



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Toldot

November 14, 2015 2 Kislev, 5776

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 124
HERTZ 93

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1137
HERTZ 102

BAR MITZVAH
JOSHUA
OHEBSHALOM

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Toldot

"The boys grew up. Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the outdoors; but Jacob was a mild man who stayed at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob" (Gen. 25:27-28). We have no difficulty understanding why Rebekah loved Jacob. She had received an oracle from God in which she was told: "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger" (Gen. 25:23). Jacob was the younger. Rebekah seems as it turned out, that it would be he who would continue the covenant, who would stay true to Abraham's heritage, and who would teach it to his children, carrying the story forward into the future. The real question is why did Isaac love Esau? Could he not see that he was a man of the outdoors, a hunter, not a contemplative or a man of God? Is it conceivable that he loved Esau merely because he had a taste for wild game? Did his appetite rule his mind and heart? Did Isaac not know how Esau sold his

birthright for a bowl of soup, and how he subsequently "despised" the birthright itself (Gen. 25:29-34). Was this someone with whom to entrust the spiritual patrimony of Abraham? Isaac surely knew that his elder son was a man of mercurial temperament who lived in the emotions of the moment. Even if this did not trouble him, the next episode involving Esau clearly did: "When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah" (Gen. 26:34-35). Esau had made himself at home among the Hittites. He had married two of their women. This was not a man to carry forward the Abrahamic covenant which involved a measure of distance from the Hittites and Canaanites and all they represented in terms of religion, culture and morality.

Yet Isaac clearly did love Esau. Not only does the verse with which we began say so. It remained so. Genesis 27, with its morally challenging story of how Jacob dressed up as Esau and took the blessing that had been meant for him, is remarkable for the picture it paints of the genuine deep affection between Isaac and Esau. We sense this at the beginning when Isaac asks Esau: "Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die." This is not Isaac's physical appetite speaking. It is his wish to be

filled with the smell and taste he associates with his elder son, so that he can bless him in a mood of focused love. It is the end of the story, though, that really conveys the depth of feeling between them. Esau enters with the food he has prepared. Slowly Isaac, and then Esau, realize the nature of the deception that has been practiced against them. Isaac "trembled violently." Esau "burst out with a loud and bitter cry." It is hard in English to convey the power of these descriptions. The Torah generally says little about people's emotions. During the whole of the trial of the binding of Isaac we are given not the slightest indication of what Abraham or Isaac felt in one of the most fraught episodes in Genesis. The text is, as Erich Auerbach said, "fraught with background," meaning, more is left unsaid than said. The depth of feeling the Torah describes in speaking of Isaac and Esau at that moment is thus rare and almost overwhelming. Father and son share their sense of betrayal, Esau passionately seeking some blessing from his father, and Isaac rousing himself to do so. The bond of love between them is intense. So the question returns with undiminished force: why did Isaac love Esau, despite everything, his wildness, his mutability and his out-marriages?

Times

Candle Lighting	4:20 pm
Friday Mincha	4:20 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	4:15 pm
Shabbat ends	5:27 pm
Rabbi Reisman Video Shiur	7:30 pm
Sunday, Nov. 15	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thur.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	4:15 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
November 14	9:09/9:59 am
November 21	9:15/10:04 am
Next Shabbat Parshat Vayetzei	
Candle Lighting	4:15 pm
Mincha	4:15 pm

KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY
LIMOR & EDMOND OHEBSHALOM
IN HONOR OF
THE BAR MITZVAH OF THEIR SON
JOSHUA.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED
BY DONNA & JOSEPH HECHT
IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER PINCHAS HECHT, Z"l,
BY ROYA & BEN SHAVOLIAN
IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER ELYAHU AMIRIAN, Z"l
AND BY THE AHARONOFF FAMILY
IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL AHARONOFF, Z"l.

The sages gave an explanation. They interpreted the phrase "skillful hunter" as meaning that Esau trapped and deceived Isaac. He pretended to be more religious than he was. There is, though, a quite different explanation, closer to the plain sense of the text, and very moving. Isaac loved Esau because Esau was his son, and that is what fathers do. They love their children unconditionally. That does not mean that Isaac could not see the faults in Esau's character. It does not imply that he thought Esau the right person to continue the covenant. Nor does it mean he was not pained when Esau married Hittite women. The text explicitly says he was. But it does mean that Isaac knew that a father must love his son because he is his son. That is not incompatible with being critical of what he does. But a father does not disown his child, even when he disappoints his expectations. Isaac was teaching us a fundamental lesson in parenthood. Why Isaac? Because he knew that Abraham had sent his son Ishmael away. He may have known how much that pained Abraham and injured Ishmael. There is a remarkable series of midrashim that suggest that Abraham visited Ishmael even after he sent him away, and others that say it was Isaac who effected the reconciliation. He was determined not to inflict the same fate on Esau. Likewise he knew to the very depths of his being the psychological cost on both his father and himself of the trial of the binding. At the beginning of the chapter of Jacob, Esau and the blessing the Torah tells us that Isaac was blind. There is a midrash that suggests that it was tears shed by the angels as they watched Abraham bind his son and lift the knife that fell into Isaac's eyes, causing him to go blind in his old age. The trial was surely necessary, otherwise God would not have commanded it. But it left wounds, psychological scars, and it left Isaac determined not to have to sacrifice Esau, his own child. In some way, then, Isaac's unconditional love of Esau was a tikkun for the rupture in the father-son relationship brought about by the binding. Thus, though Esau's path was not that of the covenant, Isaac's gift of paternal love helped prepare the way for the next generation, in which all of Jacob's children remained within the fold.

There is a fascinating argument between two mishnaic sages that has a bearing on this. There is a verse in Deuteronomy (14:1) that says, about the Jewish people, "You are children of the Lord your God." Rabbi Judah held that this applied only when Jews behaved in a way worthy of the children of God. Rabbi Meir said that it was unconditional: Whether Jews behave like God's children or they do not, they are still called the children of God. Rabbi Meir, who believed in unconditional love, acted in accordance with his view. His own teacher, Elisha ben Abuya, eventually lost his faith and became a heretic, yet Rabbi Meir continued to study with him and respect him, maintaining that at the very last moment of his life he had repented and returned to God. To take seriously the idea, central to Judaism, of Avinu Malkeinu, that our King is first and foremost our parent, is to invest our relationship with God with the most profound emotions. God wrestles with us, as does a parent with a child. We wrestle with him as a child does with his or her parents. The relationship is sometimes tense, conflictual, even painful, yet what gives it its depth is the knowledge that it is unbreakable. Whatever happens, a parent is still a parent, and a child is still a child. The bond may be deeply damaged but it is never broken beyond repair. Perhaps that is what Isaac was signaling to all generations by his continuing love for Esau, so unlike him, so different in character and destiny, yet never rejected by him - just as the midrash says that Abraham never rejected Ishmael and found ways of communicating his love. Unconditional love is not uncritical but it is unbreakable. That is how we should love our children - for it is how God loves us.

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



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
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Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIORS & SENIORS
FRIDAY NIGHT ONEG

Shabbat Parshat Toldot
 November 13
 Home of the Atlas'
 9 Brook Lane
 7:15 pm
 Great Food
 Great Friends
 Great Fun!



Great Neck Synagogue
Presents
Sunday Conversations with Author
Dan Ephron - *Killing of a King*



November 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm

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

Dessert
Reception
to
follow
program

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

**HAVE YOUR PIE
AND EAT IT TOO!**


PIES FOR PREVENTION

is selling delicious pies for your Thanksgiving meal.
You can buy them from us for your Thanksgiving meal.


**ALL SALES WILL SUPPORT SHARSHERET'S UNIQUE
PROGRAM HELPING YOUNG JEWISH WOMEN AND
THEIR FAMILIES DEALING WITH OVARIAN CANCER.**

ORDER YOUR PIES NOW AT:

www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck



**SENATOR
LINDSEY GRAHAM**



**IN DEPTH ANALYSIS
OF THE
WORLD WE FACE**

NOVEMBER 14, 2015

**AFTER SERVICES
IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY**



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 ride for you.

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



**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**

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 **Phyllis & Arthur Kirsch** in memory of his mother **Rivka bas Reb Yoel A"H** 52nd Yahrzeit and by **Albert Halimi** in memory of his father **Rachamin ben Aghababa Halimi, z"l**.

GNS CHESED

Please drop off all gently used winter clothing and **place winter coats in separate bags** until **Nov. 22** at the home of **Debbie & Hal Chadow, 50 Dickenson Place**. Please leave all bags at the garage door.

ANNUAL SISTERHOOD CHAI DINNER

Join us on **Tues. Nov. 17, at 6 PM**. Our speaker is our very own **Dahlia Klein**, author of the amazing book, "Spiritual Kneading through the Jewish Months: Building the Sacred through Challah" And we're returning to Colbeh! Please send in your RSVP (and your sponsorships?) as soon as possible! Can't wait to see you all there!

CHAVERIM CENTER OPENS THIS WEEK

Please join us for the grand opening of the Chaverim Center this **Wed., Nov. 11th** from 11:30am to 2:30pm at Great Neck Synagogue. Enjoy a complimentary Chinese lunch sponsored by **Diane and David Rein** in memory of her mother **Helene Fink z"l**. Hear an inspiring D'var Torah from **Rabbi Dale Polakoff**. We will discuss future programming and would love your input. And...the piece de resistance....we will have an exciting bingo tournament with prizes! We welcome men and women of all ages...bring your mah jongg cards and any game you would like to share! Let's make Wednesdays a gathering day to mingle, whether or not you are single! Learn, play and eat!

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.

YOUTH EVENTS THIS SHABBAT

FRIDAY NIGHT ONEG

All Juniors & Seniors in High School are welcome to an Oneg at the home of Dr. Michael & Zehava Atlas, 9 Brook Lane beginning at 7:15 pm.

MINI SHABBATON 1-2 GRADE GIRLS

This Shabbat November 14th is YOURS! Ice Cream Kiddush & Saturday Night Event 6:00-7:30 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

November 14: U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham
November 17: Sisterhood Dinner at Colbeh
November 22: Sunday Conversations: Dan Ephron
December 2: Dr. Raffi Marcus: Hezbollah Talk
December 9: Chanukah Show
December 12: GNS Annual Dinner

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Limor & Edmond Ohebshalom** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Joshua**.

Mazal Tov to **Bracha & Cantor Kron** on the engagement of his sister **Ester Heishrik** to **Dudi Indich** in Israel.

Mazal Tov to **Lorraine & Harold Domnitch** on the birth of a great grandson **Aidan Reece**, born to their grandchildren **Shayna & Matthew Angirst**.

NSHA PTA BOOK FAIR

The Annual North Shore Hebrew Academy PTA Book Fair will take place on **Sun. Nov. 22 from 11am-4pm and Mon. Nov. 23 from 6pm-8pm**. The Book Fair will be in the gym at 16 Cherry Lane.

LONG ISLAND HEBREW ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Please join us **Nov. 18th from 10 am-11:30 am** for a guided tour. For more information call Rosel (516) 466-3656.

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 after 1pm. Email koshercookinggn@gmail.com or call 516.317.9632.

THANKSGIVING CHESED

Buy a Thanksgiving Dinner for a resident at Arrandale Senior Housing at \$18 can sponsor a dinner in honor of/in memory of your parents. See pg. 3 for form to fill out.

PIES FOR SHARSHERET

Order pies by **Nov. 17th** for Thanksgiving with all proceeds going to Sharsheret. Check it out at www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck. Email marlalemonik@gmail.com.

NEW DOOR SECURITY CODE

The security code has been changed. If you choose to let visitors in, please do so without sharing the code. For the new code call the office (487-6100) or email mtwersky@gns.org, jfrisch@gns.org or sgoldstein@gns.org.

**Y
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Saturday, 2 Kislev

Cindy Ludwig for Florence Gelber
Arthur Kirsch for Ruth Kirsch

Sunday, 3 Kislev

Anthony Berkowitz for Barney Berkowitz
Cindy Ludwig for Frank Gelberg

Tuesday, 5 Kislev

Lili Weiss for David Buch
Benjamin Lunzer for Julius Peter Lunzer

Wednesday, 6 Kislev

Asher Davoudpour for Aharon Dovid Davoudpour
Evelyn Henis for Albert Noah

Elliot Diamond for Molly Diamond Shalm

Friday, 8 Kislev

Michael Hoenig for Edward Hoenig
Abraham Krieger for Nathan Krieger
Magda Yehaskel for Mendel Wohl