



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Shmini/Parah

April 2, 2016 23 Adar II, 5776

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 588
HERTZ 443

MAFTIR
ARTSCROLL 838
HERTZ 652

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1216
HERTZ 999

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM NISSAN
ROSH CHODESH IS SHABBAT 4/9
MOLAD IS THURSDAY 4/7
AT 10:15:16

BAR MITZVAH OF
ROBERT OHEBSHALOM

BAT MITZVAH OF
RAQUEL BLATTER

Times

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Candle Lighting | 7:02 pm |
| Mincha | 7:00 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 | 6:00 pm |
| Mincha | 7:00 pm |
| Shabbat ends | 8:11 pm |
| Rabbi Reisman | 10:00 pm |
| Video Shiur | |
| Sun. April 3 | 7:30/8:30 am |
| Mon. & Thurs. | 6:35/7:45 am |
| Tue., Wed. & Fri. | 6:45/7:45 am |
| Mincha | 7:10 pm |
| Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei | |
| April 2 | 9:47/10:51 am |
| April 9 | 9:40/10:46 am |
| Next Shabbat Tazria | |
| Candle Lighting | 7:09 pm |
| Mincha | 7:00 pm |

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Shmini

The shock is immense. For several weeks and many chapters – the longest prelude in the Torah – we have read of the preparations for the moment at which God would bring His presence to rest in the midst of the people. Five parshiyot (Terumah, Tetzaveh, Ki Tissa, Vayakhel and Pekudei) describe the instructions for building the sanctuary. Two (Vayikra, Tzav) detail the sacrificial offerings to be brought there. All is now ready. For seven days the priests (Aaron and his sons) are consecrated into office. Now comes the eighth day when the service of the mishkan will begin. The entire people have played their part in constructing what will become the visible home of the Divine presence on earth. With a simple, moving verse the drama reaches its climax: "Moses and Aaron went into the Tent of Meeting and when they came out, they blessed the people. God's glory was then revealed to all the people" (9:23). Just as we think the narrative has reached closure, a terrifying scene takes place: Aaron's sons, Nadav and Avihu, took their censers, put fire into them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before God, which He had not instructed them to offer. Fire

came forth from before God, and it consumed them so that they died before God. Moses then said to Aaron: "This is what God spoke of when he said: Among those who approach Me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored." (10:1-3)

Celebration turned to tragedy. The two eldest sons of Aaron die. The sages and commentators offer many explanations. Nadav and Avihu died because: they entered the holy of holies; they were not wearing the requisite clothes; they took fire from the kitchen, not the altar; they did not consult Moses and Aaron; nor did they consult one another. According to some they were guilty of hubris. They were impatient to assume leadership roles themselves; and they did not marry, considering themselves above such things. Yet others see their deaths as delayed punishment for an earlier sin, when, at Mount Sinai they "ate and drank" in the presence of God (Ex. 24:9-11). These interpretations represent close readings of the four places in the Torah which Nadav and Avihu's death is mentioned (Lev. 10:2, 16:1, Num. 3:4, 26:61), as well as the reference to their presence on Mount Sinai. Each is a profound meditation on the dangers of over-enthusiasm in the religious life. However, the simplest explanation is the one explicit in the Torah itself. Nadav and Avihu died because they offered unauthorized, literally "strange," fire, meaning "that which was not commanded." To

understand the significance of this we must go back to first principles and remind ourselves of the meaning of kadosh, "holy", and thus of mikdash as the home of the holy. The holy is that segment of time and space God has reserved for His presence. Creation involves concealment. The word olam, universe, is semantically linked to the word neelam, "hidden". To give mankind some of His own creative powers – the use of language to think, communicate, understand, imagine alternative futures and choose between them – God must do more than create homo sapiens. He must efface Himself (what the kabbalists called tzimtzum) to create space for human action. No single act more profoundly indicates the love and generosity implicit in creation. God as we encounter Him in the Torah is like a parent who knows He must hold back, let go, refrain from intervening, if his children are to become responsible and mature. But there is a limit. To efface Himself entirely would be equivalent to abandoning the world, deserting his own children. That, God may not and will not do. How then does God leave a trace of his presence on earth?

The biblical answer is not philosophical. A philosophical answer (I am thinking here of the mainstream of Western

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philosophy, beginning in antiquity with Plato, in modernity with Descartes) would be one that applies universally – i.e. at all times, in all places. But there is no answer that applies to all times and places. That is why philosophy cannot and never will understand the apparent contradiction between divine creation and human freewill, or between divine presence and the empirical world in which we reflect, choose and act. Jewish thought is counter-philosophical. It insists that truths are embodied precisely in particular times and places. There are holy times (the seventh day, seventh month, seventh year, and the end of seven septennial cycles, the jubilee). There are holy people (the children of Israel as a whole; within them, the Levi'im, and within them the Cohanim). And there is holy space (eventually, Israel; within that, Jerusalem; within that the Temple; in the desert, they were the mishkan, the holy, and the holy of holies). The holy is that point of time and space in which the presence of God is encountered by tzimtzum – self-renunciation – on the part of mankind. Just as God makes space for man by an act of self-limitation, so man makes space for God by an act of self-limitation. The holy is where God is experienced as absolute presence. Not accidentally but essentially, this can only take place through the total renunciation of human will and initiative. That is not because God does not value human will and initiative. To the contrary: God has empowered mankind to use them to become His "partners in the work of creation". However, to be true to God's purposes, there must be times and places at which humanity experiences the reality of the divine. Those times and places require absolute obedience. The most fundamental mistake – the mistake of Nadav and Avihu – is to take the powers that belong to man's encounter with the world, and apply them to man's encounter with the Divine. Had Nadav and Avihu used their own initiative to fight evil and injustice they would have been heroes. Because they used their own initiative in the arena of the holy, they erred. They asserted their own presence in the absolute presence of God. That is a contradiction in terms. That is why they died.

We err if we think of God as capricious, jealous, angry: a myth spread by early Christianity in an attempt to define itself as the religion of love, superseding the cruel/harsh/retributive God of the "Old Testament". When the Torah itself uses such language it "speaks in the language of humanity" – that is to say, in terms people will understand. In truth, Tenakh is a love story through and through – the passionate love of the Creator for His creatures that survives all the disappointments and betrayals of human history. God needs us to encounter Him, not because He needs mankind but because we need Him. If civilization is to be guided by love, justice, and respect for the integrity of creation, there must be moments in which we leave the "I" behind and encounter the fullness of being in all its glory. That is the function of the holy – the point at which "I am" is silent in the overwhelming presence of "There is".

That is what Nadav and Avihu forgot – that to enter holy space or time requires ontological humility, the total renunciation of human initiative and desire. The significance of this fact cannot be over-estimated. When we confuse God's will with our will, we turn the holy – the source of life – into something unholy and a source of death. The classic example of this is "holy war," jihad, Crusade – investing imperialism (the desire to rule over other people) with the cloak of sanctity as if conquest and forced conversion were God's will.

The story of Nadav and Avihu reminds us yet again of the warning first spelled out in the days of Cain and Abel. The first act of worship led to the first murder. Like nuclear fission, worship generates power, which can be benign but can also be profoundly dangerous. The episode of Nadav and Avihu is written in three kinds of fire. First there is the fire from heaven: Fire came forth from before God and consumed the burnt offering...(9:24) This was the fire of favor, consummating the service of the sanctuary. Then came the "unauthorized fire" offered by the two sons. Aaron's sons, Nadav and Avihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before God, which He had not instructed them to offer. (10:1) Then there was the counter-fire from heaven: Fire came forth from before God, and it consumed them so that they died before God. (10:2) The message is simple and intensely serious: Religion is not what the European Enlightenment thought it would become: mute, marginal and mild. It is fire – and like fire, it warms but it also burns. And we are the guardians of the flame.



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: greatneckyoetzet@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

Megillah Madness
Final 4 This Shabbat at 11:00 am

1. Jason Zucker and Scott Mayer
2. Daniel Ebrahimi and Aaron Rabanipour
3. Ruben Prawer
4. Daniel Kroll and Benjamin Pagovich

Championship (final 2) in Main Sanctuary
at 11:45 am

As water reflects a face back to a face,
so one's heart is reflected back to him
by another

Mishlei 27:19


*The Great Neck
 Yoetzet Halacha Committee
 Presents*
THE COUPLE CONNECTION
 Note New Venue
 Tuesday March 29th 2016
 7:30 pm
 at the home of Katie Lichter
 76 Berkshire Rd, Great Neck
 For more information contact
 Yoetzet Halacha Lisa Septimus
 greatneckyoetzethalacha@gmail.com or 516 4151111



GNS March Chesed Collection 2016
 Camp Kaylie - run by Ohel
 is in great need of
 new and gently used
 sports equipment.
 The equipment will be
 utilized for special needs programs and
 after school and summer programs.
 Please leave at the Kessler Home
 9 Vista Drive
 at the front door
 Sun - Friday for the month of March


Kravit Gold and Jewelry Buyers will be
BUYING your Jewelry at:
 Great Neck Synagogue, 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck
 *TUESDAY, MARCH 29th, 7:00PM-
 10:00PM*

Kravit Gold and Jewelry Buyers. Specializes in the purchase of un-
 wanted jewelry, watches, estate jewelry, diamonds, Rolex watches and more.
 If you're looking to get the most money for your jewelry and the highest cash
 payouts we will always deliver satisfaction.



The process for selling your items is fast, secure and discreet. Funds are
 paid in cash, check or bank wire immediately. Our staff is knowledgeable,
 friendly and here to assist you. Come see us to sell your valuables and a por-
 tion of the proceeds go directly to the Great Neck Synagogue. Please stop by
 for a FREE appraisal and experience our premier service.



TUESDAY, MARCH 29th, 7:00PM-10:00PM
 Lee Kravitz (516) 661-2730
 Gary Ehrlich (516) 459-1075

Great Neck Synagogue
 Sisterhood presents:

RAFFLE



**How to make
 Your Blowout
 Last**

With special guest
 Ruby Rubin
 (From Ruby's hair salon of Great Neck)

Tuesday, April 5th at 8pm
 Great Neck Synagogue

ANY QUESTIONS?
 Please contact (516) 487-6100.



**Join us for our next Chaverim Program
on March 30th from 11:30 – 2 pm.**

We will be having a report back from the AIPAC Policy Conference given by Rabbi Polakoff and Michele Wolf.

After lunch for those who are interested we will have a discussion about our book “My Father’s Paradise” by Ariel Sabar.

As always there will be mah jong, scrabble and cards.

Thank you to Naeema, our newest Chaverim team member, for putting together a fabulous program this past Wednesday.

Thank you to our sponsors, Lisa and Michael Aryeh and David and Susan Sedgh for the delicious feast from Colbeh.

Save the dates

**April 13, May 4, May 18, June 1 and June 15
for interesting programs on genealogy, Project Independence, book group and much more.**

We are always looking for ideas for programs so feel free to share your ideas or contacts with us.

Cindy, Erica, Michelle and Naeema

You Have Two Chances to Save a Life ...

Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club

Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Registry Drive

Sunday Morning, April 3rd - GNS Braun Youth Center

Participate in either or both

New York Blood Center

- ♥ Someone in this country needs a life-saving transfusion every 3 seconds
- ♥ Quick and easy donation handled by skilled technicians from the New York Blood Center
- ♥ Background information and eligibility requirements available at www.nybloodcenter.org
- ♥ Walk-ins welcome, but booking an appointment will get you expedited service
- ♥ Appointments available every 15 minutes between 8:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.



www.giftoflife.org | 800-9MARROW

- ♥ Register as a potential bone marrow donor and help leukemia and other cancer patients
- ♥ Fast and simple: just takes a simple cheek swab!
- ♥ For donors age 18-45. No appointment necessary. Learn more at www.giftoflife.org
- • •
- ♥ Children's activity table so that kids can join you in these important mitzvahs
- ♥ Complimentary breakfast for all participants
- ♥ Choice of special Great Neck Synagogue gift to thank all donors and volunteers:

Football



Selfie Stick



Beach Bag



Teddy Bear



To book your blood donation appointment:

1. Go to www.nybloodcenter.org
 2. Click on "Schedule Donation"
 3. Under "Have a group code?" enter: 03872
 4. Click on "Great Neck Synagogue" and then select your appointment time
- Alternatively: [Email reind@sullcrom.com](mailto:reind@sullcrom.com) or [call \(212\) 558-3035](tel:2125583035)

GNS Men's Club Blood Drive Co-Chairmen: Michael Kohler, David Rein

Honorary Chairman: Al Leiderman

Bone Marrow Donation Drive Chair: Talya Shoshani

Seeking Volunteers

To help with registration and other tasks on the morning, please contact us.
Adults and students 12 and over welcome. Happy to help with *chesed* hours qualification.



GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE ב"ה

ALL INVITED

כולם מוזמנים

26 Old Mill Road

The BEST OF JEWISH COMEDY **presented by Charlie Bernhaut**

APRIL 10TH SUNDAY at 10:00 AM

Discover the funny people, the comedy and laughter of comedians such as Freddie Roman, Betty Walker, Mickey Katz, Alan Sherman and Jackie Mason



Enjoy your morning with Mr. Charlie Bernhaut, an acclaimed expert in Jewish comedians, as well as Cantorial personalities. He hosts a radio show and a weekly two-hour internet program, with listeners in over 35 countries.
www.charliebernaut.com

Breakfast Served

همه خوش آمدید

All Welcome

PASSOVER

SHMURAH MATZAH

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

is again pleased to serve its membership with
the sale of Hand Baked SHMURAH MATZAH

Pick-up for Matzah will be on

Monday, April 18, 2016
Between 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm

All orders must be prepaid

Please make checks payable to
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

All orders must be received before April 13, 2016,
while supplies last. Please order early

Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Bus.) _____

Email _____

_____ lb. Shmurah Matzah @ \$29.00 per lb. _____

Total Cost _____

Check must be included with order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5776, IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF PINCHAS BEN YOSEPH FOR OTHER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD WOLF 212-843-4668

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.

WOMEN'S TEFILA

Judy & Brett Blatter are sponsoring the Women's Tefila Kiddush this week in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Raquel.

GNS CHESED

Family volunteers are needed, please contact Sharon Goldwyn.

April Chesed Collection - Passover food

April Chesed Collection - Chametz

AMAZON SMILE

Did you know that AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to charitable organizations of your choice AT NO COST TO YOU? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support GNS every time you make a purchase. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), simply select Great Neck Synagogue to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection will be remembered, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is working on selecting new board members. If you want to nominate someone, or yourself, please contact one of the following members: Avery Modlin, Chair, and members are Jerry Weinstein, Donna Hecht, Liz Ort, Jeff Benjamin, Zachary Mittelman, and Evan Shusterman.

FLORENCE SHAFFER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

If you know of a deserving young woman, planning to study at University or in Israel, in need of a scholarship, consider applying for our Florence Shaffer Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contact Cindy Hodkin koshercookinggn@gmail.com for an application. All applications are handled with the utmost discretion.

GN EIRUV ASSOCIATION

The maintenance of the eiruv requires constant attention and resources. If you have not already responded, we ask that you please do so by either by sending a check to:

A. G N Eiruv Association P.O. Box 234243 Great Neck, NY 11023, or

B. by donating online at <http://greatneckeiruv.org/donate>. The minimum suggested donation remains at \$180.00. If you are able to support the Eiruv with a larger donation, it will be greatly appreciated. Thanking you in advance for your support of our community Eiruv.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

March 29: Sisterhood: Selling Jewelry
 March 29: Yoetzet Halacha
 March 30: Chaverim
 April 3: Blood Drive
 April 5: Sisterhood Event: Ruby's Hair Salon
 April 18: Pesach Kasher-In

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulations to Dr. Gail Frumkin on being given the Carolyn Diehl Hope & Humanity award, and honored at the Rogosin Institute Tree of Life Gala on Monday, April 4.

Mazal Tov to Dina & Jon Ohebshalom on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Robert**.

Mazal Tov to Judy & Brett Blatter on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Raquel**. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents **Joan & Henry Katz**.

NSHA DINNER SAVE THE DATE

The NSHA's Annual Journal Dinner, celebrating its 61 year tradition of excellence will take place on **Sunday, April 10**, at Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation honoring **Heidi & Glenn Zuckerman, Drs. Helen & Howard Zimmerman**, and **Rabbi Sholom Jensen**. Contact Arnie Flatow at aflatow@nsha.org.

CENTRAL'S ANNUAL DINNER

Rafi & Shifi Yehoshua and **Rebbetzin Abby Lerner** are being honored by Yeshiva University HS For Girls' (Central) Annual Dinner 2016 on **Wed. April 6th at 6 pm**. For reservations and more information, please visit www.yu.edu/hsdinner.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

The annual fundraiser will be on **Tues. May 17th at 7:30 pm**, in memory of Sharon Goldwyn's mother, Belle Goldwyn z"tl, featuring back-by-popular-demand speaker, **Rachel Hercman LCSW**, who will be speaking on: *Abandoning Perfection -- Learning to let go in life, love and intimacy*.

EMUNAH SPRING LUNCHEON

Join us for our Spring Luncheon on **Tues. May 24th at 11:30 am**, honoring **Daniella Muller**, with keynote speaker, Lea Goldman, Executive Editor at Marie Claire.

LONG ISLAND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The UJA-Federation of New York Long Island Healthcare Professionals—Northwell Health System Physicians and Dentists is honoring **Jack Gruber, D.D.S** on **Wed., April 6th at 6:30 pm**. For more information, visit ujafedny.org/northwellhealth.

VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN CHAMETZ BURNING

To assist on **Fri. April 22** in the communal burning of chametz to help direct parking, please contact Dr. Mitchell Siegel at drsiegel32@gmail.com.

**Y
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Saturday, 23 Adar II

Elaine Miller for Ethel Grant
 Cindy Hodkin for Bernard Korman

Monday, 25 Adar II

Erran Kagan for Shlomo Kagan
 Jack Lipsky for Corinne Lipsky
 Mark Twersky for David Twersky

Tuesday, 26 Adar II

Dov Davidovics for Helen Davidovics

Wednesday, 27 Adar II

Leslie Kahn for Sam Krawchuk
 Aaron Seligson for Hyman Seligson
 Cheryl Sneag for Esther Sneag

Thursday, 28 Adar II

Joan Katz for Frank Sadinoff

Friday, 29 Adar II

Charles Berger for Joan C. Beger