



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayigash

January 7, 2017 9 Tevet, 5777

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 250
HERTZ 169

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1144
HERTZ 178

BAR MITZVAH
OF
ETHAN ASKARI

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayigash

The sequence from Bereishit 37 to 50 is the longest unbroken narrative in the Torah, and there can be no doubt who its hero is: Joseph. The story begins and ends with him. We see him as a child, beloved – even spoiled – by his father; as an adolescent dreamer, resented by his brothers; as a slave, then a prisoner, in Egypt; then as the second most powerful figure in the greatest empire of the ancient world. At every stage, the narrative revolves around him and his impact on others. He dominates the last third of Bereishit, casting his shadow on everything else. From almost the beginning, he seems destined for greatness. Yet history did not turn out that way. To the contrary, it is another brother who, in the fullness of time, leaves his mark on the Jewish people. Indeed, we bear his name. The covenantal family has been known by several names. One is Ivri, “Hebrew” (possibly related to the ancient apiru), meaning

“outsider, stranger, nomad, one who wanders from place to place.” That is how Abraham and his children were known to others. The second is Yisrael, derived from Jacob’s new name after he “wrestled with God and with man and prevailed.” After the division of the kingdom and the conquest of the North by the Assyrians, however, they became known as Yehudim or Jews, for it was the tribe of Judah who dominated the kingdom of the South, and they who survived the Babylonian exile. So it was not Joseph but Judah who conferred his identity on the people, Judah who became the ancestor of Israel’s greatest king, David, Judah from whom the messiah will be born. Why Judah, not Joseph? The answer undoubtedly lies in the beginning of Vayigash, as the two brothers confront one another, and Judah pleads for Benjamin’s release.

The clue lies many chapters back, at the beginning of the Joseph story. It is there we find that it was Judah who proposed selling Joseph into slavery: Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover his blood? Let’s sell him to the Arabs and not harm him with our own hands. After all – he is

our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed. (Gen. 37:26-27) This is a speech of monstrous callousness. There is no word about the evil of murder, merely pragmatic calculation (“What will we gain”). At the very moment he calls Joseph “our own flesh and blood” he is proposing selling him as a slave. Judah has none of the tragic nobility of Reuben who, alone of the brothers, sees that what they are doing is wrong, and makes an attempt to save him (it fails). At this point, Judah is the last person from whom we expect great things. However, Judah – more than anyone else in the Torah – changes. The man we see all these years later it not what he was then. Then he was prepared to see his brother sold into slavery. Now he is prepared to suffer that fate himself rather than see Benjamin held as a slave. As he says to Joseph: “Now, my lord, let me remain in place of the boy as your lordship’s slave, and let him go with his brothers. How can I return to my father without the boy? I could not bear to see the misery which my

Times

Candle Lighting	4:25 pm
Mincha	4:25 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	3:45 pm
Mincha	4:20 pm
Shabbos Ends	5:33 pm
R’ Reisman Video	7:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 8	7:30/8:30 am
Asara B’Tevet	Schedule Pg. 3
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	4:30 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Jan. 7	9:40/10:27 am
Jan. 14	9:40/10:28 am
Next Shabbat Vayechi	
Candle Lighting	4:32 pm
Mincha	4:30 pm

KIDDUSH
IS SPONSORED BY
JESSICA & KOUSHA ASKARI
IN HONOR OF THE
BAR MITZVAH
OF THEIR SON ETHAN

BIMA FLOWERS
ARE SPONSORED BY
ELLEN & MITCHELL SIEGEL
IN MEMORY OF
HER MOTHER
BLANCHE GIVNER, Z"l.

father would suffer." (44:33-34) It is a precise reversal of character. Callousness has been replaced with concern. Indifference to his brother's fate has been transformed into courage on his behalf. He is willing to suffer what he once inflicted on Joseph so that the same fate should not befall Benjamin. At this point Joseph reveals his identity. We know why. Judah has passed the test that Joseph has carefully constructed for him. Joseph wants to know if Judah has changed. He has.

This is a highly significant moment in the history of the human spirit. Judah is the first penitent – the first baal teshuvah – in the Torah. Where did it come from, this change in his character? For that, we have to backtrack to chapter 38 – the story of Tamar. Tamar, we recall, had married Judah's two elder sons, both of whom had died, leaving her a childless widow. Judah, fearing that his third son would share their fate, withheld him from her – thus leaving her unable to remarry and have children. Once she understands her situation, Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute. Judah sleeps with her. She becomes pregnant. Judah, unaware of the disguise, concludes that she must have had a forbidden relationship and orders her to be put to death. At this point, Tamar – who, while disguised, had taken Judah's seal, cord and staff as a pledge – send them to Judah with a message: "The father of my child is the man to whom these belong." Judah now understands the whole story. Not only has he placed Tamar in an impossible situation of living widowhood, and not only is he the father of her child, but he also realizes that she has behaved with extraordinary discretion in revealing the truth without shaming him (it is from this act of Tamar's that we derive the rule that "one should rather throw oneself into a fiery furnace than shame someone else in public"). Tamar is the heroine of the story, but it has one significant consequence.

Judah admits he was wrong. "She was more righteous than I," he says. This is the first time in the Torah someone acknowledges their own guilt. It is also the turning point in Judah's life. Here is born that ability to recognize one's own wrongdoing, to feel remorse, and to change – the complex phenomenon known as teshuvah – that later leads to the great scene in Vayigash, where Judah is capable of turning his earlier behavior on its head and doing the opposite of what he had once done before. Judah is ish teshuvah, penitential man.

We now understand the significance of his name. The verb lehodot means two things. It means "to thank," which is what Leah has in mind when she gives Judah, her fourth son, his name: "this time I will thank the Lord." However, it also means, "to admit, acknowledge." The biblical term vidui, "confession," – then and now part of the process of teshuvah, and according to Maimonides its key element – comes from the same root. Judah means "he who acknowledged his sin." We now also understand one of the fundamental axioms of teshuvah: "Rabbi Abbahu said: In the place where penitents stand, even the perfectly righteous cannot stand" (Berachot 34b). His proof-text is the verse from Isaiah (57:19), "Peace, peace to him that was far and to him that is near." The verse puts one who "was far" ahead of one who "is near." As the Talmud makes clear, however, Rabbi Abbahu's reading is by no means uncontroversial. Rabbi Jochanan interprets "far" as "far from sin" rather than "far from God." The real proof is Judah. Judah is a penitent, the first in the Torah. Joseph is consistently known to tradition as ha-tzaddik, "the righteous." Joseph became mishneh le-melech, "second to the king." Judah, however, became the father of Israel's kings. Where the penitent Judah stands, even the perfectly righteous Joseph cannot stand. However great an individual may be in virtue of his or her natural character, greater still is one who is capable of growth and change. That is the power of penitence, and it began with Judah.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday January 8th 2017
Fast of the 10th of Tevet**

Fast Begins: 6:07 am
Shacharit with Slichot: 7:30/8:30 am
Mincha: 4:20 pm
Fast Ends: 5:22 pm

The Tenth of Tevet marks the onset of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylonia, and the beginning of the battle that ultimately destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon, and sent the Jews into the 70-year Babylonian Exile.

The date of the Tenth of Tevet is recorded for us by the prophet Yechezkel, who himself was already in Babylonia as part of the first group of Jews exiled there by Nebuchadnezzar, 11 years earlier than the actual destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem itself.

The date also marks the translation of the Torah into Greek, the death of Ezra the Scribe and more recently, it has been established in Israel as a day of remembrance for the Holocaust.

**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 2017
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

Saturday night January 7

Mini Shabbaton

GIRLS GRADES 5-7

6:15-8:15 PM
YOUTH CENTER

Zumba with Natalia

Candy Sushi making,
Pizza & More!!

Great Neck Synagogue & North Shore Hebrew Academy

Invite all High School Students to a special Friday Night Oneg



IRON DOME

Great food!
You will be in awe of what you learn!!

Featuring Ari Sacher

Rocket Scientist & Member of Design Team of the "Iron Dome"

January 13th 7:30 pm
GNS Braun Youth Center

SATURDAY NIGHT GNS YOUTH PROGRAM



All Participants Must Sign In

Pizza available for pre-purchase at

\$3 a slice
\$5 for 2 slices

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

CHAVERIM AT GNS

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

ACTIVITY Book Group Discussion on David Gregory's "How's Your Faith"
Program with Rabbi Jensen's middle school students

LUNCH RSVP by calling the shul office or emailing Michelle

SPONSORS Thank you to Kandi King for donating chocolates for our Chanukah celebration.

Upcoming Events: January 25
Talk by Rabbi Marvin Tokayer (topic TBA)

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

SISTERHOOD & SATURDAY NIGHT FILMS

*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: _____

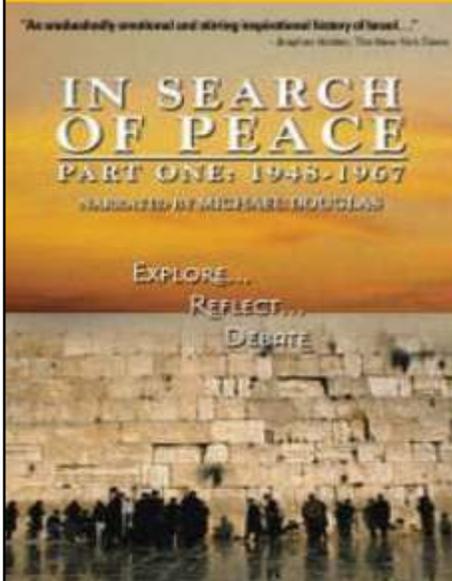
Email Address: _____

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
Saturday Night Film Series**

January 14th 8:00 pm



In Search of Peace

Narrated by Michael Douglas, In Search of Peace 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.

HELP SAVE A LIFE!

בס"ד

 **Renewal**

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.

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
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.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

We want to thank our Chanukah SCOPE magazine sponsors - nearly 70 of them - which is a record number! Their names are listed on page 10 of the recent Chanukah edition of SCOPE magazine. We are extremely grateful for their financial support which is critical to being able to continue to publish SCOPE magazine for our membership. It is not too late to be a sponsor for the remaining issue of SCOPE magazine this year (Pesach issue) - please contact drein@verizon.net to add your name to the sponsorship list! If you enjoy reading SCOPE magazine - please be a sponsor! Thank you very much!

GNS GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Our next Shabbat guest speaker will be **Ari Sacher**, a rocket scientist who will speak on missiles and the defense of Israel on Shabbat, **January 14th 2017**.

MAH-JONGG CARDS

Pre-order your mah-jongg cards through the Sisterhood by Jan. 22. Prices are \$8/Standard Card and \$9/Large Print Card. Speak to Cynthia Wiesenfeld for more details.

FLORENCE SCHAFFER SCHOLARSHIP

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

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

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

BIKUR CHOLIM

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

January 11: Chaverim Center
 January 13: HS Oneg at GNS w/ Ari Sacher
 January 14: Guest Speaker Ari Sacher
 January 14: Saturday Night Film: In Search of Peace
 January 17: Renewal Community Awareness Event
 January 25: Chaverim Center

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Jessica & Kousha Askari** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Ethan**.

Mazal Tov to **Nadine Eckstein** on the birth of a great-grandson born to her grandchildren **Shoshana & Yehudah Fein**. **Mazal Tov** also to grandparents **Myra & Dr. Alon Mogilner**.

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.

YESHIVA KESSER TORAH MELAVA MALKA

All are invited to join the 32nd Annual Journal Melava Malka on Saturday night **January 14th 2017** at the Young Israel of Kew Garden Hills, honoring **Dr. Paul & Drora Brody**.

Rhonda Lipsky & Family would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff, Lichter, Chazan Kron and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the passing of her mother, Annette Forman.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 9 Tevet

Stephen Rabinowitz for David Getreu
 Stephen Rabinowitz for Morris Getreu

Sunday, 10 Tevet

Nathan Rosenblatt for Seymour Rosenblatt
 Rafael Yehoshua for Tikvah Yehoshua

Monday, 11 Tevet

Tami Kramer for Irving Secunda
 Pari Schwartz for Aziz Rebbe Torkan
 Jerrald Weinstein for Shifra Weinstein

Tuesday, 12 Tevet

Martin Griffel for Marion Griffel
 Ivan Kaufman for Anita Kaufman
 Edwin Rosman for Romy Rosman

Wednesday, 13 Tevet

Nathaniel Weisel for Jennifer Kaplan
 Milton Mitzner for Gitl Mitzner

Thursday, 14 Tevet

Helen Ishofsky for Willie Herskovits
 Judy Blatter for Raymonde Katz
 Henry Katz for Raymonde Katz
 Michael Katz for Raymonde Katz
 Sadie Frank for Meyer Leshkowitz
 Murray Weiss for Harry Weiss
 William Wolff for Bernard Wolff

Friday, 15 Tevet

Margalit Soleimani for Moshe ben Nechemia
 Leon Fuks for Emanuel Fuks
 Mansour Farhadian for Nasser Kewmehr
 Kenneth Magida for Jacob Magida
 Ellen Polakoff for Casper Pinsker
 Goldie Lorber for Ethel Winter