



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayishlach

December 17, 2016 17 Kislev, 5777

TORAH ARTSCROLL 170 HERTZ 122		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayishlach		
HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1141 HERTZ 135		<p>It is one of the most enigmatic episodes in the Torah, but also one of the most important, because it was the moment that gave the Jewish people its name: Israel, one who "wrestles with God and with men and prevails." Jacob, hearing that his brother Esau is coming to meet him with a force of four hundred men, was terrified. He was, says the Torah, "very afraid and distressed." He made three forms of preparation: appeasement, prayer and war (Rashi to Gen. 32:9). He sent Esau a huge gift of cattle and flocks, hoping thereby to appease him. He prayed to God, "Rescue me, I pray, from the hand of my brother" (32:12). And he made preparation for war, dividing his household into two camps so that one at least would survive. Yet he remained anxious. Alone at night he wrestled with a stranger until the break of dawn. Who the stranger was is not clear. The text calls him a man. Hosea (12:4) called him an angel. The sages said it was the guardian angel of Esau. Jacob himself seems sure that he has encountered God himself. He calls the place where the struggle took place Peniel, saying,</p>	<p>"I have seen God face to face and my life was spared" (32:30). There are many interpretations. One, however, is particularly fascinating both in terms of style and substance. It comes from Rashi's grandson, Rabbi Shmuel ben Meir (Rashbam, France, c.1085-1158). Rashbam had a strikingly original approach to biblical commentary. He felt that the sages, intent as they were on reading the text for its halakhic ramifications, often failed to penetrate to what he called omek peshuto shel mikra, the plain sense of the text in its full depth. Rashbam felt that his grandfather occasionally erred on the side of a midrashic, rather than a "plain" reading of the text. He tells us that he often debated the point with Rashi himself, who admitted that if he had the time he would have written further commentaries to the Torah in the light of new insights into the plain sense that occurred to him "every day". This is a fascinating insight into the mind of Rashi, the greatest and most famous commentator in the entire history of rabbinic scholarship. All of this is a prelude to Rashbam's remarkable reading of the night-time wrestling match. He takes it as an instance of what Robert Alter has called a type-scene, that is, a stylized episode that happens more than once in Tenakh. One obvious example is young-man-meets-future-wife-at-well, a scene</p>	<p>enacted with variations three times in the Torah: in the case of Abraham's servant and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, and Moses and Tsipporah. There are differences between them, but sufficient similarities to make us realize that we are dealing with a convention. Another example, which occurs many times in Tanakh, is birth-of-a-hero-to-a-hitherto-infertile-woman. Rashbam sees this as the clue to understanding Jacob's night-time fight. He relates it to other episodes in Tanakh, two in particular: the story of Jonah, and the obscure episode in the life of Moses when, on his way back to Egypt, the text says that "When they were in the place where they spent the night along the way, God confronted Moses and wanted to kill him" (Ex. 4:24). Tzipporah then saved Moses' life by giving their son a brit (Ex. 4:25-26). It is the story of Jonah that provides the key to understanding the others. Jonah sought to escape from his mission to go to Nineveh to warn the people that the city was about to be destroyed if they did not repent. Jonah fled in a boat to Tarshish, but God brought a storm that threatened to sink the ship. The prophet</p>
WELCOME TO AIPAC's SHARON GOLDMAN				
Times		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">BIMA FLOWERS IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY ARE SPONSORED BY RENEE & ABE KRIEGER IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER NATHAN KRIEGER Z"L</p> </div> </div>		
Candle Lighting	4:10 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	3:35 pm			
Mincha	4:05 pm			
Shabbos Ends	5:18 pm			
R' Reisman Video	7:30 pm			
Sun. Dec. 18	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tue., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Mincha	4:10 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
Dec. 17	9:32/10:18 am			
Dec. 24	9:36/10:22 am			
Next Shabbat Vayeishev				
Candle Lighting	4:14 pm			
Mincha	4:15 pm			

was then thrown into the sea and swallowed by a giant fish that later vomited him out alive. Jonah thus realized that flight was impossible. The same, says Rashbam, applies to Moses who, at the burning bush, repeatedly expressed his reluctance to undertake the task God had set him. Evidently, Moses was still prevaricating even after beginning the journey, which is why God was angry with him.

So it was with Jacob. According to Rashbam, despite God's assurances, he was still afraid of encountering Esau. His courage failed him and he was trying to run away. God sent an angel to stop him doing so. It is a unique interpretation, sobering in its implications. Here were three great men, Jacob, Moses and Jonah, yet all three, according to Rashbam, were afraid. Of what? None was a coward. They were afraid, essentially, of their mission. Moses kept telling God at the burning bush: Who am I? They won't believe in me. I am not a man of words. Jonah was reluctant to deliver a message from God to Israel's enemies. And Jacob had just said to God, "I am unworthy of all the kindness and faith that You have shown me" (Gen. 32:11). Nor were these the only people in Tanakh who had this kind of fear. So did the prophet Isaiah when he said to God, "I am a man of unclean lips." So did Jeremiah when he said, "I cannot speak: I am a child." This is not physical fear. It is the fear that comes from a feeling of personal inadequacy. "Who am I to lead the Jewish people?" asked Moses. "Who am I to deliver the word of God?" asked the prophets. "Who am I to stand before my brother Esau, knowing that I will continue the covenant and he will not?" asked Jacob. Sometimes the greatest have the least self-confidence, because they know how immense is the responsibility and how small they feel in relation to it. Courage does not mean having no fear. It means having fear but overcoming it. If that is true of physical courage it is no less true of moral and spiritual courage.

Marianne Williamson's remarks on the subject have become justly famous. She wrote: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others." Shakespeare said it best (in Twelfth Night): "Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."

I sometimes feel that, consciously or subconsciously, some take flight from Judaism for this very reason. Who are we to be God's witness to the world, a light to the nations, a role model for others? If even spiritual giants like Jacob, Moses and Jonah sought to flee, how much more so you and me? This fear of unworthiness is one that surely most of us have had at some time or other. The reason it is wrong is not that it is untrue, but that it is irrelevant. Of course we feel inadequate to a great task before we undertake it. It is having the courage to undertake it that makes us great. Leaders grow by leading. Writers grow by writing. Teachers grow by teaching. It is only by overcoming our sense of inadequacy that we throw ourselves into the task and find ourselves lifted and enlarged by so doing. In the title of a well known book, we must "feel the fear and do it anyway." Be not afraid of greatness: that is why God wrestled with Jacob, Moses and Jonah and would not let them escape. We may not be born great, but by being born (or converting to become) a Jew, we have greatness thrust upon us. And as Marianne Williamson rightly said, by liberating ourselves from fear, we help liberate others. That is what we as Jews are meant to do: to have the courage to be different, to challenge the idols of the age, to be true to our faith while seeking to be a blessing to others regardless of their faith. For we are all children of the man who was given the name of one who wrestles with God and with men and prevails. Ours is not an easy task, but what worthwhile mission ever was? We are as great as the challenges we have the courage to undertake. And if, at times, we feel like running away, we should not feel bad about it. So did the greatest. To feel fear is fine. To give way to it, is not. For God has faith in us even if, at times, even the best lack faith in themselves.



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
Rabbi Jesse Shore, Rabbinic Intern
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

THIS SHABBAT
Drop your kids off at the
Chanukah Bash and
enjoy lunch with AIPAC.
There will be childcare for
younger children as well.

AIPAC and Great Neck Synagogue invite you to a Shabbaton

Shabbat Parshat Vayishlach
Saturday, December 17, 2016

A New President, A New Congress:
Navigating the U.S.-Israel
Relationship in 2017

featuring

AIPAC's Dr. Sharon Goldman
Shabbat morning at the end of services

followed by lunch

**A Conversation about Israel with
Congressman-Elect Tom Suozzi**

and

Seudah Shlishit: Ask AIPAC Anything

Great Neck Synagogue
26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck

Advance Lunch Reservations Required

Please register online at www.gns.org, email
jfrisch@gns.org or call the synagogue at 516-487-6100.

Lunch is \$40 per adult, \$20 per child under 12,
with a \$136 family maximum.

Congressman-Elect Tom Suozzi



This January, Congressman-elect Tom Suozzi will head to Washington to represent the North Shore's 3rd Congressional District. His career in public office includes serving as mayor of his hometown, Glen Cove, and as Nassau County Executive.

On the U.S.-Israel relationship, Suozzi has said, "The U.S.-Israeli partnership has been in place for more than 60 years. It's a strong bond. But like any longstanding bond, we must constantly work to renew and strengthen it... In Congress, I will be a strong voice to renew and strengthen our special bond."

Suozzi is currently of counsel at Harris Beach law firm and has worked as a senior advisor to investment banking firm Lazard. Prior to elected office, he worked as a litigator for Shearman & Sterling, a law clerk to the Chief Judge of the Eastern District, and an auditor for Arthur Andersen. He resides in Glen Cove with his wife Helene and three children.

Dr. Sharon Goldman



Dr. Sharon Goldman currently serves as the Deputy Director for AIPAC's Northeast Region where she is responsible for managing an overall strategy for AIPAC's political, development, and communication efforts advancing AIPAC's policy agenda throughout the region. Prior to accepting this position, Sharon served as AIPAC's Northeast Regional Political Director, where she managed AIPAC's legislative mobilizations, conducted educational briefings with candidates, and tracked and analyzed local races.

Dr. Sharon Goldman received her doctorate in political science from Yale University in 2001 and was a National Science Foundation fellow. Sharon was an assistant professor of political science at Ramapo College of New Jersey. She has three children, one of whom is enlisted in the IDF and lives in NJ with her husband.



CHAVERIM AT GENS

DATE: December 14

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Chair Yoga with Pia Shlomo
Dress Comfortably

LUNCH

RSVP by calling the shul office
or emailing Michelle

SPONSORS

Thank you to Karen & Robert Spitalnick
for sponsoring lunch

Chaverim News:
Upcoming Events
Dec. 28 - Chanukah Party
Jan. 11 - Book Group Discussion
on David Gregory's "How's Your Faith"
Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

SISTERHOOD

*GNS Sisterhood
Presents*

Yoga with Pia Shlomo
9:30-10:45 am Every Tuesday at GNS

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



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

Great Neck Synagogue
Sisterhood

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sunday 12•18•16 / 12-4pm

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE!

Women and men's clothing, jewelry, skin care, handbags,
artwork, table linens, wallets & more!

FREE ADMISSION

For more information:
Cindy Ludwig (516) 773-7911 ludwig@optonline.net or
Jackie Niszon (516) 523-1486 jniszon29@aol.com

Great Neck Synagogue•26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023•
Exit 33 off the Long Island Expressway or Exit 25 off the Northern State Parkway.

YOUTH EVENTS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Mini Shabbaton

OLD MILL ROAD-GREAT NECK NEW YORK

NERF WAR

GRADES 3-4 BOYS

saturday night **17 DEC.**

★
 ★ 6:15-8:15pm ★

★ Friends

★ Pizza ★ Snacks

DON'T. MISS. THIS.

DECEMBER 17TH

8:30 AM YOUTH MINYAN (BRAUN YOUTH CENTER)	9:00 AM PRE-GROUPS Rooms 112/113	10:00 AM PRESCHOOL GROUPS & MOMMY & ME (FIRST FLOOR)
6:00 PM PICK UP PRIZES AFTER SHABBAT NEAR GYM	ANNUAL GNS YOUTH CHANUKAH BASH SCHEDULE DECEMBER 17	11:15 AM HIGH SCHOOL CHOLENT KIDDUSH
4:00 PM FAREWELL (FOLLOWED BY MINCHA)		11:15 AM GROUPS DREIDEL COMPETITION (REGULAR CLASSROOMS)
3:00 PM GRAND RAFFLE (BEIT MIDRASH)		12:00 PM SUFGANIYOT KIDDUSH & CANDY-FILLED DREIDELS (ALL GROUPS)
2:00 PM TICKET HUNT!!	1:00 PM YOUTH LUNCHEON 1st Grade & Up (BRAUN YOUTH CENTER)	12:15 PM BINGO!! ALL YOUTH 1st Grade & Up (BEIT MIDRASH)

SATURDAY NIGHT GNS YOUTH PROGRAM



<p>All Participants Must Sign In</p> <p>Pizza available for pre-purchase at</p> <p>\$3 a slice \$5 for 2 slices</p>	<p>6:00 - 8:30 PM Boys & Girls Gr. 1-7</p> <p>Sign in at Gym door Soccer & Movie of the Week</p>
	<p>8:30 - 10:45 pm Boys & Girls Gr. 8-12</p> <p>Sign in Braun Youth Center Use of Game Room, TV & Basketball</p>

Attention Parents:

Please have your children sign their raffle tickets for the Chanukah Bash this coming Shabbat!

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Ari Sacher is a Rocket Scientist, and has worked in the design and the development of missiles for over twenty years. He has briefed hundreds of US lawmakers on Israeli Missile Defense, including two briefings on Capitol Hill at the invitation of the House Majority Leader and Israeli Ambassador.

He speaks regularly for the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Ari has also been a scholar in residence in numerous synagogues in the US and Canada. He is a riveting speaker, using his experience in the defense industry to explain the Torah in a way that is simultaneously enlightening and entertaining.

Ari came on aliyah from the USA in 1982. He studied at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh, and then spent seven years studying at the Technion. Since 2001 he has published a weekly parsha shiur that has turned into a blog on "Times of Israel". Ari lives in Moreshet in the Western Galil along with his wife and eight children.



Ari Sacher

**January
13-14 2016**

**Parshat
Vayechi**

**Shabbat Drasha
Main Sanctuary**

**The Best Offense is a Good Defense:
Why Only Yaakov Avinu Could Have
Designed the Patriot Missile System**

**Seudah Shlishit
4:40 pm**

The Miracle of Iron Dome

EzraTalks.com

Great Neck Synagogue Saturday Night Film Series

"An unashamedly emotional and stirring inspirational history of Israel..."
- Stephen Holden, The New York Times

**IN SEARCH
OF PEACE**
PART ONE: 1948-1967
NARRATED BY MICHAEL DOUGLAS

EXPLORE...
REFLECT...
DEBATE



January 14th 8:00 pm

In Search of Peace

Narrated by Michael Douglas, chronicles the first two decades of Israel's existence, offering new insights into the origins of the Middle East conflict.

From the Arab refugee camps, to the General Assembly of the United Nations to the world capitals of Moscow, Paris, London, Buenos Aires, Cairo and Washington D.C., the film offers a unique global perspective on one of the most important events in the 3,500-year history of the Jewish people.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.

OFFICE HOURS FOR RABBI POLAKOFF

Wednesdays 10 am - 12 pm

Thursdays 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.

SISTERHOOD EVENTS

December 18: Chanukah Boutique from 12:00-4:00 pm, free admission, get your Chanukah gifts here this year.

DOOR CODE CHANGE

Please note the code to the door was changed for security reasons. Please call the office for the code.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

We are in the process of remodeling the waiting room to ensure a more pleasant experience for our patrons. End of year donations or sponsorships to this cause are welcome. Please visit Northshoremikvah.org and donate under our 'Annual Fundraiser' tab or contact Roya Samuels or Katie Lichter for more details.

PAPER BRIGADE

Jewish Book Council has just launched the first issue of Paper Brigade, its new annual literary magazine. The magazine is named in honor of the group of writers and intellectuals in the Vilna Ghetto who rescued thousands of Jewish books and documents from destruction by the Nazis. The 2017 issue provides a 200-page snapshot of the Jewish literary landscape in America and abroad. Carol Kaufman is editorial director. Learn more at paperbrigademag.org.

THANK YOU

Nikolas Kron thanks everyone who came out to vote in last Tuesday's election. Placing 2nd in this election, he looks forward to working with the GNPS Board of Education in the future.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Parents: Please have your children sign their raffle tickets for the Chanukah Bash this Shabbat!

BIKUR CHOLIM

If interested in donating a meal for Shani & Zevi Geisinsky, please sign up at TakeThemAMeal.com. For questions, please contact Robyn Blumner.

SUPPORT GREAT NECK EIRUV

Our yearly fundraising for the Great Neck Eiruv will be in January. We depend on your generosity to maintain our Eiruv. The minimum suggested donation will remain at \$180.00, though, if you are able, a larger donation would be GREATLY appreciated. If you would like to make your fully tax deductible charitable donation before year end, you may do so by either:

A. Mailing a check to G N Eiruv Association, P.O. Box 234243, Great Neck, NY 11023

B. Donating on line at: <http://greatneckeiruv.org/donate>
Thank you in advance for help to maintain our Eiruv.

SHAARE ZEDEK EVENT

Don't miss the Shaare Zedek Children's Champions Event **Saturday night Dec. 17th** at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Help us dedicate a Pediatric Surgery Treatment Room at the hospital. Join us for an amazing night with buffet dinner, open bar, DJ and the Bumbys! To register and buy raffles visit Raffleswww.acsz.org/Champions

Fina Machnikoff would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff and Lichter, Chazan Kron and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the loss of her mother, Flora Steinberg z"l.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 17 Kislev

Eliezer Noy for Ahron ben Yitzchak

Sunday, 18 Kislev

Pearl Ginsburg for Irving Helfman
Sharyn Falkenstein for Irving Helfman
Gedale Horowitz for Abraham Horowitz
Rita Silverman for Harris Schwartz

Monday, 19 Kislev

Israel Rosenzweig for Jacob Bladow
Ellen Siegel for Mamie Bluestein
Morris Nasser for Tova Djemal
Gail Mizrahi for Rosalind Sussman

Tuesday, 20 Kislev

Rose Weiss for Kalman Fajg
Debbie Furst for Dora Kaminer
Raymond Sandler for Abraham Sandler

Wednesday, 21 Kislev

Martin Brownstein for Samuel Brownstein
Pearl Ginsburg for Isaiah Ginsburg

Thursday, 22 Kislev

Mahin Aryeh for Morad Aryeh
Lloyd Bayme for Rachel Bayme
Hillel Milun for Reuben Milun
Fred Pomerantz for David Pomerantz
Irvin Spira for Abraham Spira

Friday, 23 Kislev

Karen Wydra for Evelyn Stein
Edward Weiss for Joseph Weiss
Peter Weiss for Joseph Weiss
Zinat Yacobi for Michal Yacobi

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

December 14: Chaverim Center
December 17: AIPAC Shabbaton
December 17: Chanukah Youth Bash
December 18: Chanukah Boutique
December 28: Chaverim Center