



# 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

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**IN THE BEIT MIDRASH**  
**ARE SPONSORED BY**  
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**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](mailto: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](http://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



AIYCE ROSS DESIGNS and more...



BRIDGET'S GEMS and more...

### 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 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY at 10:00 AM

ASSAD Hassan Nasrallah J'AN 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 Baruch 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-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Drop-Off  
(Other siblings are welcome)

### Friday Night Oneg

Grades 9-10  
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

Lunches, 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](mailto:Koshercookingqn@gmail.com) 317-9632  
Michelle Berman [Michberman@gmail.com](mailto:Michberman@gmail.com) 697-0522  
Erica Zucker Heisler [Ezh624@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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