



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Chayei Sarah

November 26, 2016 25 Cheshvan, 5777

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 106
HERTZ 80

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1136
HERTZ 90

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
KISLEV
MOLAD: TUES. 11/29
AT 4:08:06 PM
ROSH CHODESH:
THURSDAY 12/1

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Chayei Sarah

He was 137 years old. He had been through two traumatic events involving the people most precious to him in the world. The first involved the son for whom he had waited for a lifetime, Isaac. He and Sarah had given up hope, yet God told them both that they would have a son together, and it would be he who would continue the covenant. The years passed. Sarah did not conceive. She had grown old, yet God still insisted they would have a child. Eventually it came. There was rejoicing. Sarah said: "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." Then came the terrifying moment when God said to Abraham: "Take your son, your only one, the one you love," and offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham did not dissent, protest or delay. Father and son travelled together, and only at the last moment did the command come from heaven saying, "Stop". How does a father, let alone a son, survive a trauma like that? Then

came grief. Sarah, Abraham's beloved wife, died. She had been his constant companion, sharing the journey with him as they left behind all they knew, their land, their birthplace and their families. Twice she saved Abraham's life by pretending to be his sister.

What does a man of 137 do – the Torah calls him "old and advanced in years" – after such a trauma and such bereavement? We would not be surprised to find that he spent the rest of his days in sadness and memory. He had done what God had asked of him. Yet he could hardly say that God's promises had been fulfilled. Seven times he had been promised the land of Canaan, yet when Sarah died he owned not one square-inch of it, not even a place in which to bury his wife. God had promised him many children, a great nation, many nations, as many as the grains of sand in the sea shore and the stars in the sky. Yet he had only one son of the covenant, Isaac, whom he had almost lost, and who was still unmarried at the age of thirty-seven. Abraham had every reason to sit and grieve. Yet he did not. In one of the most extraordinary sequences of words in the Torah, his grief is described in

a mere five Hebrew words: in English, "Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her." Then immediately we read, "And Abraham rose from his grief." From then on, he engaged in a flurry of activity with two aims in mind: first to buy a plot of land in which to bury Sarah, second to find a wife for his son. Note that these correspond precisely to the two Divine blessings: of land and descendants. Abraham did not wait for God to act. He understood one of the profoundest truths of Judaism: that God is waiting for us to act.

How did Abraham overcome the trauma and the grief? How do you survive almost losing your child and actually losing your life-partner and still have the energy to keep going? What gave Abraham his resilience, his ability to survive, his spirit intact? I learned the answer from the people who became my mentors in moral courage, namely the Holocaust survivors I had the privilege to know. How, I wondered, did they keep going, knowing what they knew, seeing what they

Times

Candle Lighting	4:12 pm
Mincha	4:10 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	3:30 pm
Mincha	4:05 pm
Shabbos Ends	5:19 pm
R' Reisman Video	7:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 27	7:30/8:30 am
Mon.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Thurs.	6:30/7:45 am
Rosh Chodesh	
Mincha	4:10 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Nov. 27	9:19/10:07 am
Dec. 3	9:23/10:10 am
Next Shabbat Toldot	
Candle Lighting	4:09 pm
Mincha	4:10 pm

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IN MEMORY OF
PINCHAS HECHT, Z"l.

saw? We know that the British and American soldiers who liberated the camps never forgot what they witnessed. According to Niall Fergusson's new biography of Henry Kissinger, who entered the camps as an American soldier, the sight that met his eyes transformed his life. If this was true of those who merely saw Bergen-Belsen and the other camps, how almost infinitely more so, those who lived there and saw so many die there. Yet the survivors I knew had the most tenacious hold on life. I wanted to understand how they kept going. Eventually I discovered. Most of them did not talk about the past, even to their marriage partners, even to their children. Instead they set about creating a new life in a new land. They learned its language and customs. They found work. They built careers. They married and had children. Having lost their own families, the survivors became an extended family to one another. They looked forward, not back. First they built a future. Only then – sometimes forty or fifty years later – did they speak about the past. That was when they told their story, first to their families, then to the world. First you have to build a future. Only then can you mourn the past.

Two people in the Torah looked back, one explicitly, the other by implication. Noah, the most righteous man of his generation, ended his life by making wine and becoming drunk. The Torah does not say why but we can guess. He had lost an entire world. While he and his family were safe on board the ark, everyone else – all his contemporaries – had drowned. It is not hard to imagine this righteous man overwhelmed by grief as he replayed in his mind all that had happened, wondering whether he might have done something to save more lives or avert the catastrophe. Lot's wife, against the instruction of the angels, actually did look back as the cities disappeared under fire and brimstone and the anger of God. Immediately she was turned into a pillar

of salt, the Torah's graphic description of a woman so overwhelmed by shock and grief as to be unable to move on. It is the background of these two stories that helps us understand Abraham after the death of Sarah. He set the precedent: first build the future, and only then can you mourn the past. If you reverse the order, you will be held captive by the past. You will be unable to move on. You will become like Lot's wife.

Something of this deep truth drove the work of one of the most remarkable survivors of the Holocaust, the psychotherapist Viktor Frankl. Frankl lived through Auschwitz, dedicating himself to giving other prisoners the will to live. He tells the story in several books, most famously in *Man's Search for Meaning*. He did this by finding for each of them a task that was calling to them, something they had not yet done but that only they could do. In effect, he gave them a future. This allowed them to survive the present and turn their minds away from the past. Frankl lived his teachings. After the liberation of Auschwitz he built a school of psychotherapy called Logotherapy, based on the human search for meaning. It was almost an inversion of the work of Freud. Freudian psychoanalysis had encouraged people to think about their very early past. Frankl taught people to build a future, or more precisely, to hear the future calling to them. Like Abraham, Frankl lived a long and good life, gaining worldwide recognition and dying at the age of 92.

Abraham heard the future calling to him. Sarah had died. Isaac was unmarried. Abraham had neither land nor grandchildren. He did not cry out, in anger or anguish, to God. Instead, he heard the still, small voice saying: The next step depends on you. You must create a future that I will fill with My spirit. That is how Abraham survived the shock and grief. God forbid that we experience any of this, but if we do, this is how to survive. God enters our lives as a call from the future. It is as if we hear him beckoning to us from the far horizon of time, urging us to take a journey and undertake a task that, in ways we cannot fully understand, we were created for. That is the meaning of the word vocation, literally "a calling", a mission, a task to which we are summoned. We are not here by accident. We are here because God wanted us to be, and because there is a task we were meant to fulfill. Discovering what that is, is not easy, and often takes many years and false starts. But for each of us there is something God is calling on us to do, a future not yet made that awaits our making. It is future-orientation that defines Judaism as a faith, as I explain in the last chapter of my book, *Future Tense*. So much of the anger, hatred and resentments of this world are brought about by people obsessed by the past and who, like Lot's wife, are unable to move on. There is no good ending to this kind of story, only more tears and more tragedy. The way of Abraham in Chayei Sarah is different. First build the future. Only then can you mourn the past.



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
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Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

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 HaYeshivah 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.

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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.



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

تشریف بہاوری

Complimentary Breakfast

אנא להשתתף

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: _____

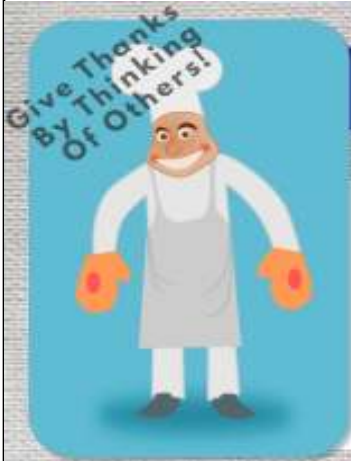
Amount enclosed: _____

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 24th 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 lbsley@verizon.net
Please return to: GNS 26 Old Mill Road - Gt Neck, NY 11023



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

***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!



Mini Shabbaton Grades 3-4 Girls **New Time & Date**

Saturday Night December 3

6:15-8:15pm Chalfin Room

COOKIE DECORATING

Candy Sushi Pizza & More!

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

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



CHAVERIM AT GNS

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

ACTIVITY Decoupage Games, Coloring & Socialization too

LUNCH RSVP by calling the shul office or emailing Michelle

SPONSORS Sponsors welcome! Call or email Michelle, Cindy, Erica or Naeema.

Chaverim News:

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

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

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!!

Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood
26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

Pre-order your 2017 Mah Jongg card through the Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood!

Please make your check payable to:
Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood

2017 Prices:

Standard Card _____ @ \$8.00/card

Large Print Card _____ @ \$9.00/card

Total Amount Due: \$ _____



Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

The National Mah Jongg League will mail the cards directly to your home as soon as they are available.

****Forms due by January 22, 2017**



GNS Women's Spa & Wellness Day

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016
11.00 am - 5.00 pm

Great Neck Synagogue

For more information, contact:
Claudine Amirian 917.309.2758
Pam Bilfeld 516.509.1907



A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood



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



PARTICIPATE IN OUR SCROLL OF HONOR
BUY RAFFLE TICKETS NOW!

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PARTY CHIC
SKIP THE TIE

DEADLINE FOR SCROLL OF HONOR JOURNAL FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2016

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

WWW.GNS.ORG/65TH-DINNER/CONTRIBUTIONS

GNS DINNER RAFFLES

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS NOW

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRE-SALE RAFFLE DISCOUNTS BY FILLING OUT THE ORDER FORM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS CARD OR BY LOGGING ON TO GNS.ORG/RAFFLE-TICKETS

DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY
YOUR TICKETS WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE DOOR WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER
PRE-PRINTED SO THEY WILL BE READY FOR YOU TO USE IMMEDIATELY.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND, PLEASE EMAIL MARK TWERSKY (MTWERSKY@GNS.ORG) AND HE WILL ENTER TICKETS FOR YOU.

THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

HONORING:

LAURA & ELIE COHEN

SYDELLE & ROBERT KNEPPER

CINDY & JEFFREY LIEBMANN

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS NOW

\$1,260-WORTH \$2,500 IN TICKETS

\$756-WORTH \$1,300 IN TICKETS

\$360-WORTH \$500 IN TICKETS

\$990-WORTH \$1,800 IN TICKETS

\$648-WORTH \$1,100 IN TICKETS

\$260-WORTH \$350 IN TICKETS

\$846-WORTH \$1,550 IN TICKETS

\$540-WORTH \$900 IN TICKETS

\$180-WORTH \$250 IN TICKETS

\$450-WORTH \$700 IN TICKETS

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$25 EACH

PLEASE MAKE CHECK TO: GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE OR BY LOGGING ON TO
GNS.ORG/RAFFLE-TICKETS

NAME(S): _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENCLOSED: () CHECK () MASTERCARD () VISA () AMEX

CARD NO: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ PLACE(S) AT \$600/COUPLE.

NO, I/WE CANNOT ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO PLACE A SCROLL OF HONOR LISTING AND/OR MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

\$25,000 BENEFACTOR LISTING

\$7,500 PLATINUM LISTING

\$2,500 BRONZE LISTING

\$600 FRIEND LISTING

\$18,000 CHAI LISTING

\$5,000 GOLD LISTING

\$1,800 COPPER LISTING

\$300 DONOR LISTING

\$10,000 DIAMOND LISTING

\$3,600 SILVER LISTING

\$1,000 MAZAL LISTING

\$180 SPONSOR LISTING

PLEASE NOTE: \$600 INCLUDES 2 DINNER RESERVATIONS & FRIEND LISTING • \$300 INCLUDES 1 DINNER RESERVATION & DONOR LISTING

PLEASE MAKE CHECK TO: GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE • RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS CAN ALSO BE COMPLETED AT
WWW.GNS.ORG/65TH-DINNER/CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$125 PER PERSON ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

NAME(S): _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENCLOSED: () CHECK () MASTERCARD () VISA () AMEX

CARD NO: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

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 this week. Open office hours are Wednesdays from 10 am-12 pm and Thursdays from 1 pm-3 pm. He is available at other times by appointment and can always be reached by email at dpolakoff@gns.org, or on his cell at 516-637-3674.

HASHKAMA MINYAN KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored by **Carol & Jeffrey Kaufman** in memory of his mother **Belle Kaufman** z"l and his brother **David Lawson Kaufman**, z"l.

SISTERHOOD EVENTS

December 11: Women's Spa & Wellness Day 11am-5pm. Come and de-stress, take a break from your fast-paced life and pamper yourself at our Spa and Wellness Day. Experience natural ways to live a happier and healthier life. Our experts include nutritionists, health and life coaches, massage therapists, beauty and essential oil specialists, natural and non-toxic house cleaning methods, acupuncture, healing crystal therapy, dental wellness, healthy treats and much more. This fabulous and free event is open to all women, members and non-members alike. Contact Naturalhealingny@gmail.com or PamsRecipe@gmail.com for further information.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

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

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**.

GNS DINNER RAFFLES

We are asking members to donate prizes for the raffle. Contact Robyn Blumner at robynsherri@gmail.com or 516.639.1121 or Steve Blumner at stevenblumner@gmail.com or 516.639.8941 or Jason Mayer at jmayer@accountant.com or 347.262.0102.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

November 25: Youth Loaves of Love Program
November 30: Chaverim Center
December 3: Guest Speaker: Rabbi Kobrin
December 4: Men's Club & ZOA: Media Bias
December 10: GNS Annual Dinner
December 11: Sisterhood Spa & Wellness
December 17: AIPAC Shabbaton

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Emma & Bart Baum, Sol & Talia Goldwyn** and **Rachel Wolf** for being honored at the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Dinner last week.

Mazal Tov to **Beth & Marc Gottlieb** on the engagement of their son **Brian** to **Rebecca Bieber** of Westchester NY.

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, Susannah Malen susannahmalen@yahoo.com or Nadine Shatzkes nshatzkes@gmail.com

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR GNPS

There will be a special election for the Great Neck Public Schools Board of Education Trustee position on **Tuesday, Dec. 6**, from 7 am-10 pm It is very important for each one of us to vote and let our voices be heard. Registered voters residing north of the LIRR can vote at the Baker School. Registered voters residing south of the LIRR can vote at South High School. For further information regarding voting, including registration and absentee ballots, phone the district clerk, school days between 9 am-4 pm, at (516) 441-4020. For information about the candidates: <http://tv.greatneck.k12.ny.us/boe16.html>

SNOWBIRDS

Please inform the shul office of the date you are moving to Florida.

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Saturday, 25 Cheshvan

Andrew Allen for Harriet Allen
Murray Honig for Sylvia Honig

Sunday, 26 Cheshvan

Yve Fouladi for Michael Fruhling
Nina Gourdjji for Ezra Nuriel
Osnass Shein for Hode Pinsovit
Andrew Zinaman for Judith Zinaman

Monday, 27 Cheshvan

Joel Crane for Morris Crane
Ellen Modlin for Marilyn Hose
Avery Modlin for Marilyn Hose
Stanley Lupkin for Sylvia Lupkin
Paul Marcus for Sylvia Marcus
Paul Weinberg for Jerry Weinberg
David Werber for Jacob Werber
Martin Werber for Jacob Werber

Tuesday, 28 Cheshvan

Elana Flax for Janie Matzkin
Cheryl Sneag for Janie Matzkin

Wednesday, 29 Cheshvan

Gloria Faizakoff for Burton Cohen
Stephen Karbowitz for Benjamin Karbowitz
Judy Hoffman for Benjamin Karbowitz
Jeffrey Kaufman for David Lawson Kaufman
Gerald Nathel for Fannie Nathel
Evelyn Henis for Fannie Noah

Thursday, 1 Kislev

Jeffrey Bilfeld for Murray Bilfeld
Joseph Hecht for Pinchas Hecht
Elizabeth Ort for Lawrence Suss

Friday, 2 Kislev

Irving Forman for Joseph Forman
Cindy Ludwig for Florence Gelber
Michal Malen for Rhoda Around Hoschander
Arthur Kirsch for Ruth Kirsch