



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Beha'alotcha

June 25, 2016 19 Sivan, 5776

**TORAH**  
**ARTSCROLL 774**  
**HERTZ 605**

**HAFTORAH**  
**ARTSCROLL 1182**  
**HERTZ 620**

## Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Beha'alotcha

There have been times when one passage in today's parsha was for me little less than life-saving. No leadership position is easy. Leading Jews is harder still. And spiritual leadership can be hardest of them all. Leaders have a public face that is usually calm, upbeat, optimistic and relaxed. But behind the façade we can all experience storms of emotion as we realize how deep are the divisions between people, how intractable are some of the problems, and how thin the ice on which we stand. Perhaps we all experience such moments at some point in our lives, when we know where we are and where we want to be, but simply cannot see a route from here to there. That is the prelude to despair. Whenever I felt that way I would turn to the searing moment in our parsha when Moses reached his lowest ebb. The precipitating cause was seemingly slight. The people were engaged in their favorite activity:

complaining about the food. With self-deceptive nostalgia, they spoke about the fish they ate in Egypt, and the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. Gone is their memory of slavery. All they can recall is the cuisine. At this, understandably, God was very angry (Num. 11:10). But Moses was more than angry. He suffered a complete emotional breakdown. He said this to God: "Why have You brought this evil on Your servant? Why have I failed to find favor in Your eyes, that You have placed the burden of this whole people on me? Did I conceive this whole people? Did I give birth to it, that You should say to me, Carry it in your lap as a nurse carries a baby?...Where can I find meat to give to this whole people when they cry to me saying, 'Give us meat to eat'? I cannot carry this whole people on my own. It is too heavy for me. If this is what You are doing to me, then, if I have found favor in Your eyes, kill me now, and let me not look upon this my evil." (Num. 11:11-15).

This for me is the benchmark of despair. Whenever I felt unable to carry on, I would read this passage and think, "If

I haven't yet reached this point, I'm OK." Somehow the knowledge that the greatest Jewish leader of all time had experienced this depth of darkness was empowering. It said that the feeling of failure does not necessarily mean that you have failed. All it means is that you have not yet succeeded. Still less does it mean that you are a failure. To the contrary, failure comes to those who take risks; and the willingness to take risks is absolutely necessary if you seek, in however small a way, to change the world for the better.

What is striking about Tanakh is the way it documents these dark nights of the soul in the lives of some of the greatest heroes of the spirit. We recall the words of King David: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:2). Many of the most powerful psalms come from this same emotional territory. "From the depths I cry to You" (Ps. 130:1). "Save me, God, for the waters have reached my

### Times

Candle Lighting	8:12 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	7:05 pm
Mincha	8:05 pm
Shabbat Ends	9:20 pm
Sun. June 26	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	8:10 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
June 25	9:11/10:26 am
July 2	9:13/10:28 am
Next Shabbat Shelach	
Candle Lighting	8:12 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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**FOR THE CHOLIM IN THE COMMUNITY**

neck." (Ps. 69:2). "I am a helpless man abandoned among the dead...You have laid me in the lowest pit, in the dark, in the depths" (Ps. 88:5-7).

Nor was Moses alone in wanting to die. Three other prophets expressed the same wish. One was Elijah. Having achieved his greatest victory – his triumph over the prophets of Baal in the confrontation at Mount Carmel – he received a message from Queen Jezebel that she would find and kill him. At this, "He came to a juniper tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'It is enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors'" (1 Kings 19:4).

Another was Jeremiah. People don't like the bearer of bad news, and that – more agonizingly than for anyone else – was Jeremiah's role in the last days of the First Temple. He was convinced that resistance to the Babylonians would end in disaster, and warned a succession of kings and politicians that it would be so. Meanwhile false prophets were saying the opposite, assuring the people that there would be "peace, peace," when there was no peace (Jer. 6:14, 8:11). The result was that Jeremiah found himself reviled, abused, publicly punished and shamed, and at times in danger of his life. In an extraordinary passage he complained: "Lord, You deceived me and I was deceived; You overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed daily, every one mocks me...Cursed be the day I was born...Why did I ever leave the womb to see trouble and sorrow and end my days in shame?" (Jer. 20:7-18).

The fourth was Jonah, ironically after the success of his mission to Nineveh. God had told him to tell the people that in forty days Nineveh would be destroyed. He did so. The people heard the message, took it to heart and repented.

God therefore revoked his decree and spared the city and its inhabitants. Far from being pleased, Jonah bitterly reproached God. I knew this would happen, he says. The text does not make it clear whether Jonah was angry that God had spared Israel's enemies, or believed that forgiveness is incompatible with justice, or simply felt that he had been made to look a fool. He had warned that in forty days the city would be destroyed, and it wasn't. Whatever the specific ground of his complaint, he prayed to die: "Now Lord, take my life, for it is better for me to die than to live" (Jonah 4:3).

What is Tanakh telling us in these stories? That Jewish faith is not a recipe for blandness or bliss. It is not a guarantee that you will be spared heartache and pain. It is not what the Stoics sought, apatheia, a life undisturbed by passion. Nor is it a path to nirvana, stilling the fires of feeling by extinguishing the self. All these things have a beauty of their own, and their counterparts can be found in the more mystical strands of Judaism. But they are a world apart from the heroes and heroines of Tanakh. Why so? Because Judaism is a faith for those who seek to change the world. That is one of the most unusual phenomena in the history of humanity. Most religions are about accepting the world the way it is. Judaism is a protest against the world that is in the name of the world that ought to be. To be a Jew is to seek to make a difference, to change lives for the better, to heal some of the scars of our fractured world. But people don't like change. That's why Moses, David, Elijah and Jeremiah found life so hard.

Moses' mission was to help the Israelites create a society that would be the opposite of Egypt, that would liberate instead of oppress, that would dignify, not enslave. That is why the people responded with absurd memories of Egypt – the fish, the cucumbers and the rest. Moses discovered it was easy to take the Israelites out of Egypt but hard to take Egypt out of the Israelites. The same with Elijah as he sought to make the people give up their pursuit of everyone else's gods except their own. (Something similar is true today: there are places where you will find more Jewish Buddhists than Jewish Jews.) So it was with David as he tried to turn a loose confederation of tribes into a united nation. And so with Jeremiah when he sought to introduce honesty into politics, even if it meant telling people the bad news as well as the good. Try and change people when you see them on the road to self-defeat and they can break your heart. They get angry; they try to shoot the messenger; they blame you for disturbing their sleep. But to be a Jew is to be a contrarian, to go against the flow. What is really happening in these episodes is a test of character.



**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](mailto: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**  
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**Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board**  
**Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111**

**Never succumb to feelings of loneliness,  
wherever you are, G-d is nearby...  
Rebbe Nachman of Breslov**



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)  
(\$14 NEW MEMBER DUES)

# PRIZE FOR BEST SHOT

ADULTS 21+

FOR INFO CALL **MARK FRIEDMAN 516-384-5491**  
**HILLY MILUN 516-504-0320**

## GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

### CHESED COLLECTION



Who among us does not have old and smelted 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 these 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 Soles4Souls, 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.neweyes.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 22 and 15-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 Blummer - 516-639-8041**
2. **11 William Penn** (Please leave by the garage.) Contact, if needed: **Jonny Antbalo - 472-973-8178**

# BASEBALL

## METS VS. KANSAS CITY

### CITIFIELD EXCELSIOR BOX

Contact Jack Lipsky 286-1462, jblips@aol.com or GNS office

## JUNE 21 TUESDAY 7:10PM

COST: \$80 Mens Club members \$92

## SALLY & SEYMOUR OLSHIN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM GNS SUMMER 2016 LEARNING PROGRAM

Guest Speaker:

**Dr. Edward Reichman**

**Goodbye Ebola Hello Zika:  
The Halakhik Ramifications of the  
Zika Virus**



Edward Reichman is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Associate Professor of Philosophy and History of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM) at Yeshiva University, where he teaches Jewish medical ethics. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbinic Council of Yeshiva University and writes and lectures widely in the field of Jewish medical ethics. He is the recipient of a Honored Practitioner Fellowship and the Rubenstein Prize in Medical Ethics. He is a past member of the advisory board of the Institute for Genetics and Public Policy. His research is devoted to the interface of medical history and Jewish law.

Tuesday, July 12  
7:15 pm  
Mincha 8:30 pm

Series  
Sponsorships - \$180

Joshua & Erika Olshin

The Fox-Gritzel Family  
in honor of  
Dr. Reichman

To dedicate a  
lecture, contact the  
synagogue office

516.407.8100  
[info@nskyjgoc.org](mailto:info@nskyjgoc.org)



26 Old Mill Road  
Great Neck, NY 11033

# 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 sponsored by **Farah & Issac Sachmechi** in memory of his father **Nissim ben Avraham, z"l.**

## SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast sponsored by **Claire & Mark Behar** in memory of her father, **Lionel Winston, z"l.**

## MEN'S CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. **Tues. June 21** - Mets Game vs. Kansas City 7:10 pm. \$52 for Men's Club members \$60 for non-members. For tickets, speak to Jack Lipsky.
- B. **Mon. June 27** - Nassau County Rifle Range 6-9 pm. Cost is \$56, speak to Mark Friedman or Hilly Milun.

## ROSH HASHANAH SCOPE MAGAZINE

The deadline for all articles, photos, recipes, advertisements and sponsorships for the upcoming Rosh Hashanah issue of SCOPE magazine is Monday, June 27th. Kindly email all submissions to [drein@verizon.net](mailto:drein@verizon.net).

Thank you to our SCOPE sponsors (we have about 65!) for their strong support this past year by sponsoring 3 issues (Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Pesach) for a total cost of \$100 for the year. Without this important financial support, we would no longer be able to produce SCOPE which is enjoyed by so many people that are members and friends of Great Neck Synagogue. If you would like to continue to be a SCOPE sponsor, then it is not necessary to contact the shul. If you no longer would like to be a SCOPE sponsor please contact Mark Twersky by Monday, June 27th to remove your name from the list. We hope others who are not currently SCOPE sponsors will request to have their names added. You can dedicate the sponsorship in honor or in memory of a loved one. Thank you so much!

## 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.

## CHAVERWEB

Please keep in mind that Chaverweb is the most convenient place to view your account status, pay your bills, manage your online profile and view the GNS directory. Accessible at [gns.org](http://gns.org) with your account password. See Mark Twersky for assistance.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

- June 21: Men's Club: Mets Game
- June 27: Men's Club: Rifle Range
- June 29: Chaverim Center
- July 12: Dr. Reichman
- July 26: Sandra Rapoport

## MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mazal Tov** to **Laura & Elie Cohen** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Ashley.**

**Mazal Tov** to **Charlene & Hilly Milun** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Lewis** son of **Ashley & Lisa Milun** of Teaneck, NJ.

**Mazal Tov** to **Cantor Ze'ev & Bracha Kron** on the engagement of their grandson **Yaakov** son of **Toby & Moshe Drebin** to **Esti Klein** of Flatbush.

**Mazal Tov** to **Ken Magida** on his son **Jason's** marriage to **Emily Pugach**, daughter of **Niki & Sam Pugach** of Wellesley, MA.

## SAVE THE DATE

**NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY'S 13th ANNUAL GOLF, TENNIS & SPA CLASSIC - MONDAY JULY 11th AT FRESH MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB - Honoring Charlie & Doreen Hadid and Tennis Honoree - Robin Muss Abada.** Please join NSHA on Monday July 11th at Fresh Meadows Country Club for a wonderful day of golf with an all day BBQ, ladies tennis followed by lunch and a mahjong/spa day, men's tennis and a sunset cocktail party followed by a buffet dinner, with prizes, raffles, auctions and evening entertainment. Event Brochure for Registration/Information will be mailed soon. For additional information re: sponsorships and participation, please contact Glenn Zuckerman, Jonathan Muller, Andrew Feldschreiber, Ryan Ostrow or email Arnie Flatow at [aflatow@nsha.org](mailto:aflatow@nsha.org) or call 487-8687 ext 133.

## UPDATE OF EIRUV ON GNS WEBSITE

The eiruv page on the GNS website has been updated with a new map and detailed description. Please familiarize yourself with it to ensure proper observance.

# Y A H R Z E I T

## Saturday, 19 Sivan

Michael Castle for Cyril Castle  
Ira Lubin for Irma Lubin  
Osnass Shein for Joshua Shein  
Cindy Ludwig for Max Siegal

## Sunday, 20 Sivan

Isaac Sachmechi for Nissim Sachmechi  
Ruvan Shein for Joshua Shein  
Paul Weinberg for Nathan Weinberg  
Nathaniel Weisel for Gertrude Weisel

## Monday, 21 Sivan

Sheila Ebrahimi for Faizullah Aminoff  
Evelyn Henis for Anita Greenberg  
Jack Gruber for Samuel Gruber  
Ben Jampel for Judith Jampel  
Evelyn Benatar for Stephen I Lantos  
Michail Litvin for Tsilyah Litvin

## Tuesday, 22 Sivan

Eddy Barth for Mazal Barth  
Dov Berkowitz for Meilech Berkowitz  
Vahid Sedaghatpour for Pervaneh Ohebshalom  
Mrs. Louise Kahn for Samuel Tuch

## Wednesday, 23 Sivan

Moshe Apelbaum for Shai Apelbaum  
Alan Praver for Genia Praver  
Erein Justin for Moshe Tweg

## Thursday, 24 Sivan

William Helmreich for Mark Helmreich  
Allegra Goldberg for Judith Messer  
Michael Singer for Jules Singer

## Friday, 25 Sivan

Jill Haft for Helen Strulovic  
Jack Lipsky for David Lipsky