



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Va'era

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

January 28, 2017 1 Shevat, 5777

TORAH		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Va'era		
ARTSCROLL 318		<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>	
HERTZ 232				<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>
MAFTIR				
ARTSCROLL 890				
HERTZ 225		BIMA FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY ALLA & MARK LANDA IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER GOLDA LANDA, Z"l		
HAFTORAH		<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>		
ARTSCROLL 1208				
HERTZ 944				
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	KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE AND BY ALBERT HALIMI WITH SMOOTHIES AND A JUICE BAR IN HONOR OF ROSH CHODESH		
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.
 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**

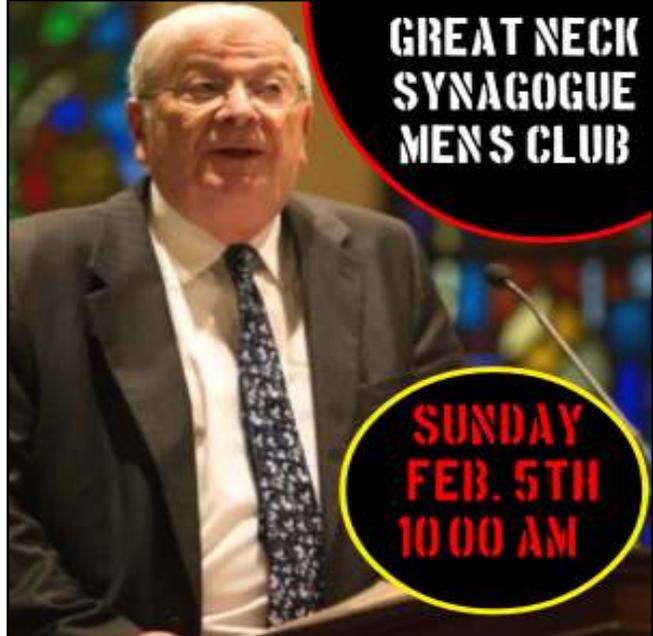
Mordechai Kedar, born in Tel Aviv, is an Israeli scholar of Arabic culture and a lecturer at Bar-Ilan University. He served for 25 years in the IDF Military Intelligence, where he specialized in Islamic groups, the political discourse of Arab countries, the Arabic press and mass media, and the Syrian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



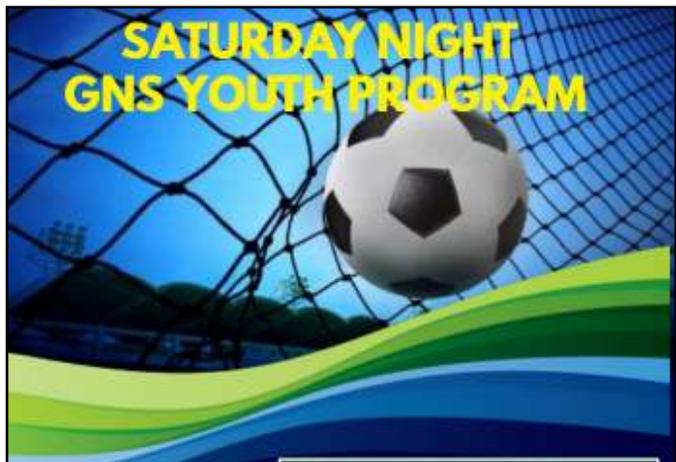
Drop the coats off from Sunday - Friday at the home of Michelle and Philip Berman. 11 Margaret Court, Great Neck.



Please leave them on the front porch.

The coat drive will continue until Friday January 27th.

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**

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

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.

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.

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 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 Granddaughter, **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. 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