



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayeshev

December 5, 2015 23 Kislev, 5776

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 198
HERTZ 141

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1142
HERTZ 152

BAR MITZVAH
BENJAMIN
ZUCKERMAN

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM TEVET:
ROSH CHODESH IS
NEXT SHABBAT & SUNDAY
12/12 -12/13
THE MOLAD WILL BE FRIDAY
12/11 AT 7:19:12 AM

Times

Candle Lighting	4:09 pm
Friday Mincha	4:10 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Youth Minyan	8:30 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Main	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Gemara Shiur	3:40 pm
Mincha	4:10 pm
Shabbat ends	5:17 pm
Rabbi Reisman	7:30 pm
Video Shiur	7:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 6	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. – Fri.	6:30/7:45 am
Chanukah	
Mincha	4:10 pm

Latest Times for
Shema/Shemoneh Esrei

December 5	9:25/10:12 am
December 12	9:21/10:09 am

Next Shabbat
Parshat Miketz

Candle Lighting	4:09 pm
Mincha	4:10 pm

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Vayeshev

There is a powerful and unexpected lesson of our parsha. Judah, the brother who proposed selling Joseph into slavery (Gen. 37:26), had "gone down" to Canaan where he married a local Canaanite woman. The phrase "gone down" was rightly taken by the sages as full of meaning. Just as Joseph had been brought down to Egypt (Gen.39:1) so Judah had been morally and spiritually brought down. Here was one of Jacob's sons, doing what the patriarchs insisted on not doing: marrying into the local population. It is a tale of sad decline. He marries his firstborn son, Er, to a local woman, Tamar. An obscure verse tells us that he sinned, and died. Judah then married his second son, Onan, to her, under a pre-Mosaic form of levirate marriage whereby a brother is bound to marry his sister-in-law

if she has been widowed without children. Onan, reluctant to father a child that would be regarded as not his but his deceased brother's, practiced a form of coitus interruptus that to this day carries his name. For this, he too died. Having lost two of his sons Judah was reluctant to give his third, Shelah, to Tamar in marriage. The result was that she was left as a "living widow," bound to marry her brother-in-law whom Judah was withholding, but unable to marry anyone else. After many years, seeing that her father-in-law (by this time a widower himself) was reluctant to marry her to Shelah, she decided on an audacious course of action. She removed her widow's clothes, covered herself with a veil, and positioned herself at a point where Judah was likely to see her on his way to the sheep-shearing. Judah saw her, took her to be a prostitute, and engaged her services. As surety for the payment he had promised her, she insisted that he leave his seal, cord and staff. Judah duly returned the next day with the payment, but the woman was nowhere to

be seen. He asked the locals the whereabouts of the temple prostitute (the text at this point uses the word kedeshah, "cult prostitute," rather than zonah, thus deepening Judah's offence), but no one had seen such a person in the locality. Puzzled, Judah returned home.

Three months later he heard that Tamar was pregnant. He leapt to the only conclusion he could draw, namely that she had had a physical relationship with another man while bound in law to his son Shelah. She had committed adultery, for which the punishment was death. Tamar was brought out to face her sentence. She came, holding the staff and seal that Judah instantly recognized as his own. She said, "I am pregnant by the person to whom these objects belong." Judah realized what had happened and said, "She is more righteous than I" (Gen. 38:26).

This moment is a turning

KIDDUSH & BIMA FLOWERS
IN THE BEIT MIDRASH
ARE SPONSORED BY
HEIDI & GLENN ZUCKERMAN
AND FAMILY
IN HONOR OF
BENJAMIN'S BAR MITZVAH

SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS
SPONSORED BY
ADINA & MARK ABRAHAM
IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER
SARA MALKA BAT SARA
& YAAKOV HACHOHEN
AND
SHELLIE & STEVEN ZUCKERMAN
IN HONOR OF THE BAR MITZVAH
OF THEIR GRANDSON BENJAMIN.

point in history. Judah is the first person in the Torah explicitly to admit he was wrong. We do not realize it yet, but this seems to be the moment at which he acquired the depth of character necessary for him to become the first real baal teshuvah. We see this years later, when he – the man who proposed selling Joseph as a slave – becomes the man who is willing to spend the rest of his life in slavery so that his brother Benjamin can go free (Gen. 44:33). I have argued elsewhere that it is from here that we learn the principle that a penitent stands higher than even a perfectly righteous individual. Judah the penitent becomes the ancestor of Israel’s kings while Joseph, the righteous, is only a viceroy, mishneh le-melekh, second to the king. Thus far Judah.

But the real hero of the story was Tamar. She had taken an immense risk by becoming pregnant. Indeed she was almost killed for it. She had done so for a noble reason: to ensure that the name of her late husband was perpetuated. But she took no less care to avoid Judah being put to shame. Only he and she knew what had happened. Judah could acknowledge his error without loss of face. It was from this episode that the sages derived the rule: Rather risk being thrown into a fiery furnace than shame someone else in public. It is thus no coincidence that Tamar, a heroic non-Jewish woman, became the ancestor of DaAvid, Israel’s greatest king. There are striking similarities between Tamar and the other heroic woman in David’s ancestry, the Moabite woman we know as Ruth.

There is an ancient Jewish custom on Shabbat and festivals to cover the challot or matzah while holding the glass of wine over which Kiddush is being made.

The reason is so as not to put the challah to shame while it is being, as it were, passed over in favor of the wine. There are some very religious Jews, sadly, who will go to great lengths to avoid shaming an inanimate loaf of bread but have no compunction in putting their fellow Jews to shame if they regard them as less religious than they are. That is what happens when we remember the halakhah but forget the underlying moral principle behind it. Never put anyone to shame.

Raban Gamliel used to say, “Treat His (God’s) will as if it were your will so that He will treat your will as if it were His will ... Pirkei Avot 2:4



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

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
Dr. Hal Chadow, President
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111



AIPAC Shabbaton at GNS
December 19, 2015

Congressman Lee Zeldin
 will speak after services in the Main Sanctuary
 to be followed by a lunch
 with **Elliot Brandt**
 Managing Director of National Affairs

Make your lunch reservations at gns.org or 487.6100
 \$36/adult \$25/teen \$15/child \$125/family max

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

64th Anniversary Dinner
Saturday Evening, December 12, 2015

Sharon & Edward Mazur

Honoring
Diane & David Rein

Boneh Habayit
Jordan Wolf



2015 Reservation and ad contract

YES! Please place my message in the GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE'S 64th DINNER JOURNAL. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for the space indicated.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

EMAIL _____

Number of Reservations _____

Seating requests _____

- Roth Chodesh \$25,000*
- The Moon & the Stars \$18,000*
- Over The Moon \$10,000*
- Moonrise 7,500*
- Moonlight 5,000*
- Moonbeams 3,600*
- Moonstones 2,500*
- Moonscape 1,800*
- Full Moon 1,000*
- Half Moon 550*
- Quarter Moon 250
- Listing 180

*Includes two reservations to dinner
Cost of Dinner \$550 per couple
\$275 per person.
Please make check payable to:

Great Neck Synagogue
26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

You can also register and pay for the dinner at gns.org



GNS Chanukah Boutique

Finish your Holiday Shopping in style

Featuring exceptional gift items for:

Men, Women & Children

When: Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Time: 3:00pm-8:00pm
Location: Great Neck Synagogue
26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, N.Y. 11023

LUXURY



Women's Handbags, Cosmetic Bags, Wallets

Hand Beaded Bags



Elegant Cashmere Coats



Young Women's Designer Clothing



JEWELRY

Selling, Jewelry and Buying Gold



HOME

Pampered Chef
Discover the chef in you



JUDAICA



*15% Discount off of the GNS Gift Shop

and much more...

The Great Neck Synagogue MEN'S CLUB presents

DR. RAFFI MARCUS, Ph.D.



A PROFILE OF HEZBOLLAH, ITS ROLE IN THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR AND THE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL

DECEMBER 6TH SUNDAY at 10:00 AM

ASSAD Hassan Nasrallah JIRAN ترور Party of God

AL-SAIDA سورية Shiites إسرائيل

Obama/Putin ALAWITES THE AYATOLLAH



Raffi B. Marcus completed his PhD in the Department of War Studies at King's College London, where his doctoral research focuses on military innovation and insurgency adaptation in the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict. He is also a member of the Emergency Research Group at King's College London. His research interests include Middle East security issues, military affairs, terrorism, and organizational learning. He is a graduate of our North Shore Hebrew Academy High School, and of Brandeis University.

Breakfast Served همه خوش آمدید All Welcome

GNS YOUTH EVENTS!!

MINI SHABBATON

Girls Grades 3-4
Shabbat December 5
Saturday Night
6:15-8:00pm
Amazing Activity!!
Don't Miss Out!

Chanukah Arts n Crafts
w/Moah Zehava
Sunday December 6
10:00-11:00am
Braun Youth Center
Preschool-2nd Grade
Drop-Off

(Other siblings are welcome)

Friday Night Oneg

Grades 5-10
December 11 7:00pm
Atlas Home 9 Brook Lane
Great Food, Great Friends, Great Fun!!

Annual Chanukah Youth Bash

Shabbat December 12

Grades 1 & up

Luzker's, Bingo Dreidel contest

GRAND RAFFLE!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5776, 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.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast is sponsored by **Rose & Peter Weiss** in memory of their fathers **Kalman Fajg and Joseph Weiss, z"l**, and by **Adina & Mark Abraham** in memory of his mother **Sara Malka bat Sara & Yaakov HaCohen**.

SISTERHOOD EVENTS

Sisterhood Chanukah Boutique: Tues., Dec. 1st from 3-8 pm chaired this year by the incredible team of Jackie Nissan and Cindy Ludwig. We have all sorts of new vendors, wine tasting, single malt tastings, snacks, and lots of merchandise to see and buy. This is not just a shopping event - this is a destination! Please note that each vendor will handle their own purchases, the Sisterhood will not get the receipts and collect payment like last year. Be prepared to have a great time!

Save the Date!: **December 15th** at 8 pm, Pam Bilfeld will introduce us to her 12 Day Detox program. This is an on-line and at home program, with Facebook and email support. It is set to begin right after Jan 1st, just when you are ready to reverse all that damage from the party season.

MEN'S CLUB EVENT

Men's Club Sun. Dec 6 at 10:00am: A breakfast and talk by **Dr. Raffi Marcus**, an expert on Middle East politics, who will present the history of HEZBOLLAH and an update regarding how the Syria conflict effects the situation today.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Please join the Chaverim Center on **Wed., December 2nd** at 11:30am to 2:00pm for a pre-Chanukah luncheon and dessert sponsored by Gloria and Harvey Kaylie. There will be live music by Herschel Minster and Robyn Blumner, a trivia contest hosted by Rabbi Jensen, and NSHA Middle School students there to help anyone with cell-phones or other devices. The Chaverim Center is a multigenerational Community Center at GNS for people to gather, socialize, network, hear inspiring lectures, receive updates on the situation in Israel, attend book clubs, play cards, games, bridge, mah jongg, and other activities of interest. Please let the shul office or one of us know if you can attend. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there!

Cindy Hodkin Koshercookingqn@gmail.com 317-9632
Michelle Berman Michberman@gmail.com 697-0522
Erica Zucker Heisler Ezh624@aol.com 829-4072

GNS CHESD COLLECTION

Donate toys for Chanukah toy drive for needy children, **until Dec. 10th**, at the home of Erica & Eliot Heisler, 71 Bayview Ave. Please leave all items by garage door.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

December 1: Sisterhood Boutique
December 2: Chaverim Center
December 6: Dr. Raffi Marcus: Hezbollah Talk
December 6: Youth Event: Chanukah Arts N' Crafts
December 9: Chanukah Show
December 12: Annual Chanukah Youth Bash
December 12: GNS Annual Dinner
December 26: OHEL Shabbaton

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Heidi & Glenn Zuckerman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Benjamin**. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents **Shellie & Steven Zuckerman**.

Mazal Tov to Harriet Schimel & David Schimel on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, **Tamar & Shirel Safra**.

Mazal Tov to Anne & Raymond Sandler on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, **Chad & Lauren Sandler**.

Mazal Tov to Donna & Leon Schwechter on the birth of a grandson, born to their children **Cary & Shuli Schwechter**.

Mazal Tov to Marc & Davida Yehaskel on being honored at the Beit El dinner, on Dec. 6th.

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY NEWS

Get a taste of Pre-School. NSHA invites moms to sign up for our exciting new Mommy and Me class at YIGN for toddlers ages 12-24 months, running for twelve Tuesdays, beginning in January 2016. Contact Elana Helfgott at ehelfgott@nsha.org.

NSHA is hosting a Kiddush for new and prospective families on **January 9th**, following shul, at the home of Beth and Gary Orbach, 49 Deepdale Drive. If you have any questions please contact Karen Hammerman at karen.hammerman@gmail.com.

ALAN DERSHOWITZ'S NEW BOOK

In anticipation of GNS hosting Alan Dershowitz for Yom Ha'atzmaut this year, we are offering a reduced rate on his new book, "**Abraham**" at \$18 a book, a better price than Amazon. Please stop by the GNS office for your copy, or order at www.gns.org.

PAID VOLUNTEER

We are looking for someone (junior/senior in high school) with a car to put up flyers around town for us. We will pay you for your time. Contact GNS office: 516.487.6100

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Saturday, 23 Kislev

Al Leiderman for Leo Leiderman
Karen Wydra for Evelyn Stein
Edward Weiss for Joseph Weiss
Peter Weiss for Joseph Weiss

Sunday, 24 Kislev

Michal Malen for Emanuel Hoschander
Susan Goldman for Malia Ring
Vahid Sedaghatpour for Habibolah Sedaghatpour

Monday, 25 Kislev

Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Yehudit Chaya bat Shlomo

Mark Abraham for Sara Malka bat Sara

Tuesday, 26 Kislev

Lili Sedaghatpour for Shimon Mirakhor
Mahin Aryeh for Marilyn Schwadron

Eliezer Noy for Yosef Zargaryan

Thursday, 28 Kislev

Amir Mardkha for Touti Mardkha

Friday, 29 Kislev

Helaine Helmreich for Harry Gewirtz