



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayeira

November 19, 2016 18 Cheshvan, 5777

<b>TORAH</b> <b>ARTSCROLL 78</b> <b>HERTZ 63</b>  <b>HAFTORAH</b> <b>ARTSCROLL 1134</b> <b>HERTZ 76</b>		<b>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayeira</b>		
<b>Times</b>		<p>There is a mystery at the heart of the biblical story of Abraham, and it has immense implications for our understanding of Judaism. Who was Abraham and why was he chosen? The answer is far from obvious. Nowhere is he described, as was Noah, as "a righteous man, perfect in his generations". We have no portrait of him, like the young Moses, physically intervening in conflicts as a protest against injustice. He was not a soldier like David or a visionary like Isaiah. In only one place, near the beginning of our parsha, does the Torah say why God singled him out: Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for</p>	<p>Abraham what he has promised him."</p> <p>Abraham was chosen in order to be a father. Indeed Abraham's original name, Avram, means "mighty father", and his enlarged name, Avraham, means "father of many nations". No sooner do we notice this than we recall that the first person in history to be given a proper name was Chava, Eve, because, said Adam, "she is the mother of all life." Note that motherhood is drawn attention to in the Torah long before fatherhood (twenty generations to be precise, ten from Adam to Noah, and ten from Noah to Abraham). The reason is that motherhood is a biological phenomenon. It is common to almost all forms of advanced life. Fatherhood is a cultural phenomenon. There is little in biology that supports pair-bonding, monogamy and faithfulness in marriage, and less still that connects males with their offspring. That is why fatherhood always needs reinforcement from the moral code operative in a society. Absent that, and families fragment very fast indeed, with the burden being overwhelmingly borne by the abandoned mother. This emphasis on parenthood – motherhood in the case of Eve,</p>	<p>fatherhood in that of Abraham – is absolutely central to Jewish spirituality, because what Abrahamic monotheism brought into the world was not just a mathematical reduction of the number of gods from many to one. The God of Israel is not primarily the God of the scientists who set the universe into motion with the Big Bang. It is not the God of the philosophers, whose necessary being undergirds our contingency. Nor is it even the God of the mystics, the Ein Sof, the Infinity that frames our finitude. The God of Israel is the God who loves us and cares for us as a parent loves for and cares for a child.</p> <p>Sometimes God is described as our father: "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?" (Malachi 2:10). Sometimes, especially in the late chapters of the book of Isaiah, God described as a mother: "Like one whom his mother comforts, so shall I comfort you" (Is. 66:13). "Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the</p>
<p>Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei</p>		<b>KIDDUSH</b> <b>IS SPONSORED</b> <b>BY</b> <b>GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</b>		
<p>Nov. 19 9:13/10:02 am</p>				
<p>Nov. 27 9:19/10:07 am</p>		<b>KIDDUSH</b> <b>IS SPONSORED</b> <b>BY</b> <b>GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</b>		
<p>Next Shabbat Chayei Sarah</p>				
Candle Lighting	4:12 pm			
Mincha	4:10 pm			

son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you" (Is. 49:15). The primary attribute of God, especially whenever the four-letter name Hashem is used, is compassion, the Hebrew word for which, rachamim, comes from the word rechem, meaning "a womb". Thus our relationship with God is deeply connected with our relationship with our parents, and our understanding of God is deepened if we have had the blessing of children (I love the remark of a young American Jewish mother: "Now that I've become a parent I find that I can relate to God much better: Now I know what it's like creating something you can't control").

All of which makes the story of Abraham very hard to understand for two reasons. The first is that Abraham was the son told by God to leave his father: "Leave your land, your birthplace and your father's house." The second is that Abraham was the father told by God to sacrifice his son: "Then God said: Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the land of Moriah, and there sacrifice him as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you." How can this make sense? It is hard enough to understand God commanding these things of anyone. How much more so given that God chose Abraham specifically to become a role model of the parent-child, father-son relationship. The Torah is teaching us something fundamental and counter-intuitive. There has to be separation before there can be connection. We have to have the space to be ourselves if we are to be good children to our parents, and we have to allow our children the space to be themselves if we are to be good parents.

I have argued in the past that Abraham was in fact continuing a journey his father Terach had already begun. However, it takes a certain maturity on our part before we

realize this, since our first reading of the narrative seems to suggest that Abraham was about to set out on a journey that was completely new. Abraham, in the famous midrashic tradition, was the iconoclast who took a hammer to his father's idols. Only later in life do we fully appreciate that, despite our adolescent rebellions, there is more of our parents in us than we thought when we were young.

But before we can appreciate this there has to be an act of separation. Likewise in the case of the binding of Isaac. I have long argued that the point of the story is not that Abraham loved God enough to sacrifice his son, but rather that God was teaching Abraham that we do not own our children, however much we love them. The first human child was called Cain because his mother Eve said, "With the help of God I have acquired [kaniti] a man" (Gen. 4:1). When parents think they own their child, the result is often tragic.

First separate, then join. First individuate, then relate. That is one of the fundamentals of Jewish spirituality. We are not God. God is not us. It is the clarity of the boundaries between heaven and earth that allow us to have a healthy relationship with God. It is true that Jewish mysticism speaks about bittul ha-yesh, the complete nullification of the self in the all-embracing infinite light of God, but that is not the normative mainstream of Jewish spirituality. What is so striking about the heroes and heroines of the Hebrew Bible is that when they speak to God, they remain themselves. God does not overwhelm us. That is the principle the kabbalists called tzimtzum, God's self-limitation. God makes space for us to be ourselves. Abraham had to separate himself from his father before he, and we, could understand how much he owed his father. He had to separate from his son so that Isaac could be Isaac and not simply a clone of Abraham. Rabbi Menahem Mendel, the Rebbe of Kotzk, put this inimitably when he said, "If I am I because I am I, and you are you because you are you, then I am I and you are you. But if I am I because you are you and you are you because I am I, then I am not I and you are not you!" God loves us as a parent loves a child – but a parent who truly loves their child makes space for the child to develop his or her own identity. It is the space we create for one another that allows love to be like sunlight to a flower, not like a tree to the plants that grow beneath. The role of love, human and Divine, is, in the lovely phrase of Irish poet John O'Donohue, "to bless the space between us".



**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**  
**Zehava & Dr. Michael Atlas, Youth Directors**  
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**Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111**

# GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

## SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

## Caroline Glick



Caroline Glick is an American-born Israeli journalist, newspaper editor and writer. She is the deputy managing editor of The Jerusalem Post as well as the Senior Fellow for Middle East Affairs of the Washington D.C based Center for Security Policy.

She travels several times a year to Washington where she routinely briefs senior administration officials and members of Congress on issues of joint Israeli-American concern.

In its Israeli Independence Day supplement in 2003, Maariv named Caroline "the Most Prominent Woman in Israel."

Her latest book, "The Israeli Solution: A One-State Plan for Peace in the Middle East," is a manifesto that exposes the flaws in the two-state policy of the United States toward Israel and the Palestinians and offers a direct and powerful call for Israeli sovereignty in the region.

**November  
18-19 2016**

**Parshat  
Vayera**

**Friday Evening**

Mincha: 4:15 pm

\*\*\*Communal Dinner: 5:30 pm

US Elections & the  
Future of American Jewry  
7:00 pm

**Shabbat Drasha  
Main Sanctuary:**

11:30 am

The One State Plan  
for Managing Palestinian Conflict  
with Israel

**Seudah Shlishit:**  
4:30 pm

Israel on Campus:  
What's Missing from  
the Defenses of Israel?

\*\*\*RSVP FOR DINNER AT [GNS.ORG](http://GNS.ORG) OR [JFRISCH@GNS.ORG](mailto:JFRISCH@GNS.ORG)

**\$40/ADULT    \$20/CHILD 12 OR UNDER    \$136 FAMILY MAXIMUM**

PosterMyWall.com

Please Join Us at Our  
Chai Annual Sisterhood Dinner

Tuesday November 15, 2016

6:00 pm

Colbeh Restaurant 75 North Station Plaza

Presenting

**Judith Leventhal**

Co-Author of the "Small Miracles" Series  
Extraordinary Coincidences from Every Day Life

Member cost: \$50 (includes one raffle ticket)

Non Member cost: \$55

Sponsorships Available

Gold \$72

Silver \$36

Bronze \$18

We Can't Wait to See You!!

**CHAVERIM  
AT GNS**

**DATE:** November 16 **11:30 - 2:00**

**ACTIVITY** Book Discussion of "The Art Forger"  
Games, Coloring & Socialization too

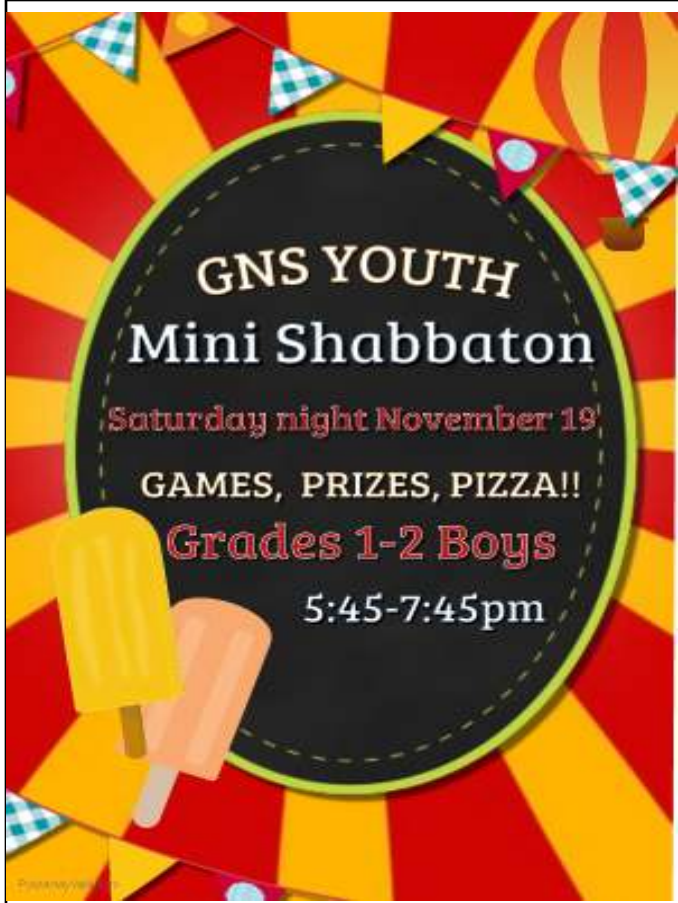
**LUNCH** RSVP by calling the shul office  
or emailing Michelle

**SPONSORS** Thank you to Debbie Hollander for sponsoring lunch  
in memory of her mother Judy's 6th yahrtzeit

Chaverim News:  
Upcoming Event on November 30  
Decoupage...

Also stay tuned for later events including  
chair yoga and a Chanukah celebration.  
Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.



**GNS YOUTH**  
**Mini Shabbaton**  
 Saturday night November 19  
**GAMES, PRIZES, PIZZA!!**  
**Grades 1-2 Boys**  
 5:45-7:45pm



**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**GNS YOUTH PROGRAM**  
**STARTS**  
**11/12/16**

**6:00 - 8:30 PM**  
**Boys & Girls Gr. 1-7**  
 Sign in at Gym door  
 Soccer &  
 Movie of the Week

**8:30 - 10:45 pm**  
**Boys & Girls Gr. 8-12**  
 Sign in Braun Youth Center  
 Use of Game Room,  
 TV & Basketball

**All Participants**  
**Must Sign In**

Pizza available  
 for pre-purchase  
 at

**\$3 a slice**  
**\$5 for 2 slices**



**Mini Shabbaton**  
**Grades 3-4 Girls**  
 Saturday Night November 26  
 5:45-7:45pm

**COOKIE DECORATING**

**Candy Sushi**  
**Pizza & More!**



**Give Thanks**  
**By Thinking**  
**Of Others!**

**CALLING ALL**  
**GNS YOUTH**  
**CHEFS**

**LOAVES OF LOVE**  
**BAKING PROGRAM**  
**WITH**  
**MORAH ZEHAVA!**

Learn about the special mitzvah  
 and how to bake challah with special toppings

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2016**  
**9:30-11:30**  
**AGES 1ST-5TH GRADE**

RSVP by Monday November 21st  
 Email [zehavaatlas18@gmail.com](mailto:zehavaatlas18@gmail.com)

\*\*\*Every person will make 2 challot,  
 one to take home and one to pass along to someone else

**IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT PROGRAM! DON'T MISS IT!**

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR PIE  
AND EAT IT TOO.....  
Order homemade pareve  
PIES for Thanksgiving  
ALL the funds raised will go  
to SHARSHERET

to support young Jewish women  
facing OVARIAN CANCER.

Check it out AT:

[www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck](http://www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/greatneck)

ORDER BY NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>

Need more info?

Contact [marla.lemonik@gmail.com](mailto:marla.lemonik@gmail.com)

# GNS DINNER CHESED PROJECT

## CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE

To be donated to  
Chai Lifeline and Ohel

Please drop off  
NEW & UNWRAPPED Toys and Games  
Sunday - Thursday  
throughout the month of November

Home of Cindy & Jeffrey Liebmann  
18 Shore Park Road  
Please place in front vestibule



GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE  
MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD  
PRESENT

# COMEDY

SATURDAY NIGHT, NOV. 19 NIGHT

SHERRY DAVEY



GNS'S OWN  
TALI REISS MC



JOHNNY LAMPERT



DR. HARRY FREEDMAN

STARTS AT 7PM - COLBEH RESTAURANT  
MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD MEMBERS  
COUPLES \$130 SINGLES \$65  
NON MEMBERS COUPLES \$150 SINGLES \$75  
SPONSORSHIPS \$180

LIMITED SEATING  
RESERVE TODAY!  
GNS OFFICE  
516.487.6100

RSVP HILLY MILUN 516.504.0320 or MARK FRIEDMAN 516.384.5491

This year for Thanksgiving  
**You can really give thanks and be giving!**

Buy a Thanksgiving Dinner for a  
resident at Arrandale Senior Housing  
and make your parents proud of you.

\$18 can sponsor a dinner  
in honor of/in memory of your parents

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Meals purchased in memory/ in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

We are also looking for a limited number of volunteers (ALL AGES) to  
help serve the dinner, clean up, play music, sing & talk to the residents  
I would like to volunteer on Thursday, Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 11:30 - 2 pm  
Food Server: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Talent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Names & Kids' Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsored by: GNS Hunger Initiative, Sisterhood & Women's Tefila  
For more info: call Nechama at 516-773-3572 or email [lesley@verizon.net](mailto:lesley@verizon.net)  
Please return to: GNS 26 Old Mill Road - Gt Neck, NY 11023

Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series

# Rabbi Jeffrey Kobrin

## December 3, 2016



### Parshat Toldot Drasha Main Sanctuary

Forgetting to Remember  
& Remembering to Forget

Rabbi Jeffrey Kobrin is the Rosh HaYeshiva and Head of School of the North Shore Hebrew Academy.

In addition to rabbinic ordination from RIETS, Yeshiva University, he has a BA and MA in English Literature from Columbia University, where he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. Rabbi Kobrin lives in Riverdale, NY with his wife and four daughters.

1545614477@aol.com

## GNS Sisterhood Presents

### Yoga with Pia Shlomo 9:30 am Every Tuesday

Hatha Yoga: A coordinated system of breath and movement to calm the nervous system, stretch, strengthen and tone the body and the organs.  
Reduces stress and anxiety and build focus and stamina.  
Aids in digestion, sleep and overall health.  
Class level good for beginners through advanced.

First timers welcome. YES, YOU CAN DO YOGA!!  
Experienced yogis, you can practice on your level.

Please bring a mat and a towel.  
To register, contact Pia Shlomo  
917.371.8013 or yogatopia23@gmail.com



\$18 at the door  
\$15 when register in advance  
\$48 when pre-pay  
for 4 classes  
WOW!!  
What A Deal!!

ALL WELCOME



Sunday December 4th  
@ 10AM

26 Old Mill Road Great Neck, NY



### THE MEDIA IS BIASED AGAINST ISRAEL!

Find out how the radio/TV/newspapers are anti-Israel and how two dedicated men stepped forward to defend that country against outrageous slander.



Leo Bender & Jerome Verlin will present the facts to help counter any arguments hostile to Israel

Complimentary Breakfast

תשריף ביאוריד

אנא להשתתף



A GLITTERING NIGHT OF FUN AND GAMES  
&  
A FESTIVE NIGHT OF MUSIC

SATURDAY NIGHT  
7:30 PM  
DECEMBER 10, 2016 • 11 KISLEV 5777

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE  
26 OLD MILL ROAD  
GREAT NECK, NY 11023



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PLEASE INDICATE BELOW HOW YOUR NAME(S) SHOULD APPEAR IN THE SCROLL OF HONOR (Please use the format: ELLEN AND DALE POLAKOFF).

OR EMAIL TO [JFRISCH@GNS.ORG](mailto:JFRISCH@GNS.ORG)

[WWW.GNS.ORG/65TH-DINNER/CONTRIBUTIONS](http://WWW.GNS.ORG/65TH-DINNER/CONTRIBUTIONS)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5777  
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.**

## OFFICE HOURS FOR RABBI POLAKOFF

Rabbi Polakoff will be resuming regular open office hours. The open office hours are Wednesdays from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 1pm-3pm. He is available at other times by appointment and can always be reached by email at [dpolakoff@gns.org](mailto:dpolakoff@gns.org), or on his cell at 516-637-3674.

## HASHKAMA MINYAN

Hashkama Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by **Gail & Yaacov Mizrahi** in memory of her mother Rosalind Sussman z"l and his parents Dalia & Ezra Mizrahi z"l.

## BOWLING EVENT

Thank you to Nadine Shatzkes, Katie Lichter & Debbie Chadow for a great event. Congratulations to the high scorers: **Dara Pfeffer, Aliza Sassoon, Jayne Altman, Katie Geft, Benji Neren, Andy Pfeffer, Arik Hirschfeld, Joe Rosenthal** and the top scorers **Barrie Lev** and **Nadav Geft**.

## YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

Thanks to all that contributed to our Annual Appeal and special thanks to those who made calls and helped make this a successful appeal. Chairpersons: **Harold Domnitch** and **Howard Wolf**, Committee people: **Phyllis Weinberg, Jonathan Ohebshalom** and **Abraham Sedgh**.

## SISTERHOOD

**The Chai Annual Sisterhood Dinner is this Tuesday November 15 at Colbeh.** Please RSVP.

Yoga w/ Pia Shlomo continues on **Tuesdays at 9:30 am**. Mah Jongg cards on sale, call Cynthia Wiesenfeld at 516.829.2384.

We are looking for vendors of sports memorabilia for the **Chanukah Boutique (Dec 18th)**, and health and wellness specialists for the **Spa Event (Dec 11th)**.

## MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

**November 19:** Comedy Night at Colbeh Restaurant. 7:00pm RSVP at shul office, Hilly Milun or Mark Friedman.

**December 4:** Presentation of Media Bias against Israel 10:00 am; Complimentary Breakfast.

## BIKUR CHOLIM

If interested in donating a meal for Shani & Zevi Geisinsky, please sign up at [TakeThemAMeal.com](http://TakeThemAMeal.com). For questions, please contact Robyn Blumner.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

November 15: Sisterhood Dinner @ Colbeh  
November 16: Chaverim Center  
November 19: Colbeh Comedy Night  
November 25: Youth Loaves of Love Program  
November 30: Chaverim Center

## MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mazal Tov to Farla & William Frumkin** on the engagement of their daughter **Geena** to **Ronn Blitzer**, son of **Eli & Lisa Blitzer**.

## NSHA BOOK FAIR

Please join us at the annual NSHA PTA Book Fair on **Sun. December 4th from 11am-4pm** and evening hours **Mon. December 5th from 6-8pm**. Come and shop for books for toddler age through adult. On Sunday enjoy free arts and crafts, story time, food and drinks for sale and a visit and book signing from famous author David Adler. Questions?

Contact Erica Zucker Heisler [ezh624@aol.com](mailto:ezh624@aol.com), Susannah Malen [susannahmalen@yahoo.com](mailto:susannahmalen@yahoo.com) or Nadine Shatzkes [nshatzkes@gmail.com](mailto:nshatzkes@gmail.com)

## GNS DINNER RAFFLES

To donate prizes for the raffle, please contact:

Robyn Blumner at

[robynsherri@gmail.com](mailto:robynsherri@gmail.com) or 516.639.1121 or

Steve Blumner at

[stevenblumner@gmail.com](mailto:stevenblumner@gmail.com) or 516.639.8941 or

Jason Mayer at

[jmayer@accountant.com](mailto:jmayer@accountant.com) or 347.262.0102.

## HEBREW FREE BURIAL SOCIETY

The Hebrew Free Burial Association is in need of any unused talleisim that you may have. HFBA buries over 350 indigent Jews a year and relies on the support of the community to ensure proper Kavod HaMes. If you can donate any talleisim please drop them off at the Parvers, 7 Strathmore Rd.

# Y A H R Z E I T

## Saturday, 18 Cheshvan

Osnass Shein for Simchat Charchat

Joyce Swartz for Geraldine Zeff

## Sunday, 19 Cheshvan

Anne Lupkin for Mary Fischler

Jack Lemonik for Irving Lemonik

Hillel Milun for Nancy Milun

Marcelle Fischler for Charles Sussman

Irene Marcus for David Wineman

## Monday, 20 Cheshvan

Stanley Dacher for Samuel Dacher

Victor Ancelson for Lviu Galateanu

Yaacov Mizrahi for Dalia Mizrahi

Morris Seidman for Kalma Seidman

Jerrald Weinstein for George Weinstein

## Tuesday, 21 Cheshvan

Paul Brody for Ruth Schaeffer

## Wednesday, 22 Cheshvan

Lisa Kaufman for Erica Josephs

Mary Flax for Max Pasvolsky

## Thursday, 23 Cheshvan

Joseph Sokol for Ida Warren

Deborah Hollander for Ida Warren Cohen

## Friday, 24 Cheshvan

Moosa Ebrahimian for Rahel Ebrahimian

Mahin Mardkha for Rahel Ebrahimian

Jeffrey Kaufman for Belle Kaufman

Ron Malen for Akivah ben Moshe Malensky