



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Tazria/HaChodesh

April 9, 2016 1 Nissan, 5776

TORAH 6 ALIYOT
ARTSCROLL 608
HERTZ 460

TORAH 7TH ALIYAH
ARTSCROLL 890
HERTZ 695

MAFTIR
ARTSCROLL 348
HERTZ 253

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1218
HERTZ 1001

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Tazria

Our parsha begins with childbirth and, in the case of a male child, "On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised" (Lev. 12:3). This became known not just as milah, "circumcision", but something altogether more theological, brit milah, "the covenant of circumcision". That is because even before Sinai, almost at the dawn of Jewish history, circumcision became the sign of God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17:1-14). Why circumcision? Why was this from the outset not just a mitzvah, one command among others, but the very sign of our covenant with God and His with us? And why on the eighth day? Last week's parsha was called Shemini, "the eighth [day]" (Lev. 9:1) because it dealt with the inauguration of the Mishkan, the Sanctuary, which also took place on the eighth day. Is there a connection between these two quite different events?

The place to begin is a strange midrash recording an encounter between the Roman governor Tyranus Rufus and Rabbi Akiva. Rufus began the conversation by asking,

"Whose works are better, those of God or of man?" Surprisingly, the Rabbi replied, "Those of man." Rufus responded, "But look at the heavens and the earth. Can a human being make anything like that?" Rabbi Akiva replied that the comparison was unfair. "Creating heaven and earth is clearly beyond human capacity. Give me an example drawn from matters that are within human scope." Rufus then said, "Why do you practice circumcision?" To this, Rabbi Akiva replied, "I knew you would ask that question. That is why I said in advance that the works of man are better than those of God." The rabbi then set before the governor ears of corn and cakes. The unprocessed corn is the work of God. The cake is the work of man. Is it not more pleasant to eat cake than raw ears of corn? Rufus then said, "If God really wants us to practice circumcision, why did He not arrange for babies to be born circumcised?" Rabbi Akiva replied, "God gave the commands to Israel to refine our character." This is a very odd conversation, but, as we will see, a deeply significant one. To understand it, we have to go back to the beginning of time.

The Torah tells us that for six days God created the universe and on the seventh he rested, declaring it holy. His last

creation, on the sixth day, was humanity: the first man and the first woman. According to the sages, Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit already on that day and were sentenced to exile from the Garden of Eden. However, God delayed the execution of sentence for a day to allow them to spend Shabbat in the garden. As the day came to a close, the humans were about to be sent out into the world in the darkness of night. God took pity on them and showed them how to make light. That is why we light a special candle at Havdalah, not just to mark the end of Shabbat but also to show that we begin the workday week with the light God taught us to make. The Havdalah candle therefore represents the light of the eighth day – which marks the beginning of human creativity. Just as God began the first day of creation with the words, "Let there be light", so at the start of the eighth day He showed humans how they too could make light. Human creativity is thus conceived in Judaism as parallel to Divine creativity, and its symbol is the eighth day. That is why the Mishkan was inaugurated on the eighth day. As

Times

Candle Lighting	7:09 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	6:05 pm
Mincha	7:05 pm
Shabbat ends	8:18 pm
Rabbi Reisman Video Shiur	10:00 pm
Sun. April 10	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	7:20 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
April 9	9:40/10:46 am
April 16	9:34/10:41 am
Next Shabbat Metzora	
Candle Lighting	7:16 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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 GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE**

Nechama Leibowitz and others have noted, there is an unmistakable parallelism between the language the Torah uses to describe God’s creation of the universe and the Israelites’ creation of the Sanctuary. The Mishkan was a microcosm – a cosmos in miniature. Thus Genesis begins and Exodus ends with stories of creation, the first by God, the second by the Israelites. The eighth day is when we celebrate the human contribution to creation. That is also why circumcision takes place on the eighth day. All life, we believe, comes from God. Every human being bears His image and likeness. We see each child as God’s gift: “Children are the provision of the Lord; the fruit of the womb, His reward” (Ps, 127:3). Yet it takes a human act – circumcision – to signal that a male Jewish child has entered the covenant. That is why it takes place on the eighth day, to emphasize that the act that symbolizes entry into the covenant is a human one – just as it was when the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai said, “All that the Lord has said, we will do and obey” (Ex. 24:7).

Mutuality and reciprocity mark the special nature of the specific covenant God made, first with Abraham, then with Moses and the Israelites. It is this that differentiates it from the universal covenant God made with Noah and through him with all humanity. That covenant, set out in Genesis 9, involved no human response. Its content was the seven Noahide commands. Its sign was the rainbow. But God asked nothing of Noah, not even his consent. Judaism embodies a unique duality of the universal and the particular. We are all in covenant with God by the mere fact of our humanity. We are bound, all of us, by the basic laws of morality. This is part of what it means to be human. But to be Jewish is also to be part of a particular covenant of reciprocity with God. God calls. We respond. God begins the work and calls on us to complete it. That is what the act of circumcision represents. God did not cause male children to be born circumcised, said Rabbi Akiva, because He deliberately left this act, this sign of the covenant, to us.

Now we begin to understand the full depth of the conversation between Rabbi Akiva and the Roman governor Tyrannus Rufus. For the Romans, the Greeks and the ancient world generally, the gods were to be found in nature: the sun, the sea, the sky, the earth and its seasons, the fields and their fertility. In Judaism, God is beyond nature, and his covenant with us takes us beyond nature also. So for us, not everything natural is good. War is natural. Conflict is natural. The violent competition to be the alpha male is natural. Jews – and others inspired by the God of Abraham – believe, as Kathryn Hepburn said to Humphrey Bogart in *The African Queen*, that “Nature, Mr Allnut, is what we are put in this world to rise above.” The Romans found circumcision strange because it was unnatural. Why not celebrate the human body as God made it? God, said Rabbi Akiva to the Roman governor, values culture, not just nature, the work of humans not just the work of God. It was this cluster of ideas – that God left creation unfinished so that we could become partners in its completion; that by responding to God’s commands we become refined; that God delights in our creativity and helped us along the way by teaching the first humans how to make light – that made Judaism unique in its faith in God’s faith in humankind.

All of this is implicit in the idea of the eighth day as the day on which God sent humans out into the world to become His partners in the work of creation. Why is this symbolized in the act of circumcision? Because if Darwin was right, then the most primal of all human instincts is to seek to pass on one’s genes to the next generation. That is the strongest force of nature within us. Circumcision symbolizes the idea that there is something higher than nature. Passing on our genes to the next generation should not simply be a blind instinct, a Darwinian drive. The Abrahamic covenant was based on sexual fidelity, the sanctity of marriage, and the consecration of the love that brings new life into the world. It is a rejection of the ethic of the alpha male. God created physical nature: the nature charted by science. But He asks us to be co-creators, with Him, of human nature. As R. Abraham Mordecai Alter of Ger said. “When God said, ‘Let us make man in our image’, to whom was He speaking? To man himself. God said to man, Let us – you and I – make man together.” The symbol of that co-creation is the eighth day, the day He helps us begin to create a world of light and 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: 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
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Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

**Doing what is righteous and just
 is more preferable to Hashem
 than an offering
 Mishlei 21:3**

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER SERIES



**APRIL 9th
2016**

**SHABBAT
PARSHAT
TAZRIA**



Reuben Ebrahimoff, also affectionately known as the Haftorahman, was born in Queens and was the first Mashadi Jew to attend Yeshiva in the U.S. Audiences enjoy Reuben's enthusiasm, humor and insight into the topic of the Haftorahs. To date, he has spoken in over 100 different congregations worldwide and publishes videos available at OU.org and Youtube. Reuben has just completed a user's guide to the book of Tehillim entitled "From your lips to G-d's ears" to be available this summer. Reuben is President of Brilliant I.D.E.A.S a jewelry manufacturing company in NYC.

SHABBAT MORNING
PRE HAFTARAH:

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT EACH
HAFTORAH

KIDDUSH CLASS:
12:15-12:45

10 THINGS YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT THE
BOOK OF TEHILLIM

SEUDAT SHLISHIT:

BIBLICAL ORIGINS OF THE
JEWISH HOLIDAYS:
CHAG HA'AVIV,
CHAG HA'KATZIR &
CHAG HA'ASIF

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.

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



GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE ב"ה

ALL INVITED

כולם מוזמנים

26 Old Mill Road

The BEST OF JEWISH COMEDY
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APRIL 10TH SUNDAY at 10:00 AM

Discover the funny people, the
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comedians such as Freddie
Roman, Betty Walker, Mickey Katz,
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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

TWO WAYS TO GET A MITZVAH THIS PASSOVER

GNS - Passover Food Chesed Collection 2016

Please drop off Passover canned & boxed food items (No Glass) items
to donate to Needy Families!!

Drop off at the Lunzer Home, 91 Bayview Ave

Please leave on porch on the side of the house.

Sunday - Friday until April 20th

MATZAH CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT GNS.

Chometz Chesed Collection 2016

Don't throw out your Chometz! Please donate your Chometz now!!!

Drop off in the garage at the Lichter home, 76 Berkshire Road

Their garage is located on Margot Street.

Sunday - Friday until April 20th

Thank you for being a part of this special Mitzvah!!

PASSOVER IS COMING!

Great Neck Synagogue Hunger Initiative
needs YOUR help to pack and deliver
Passover food to those in need.

PLEASE SIGN up to:

- a. **PACK FOOD**
Monday April 18th at 11:00 am
- b. **DONATE PASSOVER DESSERTS**
Monday April 18th at 11:00 am
- c. **DELIVER FOOD**
Monday April 18th at 1:00 pm
- d. **CONTRIBUTE FUNDS to**
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE HUNGER INITIATIVE

Contact Cindy Hodkin

koshercookinggn@gmail.com or 516-317-9632

It's easy to do a mitzvah...Remember those in need...

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

REMEMBER

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

Come hear the captivating story of

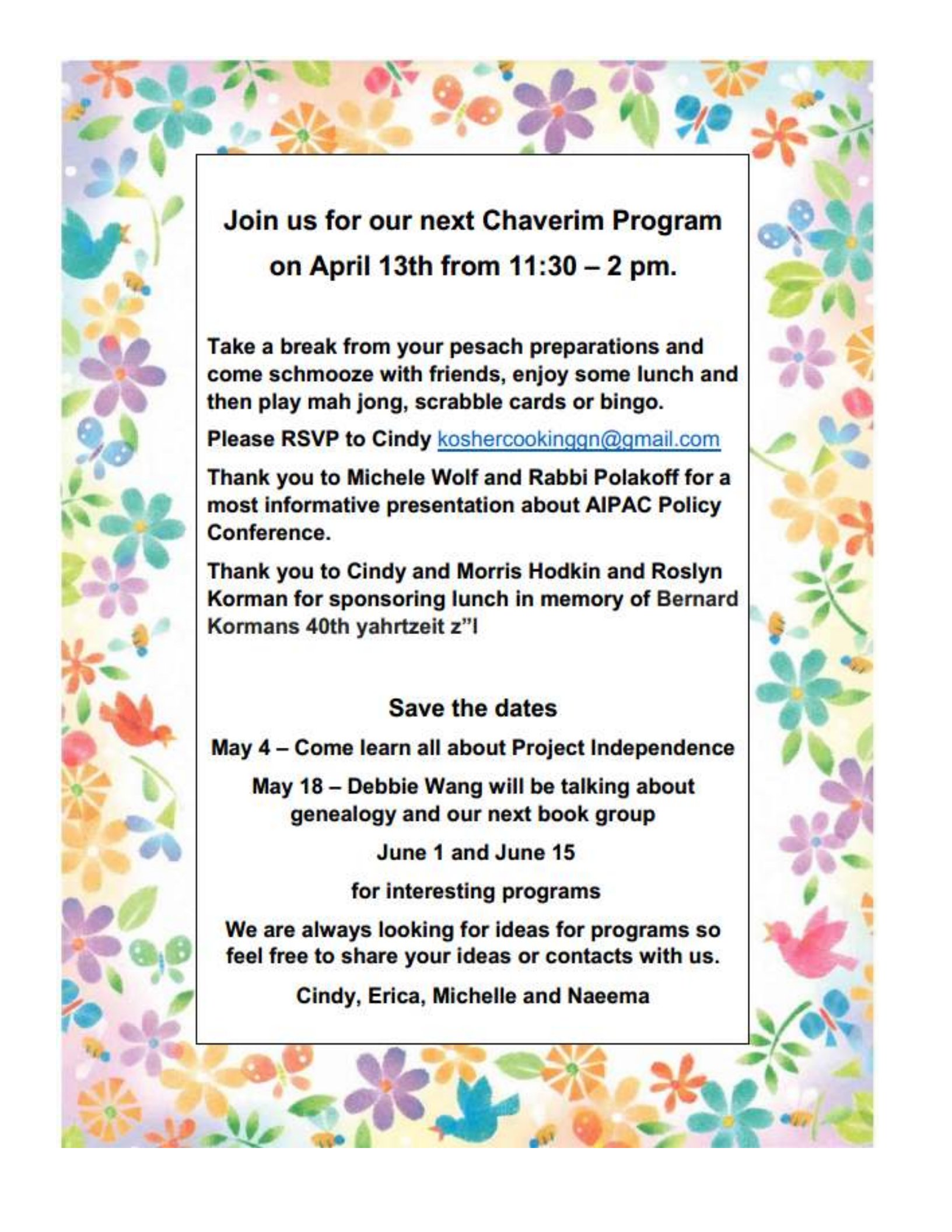
MARION BLUMENTHAL LAZAN

An inspirational speaker who has shared her moving, first-hand account of the devastating years that shaped her childhood, with almost a million students and adults in 37 states as well as Germany, Holland, Israel and the UK.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

8:00 P.M.

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!



**Join us for our next Chaverim Program
on April 13th from 11:30 – 2 pm.**

Take a break from your pesach preparations and come schmooze with friends, enjoy some lunch and then play mah jong, scrabble cards or bingo.

Please RSVP to Cindy koshercookinggn@gmail.com

Thank you to Michele Wolf and Rabbi Polakoff for a most informative presentation about AIPAC Policy Conference.

Thank you to Cindy and Morris Hodkin and Roslyn Korman for sponsoring lunch in memory of Bernard Kormans 40th yahrtzeit z"l

Save the dates

May 4 – Come learn all about Project Independence

May 18 – Debbie Wang will be talking about genealogy and our next book group

June 1 and June 15

for interesting programs

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

Cindy, Erica, Michelle and Naeema

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE 2017

MARCH 26-28 WASHINGTON, D.C.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!!

GREAT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE IF YOU SIGN UP THIS WEEK!!

▪ **\$200 DISCOUNT ON CONFERENCE**

CLUB MEMBERS TAKE AN ADDITIONAL \$100 OFF

ENDS TUESDAY APRIL 5 AT MIDNIGHT

▪ **\$100 DISCOUNT ON SHABBATON**

ENDS WEDNESDAY APRIL 6 AT MIDNIGHT

***CANCELLATIONS BY JANUARY 6 ARE REFUNDABLE

TO REGISTER CALL

Julie Blinbaum 917.210.6309 or Jennifer Redston 646.360.1525

For questions, speak to Steve Blumner 516.639.8941 or stevenblumner@gmail.com

**PLEASE JOIN THE GROWING LIST OF 48+ PEOPLE WHO HAVE
COMMITTED TO NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE!**

Robyn Blumner	Leonard Kahn	Payman Rabiei
Steven Blumner	Gloria Kaylie	Dov Sassoon
Deborah Chadow	Herman Kotler	Donna Schwechter
Hal Chadow	Mina Kotler	Leon Schwechter
Gary Chubak	Erran Kagan	Cheryl Sperber
Lillian Chubak	Lisa Kagan	Robert Sperber
Jerald Darvishzadeh	Farzin Khorramian	Jonathan Spielman
Sharon Goldwyn	Renee Krieger	Karen Spitalnick
Lyda Hakimi	Anne Lupkin	Robert Spitalnick
Dina Hamerman	Stanley Lupkin	Alan Steinberg
Natan Hamerman	Adeline Markowitz	Orly Steinberg
Donna Hecht	Avraham Markowitz	Daniel Tavakoli
Joseph Hecht	Jaime Mittleman	Devorah Wang
Adam Hutt	Brenda Parver	Howard Wolf
Didi Hutt	Edward Parver	Michele Wolf
Mitchell Hutt	Dale Polakoff	
Rachel Hutt	Ellen Polakoff	

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.

HASHKAMA MINYAN KIDDUSH

Kiddush is being sponsored by **Marilyn & Jeffrey Freedman** in honor the minyan.

AIPAC PARLOR MEETING

As a follow-up to Policy Conference, an informational meeting will be held this **Tuesday, Apr. 5 at 8 pm at the home of Robert & Karen Spitalnick, 10 Birchwood Lane.** We will discuss how we can have more of an impact on the political process through Aipac club membership and engaging in political activities. Please contact Robert Spitalnick, Steven Blumner, Hal Chadow, Dov Sassoon or Erran Kagan for more information.

MEN'S CLUB DEFENSIVE DRIVING

On **May 18-19** (7-10 pm), the Men's Club annual defensive driving course will be presented by AAA. Take the course every 3 years to save on car insurance, premiums and reduce any points you may have. The cost is \$30, please make checks payable to GNS Men's Club. Contact Jerry Siegelman jerrysiegelman@hotmail.com or 516.712.7538 for any questions.

PASSOVER REMINDERS

A. Start cleaning out lockers as Pesach begins in just over two weeks.

B. OU Passover Magazines are available in office on a first-come first-serve basis. Also online at oukosher.org/passover/passover-guide/.

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

DOOR CODE

Please note that for continued security reasons the door code will be changed **mid-morning on Monday April 11th.** Email mtwsky@gns.org, jfrisch@gns.org, sgoldstein@gns.org or call the shul office for the code.

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 due **May 1st.**

JUDAICA OF GREAT NECK

Judaica of Great Neck is pleased to announce a **Pesach Pop Up Sale** at our new location at 581-B Middle Neck Rd. next to Maya's Place. Most days open 10AM-10PM We can order most items.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

April 5: Sisterhood Event: Ruby's Hair Salon
 April 9: Shabbat Speaker - Reuben Ebrahimoff
 April 10: Men's Club Event: Jewish comedy
 April 18: Pesach Kasher-In & Shmurah Matzah Pick Up
 May 4: Yom HaShoah Commemoration
 May 7: Shabbat Speaker: Rabbi Steven Weil
 May 11: Yom Ha'atzmaut: Alan Dershowitz
 May 14: Shabbat Speaker: Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Jackie & Mike Rudick on the birth of their son. **Mazal Tov** also to big sister **Morgan** and grandparents **Laura & Scott Danoff.**

Mazal Tov to Ros & Zach Dicker on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, **Matthew Sadowski**, son of **Joy & Michael Sadowski**, of Edgemont, NY.

Mazal Tov to Heidi & Glenn Zuckerman on their being honored by NSHA at the annual dinner this Sunday.

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Jensen on his being honored at the NSHA annual dinner this Sunday.

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 LI Healthcare Professionals Northwell Health System Physicians and Dentists is honoring **Jack Gruber, D.D.S** on **Wed., Apr. 6th at 6:30pm.** For more information, visit ujafedny.org/northwellhealth.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 1 Nissán

Steven Blumner for Chaya bat Chaim
 Edwin Frederick for Charles Frederick
 Henry Katz for Erna Katz
 Edwin Rosman for Flora Rosman
 Myles Mittleman for Annie Tischler
 Rabbi Shimon Wolf for Arnold Wolf

Sunday, 2 Nissán

Payman Rabiei for Junjan bat Mashala
 Jacqueline Hott for Louis Hott
 Al Leiderman for Anna Leiderman

Monday, 3 Nissán

Steven Blumner for Feige Tova bat Chaim
 Kenneth Magida for Rachel Bilsky
 Charlene Milun for Israel Israelite
 Sharon Goldwyn for Frances Kessler
 Carl Mosesson for Norman Mosesson
 Mali Meisel for Pauline Rosenthal

Tuesday, 4 Nissán

Joseph Farajian for Mrs. Farajian
 Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Sarah & Yehuda Gabbazadeh
 Mark Gersten for Richard B. Gersten
 Pia Shlomo for David Spilky

Wednesday, 5 Nissán

Farid Adhami for Klan Adhami
 Michele Wolf for Ruth Berman
 Jacques Fouladi for Azam Fouladi
 Jeffrey Kaufman for Martin Kaufman
 Yonni Mrejen for Jacob Mrejen
 Roselin Wagner for Miriam Seider
 Lorraine Domnitch for Sidney Spiesel
 Howard Wolf for Julius Wolf

Thursday, 6 Nissán

Alina Dynkin for Reuven Chernyavsky
 Pearl Ginsburg for David Ginsburg
 Sharyn Falkestein for David Ginsburg
 Donald Heisler for Rae Heisler
 Gedale Horowitz for Florence Horowitz
 Samuel Levitt for Benjamin Levitt
 Amir Mardkha for Nassrollah Mardkha

Friday, 7 Nissán

Joyce Swartz for Seymour Zeff