly for "Pass It Forward."

Donate Time: We need **packers** (from 11:30 to 2 pm) and **drivers** for about 25 different routes, starting from 2:00 pm TO 4:00 pm on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10th, meeting at **GNS Coat Lobby**. Children under 11 must be with a parent.

Donate Creativity: Younger children & creative souls can spend time making special Rosh HaShana cards to be enclosed in the food delivery.

ALL VOLUNTEERS PLEASE EMAIL MICHELLE BERMAN: michberman@gmail.com
 CINDY HODKIN: koshercookinggn@gmail.com

Do A Mitzvah... Make Life Meaningful... Rosh HaShana is coming...

Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club
 Invite you and your family to join us
SUNDAY, Sept. 20 at 1.00pm
 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 Mens Club

If you are interested, please contact Jack Lipsky at 364-1482
jlipsky.lipsk01@insuremail.net or Hilly Milun 448-4890
gnsmensclub@optonline.net

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

Dear Friends,

On Tisha B'Av as we contemplate the destructions and tragedies that have befallen us as a people, we join together with so many others of our brothers and sisters, as well as with freedom loving people throughout our country, in the realization that we find ourselves on the verge of another tragedy and of another potential destruction – the IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.

We have all heard and read about the agreement and the grave dangers it poses to Israel, America and the Free World. The difference is that we are here today, and it is our responsibility to stand up and make a difference. When we look back 70 years or so at the response of American Jewry to the unfolding destruction of the Holocaust, we wonder if more could have been done. Perhaps then we weren't as politically capable, or as able to spread the message of impending destruction as we are today. Perhaps then, we had an excuse. Today, and for the generations that will look back at these unfolding events and at us, we have no excuse.

We are fortunate to live in a democracy, and our views must be represented by those elected to serve as our voice. But they must hear our voices, they must know what we are thinking. Not at election time – now! This is not the time to be silent, for if our voices are not heard, if this bad deal gets congressional approval, if there are not enough supporters to override a potential presidential veto, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

We know what we must do. This is not about politics – it is about survival, the survival of our brothers and sisters in Israel and the survival of our children and grandchildren in a world with a nuclear Iran.

Use the links at the bottom of this letter to find out more about the Agreement. Use the AIGAS link to send a message to Senators Schumer and Clinton as well as Congressman Israel. Ask them to vote AGAINST the Agreement, and ask them to convince their colleagues as well. Better yet, call their offices and leave a strong message or write them a letter of your own. 10,000 phone calls or letters or emails will make a difference.

There's nothing more important for us to do, Tisha B'Av is a day of crying, but we can also turn it into a day of doing, and I can't think of anything more appropriate to do on Tisha B'Av than this... MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD – NOW!

Very cordially yours,

Rabbi Dale Prizack
 Great Neck Synagogue

It's time to be heard. Stand with Israel.

PHONE-NUMBER-FOR-SCHUMER-2013-08-04-2, CALL-ROBERT-CLINTON-2013-08-04-1 AND ISRAEL-2013-08-04-1

SALLY & SEYMOUR OLSHIN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM **GNS SUMMER 2015 LEARNING PROGRAM**

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Elana Hain Stein
**Halakhic (Legal) Loopholes:
 Cynicism, Realism or Something
 Else?**



With an eye towards gaining perspective on current debates about kosher switches and Shabbat-keeping apps, we will try to understand why the legal loopholes became such a significant feature of early Jewish law.

Dr. Elana Hain Stein is the Director of Leadership Education for the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, where she serves as a lead faculty member and oversees the content of lay and professional leadership programs. A widely well-regarded teacher and scholar, Dr. Stein Hain earned her doctorate in Religion from Columbia University. She served for eight years as a clergy member at Lincoln Square Synagogue and The Jewish Center, both in New York, as well as adjunct faculty at NYU. She lives with her husband Yonah and her sons, Azan and Newton, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Tuesday, August 11
 following 7:40pm
 Mincha

Series
 Sponsorships - \$180

To dedicate a
 lecture, contact the
 synagogue office

516.487.6100
nlworsky@gns.org



26 Old Mill Road
 Great Neck, NY 11023

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 KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by **Ralene & Andrew Adler** in memory of his father **Bernard Adler, z"l** and by **Pari & Henry Schwartz** in honor of their children and grandchildren.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Many individuals and families in our Shul Community would like to host Shul members for meals during the Chaggim. 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.

Please join us in the Braun youth Lounge on **Wednesday August 26 from 11am-12pm** for the Grand opening of the Chaverim Center. Come schmooze, grab a snack, chat with us. Join in making our Shul a vibrant community center. Introduce yourselves to us and let us know the programming you would like to see. We plan to offer lunch and programming every Wednesday. Here are some of the other things we are hoping to provide: Weekly lunch; Cards and games...i.e. canasta, bridge, backgammon, scrabble, mahjong, bingo; Monthly book club; Lessons in computer skills; Lectures and so much more. If you cannot attend because you do not have transportation, we don't want you to miss out, please contact us, and we will arrange a ride for you.

Cindy Hodkin Koshercookinggn@gmail.com; [516.482.7771](tel:516-482-7771)
Chair Chaverim Committee
Michele Berman Michberman@gmail.com; [516.697.0522](tel:516-697-0522);
Erica Zucker Heisler Ezh624@aol.com; [516.686.9925](tel:516-686-9925)
Co-chairs Chaverim center.

ROSH HASHANA CARDS

Sisterhood is selling beautiful Rosh Hashana cards. Early bird special rates will be 10 cards for \$18 until Aug 31. 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.

ERUV AT NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

Please be aware that the eruv does **NOT** extend once Northern Blvd meets Community Drive and therefore it is prohibited to carry any items to the hospital on Shabbat.

SPONSOR A MACHZOR

You can now sponsor a Rosh Hashanna or Yom Kippur Machzor for \$45 each. Please call the shul office to dedicate these before the Yom Tovim.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

August 11: Summer Series: Dr. Elana Stein Hain
August 18: Summer Series: Lisa Septimus
September 8: Teshuva Lecture: Rabbi Baruch Simon
September 12: Yoetzet Halacha: Lisa Septimus
September 20: Men's Club: Yankees vs. Mets
September 21: R' Frand Teshuvah Drasha (webcast)

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Dale and Ellen Polakoff** on the birth of a grandson born to their children **Rabbi Ephraim & Tova Polakoff**.

Mazal Tov to **Sharon & Mark Twersky** on the birth of a grandson born to their children **Jen & Benji Gertelman**.

Mazal Tov to **Marcelle Fischler & Serge Fischler** on the birth of a granddaughter born to their children **Steven & Raina Fischler**.

Mazal Tov to **Anne Gold** on the birth of a great-granddaughter born to her grandchildren, **Sara & Roy Kaluzshner**.

Mazal Tov to **Fran and Bernie Mermelstein**, on the birth of twins, a daughter and a son to their children, **Nava & Steven Mermelstein**.

GNS PASS IT FORWARD

PASS IT FORWARD, the GNS Hunger Initiative program that sends out over 1000 meals to over 200 families and a kosher food pantry. We are packing and delivering on **THURSDAY SEPT 10th**. WE NEED: DRIVERS, PACKERS, BAKERS, COOKS, PEOPLE to DONATE MONEY and DONATE FOOD.

BAKE-A-THON FOR PASS IT FORWARD

Please join us for our first annual Bake-A-Thon for Pass It Forward on August 19, from 10 A.M. until we run out of flour. We'll be making as many chocolate and honey cakes as we can to sweeten Rosh Hashana for a needy family. If you have a favorite pareve recipe, please bring it along with any special ingredients it may need! Bring flour, bring sugar, bring eggs, or just bring yourselves to 9 Myrtle Drive to help out. Please RSVP to Marla.Lemonik@gmail.com.

Robert Katz and family would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff, Lichter, Cantor Kron and the entire GNS Community for their outpouring support and sympathy following the loss of his beloved father Ernest Katz z'l.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 23 Av

Anne Gold for Morris Feinstein
Eva Bachrach for Gertrud Grunfarb
Morris Nasser for Victoria Hercz
Robert Knepper for Maxwell Knepper
Carl Rosenberg for Julia Muller

Sunday, 24 Av

Andrew Adler for Bernard Adler
Mahin Aryeh for Yahya Aryeh
Jason Mayer for Max Mayer
Henry Schwartz for Ruth Schwartz

Monday, 25 Av

Cindy Ludwig for Mary Gelber

Tuesday, 26 Av

Meryl Friedman for Lloyd Karten

Wednesday, 27 Av

Vicki Maher for Pola Brzezinski
Lev Dynkin for David Dynkin
Semyon Dynkin for David Dynkin
Magda Yehaskel for Edith Wohl

Thursday, 28 Av

Joseph Farajian for Amir Farajian
Mel Fox for Bernard Fox

Sylvia Fisher for Saul Hirsh

Jerrald Weinstein for Isaac Jacob Weinstein

Friday, 29 Av

Jerrald Weinstein for Bernhard Kloogman