



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Va'era

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

January 28, 2017 1 Shevat, 5777

<b>TORAH</b>		<b>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Va'era</b>		
<b>ARTSCROLL 318</b>		<p>The Torah sometimes says something of fundamental importance in what seems like a minor and incidental comment. There is a fine example of this near the beginning of today's parsha. Last week, we read of how Moses was sent by God to lead the Israelites to freedom, and how his initial efforts met with failure. Not only did Pharaoh not agree to let the people go; he made the working conditions of the Israelites even worse. They had to make the same number of bricks as before but now they had to gather their own straw. The people complained to Pharaoh, then they complained to Moses, then Moses complained to God. "Why have you brought trouble to this people? Why did you send me?"</p> <p>At the beginning of this week's parsha God tells Moses that he will indeed bring the Israelites to freedom, and tells him to announce this to the people. Then we read this: So Moses told this to the Israelites but they</p>	<p>did not listen to him, because their spirit was broken and because the labor was harsh. (Ex. 6:9) The phrase seems simple enough. The people did not listen to Moses because he had brought them messages from God before and they had done nothing to improve their situation. They were busy trying to survive day by day. They had no time for utopian promises that seemed to have no grounding in reality. Moses had failed to deliver in the past. They had no reason to think he would do so in the future. So far, so straightforward. But there is something more subtle going on beneath the surface. When Moses first met God at the burning bush, God told him to lead, and Moses kept refusing on the grounds that the people would not listen to him. He was not a man of words. He was slow of speech and tongue. He was a man of "uncircumcised lips". He lacked eloquence. He could not sway crowds. He was not an inspirational leader. It turned out, though, that Moses was both right and wrong, right that they did not listen to him but wrong about why. It had nothing to do with his failures as a leader or a public speaker. In fact it had nothing</p>	
<b>HERTZ 232</b>				<p>to do with Moses at all. They did not listen "because their spirit was broken and because the labor was harsh." In other words: if you want to improve people's spiritual situation, first improve their physical situation. That is one of the most humanizing aspects of Judaism.</p> <p>Maimonides emphasizes this in The Guide for the Perplexed. The Torah, he says, has two aims: the well-being of the soul and well-being of the body. The well-being of the soul is something inward and spiritual, but the well-being of the body requires a strong society and economy, where there is the rule of law, division of labor and the promotion of trade. We have bodily well-being when all our physical needs are supplied, but none of us can do this on our own.</p>
<b>MAFTIR</b>				
<b>ARTSCROLL 890</b>				
<b>HERTZ 225</b>		<b>BIMA FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY ALLA &amp; MARK LANDA IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER GOLDA LANDA, Z"l</b>		
<b>HAFTORAH</b>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEUDAH SHLISHIT IN MEMORY OF DR. HOWARD REIN Z"l, BELOVED FATHER OF DAVID, FATHER-IN-LAW OF DIANE AND GRANDFATHER OF ALEXANDER, OLIVER AND SOPHIA SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF THE REIN FAMILY</b></p>		
<b>ARTSCROLL 1208</b>				
<b>HERTZ 944</b>				
Times				
Candle Lighting	4:48 pm			
Mincha	4:50 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	4:45 pm			
Shabbos Ends	5:57 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	4:55 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
Jan. 28	9:38/10:28 am			
Jan. 28	9:36/10:25 am			
Next Shabbat Bo				
Candle Lighting	4:57 pm	<b>KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE AND BY ALBERT HALIMI WITH SMOOTHIES AND A JUICE BAR IN HONOR OF ROSH CHODESH</b>		
Mincha	5:00 pm			

We specialize and exchange. That is why we need a good, strong, just society. Spiritual achievement, says Maimonides, is higher than material achievement, but we need to ensure the latter first, because "a person suffering from great hunger, thirst, heat or cold, cannot grasp an idea even if it is communicated by others, much less can he arrive at it by his own reasoning." In other words, if we lack basic physical needs, there is no way we can reach spiritual heights. When people's spirits are broken by harsh labor they cannot listen to a Moses. If you want to improve people's spiritual situation, first improve their physical conditions. This idea was given classic expression in modern times by two New York Jewish psychologists, Abraham Maslow (1908-1970) and Frederick Herzberg (1923-2000). Maslow was fascinated by the question of why many people never reached their full potential. He also believed – as, later, did Martin Seligman, creator of Positive Psychology – that psychology should focus not only on the cure of illness but also on the positive promotion of mental health. His most famous contribution to the study of the human mind was his "hierarchy of needs". We are not a mere bundle of wants and desires. There is a clear order to our concerns. Maslow enumerated five levels. First are our physiological needs: for food and shelter, the basic requirements of survival. Next come safety needs: protection against harm done to us by others. Third is our need for love and belonging. Above that comes our desire for recognition and esteem, and higher still is self-actualization: fulfilling our potential, becoming the person we feel we could and should be. In his later years Maslow added a yet higher stage: self-transcendence, rising beyond the self through altruism and spirituality. Herzberg simplified this whole structure by distinguishing between physical and psychological factors. He called the first, Adam needs, and the second Abraham needs. Herzberg was particularly interested in what motivates people at work. What he realized in the late 1950s – an idea revived more recently by American-Israeli economist Dan Ariely – is that money, salary and financial

rewards (stock options and the like), is not the only motivator. People do not necessarily work better, harder or more creatively, the more you pay them. Money works up to a certain level, but beyond that the real motivator is the challenge to grow, create, find meaning, and to invest your highest talents in a great cause. Money speaks to our Adam needs, but meaning speaks to our Abraham needs.

There is a truth here that Jews and Judaism have tended to note and live by more fully than many other civilizations and faiths. Most religions are cultures of acceptance. There is poverty, hunger and disease on earth because that is the way the world is; that is how God made it and wants it. Yes, we can find happiness, nirvana or bliss, but to achieve it you must escape from the world, by meditation, or retreating to a monastery, or by drugs or trance, or by waiting patiently for the joy that awaits us in the world to come. Religion anaesthetizes us to pain. That isn't Judaism at all. When it comes to the poverty and pain of the world, ours is a religion of protest, not acceptance. God does not want people to be poor, hungry, sick, oppressed, uneducated, deprived of rights, or subject to abuse. He has made us His agents in this cause. He wants us to be His partners in the work of redemption. That is why so many Jews have become doctors fighting disease, lawyers fighting injustice or educators fighting ignorance. It is surely why they have produced so many pioneering (and Nobel Prize-winning) economists. As Michael Novak (citing Irving Kristol) writes: Jewish thought has always felt comfortable with a certain well-ordered worldliness, whereas the Christian has always felt a pull to otherworldliness. Jewish thought has had a candid orientation toward private property, whereas Catholic thought – articulated from an early period chiefly among priests and monks – has persistently tried to direct the attention of its adherents beyond the activities and interests of this world to the next. As a result, tutored by the law and the prophets, ordinary Jews have long felt more at home in this world, while ordinary Catholics have regarded this world as a valley of temptation and as a distraction from their proper business, which is preparation for the world to come.

God is to be found in this world, not just the next. But for us to climb to spiritual heights we must first have satisfied our material needs. Abraham was greater than Adam, but Adam came before Abraham. When the physical world is harsh, the human spirit is broken, and people cannot then hear the word of God, even when delivered by a Moses. Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev said it well: "Don't worry about the state of someone else's soul and the needs of your body. Worry about the needs of someone else's body and the state of your own soul." Alleviating poverty, curing disease, ensuring the rule of law and respect for human rights: these are spiritual tasks no less than prayer and Torah study. To be sure, the latter are higher, but the former are prior. People cannot hear God's message if their spirit is broken and their labor harsh.



**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**  
**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**

# CHAVERIM AT GENS

**DATE:** January 25th

**11:30 - 2:00**

## ACTIVITY

Rabbi Marvin Tokayer  
"Pepper, Silk & Ivory -  
Exotic Jews of China, Japan & India"

## LUNCH

RSVP by calling the shul office  
or emailing Michelle

## LAST EVENT'S SPONSORS

Thank you to Lili Sedaghatpour  
for providing dessert last week  
in honor of her father, Haim Aram's, birthday.

Upcoming Chaverim dates:  
February 8th & 22nd  
March 8th & 22nd

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

**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.

All Welcome - Complimentary Breakfast - 26 Old Mill Rd.

**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**

**Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series**



**Dr. Scott Goldberg**

**February 11, 2017**

**Shabbat Morning Drasha**

**God, Tefila, and Generation Z:**

**Educating Our Children for a Meaningful  
 and Life-Long Relationship with God**

**Seudah Shlishit Drasha**

**Follow the Leader:**

**Cultivating the Value  
 and Skill of Followership**

Scott J. Goldberg, Ph.D., is an active teacher, researcher, and internationally renowned consultant in areas related to student success in the Jewish community including: religious and spiritual development, Hebrew literacy, and social and behavioral functioning. He writes and speaks in both academic and communal settings on these topics, as well as the mission and vision of the Modern/Centrist Orthodox community, the future of learning and schooling, school governance and finance, leadership, strategic planning, and more.

Scott was Vice Provost of Yeshiva University from 2013-2016, and is currently chairman of Koren Publishers Educational Editorial Board, and is a tenured faculty member at Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education.

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 7<sup>th</sup> | 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.



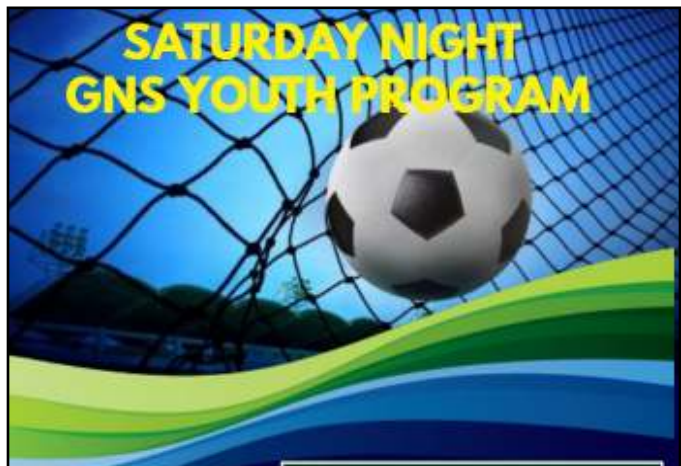
Drop the coats off from Sunday - Friday at the home of Michelle and Philip Berman. 11 Margaret Court, Great Neck.



Please leave them on the front porch.

The coat drive will continue until Friday January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SATURDAY NIGHT GNS YOUTH PROGRAM**



**6:15 - 8:30 PM**  
Boys & Girls Gr. 1-7

**All Participants Must Sign In**

Sign in at Gym door Soccer & Movie of the Week

Pizza available for pre-purchase at

**8:30 - 10:45 pm**  
Boys & Girls Gr. 8-12

\$3 a slice  
\$5 for 2 slices

Sign in Braun Youth Center  
Use of Game Room, TV & Basketball

MARCH 3

GNS PRESENTS  
**YOUNG FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT**

SAVE  
the  
DATE

**DETAILS TO FOLLOW...**

PosterMyWall.com



**SISTERHOOD PURIM**

Sisterhood is once again offering Mishloach Manot Packages anywhere in the US @ \$20 Purim cards can be purchased for \$3 or 10 cards/\$25 Sponsorships of these projects are encouraged!

Please contact:  
Vivian Kron at 516.244.6330 or Vivian@vikron.com  
or  
Judy Lillien at 516.487.6845

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

- **TO REGISTER, VISIT [POLICYCONFERENCE.ORG](http://POLICYCONFERENCE.ORG)**

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT STEVE BLUMNER**  
**516.639.8941 OR [STEVENBLUMNER@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dpolakoff@gns.org), or on  
his cell at 516-637-3674.

## HASHKAMA MINYAN

Hashkama Kiddush is sponsored by **Amy & Martin Griffel**  
in memory of her mother **Sally Fox z"l** and his mother  
**Marian Griffel, z"l**.

## SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Mindy & Michael  
Leventhal** in memory of her father **Edward  
Scheinkman, z"l**.

## 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](mailto:drein@verizon.net).

## 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.

## MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

**Sunday, January 29th** at 10:00 am - Dr. Mordechai  
Kedar will speak on Trump, Putin, Israel & The Middle East  
- Challenges & Opportunities.

**Sunday, February 5th** at 10:00 am - Rabbi Marvin  
Tokayer will speak on Spies, Scholars, & Statesmen -  
Amazing Jews of the Orient.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:stevenblumner@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

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 **Jessica & Aryeh Hauptman** on the birth of a  
son.

**Mazal Tov** to **Farrah & Issac Sachmechi** on the  
engagement of their daughter **Ariel** to **Jordan Cohen** son of  
**Doron & Sharona Cohen**.

**Mazal Tov** to **Osnass Shein** on the birth of a great Grand-  
daughter, **Jordyn Rachel Laniado**, born to her grandchildren  
**Arianna & Roy Laniado** children of **Karen & Ruvan Shein**.  
**Mazal Tov** to **Fran & Jerry Gil** on the engagement of their son  
**Jason** to **Chelsey Rosen**, daughter of **Elkie & Lee Rosen**  
of Woodbury, LI.

## 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." Featured Boutique:  
Threads Linen

## 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](mailto:koshercookinggn@gmail.com).  
All information is discreet.

## YOETZET HALACHA

The next Yoetzet Halacha event will be on **February 7th at  
8:00 pm** at the home of Tovah & Josh Marmer - 100 Myrtle  
Drive. The shiur will be given by Yoetzet Halacha Lisa Septimus  
and is entitled, "Where Do Babies Come From? - A Torah  
Perspective on Addressing Adult Matters with Children.

# Y A H R Z E T

## Saturday, 1 Shevat

Jonathan Brisman for Joan Brisman  
Michael Brisman for Joan Brisman  
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Shmuel Gabbazadeh  
Eli Moradi for Ghadamian Moradi  
Mark Landa for Golda Landa  
Myles Mittleman for Jack Mittleman  
Anne Sandler for Harry Usher  
Howard Wolf for Emma Wolf

## Sunday, 2 Shevat

Chava Shalmon for Sh'maye Grinszpan  
Linda Horowitz for Arthur Kagen  
Eshan Reyhanian for Aharon Reyhanian  
Liza Novogrudsky for Helen Young

## Monday, 3 Shevat

Aryeh Family for Rafael Aryeh  
Holly Hoenig for Irene Berns  
Philip Hanfling for Max Hanfling  
Jeffrey Wiesenfeld for Markus Wiesenfeld

## Wednesday, 4 Shevat

Pam Bilfeld for Raymond Grant  
Miriam Glaubach for Max Herlinger  
Julia Jadidian for Moshi Shohet

## Thursday, 5 Shevat

Ebrahim Gabbayzadeh for Ayuma bat Moshiach Gabbai  
Elly Engelstein for Steven Engelstein