



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Re'eh/Rosh Chodesh Elul

August 15, 2015 30 Av, 5775

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Re'eh

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 998
HERTZ 799

MAFTIR
ARTSCROLL 980
HERTZ 695

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1208
HERTZ 944

If you seek to understand Judaism's social vision, look at its anti-poverty legislation: "If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tight-fisted toward your poor brother. Rather be open-handed and freely lend him sufficient for his needs in that which he lacks. Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for cancelling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the Lord against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be

open-handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." (Deut 15:7-11) Ostensibly the passage is about the cancellation of debts in the seventh year (shemittah, the year of "release"). The oral tradition, however, extended it to the laws of tzedakah – the word usually translated as "charity" but which also means "distributive justice, equity". The rabbis interpreted the phrase "sufficient for his needs" to mean the basic requirements of existence: food, clothing, shelter and so on. "That which he lacks" was understood as referring to a person who was previously wealthy but has now become impoverished. He too must be helped to recover his dignity. It is related about Hillel the Elder that, for a certain poor man who was of good family, he bought a horse to ride on and a slave to run before him. When on one occasion he could not find a slave to run before the man, he himself ran before him. (Ketubot 67b) The force of this passage lies in the fact that Hillel himself was notoriously poor, yet he gave of his money and time to help a rich man who had lost his money regain his self-

respect. This is evident throughout the laws of tzedakah. On the one hand, they are directed to the brute fact of poverty. No one must be deprived of basic physical necessities. On the other, they address with astonishing sensitivity the psychology of poverty. It demeans, embarrasses, humiliates, shames. Tzedakah, ruled the rabbis, must be given in such a way as to minimize these feelings: When Rabbi Yannai saw a certain man giving a coin to a poor person in front of everyone, he said: It would have been better not to have given it to him than to have given it and put him to shame. (Hagigah 5b)

In a famous passage, Maimonides describes the eight levels of charity: There are eight degrees of charity, one higher than the other. The highest degree, exceeded by none, is that of one who assists a poor person by providing him with a gift or a loan or by accepting him into a business partnership or by helping him find employment – in a word by putting him in a situation

Times

Candle Lighting	7:36 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	6:30 pm
Mincha	7:30 pm
Shabbat ends	8:43 pm
Sunday, Aug 16	7:30/8:30 am
Mon., Thur.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	7:30 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
August 15	9:28/10:39 am
August 22	9:35/10:43 am
Next Shabbat Shoftim	
Candle Lighting	7:26 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY LILLIAN & GARY CHUBAK IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER EDMUND GRAF, Z"l, BY ADDIE & AVROM MARKOWITZ IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER MARCIA PERLMAN, Z"l, AND HIS FATHER DR. BERNARD MARKOWITZ, Z"l AND BY MRS. CHANA MARKOWITZ IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER URI BEN MOSHE YEHUDA ARYEH GOTTLIEB, Z"l.

where he can dispense with other people's aid. With reference to such aid it is said, 'You shall strengthen him, be he a stranger or a settler, he shall live with you' (Lev. 25:35), which means: strengthen him in such a manner that his falling into want is prevented. A step below this is the one who gives alms to the needy in such a way that the giver does not know to whom he gives and the recipient does not know from whom he takes. This exemplifies doing a good deed for its own sake. One example was the Hall of Secrecy in the Temple, where the righteous would place their gift clandestinely and where poor people from noble families could come and secretly help themselves to aid. Close to this is dropping money in a charity box...One step lower is where the giver knows to whom he gives, but the poor person does not know from whom he receives. Thus the great sages would go and secretly put money into poor people's doorways...A step lower is the case where the poor person knows from whom he is taking, but the giver does not know to whom he is giving. Thus the great sages would tie coins in their scarves, which they would fling over their shoulders, so that the poor could help themselves without suffering shame. Lower than this, is where someone gives the poor person a gift before he asks. Lower still is one who gives only after the poor person asks. Lower than this is one who gives less than is fitting, but does so with a friendly countenance. The lowest level is one who gives ungraciously. (Mattenot Ani'im 10:7-14)

This exquisitely calibrated ethic is shot through with psychological insight. What matters is not only how much you give, but also how you do so. Anonymity in the giving of aid is essential to dignity. The poor must not be embarrassed. The rich must not be allowed to feel superior. We give, not to take pride in our generosity, still less to emphasize the dependency of others, but because we belong to a covenant of human solidarity, and because that is what God wants us to do, honoring the trust through which he has temporarily lent us wealth in the first place. Especially noteworthy is Maimonides' insistence that giving somebody a job, or the means to start a business, is the highest charity of

all. What is humiliating about poverty is dependence itself: the feeling of being beholden to others. One of the sharpest expressions of this is to be found in the Grace after Meals, when we say, "We beseech You, God our Lord, let us not be in need of the gifts of men or of their loans, but only of Your helping hand ... so that we may not be put to shame nor humiliated forever and ever." The greatest act of tzedakah is one that allows the individual to become self-sufficient. The highest form of charity is one that enables the individual to dispense with charity. From the point of view of the giver, this is one of the least financially demanding forms of giving. It may not cost him anything at all. But from the point of view of the recipient, it is the most dignifying, because it removes the shame of receiving. Humanitarian relief is essential in the short-term, but in the long-run, job creation and economic policies that promote full employment are more important.

One detail of Jewish law is particularly noteworthy: even a person dependent on tzedakah must himself or herself give tzedakah. On the face of it, the rule is absurd. Why give X enough money so that he can give to Y? Giving to Y directly is more logical and efficient. What the rabbis understood, however, is that giving is an essential part of human dignity. The rabbinic insistence that the community provide the poor with enough money so that they themselves can give is a profound insight into the human condition.

Jewry has had many distinguished economists, from David Ricardo (whom Keynes called the greatest mind that ever addressed itself to economics), to John von Neumann (a physicist who, in his spare time, invented Game Theory), to Paul Samuelson, Milton Friedman and Alan Greenspan. They have won an astonishing 38% of Nobel prizes in the field. Why should this have been so? Perhaps because Jews have long known that economics is one of the fundamental determinants of a society; that economic systems are not written into the structure of the universe, but are constructed by human beings and can be changed by human beings; and thus that poverty is not a fact of nature but can be alleviated, minimized, reduced. Economics is not a religious discipline. It is a secular art and science. Yet, deeply underlying the Jewish passion for economics is a religious imperative: "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."



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
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

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 loophole 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 Navon, 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
mtworsky@gns.org



26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

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

Guest Speaker:

Lisa Septimus

"We Didn't Start the Fire - Or Did
We?" On the Origins of Man's
Creative Impulse



Lisa Septimus has recently been appointed Yoetzet Halacha of Great Neck Synagogue. She also serves as Yoetzet Halacha of the Five Towns and served as a Yoetzet in Manhattan for two years. A graduate of Stern College's Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies, she subsequently served as the program's shoelot u'meshiva. She teaches Talmud, Chumash, and Ethics at North Shore Hebrew Academy High School in Great Neck, where she also coordinates informal education programs and serves as Dean of the Class of 2016. In her active role as nebetzin of the Young Israeli of North Woodlawn, she is integrally involved with adult education and youth programming. She has taught at The Jewish Center in Manhattan, Riverdale Jewish Center, Oran, and Yeshiva University's Summer Learning Program. She and her husband, Rabbi Yehuda Septimus, are the parents of four young children.

Tuesday, August 18
following 7:30pm
Mincha

Series
Sponsorships - \$180

To dedicate a
lecture, contact the
synagogue office

516.487.6100
mtworsky@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.

CHESED THANK YOU

Thanks to **Jon Ambalo and Steven Blumner** for their co-chairing the July Chesed Collection. We also thank the congregation that donated 29 cellphones, 67 pairs of glasses and 297 pairs of shoes for the different charities.

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.

The opening of the Chaverim center will be postponed until after the Holidays so that a greater number of synagogue members can attend and participate in the opening.

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.

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: Elana Hain Stein
August 18: Summer Series: Lisa Septimus
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

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.

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.

ROSH CHODESH ELUL CHALLAH BAKING EVENT

Elul Rosh Chodesh Challah Baking Event in Great Neck at the home of Dahlia Abraham-Klein on **Thursday Aug. 13th** at 6pm. Elul is the last month of the Jewish year where we search inside our hearts to take a spiritual accounting of the year. Please RSVP to silkroadvegetarian@gmail.com.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 30 Av

Ruth Seif for Zelig Dolinsky
Lillian Chubak for Edmund Graf
Myra Sutin for Annie Joffe
Vera Bernstein for Caroline Lilly Lefkowitz
Gilbert Louzoun for Albert Louzoun
Carl Rosenberg for Henry Rosenberg
Joyce Dacher for Jacob Wolfman

Sunday, 1 Elul

Morris Nasser for Jack Nasser

Monday, 2 Elul

Ellen Siegel for Mel Crair
Marlene Rutkin for Ann Fishman
Frederick Lukash for Leslie Lukash

Tuesday, 3 Elul

Adeline Markowitz for Marcia Perlman

Wednesday, 4 Elul

Gisele Katz for Fay Gastwirth
Elana Flax for Morris Matzkin
Cheryl Sneag for Morris Matzkin
Anita Beretz for Erna Levi Reichenberg

Thursday, 5 Elul

Sandra Gold for Nita Barak
Harriet Cooper for Jacob Rothstein

Friday, 6 Elul

Marlene Rutkin for Morris Fishman
Chava Shalmon for Esther Grinszpan
William Helmreich for Leo Helmreich