



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Behar

May 28, 2016 20 Iyar, 5776

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 696
HERTZ 531

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1177
HERTZ 539

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Behar

I argue that Judaism is more than an ethnicity. It is a call to holiness. In one sense, however, there is an important ethnic dimension to Judaism. It is best captured in the 1980s

joke about an advertising campaign in New York.

Throughout the city there were giant posters with the slogan, "You have a friend in the Chase Manhattan Bank."

Underneath one, an Israeli had scribbled the words, "But in Bank Leumi you have mishpochah." Jews are,

and are conscious of being, a single extended family. This is particularly evident in this week's parsha. Repeatedly we read of social legislation couched in the language of family: When you buy or sell to your neighbor,

let no one wrong his brother. (Lev. 25:14) If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his property, his near redeemer is to come to you and redeem what his brother sold. (25:25)

If your brother is impoverished and indebted to you, you must support him; he

must live with you like a foreign resident. Do not take interest or profit from him, but fear your God and let your brother live with you. (25:35-36) If your brother becomes impoverished and is sold to you, do not work him like a slave. (25:39) "Your brother" in these verses is not meant literally. At times it means "your relative", but mostly it means "your fellow Jew". This is a distinctive way of thinking about society and our obligations to others. Jews are not just citizens of the same nation or adherents of the same faith. We are members of the same extended family. We are – biologically or electively – children of Abraham and Sarah. For the most part, we share the same history. On the festivals we relive the same memories. We were forged in the same crucible of suffering. We are more than friends. We are mishpochah, family.

The concept of family is absolutely fundamental to Judaism. Consider the book of Genesis, the Torah's starting-point. It is not primarily about theology, doctrine, dogma. It is not a polemic against idolatry. It is about families: husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters. At key moments in the Torah,

God himself defines his relationship with the Israelites in terms of family. He tells Moses to say to Pharaoh in his name: "My child, my firstborn, Israel" (Ex.4:22). When Moses wants to explain to the Israelites why they have a duty to be holy he says, "You are children of the Lord your God" (Deut. 14:1). If God is our parent, then we are all brothers and sisters. We are related by bonds that go to the very heart of who we are. The prophets continued the metaphor. There is a lovely passage in Hosea in which the prophet describes God as a parent teaching a young child how to take its first faltering steps: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son... It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them." (Hosea 11:1-4). The same image is continued in rabbinic Judaism. In one of the most famous phrases of prayer, Rabbi Akiva used the words Avinu Malkenu, "Our Father, our King". That is a precise and

Times

Candle Lighting	7:58 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Youth Minyan	8:30 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 pm
Main	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Gemara Shiur	6:55 pm
Mincha	7:55 pm
Shabbat Ends	9:07 pm
R' Reisman Video	10:30 pm
Sunday May 29	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. (Memorial Day)	7:30/8:30 am
Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed., & Fri	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	8:00 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
May 28	9:09/10:24 am
June 4	9:08/10:23 am
Next Shabbat Bechukotai	
Candle Lighting	8:03 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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deliberate expression. God is indeed our sovereign, our lawgiver and our judge, but before He is any of these things He is our parent and we are His children. That is why we believe divine compassion will always override strict justice.

This concept of Jews as an extended family is powerfully expressed in Maimonides' Laws of Charity: The entire Jewish people and all those who attach themselves to them are like brothers, as [Deuteronomy 14:1] states: "You are children of the Lord your God." And if a brother will not show mercy to a brother, who will show mercy to them? To whom do the poor of Israel lift up their eyes? To the gentiles who hate them and pursue them? Their eyes are turned to their brethren alone. This sense of kinship, fraternity and the family bond, is at the heart of the idea of Kol Yisrael arevin zeh bazeh, "All Jews are responsible for one another." Or as Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai put it, "When one Jew is injured, all Jews feel the pain."

Why is Judaism built on this model of the family? Partly to tell us that God did not choose an elite of the righteous or a sect of the likeminded. He chose a family – Abraham and Sarah's descendants — extended through time. The family is the most powerful vehicle of continuity, and the kinds of changes Jews were expected to make to the world could not be achieved in a single generation. Hence the importance of the family as a place of education ("You shall teach these things repeatedly to your children...") and of handing the story on, especially on Pesach through the Seder service.

Another reason is that family feeling is the most primal and powerful moral bond. The scientist J.B.S. Haldane famously said, when asked whether he would jump into a river and risk his life to save his drowning brother, "No, but I would do so to save two brothers or eight cousins." The point he

was making was that we share 50 percent of our genes with our siblings, and an eighth with our cousins. Taking a risk to save them is a way of ensuring that our genes are passed on to the next generation. This principle, known as "kin selection", is the most basic form of human altruism. It is where the moral sense is born. That is a key insight, not only of biology but also of political theory. Edmund Burke famously said that "To be attached to the subdivision, to love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ as it were) of public affections. It is the first link in the series by which we proceed towards a love to our country, and to mankind." Likewise, Alexis de Tocqueville said, "As long as family feeling was kept alive, the opponent of oppression was never alone."

Strong families are essential to free societies. Where families are strong, a sense of altruism exists that can be extended outward, from family to friends to neighbors to community and from there to the nation as a whole. It was the sense of family that kept Jews linked in a web of mutual obligation despite the fact that they were scattered across the world. Does it still exist? Sometimes the divisions in the Jewish world go so deep, and the insults hurled by one group against another are so brutal that one could almost be persuaded that it does not. In the 1950s Martin Buber expressed the belief that the Jewish people in the traditional sense no longer existed. Knesset Yisrael, the covenantal people as a single entity before God, was no more. The divisions between Jews, religious and secular, orthodox and non-orthodox, Zionist and non-Zionist, had, he thought, fragmented the people beyond hope of repair. Yet that conclusion is premature for precisely the reason that makes family so elemental a bond. Argue with your friend and tomorrow he may no longer be your friend, but argue with your brother and tomorrow he is still your brother. The book of Genesis is full of sibling rivalries but they do not all end the same way. The story of Cain and Abel ends with Abel dead. The story of Isaac and Ishmael ends with their standing together at Abraham's grave. The story of Esau and Jacob reaches a climax when, after a long separation, they meet, embrace and go their separate ways. The story of Joseph and his brothers begins with animosity but ends with forgiveness and reconciliation. Even the most dysfunctional families can eventually come together. The Jewish people remains a family, often divided, always argumentative, but bound in a common bond of fate nonetheless. As our parsha reminds us, that person who has fallen is our brother or sister, and ours must be the hand that helps them rise again.



Great Neck 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.



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 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
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Mark Twersky, Executive Director
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Dr. Hal Chadow, President
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

Always remember joy is not merely incidental to your spiritual quest, it is essential....
Rebbe Nachman of Breslov



**Great Neck Synagogue
Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

8:30pm

Join us as we

Induct New Members

Elect New Officers

**Pay Tribute
to Departed Members**

**Jack Shaw Service Award
Celia & Jack Lemonik
Jeff Wiesenfeld**

**LAG BA'OMER BONFIRE/BBQ
THURSDAY NIGHT MAY 26**

8:30 PM

**AT THE BACKYARD OF
LEO & HELISE GOLDSTEIN**

8 OLD COLONY LANE

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

CHESED COLLECTION



Who among us does not have old and unwanted shoes, eyeglasses or cell phones sitting in a closet or a drawer at home? Although enjoyed and treasured in their day, now these items sit awaiting their seemingly inevitable final reckoning with the Great Neck sanitation department.

It doesn't have to be that way! You can give these items a new lease on life and, more importantly, help those in need when doing so. All you need to do is drop off those items this week at one of the two convenient drop-off locations listed below. Here's how your items will help:

Shoes Your gently used shoes will go to Souls4Soles, a terrific charity dedicated to fighting poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Can read more about it at <http://soles4souls.org/>

Eyeglasses and Sunglasses Your glasses or sunglasses will go to New Eyes, an outstanding charity based in New Jersey dedicated to providing free prescription glasses for those in need. Read more at <http://www.new-eyes.org>

Cell phones Your used cell phone can help provide cost-free communications to the brave members of our military. Cell phones for Soldiers was founded in 2004 by a 12 and 13-year old brother and sister from Massachusetts and has since provided almost 200 million minutes of talk time allowing troops to have priceless conversations with their loved ones back home. You can read more about the program at <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/>

We hope that you will take a few moments in your day to go through your closets and drawers to find and donate these items. This is also a wonderful opportunity to teach your children the life-changing value of small acts of chesed.

Please drop your items off any time Sunday through Friday beginning Sunday May 22.

1. [88 Old Pond Road](#) (Please leave by the garage.) Contact, if needed: [Steve Blumner – 516-639-8941](#)
2. [11 William Penn](#) (Please leave by the garage.) Contact, if needed: [Jonny Ambalo – 347-971-8178](#)



MAY 29th SUNDAY
10 AM ALL WELCOME

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PRESENTATION KEEP JERUSALEM

Chaim Silberstein



How to deal with the current (last) day?

Divide or not to divide Jerusalem?
The Jerusalem you never knew!



BASEBALL

**METS VS. KANSAS CITY
CITIFIELD EXCELSIOR BOX**

Contact Jack Lipsky 386-1482, jblire@aol.com or CNS office

JUNE 21 TUESDAY 7:10PM

COST: \$90 Mens Club members \$92



JOIN OUR EVENT AT THE
NASSAU COUNTY RIFLE RANGE

SHOOTING EVENT

INSTRUCTION

RIFLE, AMMO, TARGET, INCLUDED

MONDAY JUNE 27TH 6-9PM

COST \$56 WITH PIZZA

MENS CLUB MEMBERS ONLY
(SPOUSES WELCOME)
(\$10 NEW MEMBER DUES)

PRIZE FOR BEST SHOT

ADULTS 21+

FOR INFO CALL **MARK FRIEDMAN 516-384-5491**

HILLY MILUN 516-504-0320

THE NSHA PTA PARENTING
SERIES PRESENTS:

Slovie Jungreis-Wolff



Based on her book
"Raising a Child with a Soul"
How Time-Tested Jewish Wisdom
Can Shape Your Child's Character

RAISING A
CHILD
WITH SOUL



Slovie Jungreis-Wolff

Where: NSHA, 16 Cherry Lane

When: May 24th @ 7:30pm

Slovie Jungreis-Wolff is a noted teacher, author, relationships & parenting lecturer. She is the leader of Hinei Couples & daughter of Rebbetzin Jungreis.

In her book, she addresses parents' concerns of whether nurturing their children's souls is even possible in the fast-paced materialistic culture in which we live.

Utilizing the insight that springs from her knowledge of Torah wisdom & her personal experiences, Slovie Jungreis-Wolff, teaches in detail how to approach many childrearing issues, with a special emphasis on strengthening the child's morality and character.

\$30 per person. \$50 per couple.

Payment collected at the door

Light refreshments will be served

The entire community is welcome to join us for this final lecture of the NSHA PTA Parenting Series.

**GNS YOUTH PRESENTS
4TH ANNUAL
WOMEN'S SHABBATON**

Parshat
Bechukotai
June 3-4, 2016

Welcoming Back
Nationally Renowned Speaker

Mrs. Jackie Bitton

Friday Night Dinner & Oneg for Young Women:
HS Seniors, College & Graduate Students

Dinner @ GNS following Davening 8:00 pm
Oneg @ Atlas Home following dinner 9:30 pm

RSVP to Zehava Atlas zehmach@aol.com

Seudah Shlishit Afternoon Shiur 6:00 pm
Braun Youth Center Mother Daughter Program

"Achieving the Impossible
When You Believe in Yourself & Don't Give Up!"

Sponsorships Available from \$36 Contact shul office

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016

11am - 4pm • 57th-74th St. on Fifth Ave.

CelebrateIsraelNY.org

Join us at the 52nd Annual **CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE**, the world's largest gathering in celebration of Israel.

Don't miss this year's special guests from the cast of Broadway's *Fiddler on the Roof*, the 30 fabulous floats, 15 marvelous marching bands including the world champion drum and bugle corps, The Cadets, and performances by: The Maccabeats, Kosher Dillz, Milk and Honeys, SOULFARM – and more! #TogetherOnFifth

Watch the Parade live on FOX's My9 or at CelebrateIsraelNY.org starting at Noon.

 CelebrateIsraelParade  @celebrateisrael #TogetheronFifth

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THE 23RD ANNUAL

ISRAEL DAY CONCERT

IN CENTRAL PARK

The Carl Freyer ^{Z"l} Tribute

IN MEMORIAL TO DR. MANFRED R. LEHMANN TM
AND ROSE & REUBEN MATTUS TM

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016 • 2:30-7:30PM
YOM YERUSHALAYIM • 28TH OF IYAR 5776
CENTRAL PARK'S SUMMER STAGE • RAIN OR SHINE
FREE ADMISSION • ENTER PARK AT 5TH AVE. & 72ND ST.

Your attendance & support help to insure the survival of the State of Israel and the Jewish People, especially as the Iranian threat looms large. Make your voices heard to STOP the BDS Movement.

THE CONCERT IS DEDICATED TO THE TEN AMERICAN CITIZENS MURDERED IN ISRAEL BY TERRORISTS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS












"רחל מבכה על בניה... ויש תקווה לאחריהן..."
"Rachel Weeps For Her Children... There Is Hope For Your Future..." (LITHUANIAN: 911 541 10)

DOUBLEHEADER FOR ISRAEL:

After the Israeli Day Parade, celebrate at the Annual Israel Day CONCERT/RALLY, the Concert with a Message, at Central Park's Summer Stage, (enter 5th Ave. & 72nd St), on **Sunday, June 5, 2016 from 2:30 - 7:30PM, RAIN or SHINE.**

The Concert is dedicated to the 10 Americans HY'D murdered in Israel over the past 2 years, to keeping JERUSALEM UNITED, and to combating BDS. Enjoy talented performers and inspiring speakers. **FREE ADMISSION!** For info, contact Chairpersons Dr. Paul & Dora Brody.

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 TEFILLA

Please join Women's Tefilla this Shabbat afternoon at **7:00 pm** in celebration of Shani Ort's Bat Mitzvah. Collation sponsored by Liz & Jared Ort.

GNS ANNUAL MEETING

Great Neck Synagogue's annual meeting will take place **Tuesday, May 24 at 8:30 pm**. Join us as we induct new members, elect new officers, and pay tribute to departed members. We will also honor the Jack Shaw awardees: **Jack & Celia Lemonik and Jeffrey Wiesenfeld.**

GNS CHESED

We are collecting shoes, eyeglasses and cell phones to be dropped off at the Blumner home, 88 Old Pond Rd. or the Ambalo home, 11 William Penn, Sunday through Friday.

SOLICITING NOMINEES

We are currently soliciting nominees to be considered for the next **David and Ellie Werber Chesed Award**, to be presented June 11. Please email mtwsky@gns.org with the name of your nominee and a brief description of why you think he or she is deserving of this award.

GREAT NECK MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday, May 30, at 9:15 am. We are looking for shul members of all ages to join us as we march behind our shul's banner. To make our presentation even more exciting, those with convertibles, classic cars or motorcycles, and scooters are encouraged to join with us as well. There will be T-shirts and flags for all, sponsored by the Men's club and Sisterhood. For questions, contact Alan Steinberg, our Parade chair at orlyalan@aol.com. **Rabbi Polakoff** will IY"H join the delegation as well.

REUNION

Did you go to Marshaleah High School? Alumni are planning an informal reunion in Great Neck If you're interested please send an email to: Irendw@aol.com

The Wagner family would like to thank Rabbi and Mrs. Polakoff, Rabbi Lichter, Cantor Kron, Jerry Weinstein, the GNS Chesed committee, and the entire community for their outpouring of support and sympathy following the loss of their beloved husband and father David M. Wagner Z" L.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

May 24: Annual Meeting
May 26: Lag Ba'omer Bonfire
May 29: Men's Club: Chaim Silberstein
June 1: Chaverim Center
June 4-5: Women's Shabbaton: Jackie Bitton

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Dalia & David Khalili** on the birth of a grandson born to their children, **Shoshanna & Emanuel Haim Khalili.**

Mazal Tov to **Magda & Sam Yehaskel** on the birth of a grandson to their children, **Rachel & Yaacov Brecher.**

Mazal Tov to **Liz & Jared Ort** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Shani.**

Mazal Tov to **Dr. Mark & Beth Gersten** on the graduation of **Joshua Gersten** from dental school.

Mazal Tov to **Bracha & Ze'ev Kron** the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter **Yael** daughter of **Toby & Moshe Drebin** in Lakewood.

Mazal Tov to **Daniella Muller** on being honored at the Emunah Women's spring luncheon.

Mazal Tov to **Drs. Bill & Farla Frumkin** and **Joseph & Dr. Gail Notovitz** on being honored at the Ateret Cohanim Dinner.

Mazal Tov to the **Boys Mishnayot Learning Group** on completing Masechet Megillah in Mishnayot.

EMUNAH SPRING LUNCHEON

Join us for our Spring Luncheon at the Prince George Ballroom in NYC on **Tues. May 24th at 11:30 am**, honoring **Daniella Muller**, with keynote speaker, Lea Goldman, Executive Editor at Marie Claire. RSVP at emunah.org.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATERET COHANIM DINNER

American Friends of Ateret Cohanim/Jerusalem Chai is honoring **Drs. Bill & Farla Frumkin** and **Joseph & Dr. Gail Notovitz**, continuing their Patriarch's legacy on **Tues. May 31, 2016**. For further info, see Dr. Paul Brody.

NISHMAT DINNER

Netti and Ari Herman will be Guests of Honor at Nishmat's 26th Anniversary Gala Dinner, featuring Nishmat Dean & Founder, Rabbanit Chana Henkin, on **Wednesday, June 1**. Contact co-chairs Karen & Jason Hammerman, Tovah & Josh Marmer, Lisa & Eli Schilowitz or go to www.nishmatgala.org.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 20 Iyar

Ellen Siegel for Avraham Givner

Sunday, 21 Iyar

Helene Bayme for Maurice Asher
Sheila Bachman for Allan Bachman

Monday, 22 Iyar

Ira Lubin for Esther Alberts
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Yoseph Gabbazadeh
Esther Noy for Abraham Nir

Tuesday, 23 Iyar

Jacqueline Fischer for Manfred Salomon
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Auma bat Elazar
Anida Rosman for Marvin Rossman
Paul Wein for Melvin Wein

Wednesday, 24 Iyar

Drora Cassel for Bezalel Bezalel
Harriet Nathel for Harry Chalfin
Morris Nasser for Helena Olga bat Farha
Philip Hanfling for Isaac Lazar

Thursday, 25 Iyar

Karen Wydra for Nerya Yahya Shaban
Ronnie Shaban for Nerya Yahya Shaban
Irvin Spira for Lilly Spira