



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Bamidbar

June 11, 2016 5 Sivan, 5776

**SHABBAT TORAH -
HAFTORAH**

**ARTSCROLL 726 - 1180
HERTZ 568 - 582**

**SHAVUOT I TORAH -
MAFTIR - HAFTORAH**

**ARTSCROLL 400 - 892 - 1228
HERTZ 290 - 696 - 1027
SIDDIR 966 - 968 - 968**

**SHAVUOT II TORAH -
MAFTIR - HAFTORAH**

**ARTSCROLL 1018 - 892 - 1229
HERTZ 814 - 696 - 1032
SIDDIR 965 - 968 - 969**

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Bamidbar

Bamidbar is usually read on the Shabbat before Shavuot. So the sages connected the two. Shavuot is the time of the giving of the Torah. Bamidbar means, "In the desert." What then is the connection between the desert and the Torah, the wilderness and God's word? The sages gave several interpretations. According to the Mekhilta the Torah was given

publicly, openly and in a place no one owns because had it been given in the land of Israel, Jews would have said to the nations of the world, "You have no share in it." Instead, whoever wants to come and accept it, let them come and accept it. Another explanation: Had the Torah been given in Israel the nations of the world would have had an excuse for not accepting it. This follows the rabbinic tradition that before God gave the Torah to the Israelites he offered it to all the other nations and each found a reason to decline. Yet another: Just as the wilderness is free – it costs nothing to enter – so the Torah is free. It is God's gift to us. But there is another, more spiritual

reason. The desert is a place of silence. There is nothing visually to distract you, and there is no ambient noise to muffle sound. To be sure, when the Israelites received the Torah, there was thunder and lightning and the sound of a shofar. The earth felt as if it were shaking at its foundations. But in a later age, when the prophet Elijah stood at the same mountain after his confrontation with the prophets of Baal, he encountered God not in the whirlwind or the fire or the earthquake but in the kol demamah dakah, the still, small voice, literally "the sound of a slender silence." I define this as the sound you can only hear if you are listening. In the silence of the midbar, the desert, you can hear the Medaber, the Speaker, and the medubar, that which is spoken. To hear the voice of God you need a listening silence in the soul.

Many years ago British television produced a documentary series, The Long Search, on the world's great religions. When it came to Judaism, the presenter Ronald Eyre seemed surprised by its blooming, buzzing confusion, especially the loud, argumentative voices in the Bet Midrash, the house of study. Remarking on this to Elie Wiesel, he asked, "Is there such a thing as a silence in Judaism?" Wiesel

replied: "Judaism is full of silences...but we don't talk about them." Judaism is a very verbal culture, a religion of holy words. Through words, God created the universe: "And God said, Let there be...and there was." According to the Targum, it is our ability to speak that makes us human. It translates the phrase, "and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7) as "and man became a speaking soul." Words create. Our relationships are shaped, for good or bad, by language. Much of Judaism is about the power of words to make or break worlds. So silence in Tanakh often has a negative connotation. "Aaron was silent," says the Torah, after the death of his two sons Nadav and Avihu (Lev. 10:3). "The dead do not praise you," says Psalm 115, "nor do those who go down to the silence [of the grave]." When Job's friends came to comfort him after the loss of his children and other afflictions, "Then they sat down with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, yet no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great." (Job 2:13). But not all silence is sad.

Times

Candle Lighting	8:08 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	7:00 pm
Mincha	8:00 pm
Shabbat Ends	9:16 pm
Sun.-Mon. (See Shavuot Schedule)	Page 4
Tue., Wed. & Fri	6:45/7:45 am
Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Mincha	8:10pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
June 11	9:08/10:24 am
June 18	9:09/10:25 am
Next Shabbat Naso	
Candle Lighting	8:10 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Psalms tells us that "to You, silence is praise" (Ps. 65:2). If we are truly in awe at the greatness of God, the vastness of the universe and the almost infinite extent of time, our deepest emotions will indeed lie too deep for words. We will experience silent communion.

The sages valued silence. They called it "a fence to wisdom." If words are worth a coin, silence is worth two. R. Shimon ben Gamliel said, "All my days I have grown up among the wise, and I have found nothing better than silence." The service of the priests in the Temple was accompanied by silence. The Levites sang in the courtyard, but the priests – unlike their counterparts in other ancient religions – neither sang nor spoke while offering the sacrifices. One scholar has accordingly spoken of "the silence of the sanctuary." The Zohar (2a) speaks of silence as the medium in which both the Sanctuary above and the Sanctuary below are made. There were Jews who cultivated silence as a spiritual discipline. Bratslav Hassidim meditate in the fields. There are Jews who practice taanit dibbur, a "fast of words." Our most profound prayer, the private saying of the Amidah, is called tefillah be-lachash, the "silent prayer." It is based on the precedent of Hannah, praying for a child. "She spoke in her heart. Her lips moved but her voice was not heard" (1 Sam. 1:13). God hears our silent cry. In the agonizing tale of how Sarah told Abraham to send Hagar and her son away, the Torah tells us that when their water ran out and the young Ishmael was at the point of dying, Hagar cried, yet God heard "the voice of the child" (Gen. 21:16-17). Earlier when the angels came to visit Abraham and told him that Sarah would have a child, Sarah laughed inwardly, that is, silently, yet she was heard by God (Gen. 18:12-13). God hears our thoughts even when they are not expressed in speech. The silence that counts, in Judaism, is thus a listening silence – and listening is the supreme religious art.

Listening means making space for others to speak and be heard. As I point out in my commentary to the Siddur, there is no English word that remotely equals the Hebrew verb sh-m-a in its wide range of senses: to listen, to hear, to pay attention, to understand, to internalize and to respond in deed. This was one of the key elements in the Sinai covenant, when the Israelites, having already said twice, "All that God says, we will do," then said, "All that God says, we will do and we will hear [ve-nishma]" (Ex. 24:7). It is the nishma – listening, hearing, heeding, responding – that is the key religious act. Thus Judaism is not only a religion of doing-and-speaking; it is also a religion of listening. Faith is the ability to hear the music beneath the noise. There is the silent music of the spheres, about which Psalm 19 speaks: The heavens declare the glory of God, The skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day to day they pour forth speech, Night to night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech, there are no words, Their voice is not heard. Yet their music carries throughout the earth.

There is the voice of history that was heard by the prophets. And there is the commanding voice of Sinai, that continues to speak to us across the abyss of time. I sometimes think that people in the modern age have found the concept of "Torah from heaven" problematic, not because of some new archaeological discovery but because we have lost the habit of listening to the sound of transcendence, a voice beyond the merely human. It is fascinating that despite his often fractured relationship with Judaism, Sigmund Freud created in psychoanalysis a deeply Jewish form of healing. He himself called it the "speaking cure", but it is in fact a listening cure. Almost all effective forms of psychotherapy involve deep listening. Is there enough listening in the Jewish world today? Do we, in marriage, really listen to our spouses? Do we as parents truly listen to our children? Do we, as leaders, hear the unspoken fears of those we seek to lead? Do we internalize the sense of hurt of the people who feel excluded from the community? Can we really claim to be listening to the voice of God if we fail to listen to the voices of our fellow humans? In his poem, 'In memory of W B Yeats,' W H Auden wrote: In the deserts of the heart Let the healing fountain start. From time to time we need to step back from the noise and hubbub of the social world and create in our hearts the stillness of the desert where, within the silence, we can hear the kol demamah dakah, the still, small voice of God, telling us we are loved, we are heard, we are embraced by God's everlasting arms, we are not alone.



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.



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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Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

Talk to G-d the way you would talk to your best friend.
Tell The Holy One everything...
Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
GRADUATION &
CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH
SHABBAT, JUNE, 18, 2016

CELEBRATE ALL OF YOUR SMACHOT WITH US

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BAR & BAT MITZVAH
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ANNIVERSARIES
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TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CALL THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE
OR SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO MTWERSKY@GNS.ORG

COST IS \$100 PER FAMILY



I WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

YOUR NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

OCCASION _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

CHECK ENCLOSED _____

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

Shabbat - Saturday Night, June 11

Kiddush Class: 12:15 pm

Rabbi Polakoff & Rabbi Lichter "*Insights to Shavuot*"

Maariv: 9:15

Candle Lighting & Preparations for Yom Tov: 9:16 pm

TIKUN LEIL SHAVUOT @ YIGN: 11:30 pm

See Schedule of Learning

Shacharit at YIGN: 4:50 am

Netz (Sunrise): 5:23 am

Sunday, June 12

Shavuot I

Shacharit: 8:00/9:00/9:15 am

Kiddush Class: 12:15

In lieu of formal drashot, Rabbis Polakoff & Lichter will be giving an abbreviated review of Leil Shavuot Learning

Mincha: 8:10 pm

Shiur by Thomas Furst

"Insights into Hachnasas Orchim: A Misunderstood Mitzvah"

Maariv: 9:00 pm

Candle Lighting & Preparations for Yom Tov: 9:17 pm

Monday, June 13

Shavuot II

Shacharit with Megillat Ruth: 8:00/9:00/9:15 am

Yizkor: Approx. 10:45 am

Mincha: 7:30 pm

Roundtable Discussion on Behavior and Conduct in Synagogue

Rabbi Polakoff & Rabbi Lichter

Yom Tov Concludes: 9:17 pm

**Saturday Night June 11
5776**

LEIL SHAVUOT LEARNING

YOUNG ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

**11:30 pm - 12:35 am
Rabbi Yaacov Lerner**

"You Shall Be a Kingdom of
Priests and a Holy Nation:
Two Very Different
Pathways
to Achieving this Goal"

**12:40 am - 1:45 am
Rabbi Dale Polakoff**

"Halacha & Democracy:
Ethical Guidelines
for Choosing a
Political Candidate"

**3:40 am - 4:30 am
Rabbi Simon Basalely**

"Complicated Conversions:
The Interface between
Modern Medicine
& Contemporary Geirut"

RAPID FIRE RESPONSA

Taking YOUR questions
and giving comprehensive
but rapid fire responses
in five minutes or less

2:00 am - 3:30 am

Rabbi Shmuel Ismach & Rabbi Ian Lichter
Topics to be covered include: Tuition & Ma'aser,
Wills & Estates, Yahrts, Magic, Wedding Protocol,
Maris Ayin & Restaurants, Shabbat Invitations,
Organ Donations, Yizkor, Lashon Hara & More...

Shacharit 4:50 am

Netz (Sunrise) 5:23 am

**Program this year at Young Israel of Great Neck
236 Middle Neck Rd.**



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

MEN'S CLUB

BASEBALL

METS VS. KANSAS CITY

CITIFIELD EXCELSIOR BOX

Contact Jack Lipsky 386-1482, jblrefleadot.com or CNS office

JUNE 21 TUESDAY 7:10PM

COST: \$90 Mens Club members \$52

GNS YOUTH SHAVUOT SUNDAES ON SUNDAY



COME JOIN THE FUN!

SUNDAY JUNE 12 * 5-6:00
ATLAS HOME 9 BROOK LANE

TORAH TRIVIA, ICE CREAM & MORE

06/18/2016

Youth Bash Shabbat June 18

GNS YOUTH BASH

**Prizes, Candy, Luncheon,
Ticket Hunt & Grand Raffle!**

Grades 1-8

Pickup 4:00pm

Please pick
up prizes
after
Shabbat

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](#)

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 **Annie & Robert Mendelson** in honor of the graduation of their daughter **Bonnie** from NSHAHS.

SHABBAT KIDDUSH CLASS

Kiddush Class this Shabbat at 12:15 pm given by Rabbis Polakoff and Lichter on Insights into Shavuot.

CHESED AWARD

The **David and Ellie Werber Chesed Award**, will be presented this Shabbat, June 11.

GRADUATION & CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

Come celebrate all of your smachot at the GNS Graduation and Congregational Kiddush on **Shabbat, June 18**. The cost is \$100 per family to participate. Please call the synagogue office or email mtwersky@gns.org.

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.

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. Thank you very much!

END OF YEAR YOUTH BASH

Shabbat, June 18 for grades 1-8, includes luncheon, prizes, ticket hunt & grand raffle. Please pick up your children at 4:00 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

June 11-13: Shavuot Programming
 June 15: Chaverim Center
 June 18: Graduation Kiddush
 June 18: Youth Bash
 June 21: Men's Club: Mets Game
 June 27: Men's Club: Rifle Range

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to proud parents **Jill & Ronald Swartz**, and grandparents **Joyce and Arnold Swartz**, on the graduation of **Courtney Swartz** from St. John's Law School.

Mazal Tov to **Stephanie & Ruvane Vilinsky** on the marriage of their daughter **Talia to Robert Kessel**.

Mazal Tov to **Tania & Jeremy Orenstein** on the birth of a daughter.

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.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Join us **June 15** from 11:30-2:00 for our next program featuring William Helmreich, who will speak about "Jewish stereotypes and the myths behind them."

BAKE SALE FOR SHAVUOT

Looking for new delicious baking recipes for Shavuot? JOIN US FOR THE PRE SHAVUOS BAKE SALE taking place at the Hecht household, 15 Hickory Dr. on **Thursday June 9th from 7:00 -10:00 pm!** Sign up to arielahecht@gmail.com if you'd like to contribute and bake for the cause, or just come check out the delicious baked goods you could take home for SHAVUOT! We are raising money for a family in Israel who recently lost their mother.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 5 Sivan

Osnass Shein for Isaac Charchat
 Marc Gottlieb for Bernhard Gottlieb
 Edward Mazur for Rose Mazur
 Pamela Schrock for Isaac David Shubitz
 Robert Spitalnick for Oscar Spitalnick

Sunday, 6 Sivan

Rita Gordonson for Lewis C. Gordonson
 Roselin Wagner for Fannie Tarnofsky

Monday, 7 Sivan

Michelle Berman for Sara bat Moshe Aharon
 Sanford Brand for Aron Brand
 Leslie Kahn for Sally Krawchuk

Tuesday, 8 Sivan

Murray Frank for Meyer Frank
 Roselin Wagner for Anna Seider

Wednesday, 9 Sivan

Serge Fischler for Hanny Fischler
 Carol Karbowitz for Jacob Katzwer
 Lynn Steinberg for Jacob Katzwer
 Heather Siegelman for Eric Levi

Thursday, 10 Sivan

Idida Kaplan for Ahuva Abramovsky