



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayelech

September 19, 2015 9 Tishrei, 5776

TORAH ARTSCROLL 1094 HERTZ 887		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Vayelech	
HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1204 HERTZ 891		<p>What do you say to your successor? What advice do you give him or her? Vayelech is the place to look for the answer, because it is here that Moses finally handed the reins over to Joshua, and he and God both give him a blessing for the future. But they gave different blessings. Listen to them and they sound almost the same. Moses says "Be strong and of good courage, for you will come [tavo] with this people into the land" (Deut. 31: 7). God says, "Be strong and of good courage, for you will bring [tavi] the Israelites into the land" (31: 23). Tavo or tavi, "come with" or "bring." The words sound and seem similar. But the difference as understood by the sages was total. Here is how Rashi puts it: Moses said to Joshua, "Make sure that the elders of the generation are with you. Always act according to their opinion and advice." However, the Holy One blessed be He said to Joshua, "For you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them" - meaning, "Bring them even against their will. It all depends on you. If necessary, take a stick and beat them over the head. There is only one leader for a generation, not two."</p>	<p>consultation and conciliation. What he was saying in effect was, "You don't need to follow the people. You are the leader, not they. But you do need to work with the elders. They too are leaders. They constitute, in effect, your team. They need to feel that they are part of the decision making process. They will not expect you always to agree with them. Often they will not agree with one another. But they do need to feel consulted." "If they sense that you are not interested in their opinions, if the impression they have of you is of a person determined to do things his way regardless of everyone else because you know better, they will attempt to sabotage you. They will do you harm. They may not succeed. You may survive. But you will be injured. You will limp. Your standing among the people will be diminished. They will say, how can we respect one who is not respected by the elders?" "I speak from experience. The Korach rebellion was serious. It was not just Korach; it was also the Reubenites, and other leaders from the various tribes. And though the rebellion was cut short in the most dramatic way possible, we were all diminished and nothing was quite the same ever again. So: make sure that the elders of the generation are with you. If they are, you will succeed."</p>
Times			
Candle Lighting	6:42 pm	<p>God, according to the sages, took the opposite approach. "The time has come to leave the wilderness, cross the Jordan, conquer the land and build the kind of society that honors the human beings I made in my image instead of enslaving and exploiting them. Don't look for consensus. You will never find it. People's interests are different.</p>	<p>These are the two extremes of leadership: consensus or command. Moses advised Joshua to pursue a policy of</p>
Friday Mincha	6:45 pm		
Hashkama	8:00 am		
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am		
Youth Minyan	8:30 am		
Main	9:00 am		
Beit Medrash	9:15 am		
Mincha	5:55 pm		
Shabbat Shuva Drasha	6:55 pm		
Shabbat ends	7:48 pm		
Sunday Sept., 20	7:30/8:30 am		
Mincha	6:40 pm		
Mon., Thur.	6:35/7:45 pm		
Tuesday - Wednesday Yom Kippur See page 3 for schedule			
Friday	6:45/7:45 am		
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei			
September 19	9:44/10:46 am		
September 26	9:47/10:47 am		
Next Shabbat Ha'azinu			
Candle Lighting	6:29 pm		
Mincha	6:30 pm		

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Those were, then and now, the two great options. But notice something odd. The person urging consensus is Moses. But Moses never acted by consensus. This is the man who almost had to drag the people out of Egypt, through the sea, and across a howling desert, the man who did things of his own initiative without even asking God. This is the man who broke the tablets of stone hewn and engraved by God himself. When did Moses ever lead by consensus? To be sure he had seventy elders, princes of tribes, and a devolved structure of administration with heads of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens, but though they helped him, they did not advise him nor did he seek their advice. What suddenly turned Moses into a peace-nik, a lead-by-consensus man? That is one problem. The other is the advice given by God himself: lead from the front, even against their will. But that is not how God acted, as understood by the sages. This is what they said on the words immediately prior to the creation of humanity, "Let us make man in our image": Let us make man: From here we learn the humility of the Holy One, blessed be He. Since man was created in the likeness of the angels, and they would envy him, He consulted them... Even though they [the angels] did not assist Him in His creation, and there is an opportunity for the heretics to rebel (to misconstrue the plural as a basis for their heresies), Scripture did not hesitate to teach proper conduct and the trait of humility, that a great person should consult with and receive permission from a smaller one. The sages, puzzled by the plural, "Let us make man," interpreted it to mean that God consulted with the angels. Despite the fact that the use of the word "us" was dangerous – it could be read as compromising the pure monotheism of Judaism – nonetheless the principle of consultation is so important that the Torah takes the risk of being open to misinterpretation. God consults, according to the sages. "God does not act tyrannically toward His creatures."

To be sure, the sages said that at Sinai God suspended the mountain above the Israelites and said, "If you say No, this will be your grave." But this is not the plain sense of the verse. To the contrary, before he gave the Torah to Israel he commanded Moses to explain to the people what was being proposed (Ex. 19:4-6). And it was only when the people – "all the people together" (19:8) "with one voice" (24: 3) – that the covenant was made. That is the biblical basis for the idea, in the American Declaration of Independence, that governments gain their authority from "the consent of the governed." The very act of giving humans freedom

means that God never forces us against our will. As Eisenhower once said, "Hitting people over the head is not leadership: it is assault." So why was God here, as it were, speaking out of character? The answer, it seems to me, is this: Both God and Moses wanted Joshua to know that true leadership cannot be a one-sided affair, be it the pursuit of consensus or command-and-control. It must be a deft balance of both. They wanted Joshua to hear this in the most striking way, so each said what they were least expected to say. Moses, whom everyone associated with strong, decisive leadership, in effect told Joshua, "Don't forget to strive for consensus. Your task is not what mine was. I had to take people out of slavery. You have to lead them into a land of freedom. Freedom means taking people seriously. The leadership of a free people involves listening, respecting and striving for consensus wherever possible."

God, who gave humans their freedom and never imposed himself on people against their will, said, "Joshua, I am God; you are not. I have to respect people's freedom. I have to let them go the way they are determined to go, even if it is wrong and self-destructive. But you are a human among humans and it is your task to show them the way that leads to justice, compassion and the good society. If the people do not agree with you, you have to teach them, persuade them, but ultimately you have to lead them, because if everyone does what is right in his or her own eyes, that is not freedom but chaos."

In short, leadership is not simple. It is complex because it involves people and people are complex. You have to listen, and you have to lead. You have to strive for consensus but ultimately, if there is none, you must take the risk of deciding. Had they waited for consensus Lincoln would never have ended slavery, Roosevelt and Churchill would never have led the free world to victory, and David ben Gurion would never have proclaimed the State of Israel.

It is not the job of leaders to give people what they want. It is the job of leaders to teach people what they ought to want. But at the same time they must involve people in the decision-making process. Key figures and constituencies must feel that they were consulted. Collaborative, consultative, listening leadership is essential in a free society. Otherwise, there is autocracy tempered by assassination. Leaders must be teachers but also learners. They must be visionaries and yet have time for the details. They must push people but never too far, too fast, or they will fail. They must speak to the better angels of our nature, teaching us to love not hate, forgive not seek revenge. They must always prefer the peaceful solution to the one that involves taking a stick and hitting people on the head, even though they are prepared to do so if there is no alternative. Leaders must be capable of more than one style of leadership. Otherwise, as Abraham Maslow said, "Those who only have a hammer treat every problem as if it were a nail."

Considering the effort, energy, stress and pain, why anyone should seek to be a leader would remain a mystery, were it not for this luminous truth: that there is no better way to flood life with meaning than to have lifted others and helped them to a greatness they never knew they had; to have together with others righted some of the wrongs of this injured earth and its creatures; to have acted rather than waited for others to act, and to have brought others with you, for the greatest leader on earth or in heaven cannot lead alone. These are what make leadership the greatest privilege by which any of us can be blessed. As Moses said to Joshua, "Happy are you to have merited leading the children of God." The crown of leadership is invisible yet you know who is wearing it and who is not. It is there, in front of you, waiting for you to put it on. Wear it with pride and may all you do be blessed.



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
 516-487-6100

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THE YOUTH WILL BE FEATURED IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY THIS SHABBAT AS PART OF OUR YOUTH SHABBAT.



Shabbat Guest Speaker Series



DR. ERICA BROWN
SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

SHABBAT LUNCHEON:
"THE BIG SORRY: MANAGING REGRET"

SEUDAH SHLISHIT (6:25 PM):
"SCANDAL: DO WE STILL ANSWER TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY?"



Dr. Erica Brown is an educator and author who consults for the Jewish Agency and other Jewish non-profits and currently serves as the community scholar for The Jewish Center in Manhattan. Erica was a Jerusalem Fellow, is a faculty member of the Wexner Foundation, an Avi Chai Fellow, winner of the Ted Farber Professional Excellence Award, and is the recipient of the 2009 Covenant Award for her work in education and the 2012 Bernie Reisman Award.

SHABBAT DINNER & GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

All reservations and payments can be made online at gns.org
 RSVP: 516.487.6100 or jfrisch@gns.org • Limited Seating
 *\$36/Adult • *\$25/Teen • *\$15/Child • *\$125/Family Maximum

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Great Neck Synagogue welcomes new members:

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 Abe & Ariella Sedgh
 Ronnie & Paulette Shaban
 Josh & Tiffany Shamoil
 Joe & Lauren Soleimani
 Daniel Winter
 Joe & Michelle Yehaskel

YOM KIPPUR SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 22, Yom Kippur Eve

1st Mincha	3:00 pm
2nd Mincha	4:00 pm
Candle lighting	6:34 pm
Kol Nidrei	6:35 pm
Fast Begins	6:52 pm

Wednesday, September 23, Yom Kippur

Shacharit	8:30 am
Yizkor (approx.)	12:00pm
Mincha (Main, Gym)	4:45 pm
Mincha (Beit Midrash)	5:00 pm
Yom Kippur Ends	7:32 pm

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.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Please note some of the changes in the schedule for this Shabbat.

Mincha: 5:55 pm
Seudah Shlishit featuring Dr. Erica Brown: 6:25 pm
Rabbi Polakoff's Shabbat Shuva Drasha: 6:55 pm

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Health Series: Sunday, Oct. 11th: 10:00 am
Dr. Issac Sachmechi on Diabetes

Book Club Discussion: Sunday, Oct. 25th: 10:00 am
Tommy Furst discusses his new book, Torah Mysteries Illuminated

GNS PASS IT FORWARD

They will also be collecting non-perishables for Kol Nidrei to go to food pantries.
Pass It Forward APRONS (For Cooking Up a Mitzvah) are available in the GNS office for \$25.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

We want to thank our SCOPE magazine sponsors this year – nearly 60 of them – which is a record number! Their names are listed on page 10 of the recent Rosh Hashanah edition of SCOPE magazine. We are extremely grateful for their financial support which is critical to being able to continue to publish SCOPE magazine for our membership. It is not too late to be a sponsor for the remaining issues of SCOPE magazine this year (Chanukah and Pesach issues) – please contact Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net to add your name to the sponsorship list! If you enjoy reading SCOPE magazine – please be a sponsor! Thank you very much!

SLICHOT SCHEDULE

- This Sunday (9/20) will be 1/2 hour before regular Shacharit times 7:00/8:00 am
- Morning Slichot (9/17, 9/18 & 9/21) at 7:15 am in Youth Center
- Evening Slichot (9/16, 9/17, 9/20) at 9:00 pm in Beit Medrash
- Erev Yom Kippur (9/22) will be 15 minutes before each Shacharit (6:30/7:30 am)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

September 19: Shabbat Scholar: Dr. Erica Brown
September 19: Youth Shabbat (Main Minyan)
September 20: Men's Club: Yankees vs. Mets
September 21: R' Frand Teshuvah Drasha (webcast)
September 27: Erev Sukkot Youth Trips
October 3: Rabbi Peysach Krohn (Hoshana Rabbah)
October 11: Dr. Sachmechi: Men's Club (Diabetes)

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Sharon & Victor Ancelson and Elana & Herschel Flax on the engagement of their children **Paula Ancelson to Alexander Flax.**
Mazal Tov to grandmother **Mary Flax.**

Mazal Tov to Sandra & Michael Stern on the engagement of their daughter **Zoe to Sean Hack** son of **Susan & Eric Hack** of Woodmere.

MIKVAH HOURS FOR MEN FOR YOM TOV

The North Shore Mikvah will be open for men only on Erev Yom Kippur, **September 22nd, from 5AM-3PM.** Men must bring their own towels. The cost for Mikvah use is \$30.00.

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).**

BELLA'S HATS HOLIDAY SALE

Come check out Bella's Hats Holiday Sale on **Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015** from **10:00am-12:00pm** and **7:30-9:30pm** at the home of Dina Hamerman—53 Wooleys Lane. Portion of the proceeds to benefit GNS Sisterhood.

MAGAZINES

The GNS office is resuming the collection of magazines to be donated to hospitals. Please make sure that the magazines are not more than 3 months old, and that the address labels have been removed.

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Saturday, 6 Tishrei

Melvin Breite for Jennie Breitowitz Block
Martin Hoffman for Ruth Hoffman
Klara Brand for Hajnal Sabov
Karen Wolff for Nelson Tessler

Sunday, 7 Tishrei

Pearl Ginsburg for Lena Ginsburg
Edith Lubin for Henry Goldberg
Dennis Wolf for Kurt Wolf

Monday, 8 Tishrei

Leon Miller for Ethel Siegel

Tuesday, 9 Tishrei

Carl Rosenberg for Walter Muller
Philip Hanfling for Fannie Schneider

Wednesday, 10 Tishrei

Liliane Benrimon for Leon Castiel
Myles Mittleman for Harry Tischler

Thursday, 11 Tishrei

Andrew Allen for Louis Allen

Friday, 12 Tishrei

Hal Beretz for Greta Beretz
Morris Hodkin for Louis Hodkin
Murray Honig for Max Honig
George Miner for Ruth Miner