



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Shoftim

September 10, 2016 7 Elul, 5776

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 1024
HERTZ 820

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1199
HERTZ 835

BAR MITZVAH
OF
ISAAC GOLDWYN

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Shoftim

Some commands in the Torah were understood so narrowly by the sages that they were rendered almost inapplicable. One example is the ir ha-nidachat, the city led astray into idolatry, about which the Torah states that "you must kill all the inhabitants of the city by the sword" (Deut. 13:16). Another is the ben sorer umoreh, the stubborn and rebellious child, brought by his parents to the court and if found guilty, put to death. (Deut. 21:18-21). In both these cases, some sages interpreted the law so restrictively that they said "there never was and never will" be a case in which the law was applied. As for the condemned city, Rabbi Eliezer said that if it contained a single mezuzah, the law was not enforced. In the case of the rebellious child, R. Judah taught that if the mother and father did not sound or look alike, the law did not apply. According to these interpretations, the two laws were never meant to be put into practice, but were written solely "so that we should expound them and receive reward." They had only an educational, not a legal function. In the opposite direction, some laws were held to be far more extensive than they seemed at first sight. One striking example occurs in

this week's parsha. It refers to the conduct of a siege in the course of war. The Torah states: When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them? However, you may cut down trees that you know are not fruit trees and use them to build siege works until the city at war with you falls. (Deut. 20:19-20) This prohibition against destroying fruit-bearing trees was known as the rule of bal tashchit, "Do not destroy." On the face of it, it is highly limited in scope. It does no more than forbid a "scorched earth" policy in the conduct of war. It seems to have no peacetime application. However, the sages understood it very broadly, to include any act of needless destruction. Maimonides states the law thus: "Not only does this apply to trees, but also whoever breaks vessels or tears garments, destroys a building, blocks a wellspring of water or destructively wastes food transgresses the command of bal tashchit." This is the halakhic basis of an ethic of environmental responsibility.

a way consistent with the total structure of biblical teaching. If a text seems to conflict with a basic principle of Jewish law, it will be understood restrictively, at least by some. If it exemplifies such a principle, it will be understood broadly. The law of the condemned city, where all the inhabitants were sentenced to death, seems to conflict with the principle of individual justice. When Sodom was threatened with such a fate, Abraham argued that if there were only ten innocent people, the destruction of the entire population would be manifestly unfair: "Shall the judge of all the earth not do justice?" The law of the stubborn and rebellious son was explained in the Talmud by R. Jose the Galilean on the grounds that: "The Torah foresaw his ultimate destiny." He had begun with theft. The likelihood was that he would go on to violence and then to murder. "Therefore the Torah ordained: Let him die innocent rather than die guilty." This is pre-emptive punishment. The child is punished less for what he has done than for what he may go on to do. Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, who said the law never was or would be applied, may have believed that in Judaism there is a contrary principle, that people are only judged for what they have done, not for what they will do. Retributive punishment is justice; pre-emptive

Times

Candle Lighting	6:55 pm
Mincha	6:55 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	5:45 pm
Mincha	6:45 pm
Shabbat Ends	8:01 pm
Sun. Sept. 11	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	6:45 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Sept. 10	9:41/10:44 am
Sept. 17	9:43/10:45 am
Next Shabbat Ki Teitzei	
Candle Lighting	6:43 pm
Mincha	6:45 pm

KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY TALIA & SOL GOLDWYN IN HONOR OF THE BAR MITZVAH OF THEIR SON ISAAC.

BIMA FLOWERS IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY ARE SPONSORED BY PHYLLIS & PAUL WEINBERG IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER JACK HERSCHKOWITZ Z"l.

SEUDAH SHLISIT IS SPONSORED BY ADELIN & AVRAM MARKOWITZ IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER MARCIA PERLMAN AND HIS FATHER DR. BERNARD MARKOWITZ, Z"l.

punishment is not. To repeat: this is speculative. There may have been other reasons at work. But it makes sense to suppose that the sages sought as far as possible to make their individual rulings consistent with the value-structure of Jewish law as they understood it. On this view, the law of the condemned city exists to teach us that idolatry, once accepted in public, is contagious, as we see from the history of Israel's kings. The law of the stubborn and rebellious child is there to teach us how steep is the downward slope from juvenile delinquency to adult crime. Law exists not just to regulate but also to educate.

In the case of bal tashchit, however, there is an obvious fit with much else in Jewish law and thought. The Torah is concerned with what we would nowadays call 'sustainability.' This is particularly true of the three commands ordaining periodic rest: the Sabbath, the sabbatical year and the jubilee year. On the Sabbath all agricultural work is forbidden, 'so that your ox and your donkey may rest' (Exodus 23:12). It sets a limit to our intervention in nature and the pursuit of economic growth. We become conscious that we are creations, not just creators. The earth is not ours but God's. For six days it is handed over to us, but on the seventh we symbolically abdicate that power. We may perform no 'work,' which is to say, an act that alters the state of something for human purposes. The Sabbath is a weekly reminder of the integrity of nature and the boundaries of human striving. What the Sabbath does for humans and animals, the sabbatical and jubilee years do for the land. The earth too is entitled to its periodic rest. The Torah warns that if the Israelites do not respect this, they will suffer exile: 'Then shall the land make up for its sabbatical years throughout the time that it is desolate and you are in the land of your enemies; then shall the land rest and make up for its sabbath years' (Leviticus 26:34). Behind this are two concerns. One is environmental. As Maimonides points out, land which is overexploited eventually erodes and loses its fertility. The Israelites were therefore commanded to conserve the soil by giving it periodic fallow years, not pursuing short-term gain at the cost of long-term desolation. The second, no less significant, is theological: 'The land,' says God, 'is Mine; you are but strangers resident with Me' (Lev. 25:23). We are guests on earth. Another group of commands is directed against over-interference with nature. The Torah forbids crossbreeding livestock, planting a

field with mixed seeds, and wearing a garment of mixed wool and linen. These rules are called chukkim or 'statutes'. Nahmanides understood this term to mean laws that respect the integrity of nature. To mix different species, he argued, was to presume to be able to improve on creation, and is thus an affront to the Creator. Each species has its own internal laws of development and reproduction, and these must not be tampered with: 'One who combines two different species thereby changes and defies the work of creation, as if he believes that the Holy One, blessed be He, has not completely perfected the world and he now wishes to improve it by adding new kinds of creatures.' Deuteronomy also contains a law forbidding taking a young bird together with its mother. Nahmanides sees this as having the same underlying concern, namely of protecting species. Though the Bible permits us to use some animals for food, we must not cull them to extinction.

Samson Raphael Hirsch in the nineteenth century gave the most forcible interpretation of biblical law. The statutes relating to environmental protection, he said, represent the principle that 'the same regard which you show to man you must also demonstrate to every lower creature, to the earth which bears and sustains all, and to the world of plants and animals.' They are a kind of social justice applied to the natural world: 'They ask you to regard all living things as God's property. Destroy none; abuse none; waste nothing; employ all things wisely ... Look upon all creatures as servants in the household of creation.' Hirsch also gave a novel interpretation to the phrase in Genesis 1, 'Let us make man in our image after our own likeness.' The passage is puzzling, for at that stage, prior to the creation of man, God was alone. The 'us', says Hirsch, refers to the rest of creation. Because man alone would develop the capacity to change and possibly endanger the natural world, nature itself was consulted as to whether it approved of such a being. The implied condition is that man may use nature only in such a way as to enhance it, not put it at risk. Anything else is ultra vires, outside the remit of our stewardship of the planet. In this context, a phrase in Genesis 2 is decisive. Man was set in the Garden of Eden 'to work it and take care of it' (Gen. 2:15). The two Hebrew verbs are significant. The first - le'ovdah - literally means 'to serve it'. Man is not just a master but also a servant of nature. The second - leshomrah - means 'to guard it'. This is the verb used in later Torah legislation to describe the responsibilities of a guardian of property that does not belong to him. He must exercise vigilance in its protection and is liable for loss through negligence. This is perhaps the best short definition of man's responsibility for nature as the Bible conceives it.

Man's dominion over nature is thus limited by the requirement to serve and conserve. The famous story of Genesis 2-3 - eating the forbidden fruit and the subsequent exile from Eden - makes just this point. Not everything we can do, may we do. Transgress the limits, and disaster follows. All of this is summed up by a simple midrash: "When God made man, He showed him the panoply of creation and said to him: 'See all my works, how beautiful they are. All I have made, I have made for you. Take care, therefore, that you do not destroy my world, for if you do, there will be no one left to mend what you have destroyed.'" We know much more than we once did about the dangers to the earth's ecology of the ceaseless pursuit of economic gain. The guidance of the Oral tradition in interpreting "do not destroy" expansively, not restrictively, should inspire us now. We should expand our horizons of environmental responsibility for the sake of generations not yet born, and for the sake of God whose guests on earth we are.



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
Zehava & Dr. Michael Atlas, Youth Directors
Mark Twersky, Executive Director
Dr. James Frisch, Assistant Director
Dov Sassoon, President
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

**An angry person comes away with nothing
 but anger...
 Talmud Kiddushin 41a**



**Great Neck Synagogue
welcomes Chazzan Yanky Lemmer
as a guest chazzan Shabbat Sept. 16-17**

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Chazzan Yaakov "Yanky" Lemmer is one of the leading young cantors on the cantorial horizon. His beautiful lyric tenor voice, dramatic color, and precise coloratura have garnered him universal praise among his peers and connoisseurs, alike.

He began his singing career as the star soloist of the Young Israel of Bethel Choir, where world renowned Cantor Ben Zion Miller took him under his private tutelage. Yaakov earned a scholarship to the Belz School of Jewish Music at Yeshiva University, where he studied with Cantors Joseph Malovany and Bernard Beer. He also studied with cantorial legend Cantor Noach Schall, and has won a scholarship for vocal training in N.Y.C.

As an internationally renowned concert artist, Yaakov is in constant demand on the concert stage, as well as synagogues, thrilling audiences throughout the world. He has appeared at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Mordechai Sobol, and has been featured throughout the United States, England, and at various European Culture Festivals. He has also officiated at some of the world's most prominent pulpits throughout the world. His repertoire spans many genres and languages, including traditional Hebrew liturgy, Yiddish folk, Opera, Broadway, Israeli, and more.

Youth Announcements

The GNS Youth department is excited to announce that the Mender Auditorium will now be used to add more space to the program.

Grades 1-4 boys and girls will begin groups there at 10:00 am.

We are also excited to announce the addition of Morah Rebeka to our pre-school team. Morah Rebeka grew up in Forest Hills, Queens. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary with a co-major in Judaic Studies. Morah Rebeka has extensive experience in both formal and informal education, having taught at HANC, Temple Israel of Great Neck and now with North Shore Hebrew Academy, teaching pre-K.

She will be the Morah for the Kindergarten groups.

Rabbi Polakoff's Class Schedule:

Thursday Mornings Beginning **September 15th**
Women's Chumash @ 9:15 am.

Thursday Evenings Beginning **September 15th**
Power Chumash @ 8:00 pm.

Please note the class will not meet on September 29th.

Monday Evenings Beginning **September 19th**
Talmud Aggadata @ 9:00 pm.

Join us for our next Chaverim Program on September 7th from 11:30 – 2 pm, as we start to prepare for Rosh Hashana.

We will have an inspiring D'var Torah and then make soup in crock pots. The soup will be frozen and then distributed to families for Rosh Hashana through our Pass It Forward program. We would like you all to be a part of this mitzvah by bringing an ingredient for the soup, and if you like, help us to prepare it. You must bring your ingredient with you to our next Chaverim program. Below is a list of ingredients. If you like, you can bring your own recipe and the ingredients for your soup with you. Please let us know what you would like to bring, or if you want to reserve a crock pot to use for your recipe by replying to this email with your name and the ingredient you will bring. If you cannot attend the program, you can still donate ingredients for this project. You can leave them in the Shul office anytime on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. **All ingredients, other than fresh produce, must be in their original packaging with a hechsher**

INGREDIENTS: Onions, Carrots, Celery, Parsnip, Mushrooms, Turnip, Dried split peas, Lentils, Dried beans, Barley, Noodles, Chicken, Beef, Beef bones, Family Recipe for soup with all ingredients

Don't want to make soup, you can also make New Year Cards to include in our Pass It Forward bags.

Lunch will be served so please RSVP. Call the shul office or email Michelle.

**Save the dates for upcoming programs
September 21st.**

For those of you who participate in our book group, the next book will be on **September 21st**. We are reading "Miriam's Kitchen" by Elizabeth Ehrlich.

Remember donations and sponsorships are always welcome.

**Hope to see you on Wednesday,
Cindy, Erica, Michelle and Naeema**

HUNGER INITIATIVE & PASS IT FORWARD

BRING THE SWEETNESS OF ROSH HASHANA TO THOSE IN NEED!

Parent/Pre-teen Bake A Thon for GNS Pass It Forward Program

At the home of Marla Lemonik, **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11th**, open from 10am - 3pm.
Bring your **pre-teen (age 9 and up)**, flour, sugar, honey, large eggs and your enthusiasm.
Contact Marla at marla.lemonik@gmail.com or call her 646-220-8105.

MAKE THIS ROSH HASHANA MORE MEANINGFUL BY BAKING FOR THOSE IN NEED!

Join other adults at the GNS Bake A Thon

At the home of Marla Lemonik, **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7th**, open from 10am - 3pm.
Bring yourself, your friends, flour, sugar, honey, large eggs and your joy in helping others.
Contact Marla at marla.lemonik@gmail.com or call her 646-220-8105.

Rosh HaShana is coming...Time for introspection and increasing good deeds. Here's a plan:

- 1) When you are cooking for Shabbat, please cook:
an extra chicken, a meatloaf, a pot of soup or a kugel or two.
- 2) When the food is cooled, freeze it in a foil pan in your freezer
(or in our new freezer space at 59 Berkshire Rd.)
- 3) Email Hunger Initiative at yomtovchicken@gmail.com
to let us know every time you've cooked some extra food.
- 4) Deliver frozen food to GNS on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, FROM 10 am -12 pm**.
Food will be sent to those in need. Be part of the solution...

Pass it Forward really needs drivers
and driving companions on
Wednesday September 28th
from 2-4 pm,
to deliver packages to those in need.
Please contact Michelle Berman
at michberman@gmail.com
Do a mitzvah. Pass it Forward...

Have you prepared food that needs to be frozen for
PASS IT FORWARD?
OUR OWN freezer space is now available in the
backyard of:
Celia and Jack Lemonik at 59 Berkshire Road
(Blue House between Baker Hill and Piccadilly Roads)
Just follow the path from the back left of the
driveway through the gate and make a right turn.

SOUP'S ON!

Pass It Forward's Fellowship of the Traveling Pot
is cooking up a LOT of homemade soup
for the hungry this Rosh HaShana.
Participants take turns in their homes
making and freezing soup and recording their thoughts and
recipes in a special journal. Pot, ladle and containers provided.
You donate the ingredients, the know-how and the love.

How much soup does this giant pot hold?

Find out for yourself.

Contact Cindy at koshercooking@gmail.com or
Celia at kosherketubahs@gmail.com #ladlesoflove



ALL WELCOME



RABBI ON RIKERS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25th @ 10AM

JEWS BEHIND BARS

THESE ARE THEIR STORIES



**A CONVERSATION WITH
RABBI KWALBRUN
ABOUT INCARCERATED
JEWS IN JAIL**

Rabbi Kwalbrun is a GNS member, holds a MSW from YU-Wurzweiler, smicha from REITS-YU, taught psychology at Iona and QCC, a congregational rabbi for over 50 yrs. and currently is the Jewish Chaplain at Riker's Island Prison

Complimentary Breakfast

**Please Join Us for an Evening of
Wine and Dessert**

to benefit



**Tuesday, September 13th
8:00 PM**

Home of Sandy & Mark Gold
7 Beech Lane, Kings Point, NY

Please join us for a special evening to meet our friend,
Joseph Gitler, Founder and Chairman of Leket Israel.

Serving as Israel's National Food Bank and largest food rescue network, Leket Israel rescues millions of pounds of fresh food from destruction annually and feeds 175,000+ needy Israelis weekly.

Hosted by:
Sandy & Mark Gold
Joyce & Michael Frank

RSVP: sandygold1006@gmail.com

STUDY. LEARN. GROW.

GNS Women's Learning Series

A Pre-Rosh Hashana Shiur
in memory of Eugene Stricker z"l, Yisrael ben Baruch
given by
Mrs. Michal Horowitz

"Sarah Imainu: A Rosh Hashana Story of Remembrance,
Redemption & Strength"

Monday Evening, September 26
8:00 pm

At the Home of Lauren Abhesera
21 Strathmore Rd.

Mrs. Michal Horowitz teaches Judaic studies classes to adults of all ages, with a focus on Parshat Ha'Shavua, the Chagim, Tefilah and Machshava. She teaches weekly at shuls and venues in the Five Towns and Far Rockaway. Mrs. Horowitz serves as a guest lecturer in many other communities.

In addition, she lectures for YU events in different cities in the USA and this past year was invited to the YU Shavuos Annual Yarchei Kallah, where she presented shiurim as a scholar-in-residence.

A selection of her shiurim can be found on
YUTorah.org and TorahAnytime.com



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.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Hadassah & Jacob Wachstock** in memory of his mother **Yehudit bat Avigdor z"l** and by **Vera Bernstein** in memory of her parents **Caroline & Jacob Lefkowitz, z"l**.

HIGH HOLIDAYS

Please send in your seating requests for the Holidays and pay all your past due obligations so you can obtain seats. The Yom Kippur Appeal committee will be contacting you soon so please help the GNS by donating generously.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

September 25: *Rabbi on Rikers:* 10:00 am Conversation with Rabbi Kwalbrun on Incarcerated Jews in Jail. Complimentary Breakfast.

November 6: Der Yiddisher Mikado, Yiddish Opera in conjunction with Temple Beth-El and Temple Israel.

GNS WOMEN'S LEARNING SERIES

A Pre-Rosh Hashana shiur given by Mrs. Michal Horowitz at the home of Lauren Abhesera, 21 Strathmore Rd. on **Monday evening, Sept. 26 at 8 pm**. The shiur will be in memory of Lauren's father, Eugene Stricker, Yisrael ben Baruch tz"l.

HUNGER INITIATIVE

Pass it Forward really needs drivers and driving companions on Wed. Sept. 28 from 2-4 pm to deliver packages to those in need. Contact Michelle Berman at michberman@gmail.com.

Have you prepared food that needs to be frozen for PASS IT FORWARD? OUR OWN freezer space is now available in the backyard of: Celia and Jack Lemonik, 59 Berkshire Rd. (Blue House between Baker Hill and Piccadilly Roads) Just follow the path from the back left of the driveway through the gate and make a right turn.

ROSH HASHANA CARDS

Sisterhood is selling beautiful Rosh Hashana cards designed by Celia Lemonik, 10 cards for \$25.00, \$3.00 per card. Call Judy Lillien 516-487-6845 or pick up cards in the synagogue office.

GNS WHEELCHAIRS

If you have borrowed a wheelchair from GNS please remember to return it. We have many members who need to avail themselves of these chairs in an emergency.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Sept. 7: Chaverim Center
Sept. 10: New Members Kiddush
Sept. 21: Chaverim Center
Sept. 24: Leil Slichot with Rabbi Dovid M. Cohen
Sept. 25: Men's Club: Rabbi Kwalbrun

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Talia & Solomon Goldwyn** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Isaac**.

Mazal Tov to **Suzy & Joseph Sokol** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Aaron**. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents **Shoshanna & Martin Sokol**.

Mazal Tov to **Henny & Willy Helmreich** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Alexandra**, born to their children **Jeff & Esty Helmreich**.

Mazal Tov to **Marilyn & Ira Rosenberg** on the marriage of their grandson **David Rosenberg** to **Hadassah Koval** from Cleveland, OH.

WOMEN'S SHOES GEMACH

The Kol Ditzrich Project, a Great Neck based chesed organization, is planning to open a women's shoe gemach in time for Rosh Hashanah. We are collecting NEW or VERY gently worn women's shoes for the gemach, which will serve the local community in a kavod way. Shoes can be dropped off in Great Neck, Queens College, Stern College/ Midtown, and Far Rockaway. To schedule a drop off or more information, please email AriellaLunz@gmail.com or text 516-241-1086

Y
A
H
R
Z
E
I
T

Saturday, 7 Elul

Edward Jutkowitz for Bernice Jutkowitz
Vera Bernstein for Jacob Lefkowitz

Sunday, 8 Elul

Rita Gordonson for Dora Gershkowitz
Stanley Lupkin for David Lupkin
Hersel Rabanipour for Gohar Rabanipour
Jack Wachstock for Judith Wachstock
Harriet Cooper for Celeste Weber

Monday, 9 Elul

Phyllis Weinberg for Jack Herschkowitz
Judith Edelstein for Daniel Lewin
Phyllis Kirsch for Tessie Zuckerman

Tuesday, 10 Elul

Evelyn Henis for Marshall Henis
Anita Beretz for Joseph Levi
Avraham Markowitz for Bernard Markowitz
Rabbi Dale Polakoff for Gail Polakoff
Alan Steinberg for Philip Steinberg
Sharyn Falkenstein for Philip Steinberg
Myra Sutin for Gerald Sutin

Wednesday, 11 Elul

Gloria Faizakoff for Rose Cohen
Felix Glaubach for Ethel Glaubach
Jerome Goodman for Florence Goodman
Larry Horn for Irene Horn
Jacqueline Hott for Morris Rose

Thursday, 12 Elul

Jeffrey Freedman for Ettie Freedman
Ellen Siegel for Anna Givner
Sharon Goldwyn for Solomon Goldwyn
Elaine Miller for Harry Grant

Friday, 13 Elul

Leslie Kahn for Fanny Eisman
Serge Fischler for Abraham Fischler
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Tova Gabbazadeh
Meredith Bachrach for Maureen Shapiro