



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayeitzei

November 21, 2015 9 Kislev, 5776

<b>TORAH</b> <b>ARTSCROLL 144</b> <b>HERTZ 106</b>		<b>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Vayeitzei</b>		
<b>HAFTORAH</b> <b>ARTSCROLL 1139</b> <b>HERTZ 118</b>		<p>What is it that made Jacob – not Abraham or Isaac or Moses – the true father of the Jewish people? We are the “congregation of Jacob,” “the children of Israel.” Jacob/Israel is the man whose name we bear. Yet Jacob did not begin the Jewish journey; Abraham did. Jacob faced no trial like that of Isaac at the binding. He did not lead the people out of Egypt or bring them the Torah. To be sure, all his children stayed within the faith, unlike Abraham or Isaac. But that simply pushes the question back one level. Why did he succeed where Abraham and Isaac failed? It seems that the answer lies in this week’s parsha and the next. Jacob was the man whose greatest visions came to him when he was alone at night, far from home, fleeing from one danger to the next. In this week’s parsha, escaping from Esau, he stops and rests for the night with only stones to lie on and has an epiphany: He had a dream in which he saw a</p>	<p>stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it ... When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen. 28: 12-17)</p> <p>In next week’s parsha, fleeing from Laban and terrified at the prospect of meeting Esau again, he wrestles alone at night with an unnamed stranger. Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome” ... So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” (Gen. 32: 29-31) These are the decisive spiritual encounters of Jacob’s life, yet they happen in liminal space (the space between that is neither starting point nor destination), at a time when Jacob was at risk in both directions, where he came from and where he was going to. Yet it was at these points of maximal vulnerability that he encountered God and found the</p>	<p>courage to continue despite all the hazards of the journey. That is the strength Jacob bequeathed the Jewish people. What is remarkable is not merely that this one tiny people survived tragedies that would have spelled the end of any other people: the destruction of two temples, the Babylonian and Roman conquests, the expulsions, persecutions and pogroms of the Middle Ages, the rise of anti-Semitism in nineteenth century Europe and the Holocaust. After each cataclysm, it renewed itself, scaling new heights of achievement. During the Babylonian exile it deepened its engagement with the Torah. After the Roman destruction of Jerusalem it produced the great literary monuments of the Oral Torah: Midrash, Mishnah and Gemara. During the Middle Ages it produced masterpieces of law and Torah commentary, poetry and philosophy. A mere three years after the Holocaust it proclaimed the state of Israel, the Jewish return to history after the darkest night of exile.</p> <p>When I became Chief Rabbi I had to undergo a medical</p>
<b>Times</b>				
Candle Lighting	4:15 pm	<b>Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei</b>	<b>BIMA FLOWERS IN THE BEIT MIDRASH ARE SPONSORED BY GOLDIE &amp; HOWARD LORBER IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER, HANNAH LORBER, Z”L.</b>	
Friday Mincha	4:15 pm			
Hashkama	8:00 am	November 21	9:15/10:04 am	
Youth Minyan	8:30 am	November 28	9:20/10:08 am	
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am	<b>Next Shabbat Parshat Vayishlach</b>		
Main	9:00 am	Candle Lighting	4:11 pm	
Beit Midrash	9:15 am	Mincha	4:15 pm	
Gemara Shiur	3:45 pm			
Mincha	4:10 pm			
Shabbat ends	5:22 pm			
Rabbi Reisman Video Shiur	7:30 pm			
Sunday, Nov. 22	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Thurs. 11/26 Thanksgiving	7:30/8:30 am			

examination. The doctor put me on a treadmill, walking at a very brisk pace. "What are you testing?" I asked him. "How fast I can go, or how long?" "Neither," he replied. "What I am testing is how long it takes, when you come off the treadmill, for your pulse to return to normal." That is when I discovered that health is measured by the power of recovery. That is true for everyone, but doubly so for leaders and for the Jewish people, a nation of leaders (that, I believe, is what the phrase "a kingdom of priests" means). Leaders suffer crises. That is a given of leadership. When Harold Macmillan, prime minister of Britain between 1957 and 1963, was asked what was the most difficult aspect of his time in office, he replied, "Events, dear boy, events." Bad things happen, and when they do, the leader must take the strain so that others can sleep easily in their beds. Leadership, especially in matters of the spirit, is deeply stressful. Four figures in Tanakh – Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah and Jonah – actually pray to die rather than continue. Nor was this true only in the distant past. Abraham Lincoln suffered deep bouts of depression. So did Churchill, who called it his "black dog." Gandhi and Martin Luther King both attempted suicide in adolescence and experienced depressive illness in adult life. The same was true of many great creative artists, among them Michelangelo, Beethoven and Van Gogh.

Is it greatness that leads to moments of despair, or moments of despair that lead to greatness? Is it that those who lead internalize the stresses and tensions of their time? Or is it that those who are used to stress in their emotional lives find release in leading exceptional lives? There is no convincing answer to this in the literature thus far. But Jacob was a more emotionally volatile individual than either Abraham, who was often serene even in the face of great trials, or Isaac who was more than usually withdrawn. Jacob feared; Jacob loved; Jacob spent more of his time in exile than the other patriarchs. But Jacob endured and persisted.

Of all the figures in Genesis, he is the great survivor. The ability to survive and to recover is part of what it takes to be a leader. It is the willingness to live a life of risks that makes such individuals different from others. So said Theodor Roosevelt in one of the greatest speeches ever made on the subject: It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Jacob endured the rivalry of Esau, the resentment of Laban, the tension between his wives and children, the early death of his beloved Rachel and the loss, for twenty-two years, of his favorite son Joseph. He said to Pharaoh, "Few and hard have been the years of my life" (Gen. 47: 9). Yet on the way he "encountered" angels, and whether they were wrestling with him or climbing the ladder to heaven they lit the night with the aura of transcendence. To try, to fall, to fear, and yet to keep going: that is what it takes to be a leader. That was Jacob, the man who at the lowest ebbs of his life had his greatest visions of heaven.



**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**

**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  
 Yitzchak Rabin's assassination on  
 November 4, 1995

Dessert  
 Reception  
 to  
 follow  
 program



**GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE  
CHESÉD COLLECTION**

**JUST IN TIME FOR CHANUKAH!**

**HAVE LEFT OVER BIRTHDAY PRESENTS?  
BOUGHT TOO MANY GIFTS FOR CHANUKAH?**

**CONSIDER DONATING THEM FOR NEEDY  
CHILDREN**

**NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**AT THE HOME OF**

**ERICA AND ELIOT HEISLER**

**71 BAYVIEW AVENUE (CORNER OF BAYVIEW  
AVENUE AND CHESTNUT DRIVE)**

**PLEASE LEAVE ALL ITEMS BY THE GARAGE  
DOOR**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT ERICA AT  
EZH624@AOL.COM**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lisslev@verizon.net)  
Please return to: GNS 26 Old Mill Road Gt Neck, NY 11023



**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 FASHION: Women's Handbags, Cosmetic bags, Wallets, Hand Knitted Hats, Beige Cashmere Scarves, Young Women's Designer Clothing, Men's Outer Wear

**JEWELRY**  
Setting Jewels and Buying Gems

**HOME**  
Pampered Chef, Linens/ Table Cloth, CUICO, Home Decor, Wine Tasting Single Malt Beer, and much more...

**JUDAICA**  
Judaica Art, Menorahs, Kiddush Cups, and more...

**GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE  
KIDDUSH CLASS IS BACK**

**JOIN US AFTER KIDDUSH IN THE BEIT MIDRASH  
12:15-12:45 PM**

**November 21**  
**RULES OF ENGAGEMENT IN ISRAEL:  
SHOULD IT BE SHOOT TO KILL?**  
**Rabbi Dale Polakoff**

**November 28**  
**NO MEZUZAH? LIGHTING CHANUKAH  
CANDLES THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS**  
**Rabbi Ian Lichter**

**Rabbi Eliezer told his students: When you pray, know before whom you are standing and in this way you will win the future world... Talmud Brachot 28B**

# 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 **Melissa & Sam Toledano** in memory of his father **Avraham ben Yosef,z"l**.

## ANNUAL SISTERHOOD CHAI DINNER

Join us on **Tues. Nov. 17, at 6 PM at Colbeh**. Our speaker is our very own **Dahlia Klein**, author of the amazing book, "Spiritual Kneading through the Jewish Months: Building the Sacred through Challah".

## 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'S CENTER NEXT EVENT

Please join the **Chaverim Center** on **Wednesday, Dec. 2nd at 11:30 am to 2:00pm** for a pre-Chanukah luncheon and Musicale. This week's grand opening was a fabulous success! Please let the shul office or one of us know if you can attend. Everyone is welcome. Please send us your suggestions. The following meeting will be held on Wednesday December 16 and will include lunch, games and the first meeting of our monthly book club, co-chaired by Roslyn Korman and Michelle Berman. Stay tuned for details about the book! Cindy Hodkin [Koshercookingn@gmail.com](mailto:Koshercookingn@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 CHESED COLLECTION

Just in time for Chanukah! Have left over birthday presents? Bought too many gifts for Chanukah? Consider donating them for needy children, **Nov. 16th - Dec. 10th**, at the home of Erica & Eliot Heisler, 71 Bayview Ave. Please leave all items by garage door.

## 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).

## 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.

## 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

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 **Bracha Werber** upon receiving the degree Doctor of Pedagogy, honoris causa, from the Jewish Theological Seminary. **Mazal Tov** to her husband, **Martin**, and to the entire family.

**Mazal Tov** to **Stephanie & Ruvane Vilinsky** on the engagement of their daughter **Talia** to **Robert Kessel** son of **Karen Kessel & Richard Kessel**.

**Mazal Tov** to **Karen & Robert Spitalnick** on the birth of a grandson born to their children, **Leslie & Josh Kaplan**. **Mazal Tov** to great-grandmother, **Giselle Steigman** as well.

## NSHA PTA BOOK FAIR

The Annual NSHA 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.

## NSHA MOMMY & ME

Get a taste of Pre-School. North Shore Hebrew Academy 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 for more information: [ehelfgott@nsha.org](mailto:ehelfgott@nsha.org).

## PIES FOR SHARSHERET

Order by **Nov. 17** to buy pies for Thanksgiving to raise funds for SHARSHERET, to help young Jewish women with ovarian cancer at [www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck](http://www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck).

## Y A H R Z E I T

### Saturday, 9 Kislev

Jerrald Weinstein for Lillian Greenberg

### Sunday, 3 Kislev

Lloyd Bayme for Leib Bayme  
Samuel Toledano for Avraham ben Yosef  
Pearl Ginsberg for Yetta Helfman  
Sharyn Falkenstein for Yetta Helfman  
Howard Lorber for Hannah Lorber  
Ronald Silverman for Gail Silverman  
Jack Wachstock for David Wachstock

### Monday, 11 Kislev

Joyce Swarts for Norma Gelfond  
Judith Soleimani for Bela Hajdu  
Susanne Hedaya for Harold Hedaya

### Tuesday, 12 Kislev

Eliezer Noy for Mashala bat Soltana  
Richard Lillian for Bette Lillian  
Madeline Belonsky for Dora Wine

### Wednesday, 13 Kislev

Steven Blumner for Naftali Mordechai ben Chaim  
Robert Glaser for Jack Glaser  
Susan Castle for Bronia Kalt  
Nathaniel Weisel for Nathan Kaplan  
George Zobel for Georgina Zobel

### Thursday, 14 Kislev

Drora Brody for Yosef Aharoni  
Lili Weiss for Hanah Krendel  
Martin Sokol for Sadie Sokol  
Anna Herz for Ida Tsurulik

### Friday, 15 Kislev

Marvin Greenwald for Emanuel Greenwald  
Barry Maher for Faizollah Maher-Afarin  
David Lax for Zeev Rosenberg  
Isaac Sachmechi for Helen Sachmechi  
Lev Dynkin for Aryeh Leib Shifman