



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Chayei Sarah

November 7, 2015 25 Cheshvan, 5776

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 106
HERTZ 80

HAFTARAH
ARTSCROLL 1136
HERTZ 90

BAR MITZVAH
SAMUEL PEARLMAN

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM:
ROSH CHODESH KISLEV:
THURS.-FRI. 11/12-11/13
MOLAD: WED. NIGHT 11/11
AT 6:35:11 PM

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Chayei Sarah

In 1966 an eleven-year-old black boy moved with his parents and family to a white neighborhood in Washington. Sitting with his two brothers and two sisters on the front step of the house, he waited to see how they would be greeted. They were not. Passers-by turned to look at them but no one gave them a smile or even a glance of recognition. All the fearful stories he had heard about how whites treated blacks seemed to be coming true. Years later, writing about those first days in their new home, he says, "I knew we were not welcome here. I knew we would not be liked here. I knew we would have no friends here. I knew we should not have moved here . . ." As he was thinking those thoughts, a white woman coming home from work passed by on the other side of the road. She turned to the children and with a broad smile said, "Welcome!" Disappearing into the house, she emerged minutes later with a tray laden with drinks and cream-cheese and jelly sandwiches which she brought over to the children, making them feel at home. That moment – the young man later wrote – changed his life. It gave him a sense

of belonging where there was none before. It made him realize, at a time when race relations in the United States were still fraught, that a black family could feel at home in a white area and that there could be relationships that were color-blind. Over the years, he learned to admire much about the woman across the street, but it was that first spontaneous act of greeting that became, for him, a definitive memory. It broke down a wall of separation and turned strangers into friends.

The young man, Stephen Carter, eventually became a law professor at Yale and wrote a book about what he learned that day. He called it *Civility*. The name of the woman, he tells us, was Sara Kestenbaum, and she died all too young. He adds that it was no coincidence that she was a religious Jew. "In the Jewish tradition," he notes, such civility is called "chesed – the doing of acts of kindness – which is in turn derived from the understanding that human beings are made in the image of God." Civility, he adds, "itself may be seen as part of chesed: it does indeed require kindnesses toward our fellow citizens, including the ones who are strangers, and even when it is hard." To this day, he adds, "I can close my eyes and feel on my tongue the smooth, slick sweetness of the cream cheese and jelly sandwiches that I gobbled on that summer afternoon when I discovered how a single act of genuine and

unassuming civility can change a life forever." I never knew Sara Kestenbaum, but years after I had read Carter's book I gave a lecture to the Jewish community in the part of Washington where she had lived. I told them Carter's story, which they had not heard before. But they nodded in recognition. "Yes," one said, "that's the kind of thing Sara would do."

Something like this thought was surely in the mind of Abraham's servant, unnamed in the text but traditionally identified as Eliezer, when he arrived at Nahor in Aram Naharaim, northwest Mesopotamia, to find a wife for his master's son. Abraham had not told him to look for any specific traits of character. He had simply told him to find someone from his own extended family. Eliezer, however, formulated a test: Lord, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master." (Gen. 24:12-14) His

Times	
Candle Lighting	4:27 pm
Mincha	4:30 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	3:45 pm
Mincha	4:20 pm
Shabbat ends	5:34 pm
Rabbi Reisman Video Shiur	7:30 pm
Sunday, Nov. 8	7:30/8:30am
Mon.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues. & Wed.	6:45/7:45 am
Thurs. & Fri. Rosh Chodesh	6:30/7:45 am
Mincha	4:20 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
November 7	9:05/9:56 am
November 14	9:09/9:59 am
Next Shabbat Parshat Toldot	
Candle Lighting	4:20 pm
Mincha	4:20 pm

KIDDUSH IS
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ON THE BAR MITZVAH
OF THEIR SON SAMUEL.

use of the word chesed here is no accident, for it is the very characteristic he is looking for in the future wife of the first Jewish child, Isaac, and he found it in Rivka.

It is the theme, also, of the book of Ruth. It is Ruth's kindness to Naomi, and Boaz's to Ruth that Tenakh seeks to emphasize in sketching the background to David, their great-grandson, who would become Israel's greatest king. Indeed the sages said that the three characteristics most important to Jewish character are modesty, compassion and kindness. Chesed, what I have defined elsewhere as "love as deed," is central to the Jewish value system. The sages based it on the acts of God himself. Rav Simlai taught: "The Torah begins with an act of kindness and ends with an act of kindness. It begins with God clothing the naked: "The Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skin and clothed them," and it ends with Him caring for the dead: "And He [God] buried [Moses] in the Valley." Chesed - providing shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, assistance to the poor, visiting the sick, comforting mourners and providing a dignified burial for all - became constitutive of Jewish life. During the many centuries of exile and dispersion Jewish communities were built around these needs. There were hevrot, "friendly societies," for each of them. In seventeenth century Rome, for example, there were seven societies dedicated to the provision of clothes, shoes, linen, beds and warm winter bed coverings for children, the poor, widows and prisoners. There were two societies providing trousseaus, dowries and the loan of jewelry to poor brides. There was one for visiting the sick, another bringing help to families who had suffered bereavement, and others to perform the last rites for those who had died - purification before burial, and the burial service itself. Eleven fellowships existed for educational and religious aims, study and prayer, another raised alms for Jews living in the Holy Land, and others were involved in the various activities associated with the circumcision of newborn boys. Yet others provided the poor with the means to fulfill commands such as mezuzot for their doors, oil for the Hanukkah lights, and candles for the Sabbath. Chesed, said the sages, is in some respects higher even than tzedakah:

Our masters taught: loving-kindness [chesed] is greater than charity [tzedakah] in three ways. Charity is done with one's money, while loving-kindness may be done with one's money or with one's person. Charity is done only to the poor, while loving-kindness may be given both to the poor and to the rich. Charity is given only to the living, while loving-kindness may be shown to the living and the dead.

Chesed in its many forms became synonymous with Jewish life and one of the pillars on which it stood. Jews performed kindnesses to one another because it was "the way of God" and also because they or their families had had intimate experience of suffering and knew they had nowhere else to turn. It provided an access of grace in dark times. It softened the blow of the loss of the Temple and its rites: Once, as R. Yohanan was walking out of Jerusalem, R. Joshua followed him. Seeing the Temple in ruins, he cried, "Woe to us that this place is in ruins, the place where atonement was made for Israel's iniquities." R. Yohanan said to him: "My son, do not grieve, for we have another means of atonement which is no less effective. What is it? It is deeds of loving-kindness, about which Scripture says, 'I desire loving-kindness and not sacrifice'" (Hosea 6:6). Through chesed, Jews humanized fate as, they believed, God's chesed humanizes the world. It also added a word to the English language. In 1535 Myles Coverdale published the first-ever translation of the Hebrew Bible into English (the work had been begun by William Tyndale who paid for it with his life, burnt at the stake in 1536). It was when he came to the word chesed that he realized that there was no English word which captured its meaning. It was then that, to translate it, he coined the word "loving-kindness." The late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel used to say, "When I was young I admired cleverness. Now that I am old I find I admire kindness more." There is deep wisdom in those words. It is what led Eliezer to choose Rivka to become Isaac's wife and thus the first Jewish bride. Kindness brings redemption to the world and, as in the case of Stephen Carter, it can change lives. Wordsworth was right when he wrote that the "best portion of a good man's [and woman's] life" is their "little, nameless, unremembered, acts of kindness and of love."



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.

IMPACT OF TEFILLAH
 ...Whoever answers Kaddish with all his strength, a full heart and soul; All evil decrees against him are ripped up...Mishna Brura 56:1



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

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD
DINNER & LIVE CONCERT
 BILLY JOEL, ELTON JOHN AND
 SIMON & GARFUNKEL
 ...ALMOST
HURRY LIMITED SEATING
 FREE LID FOR EARLY ARRIVAL LOUPE

This Saturday Night...
A few more tickets left!!

ALL SEAT SATURDAY EVENING WITH AKA
 \$120 MEMBER COUPLES, \$60 MEMBER SINGLES
 \$150 NON-MEMBER COUPLES, \$75 NON-MEMBER SINGLES
 RSYF HILLY MILLIN 504 0320 MARK FRIEDMAN 361 5491

TAG YOUR FRIENDS AND INVITE FRIENDS

**Great Neck Synagogue
Young Couples Event**

LASER TAG

ROCK CLIMBING

**RESCHEDULED FOR
FEB. 20TH**

**DON'T MISS THE
RABBI CHALLENGE!**

**BE A KID
WITHOUT YOUR KIDS!**

RSVP TO SHUL OFFICE

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A YOUTH EVENT



**GNS YOETZET HALACHA
COMMITTEE PRESENTS:
R-E-S-P-E-C-T
FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO TEENS**


**NOVEMBER 9, 2015
8PM**

**HOME OF MINDY LEVENTHAL
18 BROOK LANE**

**A shiur and discussion led by
Yoetzet Halacha Lisa Septimus**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: GNSYOETZET@GMAIL.COM 516-415-1111

**Great Neck Synagogue
Presents
Sunday Conversations with Author
Dan Ephron**



November 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm

In commemoration
of the 20 years since
Yitzchak Rabin's assassination on
November 4, 1995

Dessert
Reception
to
follow program



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO A
WINE AND SINGLE MALT TASTING PARTY**

**TUESDAY, THE FIRST OF DECEMBER
FROM 3 UNTIL 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE**

**HOSTED BY GREAT NECK WINES & SPIRITS
GREAT NECK SISTERHOOD**

**This year for Thanksgiving
You can really give thanks and be giving!**

Buy a Thanksgiving Dinner for a
resident at Arrandale Senior Housing
and make your parents proud of you.

\$18 can sponsor a dinner
in honor of/in memory of your parents

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
Meals purchased in memory/ in honor of: _____
Amount enclosed: _____

We are also looking for a limited number of volunteers (ALL AGES) to help serve the dinner, clean up, play music, sing & talk to the residents
I would like to volunteer on Thursday, Nov 26th 11:30 -2 pm
Food Server: _____ Other Talent: _____
Volunteer Names & Kids' Ages: _____

Co-Sponsored by: GNS Hunger Initiative, Sisterhood & Women's Tefila
For more info: call Nechama at 516-773-3572 or email lisslev@verizon.net
Please return to: GNS 26 Old Mill Road Gt Neck, NY 11023

**Please join us on
Wednesday November 11
from 11:30-2:30PM
for the Grand opening of
the Chaverim Center**

Please reserve the date for a special afternoon!
Come schmooze, enjoy a Chinese luncheon banquet.
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 on a regular basis.

Here are some of the other things we are hoping to provide:
Cards and games, i.e.,...canasta, bridge, backgammon, scrabble, Mah Jong, 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.

Come schmooze! **Complimentary lunch, bingo, games & more!** **Grab a snack!** **Chat with us!**



Chair of Chaverim Cindy Kaplan 516 317 7630 or 516 460 2171
ksherman@chaverim.org If you have any questions, kindly contact
Co-Chair of Chaverim Michelle Sussman 516 437 0561
Michelle@chaverim.org Co-Chair of Chaverim Boca Raton Barbara Kaplan 517 486 1981
Barb@chaverim.org

We are accepting donations of games for the center. Cards, board games, backgammon, Chess, Mah Jong, Bingo or your favorite game, you would like to play or just play at the Chaverim Center. Sponsorships of events and activities.

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.

HASHKAMA MINYAN SPONSOR

Kiddush is sponsored by **Carol & Jeffrey Kaufman** in memory of his mother **Belle Kaufman**, his brother **David Lawson Kaufman** and a refuah shelaima for **Eliyahu ben Devorah**.

THANK YOU - FALL 2015 BLOOD DRIVE

Many thanks to the 55 people who generously donated at this Sunday's Men's Club Blood Drive. Thank you also to the enthusiastic volunteers: **Jonathan Aminov, Jacob Ebrahimi, Moshe Khalili, Brittney Kohler, Brianna Kohler, Brayden Kohler, Bryce Kohler, Danny Kroll, David Mavashev, Michael Pagovich, Oliver Rein, and Ira Steinberg**.

GNS CHESED

Please drop off all gently used winter clothing and **place winter coats in separate bags** until Nov. 13 at the home of **Debbie & Hal Chadow, 50 Dickenson Place**. Please leave all bags at the garage door.

GNS YOETZET HALACHA COMMITTEE PRESENTS

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T: FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO TEENS"

November 9, 2015 at 8:30 pm at the home of Mindy Leventhal, 18 Brook Lane. A shiur & discussion for mothers of teens led by **Yoetzet Halacha Lisa Septimus**.

THANKSGIVING CHESED

This year for Thanksgiving, you can really give thanks and be giving! Buy a Thanksgiving Dinner for a resident at Arrandale Senior Housing and make your parents proud of you. \$18 can sponsor a dinner in honor of/in memory of your parents. Email lisslev@verizon.net or fill out form on gns.org to sign up.

MITZVAH OPPORTUNITY

If you like to bake, please VOLUNTEER to bake pies for Thanksgiving for us to sell to raise money for sharsheret, an organization to help young Jewish women facing ovarian and breast cancer. Contact marla.lemonik@gmail.com.

PASS IT FORWARD VOLUNTEER

Pass it Forward needs a volunteer to do one delivery in Great Neck every Friday. Pick up is at Cindy Hodkin's house between 1 and 2 pm. Please email koshercookinggns@gmail.com or call 516.317.9632 if you can help with this great mitzvah.

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.

NEW DOOR SECURITY CODE

The security code has been changed. For your own safety, as well as others, do not share it. If you choose to let visitors in, please do so without sharing the code, or having visitors overhear it. For the new code call the office (487-6100) or email mtwersky@gns.org, jfrisch@gns.org or sgoldstein@gns.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

November 7: Men's Club & Sisterhood Dinner and Live Concert
November 8: New Members/Young Couples Event
November 14: U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham
November 17: Sisterhood Dinner at Colbeh
November 22: Sunday Conversations: Dan Ephron
December 2: Men's Club: Dr. Raffi Marcus - Hezbollah Talk

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Katarina & Theodore Perlman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Samuel**.

Mazal Tov to Marcia & Dan Horowitz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Sasha**.

NSHA OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at the North Shore Hebrew Academy Open House on **Wed. Nov. 4th at 7:00pm** at the Cherry Lane Campus. Learn more about what makes NSHA the warm and wonderful educational experience for so many of our children. Meet with parents, teachers and administrators at a fun and informative event.

HAR TORAH OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at Yeshiva Har Torah's Open House on **Tues. Nov. 10th at 7:00pm**. Experience first-hand what makes our school, award-winning faculty, and administration so unique. Nursery transportation options are available. To find out more information about the admissions process, please call us at (718) 343-2533.

PARLOR MEETING IN MEMORY OF JOSHUA MILLER Z"l

Please join us at the home of Sue & Arthur Talansky on **Tuesday Nov. 10 at 8 pm** where we will hear from the executive director of Nahal Haredi, Rabbi Tzvi Klebanow, from CEO Col. Yonatan Branski and from an actual veteran of the Nahal Haredi unit. Please see the circulated flyer for more details.

The Rabinowitz family would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff, Lichter, Cantor Kron and the entire GNS community for the outpouring of support and sympathy following the loss of wife, mother, and grandmother Marion Rabinowitz z"l.

**Y
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Saturday, 25 Cheshvan

Andrew Allen for Harriet Allen
Murray Honig for Sylvia Honig

Sunday, 26 Cheshvan

Yve Fouladi for Michael Fruhling
Nina Gourdji for Ezra Nuriel
Osnass Shein for Hode Pinsovitz
Andrew Zinaman for Judith Zinaman

Monday, 27 Cheshvan

Avery Modlin for Marilyn Hose
Stanley Lupkin for Sylvia Lupkin
Paul Marcus for Sylvia Marcus
Leon Miller for Symma Miller
Paul Weinberg for Jerry Weinberg
David Werber for Jacob Werber
Martin Werber for Jacob Werber

Tuesday, 28 Cheshvan

Shulamid Gavronsky for Bertha Kopelowitz
Elana Flax for Janie Matzkin
Cheryl Sneag for Janie Matzkin

Wednesday, 29 Cheshvan

Melvin Breite for David Block
Jeffrey Kaufman for David Lawson Kaufman
Gilbert Aronowitz for Betty Luchansky
Gerald Nathel for Fannie Nathel
Evelyn Henis for Fannie Noah

Thursday, 30 Cheshvan

Stephen Karbowitz for Benjamin Karbowitz
Judy Hoffman for Benjamin Karbowitz
Marvin Rotman for Edith Solomon Rotman

Friday, 1 Kislev

Jeffrey Bilfeld for Murray Bilfeld
Joseph Hecht for Pinchas Hecht
Gilbert Louzoun for Henriette Louzoun
Elizabeth Ort for Lawrence Suss