



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Shemot

January 21, 2017 23 Tevet, 5777

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 292
HERTZ 206

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1146
HERTZ 225

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
MOLAD:
FRI. JAN. 27 5:36:8 PM
ROSH CHODESH
SHEVAT:
SHABBAT JAN. 28

Times

Candle Lighting	4:40 pm
Mincha	4:40 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	4:00 pm
Mincha	4:35 pm
Shabbos Ends	5:49 pm
R' Reisman Video	7:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 22	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	4:50 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Jan. 21	9:40/10:28 am
Jan. 28	9:38/10:28 am
Next Shabbat Va'era	
Candle Lighting	4:48 pm
Mincha	4:50 pm

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Shemot

Genesis ends on an almost serene note. Jacob has found his long lost son. The family has been reunited. Joseph has forgiven his brothers. Under his protection and influence the family has settled in Goshen, one of the most prosperous regions of Egypt. They now have homes, property, food, the protection of Joseph and the favor of Pharaoh. It must have seemed one of the golden moments of Abraham's family's history. Then, as has happened so often since, "There arose a new Pharaoh who did not know Joseph." There was a political climate change. The family fell out of favor. Pharaoh told his advisers: "Look, the Israelite people are becoming too numerous and strong for us" – the first time the word "people" is used in the Torah with reference to the children of Israel. "Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase." And so the whole mechanism of oppression moves into operation: forced labor that turns into slavery

that becomes attempted genocide. The story is engraved in our memory. We tell it every year, and in summary-form in our prayers, every day. It is part of what it is to be a Jew. Yet there is one phrase that shines out from the narrative: "But the more they were oppressed, the more they increased and the more they spread." That, no less than oppression itself, is part of what it means to be a Jew. The worse things get, the stronger we become. Jews are the people who not only survive but thrive in adversity.

Jewish history is not merely a story of Jews enduring catastrophes that might have spelled the end to less tenacious groups. It is that after every disaster, Jews renewed themselves. They discovered some hitherto hidden reservoir of spirit that fuelled new forms of collective self-expression as the carriers of God's message to the world. Every tragedy begat new creativity. After the division of the kingdom following the death of Solomon came the great literary prophets, Amos and Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Out of the destruction of the First Temple and the Babylonian exile came the renewal of Torah in the life

of the nation, beginning with Ezekiel and culminating in the vast educational program brought back to Israel by Ezra and Nehemiah. From the destruction of the Second Temple came the immense literature of rabbinic Judaism, until then preserved mostly in the form of an oral tradition: Mishnah, Midrash and Gemara. From the Crusades came the Hassidei Ashkenaz, the North European school of piety and spirituality. Following the Spanish expulsion came the mystic circle of Tzefat: Lurianic Kabbalah and all it inspired by way of poetry and prayer. From East European persecution and poverty came the Hassidic movement and its revival of grass-roots Judaism through a seemingly endless flow of story and song. And from the worst tragedy of all in human terms, the Holocaust, came the rebirth of the state of Israel, the greatest collective Jewish affirmation of life in more than two thousand years.

It is well known that the Chinese ideogram for

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GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

"crisis" also means "opportunity". Any civilization that can see the blessing within the curse, the fragment of light within the heart of darkness, has within it the capacity to endure. Hebrew goes one better. The word for crisis, *mashber*, also means "a child-birth chair." Written into the semantics of Jewish consciousness is the idea that the pain of hard times is a collective form of the contractions of a woman giving birth. Something new is being born. That is the mindset of a people of whom it can be said that "the more they were oppressed, the more they increased and the more they spread."

Where did it come from, this Jewish ability to turn weakness into strength, adversity into advantage, darkness into light? It goes back to the moment in which our people received its name, Israel. It was then, as Jacob wrestled alone at night with an angel, that as dawn broke his adversary begged him to let him go. "I will not let you go until you bless me", said Jacob. That is the source of our peculiar, distinctive obstinacy. We may have fought all night. We may be tired and on the brink of exhaustion. We may find ourselves limping, as did Jacob. Yet we will not let our adversary go until we have extracted a blessing from the encounter. This turned out to be not a minor and temporary concession. It became the basis of his new name and our identity. Israel, the people who "wrestled with God and man and prevailed", is the nation that grows stronger with each conflict and catastrophe.

I was reminded of this unusual national characteristic by an article that appeared in the British press in October 2015. Israel at the time was suffering from a wave of terrorist attacks that saw Palestinians murdering innocent civilians in streets and bus stations throughout the country. It began with these words: "Israel is an astonishing country, buzzing

with energy and confidence, a magnet for talent and investment – a cauldron of innovation." It spoke of its world-class excellence in aerospace, clean-tech, irrigation systems, software, cyber-security, pharmaceuticals and defense systems. "All this", the writer went on to say, "derives from brainpower, for Israel has no natural resources and is surrounded by hostile neighbors." The country is living proof of "the power of technical education, immigration and the benefits of the right sort of military service." Yet this cannot be all, since Jews have consistently overachieved, wherever they were and whenever they were given the chance. He goes through the various suggested explanations: the strength of Jewish families, their passion for education, a desire for self-employment, risk-taking as a way of life, and even ancient history. The Levant was home to the world's first agricultural societies and earliest traders. Perhaps, then, the disposition to enterprise was written, thousands of years ago, into Jewish DNA. Ultimately, though, he concludes that it has to do with "culture and communities".

A key element of that culture has to do with the Jewish response to crisis. To every adverse circumstance, those who have inherited Jacob's sensibilities insist: "I will not let you go until you bless me." That is how Jews, encountering the Negev, found ways of making the desert bloom. Seeing a barren, neglected landscape elsewhere, they planted trees and forests. Faced with hostile armies on all their borders, they developed military technologies they then turned to peaceful use. War and terror forced them to develop medical expertise and world-leading skills in dealing with the aftermath of trauma. They found ways of turning every curse into a blessing. The historian Paul Johnson, as always, put it eloquently: Over 4,000 years the Jews proved themselves not only great survivors but extraordinarily skilful in adapting to the societies among which fate had thrust them, and in gathering whatever human comforts they had to offer. No people has been more fertile in enriching poverty or humanizing wealth, or in turning misfortune to creative account. There is something profoundly spiritual as well as robustly practical about this ability to transform the bad moments of life into a spur to creativity. It is as if, deep within us were a voice saying, "You are in this situation, bad though it is, because there is a task to perform, a skill to acquire, a strength to develop, a lesson to learn, an evil to redeem, a shard of light to be rescued, a blessing to be uncovered, for I have chosen you to give testimony to humankind that out of suffering can come great blessings if you wrestle with it for long enough and with unshakeable faith." In an age in which people of violence are committing acts of brutality in the name of the God of compassion, the people of Israel are proving daily that this is not the way of the God of Abraham, the God of life and the sanctity of life. And whenever we who are a part of that people lose heart, and wonder when it will ever end, we should recall the words: "The more they were oppressed, the more they increased and the more they spread." A people of whom that can be said can be injured, but can never be defeated. God's way is the way of life.



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

HELP SAVE A LIFE!

בס"ד



COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENT

HELP SAVE
THE LIFE OF A
YOUNG MEMBER
OF OUR
COMMUNITY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

8:30 PM

Great Neck Synagogue,
Beit Medrash
26 Old Mill Rd, Great Neck NY, 11023

**RABBI STEVE
MOSKOWITZ**
A kidney donor,
will share his
inspiring story.

RABBI JOSH STURM
Director of Outreach, Renewal
Everything you wanted to
know about living kidney
donation but were afraid
to ask.

COME HEAR
A Doctor's
perspective
on kidney
donation.

HOSTED BY
GREAT NECK
SYNAGOGUE



NORTH SHORE
HEBREW ACADEMY
ישיבת חוף הצפון

One of our eighth grade students of the North Shore Hebrew Academy is in urgent need of a kidney transplant. Please join us and learn what we can do to help him.

Great Neck Synagogue

★★★★★ Men's Club Presents ★★★★★

co-sponsored by the Jewish Political Education Foundation

Sunday, January 29th at 10:00 am



DR. MORDECHAI KEDAR
TRUMP, PUTIN, ISRAEL
& THE MIDDLE EAST -
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Mordechai Kedar, born in Tel Aviv, is an Israeli scholar of Arabic culture and a lecturer at Bar-Ilan University. He served for 25 years in the IDF Military Intelligence, where he specialized in Islamic groups, the political discourse of Arab countries, the Arabic press and mass media, and the Syrian domestic arena.



We will also hear from AMIT DERI
the executive director of
RESERVISTS ON DUTY,
a non-profit organization dedicated
to fighting BDS in the United States.

ReservistsOnDuty.com All Welcome - Complimentary Breakfast - 26 Old Mill Rd.

Co-sponsored by
**GREAT NECK
SYNAGOGUE**
and
**YOUNG ISRAEL
OF GREAT NECK**

In honor of
**ELLIE & DAVID
WERBER**

YOETZET HALACHA LISA SEPTIMUS

WHERE DO BABIES
COME FROM?

A Torah Perspective On
**ADDRESSING GROWN UP MATTERS
WITH CHILDREN**

Tuesday, February 7th | 8:00PM

at the home of

Tovah & Josh Marmer
100 Myrtle Drive

UPCOMING EVENTS

GNS WINTER COAT CHESED COLLECTION



This month we are collecting gently worn men's, women's and children's winter coats. Coats must be in good condition and clean.



Drop the coats off from Sunday - Friday at the home of Michelle and Philip Berman. 11 Margaret Court, Great Neck.



Please leave them on the front porch.

The coat drive will continue until Friday January 27th.

*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**

MARCH 3

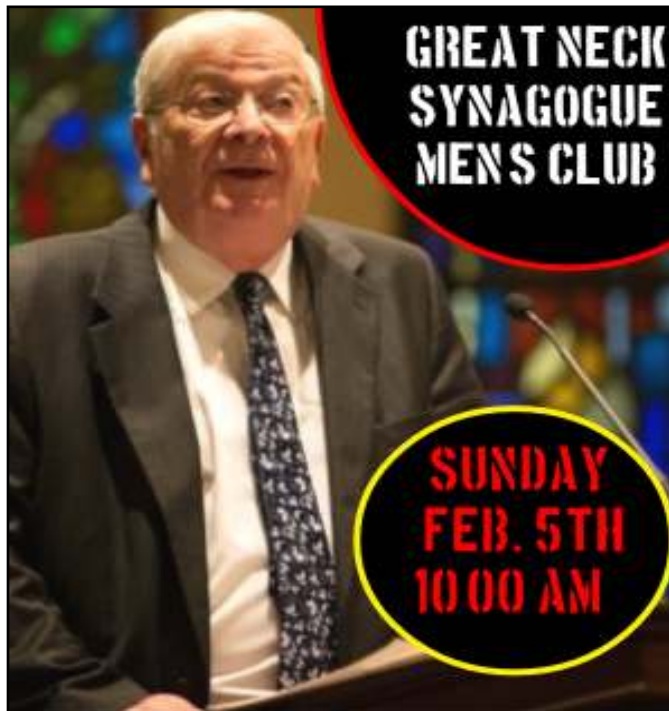
GNS PRESENTS
YOUNG FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT

SAVE
the
DATE

DETAILS TO FOLLOW...

PosterMyWall.com

**GREAT NECK
SYNAGOGUE
MENS CLUB**



**SUNDAY
FEB. 5TH
10 00 AM**

RABBI MARVIN TOKAYER

**SPIES, SCHOLARS & STATESMEN:
AMAZING JEWS OF THE ORIENT**

**ALL WELCOME - COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST
26 OLD MILL RD. GREAT NECK**

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE 2017
MARCH 26-28 **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

- **TO REGISTER, VISIT POLICYCONFERENCE.ORG**

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT STEVE BLUMNER
516.639.8941 OR STEVENBLUMNER@GMAIL.COM.

JOIN US!!

Sharona Abraham
Peyman Ahdout
Kousha Askari
Steven Blumner
Robyn Blumner
Jeroen Bours
Robin Bours
Arnold Breitbart
Viviane Breitbart
Hal Chadow
Deborah Chadow
Gary Chubak
Lillian Chubak
Bracha Dayani
Nima Dayani
Isaac Elyassoff
Tova Elyassoff
Jonathan Farhadian
Joseph Farhadian
Mansour Farhadian
Yafa Farhadian
Tom Furst
Debbie Furst
Sharon Goldwyn
Dina Hamerman
Natan Hamerman

Joseph Hecht
Donna Hecht
Erik Herz
Adam Hutt
Didi Hutt
Mitchell Hutt
Rachel Hutt
Rabbi Sean Jensen
Erran Kagan
Lisa Kagan
Leonard Kahn
Leslie Kahn
Marc Kalter
Gloria Kaylie
Jack Khorramian
Celia Lemonik
Jack Lemonik
Cindy Ludwig
Tina Machnikoff
Adeline Markowitz
Avraham Markowitz
Jaime Mittleman
Jared Ort
Edward Parver
Brenda Parver
Rabbi Dale Polakoff

Ellen Polakoff
Hersel Rabanipour
Payman Rabiei
Amy Reiss
Jonathan Reiss
Ben Rosenberg
Carl Rosenberg
Dov Sassoon
Harriet Schimel
Leon Schwechter
Donna Schwechter
Ronnie Shaban
Robert Sperber
Cheryl Sperber
Jonathan Spielman
Robert Spitalnick
Karen Spitalnick
Alan Steinberg
Orly Steinberg
Daniel Tavakoli
Devorah Wang
Howard Wolf
Michele Wolf
Maxine Wiesenfeld

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS
WITH AN INTEREST IN POLITICAL ACTIVISM TO ATTEND THE
AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE.

SPONSORSHIPS POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE.

CONTACT RABBI JENSEN AT RABBIJENSEN@AOL.COM.

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

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.

HASHKAMA MINYAN KIDDUSH

Hashkama Kiddush is sponsored by **Robin & Jeroen
Bours** in memory of her mother **Theresa Lynn Siegel**.

PESACH SCOPE MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Please submit all SCOPE magazine articles, recipes,
photos, ads, sponsorships and any other material by
January 30th to Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net.
Thank you!

MAH-JONGG CARDS

It is the last week to pre-order your mah-jongg cards
through the Sisterhood by **January 22**.
Prices are \$8/Standard Card and \$9/Large Print Card.

GNS WINTER CHESED COLLECTION

Please drop the new/gently worn coats at the home of
Michelle & Philip Berman, 11 Margaret Court and leave
them at the front porch until Friday, January 27th.

FLORENCE SCHAFFER SCHOLARSHIP

Cindy Hodkin is chairing our Florence Schaffer Memorial
Fund Scholarship. If you know a student deserving of
financial assistance, or have any inquiries about the
scholarship please contact Cindy for information at
koshercookinggn@gmail.com. All information is discreet.

RABBINIC INTERN

Rabbi Jesse & Lauren Shore will be here the following
Shabbatot before Pesach: Jan. 28th, Feb. 18th, Feb. 25th,
Mar. 11th, Mar. 18th, and Apr. 8th.
Please feel free to reach out to them to invite them for
meals at 610.329.2953 or nehoyvin@gmail.com.

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE 2017

Join the growing list of over 80 GNS members attending
the AIPAC Policy Conference on **March 26-28, 2017** in
Washington, D.C. Speak to Steve Blumner 516.639.8941
or stevenblumner@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

January 17: Renewal Community Awareness Event
January 25: Chaverim Center
January 29: Men's Club Event: Dr. Mordechai Kedar
Feb 5: Men's Club Event: Rabbi Marvin Tokayer
Feb 5: Super Bowl Event
Feb 7: Yoetzet Halacha Shiur
Feb 11: Shabbat Speaker: Dr. Scott Goldberg

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Harriet & Seymour Cooper on the birth of a
grandson, born to their children **Sara & Daniel Cooper**.

Mazal Tov to Jacqueline & Stanley Fischer on the Bat Mitzvah
of their granddaughter **Yardena**, daughter of **Michelle & David
Kaplan** in Modiin Israel.

Mazal Tov to Pearl Ginsburg on celebrating her 90th birthday,
this Shabbos, with her friends and family in Florida at the Palm
Beach Synagogue.

Mazal Tov to Michael Grant who passed the New York State Bar
and has been appointed the Civil Rights Legal Fellow at the
Brandeis Center, specializing in combating anti-Semitism on college
campuses.

Mazal Tov to Cindy & Jeffrey Liebmann on the marriage of their
son **Zachary to Alanna Newman**, daughter of **Drs. Gayle &
David Newman**.

Mazal Tov to Adam & Stacy Rapp on the birth of a son.

Mazal Tov to Osnass Shein on the birth of a great
granddaughter, **Jordyn Rachel Laniado**, born to her grandchildren
Arianna & Roy Laniado children of **Karen & Ruvan Shein**.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

Please Save the Date: Annual Fundraiser for the North Shore
Mikvah Association will take place on **Tuesday, May 16th at
7:30PM**, featuring Elie Salomon, founding board member of the
organization 'Yesh Tikvah'. Please make sure to mark your
calendars for a very moving evening for the women of our
community as Elie presents a discussion entitled: "Pitfalls,
Perseverance and Ultimately Parenthood: One woman's story of
persistence and how you can help others."

Saturday, 23 Tevet

Susan Mayer for Hans Abramson
Judith Weinstein for Ruth Kloogman
Klara Brand for David Sabov
Ivor Schneider for Lily Schneider
Linda Bunim for Isadore Shapiro
Mel Fox for Leah Solomon
Sue Talansky for Moty Stromer
Mansour Farhadian for Yedegar Yedegar

Sunday, 24 Tevet

Albert Benak for Esther Benak
Laura Danoff for Sonia Herman
Jerrald Weinstein for Sara Weinstein

Monday, 25 Tevet

Susan Mindick for Phyllis Cohen
Pauline Levy for Leon Joseph
Robin Bours for Theresa Lynn Siegel

Tuesday, 26 Tevet

Seymour Cooper for Miriam Cooper
Sonia Mauthner for Felix Epstein
Ruth Shalit-Apelbaum for Meir Shevli
Myrna Horowitz for Herman Tempelman

Wednesday, 27 Tevet

Tina Machnikoff for William Machnikoff
Sydelle Knepper for Michael Marin
Ira Rosenberg for Abraham Rosenberg

Thursday, 28 Tevet

Thelma Kattan for Naim ben Harun
Amy Griffel for Sally Fox
Mel Fox for Sally Fox
Susan Mandelbaum for Irvin Justin
Mindy Leventhal for Edward Scheinkman

Friday, 29 Tevet

Anne Gold for Murray Gold
Gedale Horowitz for Barbara Horowitz
Seth Horowitz for Barbara Horowitz
Jill Swartz for Enid J. Lee
Osnass Shein for Bessie Miller
Sandy Nissenbaum for Saul Nissenbaum
Arnold Swartz for Robert Swartz
George Zobel for Hillel Zobel

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