



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayechi

January 14, 2017 16 Tevet, 5777

TORAH ARTSCROLL 268 HERTZ 180		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayechi		
HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1145 HERTZ 191		<p>After the death of Jacob, Joseph's brothers were afraid. Years earlier, when he had revealed his true identity to them, he appeared to have forgiven them for selling him as a slave. Yet the brothers were not wholly reassured. Maybe Joseph did not mean what he said. Perhaps he still harbored resentment. Might the only reason he had not yet taken revenge was respect for Jacob. There was a convention in those days that there was to be no settling of scores between siblings in the lifetime of the father. We know this from an earlier episode. After Jacob had taken his brother's blessing, Esau says, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob" (Gen. 27:41). So the brothers come before Joseph and say: "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers; the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. (Gen. 50:16-17) The text makes it as plain as possible that the story they told Joseph was</p>	<p>a lie. If Jacob had really said those words he would have said them to Joseph himself, not to the brothers. The time to have done so was on his deathbed in the previous chapter. The brothers' tale was a "white lie." Its primary aim was not to deceive but to ease a potentially explosive situation. Perhaps that is why Joseph wept, understanding that his brothers still thought him capable of revenge. The sages derived a principle from this text. Mutar le-shanot mipnei ha-shalom: "It is permitted to tell an untruth (literally, "to change" the facts) for the sake of peace." A white lie is permitted in Jewish law. This is not the only place where the sages invoked this principle. They even attributed it to God himself. When the angels came to visit Abraham to tell him and Sarah that they were about to have a child, "Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?'" God then asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" (Gen. 18:12-13). God did not mention that Sarah believed that not only was she too old to have a child. So was Abraham (this turned out to be quite untrue: Abraham had six more children after Sarah's death). The sages inferred that God did not mention it because he did not want there to be bad feeling between husband and wife. Here too the sages said: it is permitted to change for the sake of peace.</p>	<p>It is clear that the sages needed both episodes to establish the principle. Had we only known about the Sarah case, we could not infer that it is permitted to tell a white lie. God did not tell a white lie about Sarah. He merely did not tell Abraham the whole truth. Had we only known about the case of Joseph's brothers, we could not have inferred that what they did was permitted. Perhaps it was forbidden, and that is why Joseph wept. The fact that God himself had done something similar is what led the sages to say that the brothers were justified.</p> <p>What is at stake here is an important feature of the moral life, despite the fact that we seem to be speaking of no more than social niceties: tact. The late Sir Isaiah Berlin pointed out that not all values coexist in a kind of platonic harmony. His favorite example was freedom and equality. You can have a free economy but the result will be inequality. You can have economic equality, communism, but the result will be a loss of freedom. In the world as currently configured, moral conflict is unavoidable. This was an important fact, though one about which Judaism seems never to have been in doubt. There is, for example, a powerful moment in Tanach</p>
Times				
Candle Lighting	4:32 pm	<p>KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</p>	<p>SEUDAH SHLISHT IS SPONSORED BY LILLIAN & GARY CHUBAK IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER BENJAMIN CHUBAK Z"L AND BY BETH & MARC GOTTLIEB IN HONOR OF ARI SACHER</p>	
Mincha	4:30 pm			
Hashkama	8:00 am			
Youth Minyan	8:30 am			
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am			
Main	9:00 am			
Beit Midrash	9:15 am			
Mincha	4:15 pm			
Shalosh Seudot/ Ari Sacher	4:40 pm			
Shabbos Ends	5:41 pm			
R' Reisman Video	7:30 pm			
Sun. Jan. 15	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Mincha	4:40 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
Jan. 14	9:40/10:28 am			
Jan. 21	9:40/10:28 am			
Next Shabbat Shemot				
Candle Lighting	4:40 pm			
Mincha	4:40 pm			

when King David's son Absalom mounts a coup d'état against his father. David was forced to flee. Eventually there was a battle between Absalom's troops and David's. Absalom, who was handsome and had fine hair, was caught by it when it became entangled in the branches of a tree. Left hanging there, Joab, captain of David's army, killed him. When David heard the news he was overcome with grief: "The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: 'O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!'" (2 Samuel 18:33). Joab is brutal in his words to the king: "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life...You love those who hate you and hate those who love you...Now go out and encourage your men" (2 Sam. 19:6-8). David's grief at the loss of his son conflicts with his responsibilities as head of state and his loyalty to the troops who have saved his life. Which comes first: his duties as a father or as a king?

The existence of conflicting values means that the kind of morality we adopt and the society we create depend not only on the values we embrace but also on the way we prioritize them. Prioritizing equality over freedom creates one kind of society – Soviet communism for example. Prioritizing freedom over equality leads to market economics. People in both societies may value the same things but they rank them differently in the scale of values, and thus how they choose when the two conflict. That is what is at stake in the stories of Sarah and Joseph's brothers. Truth and peace are both values, but which do we choose when they conflict? Not everyone among the rabbinic sages agreed. There is, for example, a famous argument between the schools of Hillel and Shammai as to what to say about the bride at a wedding. The custom was to say that "The bride is beautiful and graceful." Members of the school of Shammai, however, were not prepared to say so if, in their eyes, the bride was not beautiful and graceful. For them the supreme value was the Torah's insistence on truth: "Keep far from falsehood" (Ex. 23:7). The school of Hillel did not accept this. Who was to judge whether the bride was beautiful and graceful? Surely the bridegroom

himself. So to praise the bride was not making an objective statement that could be tested empirically. It was simply endorsing the bridegroom's choice. It was a way of celebrating the couple's happiness. Courtesies are often like this. Telling someone how much you like the gift they have brought, even if you don't, or saying to someone, "How lovely to see you" when you were hoping to avoid them, is more like good manners than an attempt to deceive. We all know this, and thus no harm is done, as it would be if we were to tell a lie when substantive interests are at stake.

More fundamental and philosophical is an important Midrash about a conversation between God and the angels as to whether human beings should be created at all: Rabbi Shimon said: When God was about to create Adam, the ministering angels split into contending groups. Some said, 'Let him be created.' Others said, 'Let him not be created.' That is why it is written: 'Mercy and truth collided, righteousness and peace clashed' (Psalms 85:11). Mercy said, 'Let him be created, because he will do merciful deeds.' Truth said, 'Let him not be created, for he will be full of falsehood.' Righteousness said, 'Let him be created, for he will do righteous deeds.' Peace said, 'Let him not be created, for he will never cease quarrelling.' What did the Holy One, blessed be He, do? He took truth and threw it to the ground. The angels said, 'Sovereign of the universe, why do You do thus to Your own seal, truth? Let truth arise from the ground.' Thus it is written, 'Let truth spring up from the earth' (Psalms 85:12). This is a challenging text. What exactly were the angels saying? What does it mean to say that "God took truth and threw it to the ground?" And what happened to the claim made by the angel of Peace that humans "will never cease quarrelling"? I interpret it as meaning that humans are destined to conflict so long as contending groups each claim to have a monopoly of the truth. The only way they will learn to live at peace is by realizing that they, finite as all humans are, will never in this life achieve truth as it is in Heaven. For us, truth is always partial, fragmentary, the view from somewhere and not, as philosophers sometimes say, "the view from nowhere".



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.

This deep insight is, I believe, the reason why the Torah is multi-perspectival, why Tanakh contains so many different kinds of voices, why Mishnah and Gemara are structured around argument, and why Midrash is built on the premise that there are "seventy faces" to Torah. No other civilization I know has had so subtle and complex an understanding of the nature of truth. Nor has any other so valued peace. Judaism is not and never was pacifist. National self-defense sometimes requires war. But Isaiah and Micah were the first visionaries of a world in which "nation shall not lift up sword against nation." Isaiah is the poet laureate of peace. Given the choice, when it came to interpersonal relations the sages valued peace over truth, not least because truth can flourish in peace while it is often the first casualty in war. So the brothers were not wrong to tell Joseph a white lie for the sake of peace within the family. It reminded them all of the deeper truth that not only their human father, now dead, but also their heavenly Father, eternally alive, wants the people of the covenant to be at peace, for how can Jews be at peace with the world if they are not at peace with themselves?



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

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

PeksternWalls.com

Great Neck Synagogue
&
North Shore Hebrew Academy
Invite all Middle & High School Students
(parents also welcome)
to a special Friday Night Oneg

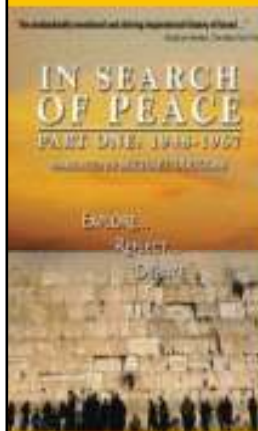


Featuring Ari Sacher
Rocket Scientist &
Member of Design Team
of the "Iron Dome"

January 13th 7:30 pm
GNS Braun Youth Center

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.

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.

MINI SHABBATON Boys Grades 5-7

Saturday Night
January 14, 7:45-10:00pm

Join your friends for a
3 on 3 basketball
tournament!!

Pizza, snack,
raffle & more!!



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Saturday Night
January 14

Mini Shabbaton

GIRLS GRADES 5-7

6:15-8:15 PM
YOUTH CENTER

Zumba with Natalia

Candy Sushi making,
Pizza & More!!



"משהו חדש מתחיל"

Feel like being part of something great?

Are Eretz Yisrael & Am Yisrael close to your heart?

Do you want to have the opportunity to inspire others?

Would you like to be a leader in a unique youth program?

We invite 9th - 12th graders to join us as we explore

What it means to be a Bnei Akiva Madrich

Sunday, January 15, 6:30 pm

Great Neck Synagogue, 26 Old Mill Road

Great Neck

To RSVP and for more information

Please call:

Rachel Wisemon
516-462-4949

Eirat Carmi
516-458-0714



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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.

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
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.

GNS GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

This Shabbat, **Jan. 14th** we will host guest speaker **Ari Sacher**, a rocket scientist who was a member of the team that designed the Iron Dome. He will speak following davening in the main sanctuary. He will also speak at an expanded Seudah Shlishit in lieu of the Gemara Shiur.

Additionally, all Middle & High School students are invited to a special Oneg with **Ari Sacher**, at GNS on this Friday night, at **7:30 pm**.

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

Pre-order your mah-jongg cards through the Sisterhood by Jan. 22. Prices are \$8/Standard Card and \$9/Large Print Card.

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 koshercookingn@gmail.com. All information is discreet.

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

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.

YOUTH NEWS

There will be no HS program this Saturday night as the Boys Mini Shabbaton is using the gym.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

January 13: Friday night Oneg at GNS
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 Lauren & Asher Abehsera on the birth of their daughter.

Mazal Tov to Dr. Paul & Drora Brody, who will be Guests of Honor at the 32nd Annual Journal Melava Malka of Yeshiva Kesser Torah of Kew Gardens Hills, on Jan. 14th.

Mazal Tov to Debbie & Dr. Hal Chadow on the engagement of their son **Aaron to Annelle Amsellem**, daughter of **Sophia & Yosi Etias** and **Jack Amsellem**.

Mazal Tov to Mark & Beth Gersten on the Bat Mitzvah of his granddaughter, **Rivkah Temima**, daughter of **Rabbi Eric & Tamar Gersten**.

Mazal Tov to Regina & Joe Gil on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Asher Rosenblatt**, son of **Daniela & Avi Rosenblatt**.

Mazal Tov to Randi & Arthur Luxemburg on the upcoming wedding of the daughter, **Jacqueline to Jonathan Spiegel**.

Mazal Tov to Karen Lewkowitz Miller & Monte Miller on the birth of a grandson **Benjamin Alexander**, born to their children **Ilan & Neil Ruben**.

Mazal Tov to George & Gila Sameyah on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children, **Bonnie & Daniel Zarabi**.

Nadine Eckstein would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff, Lichter, Sharon Goldwyn and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the passing of her sister, Malka Shapiro.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 16 Tevet

Gary Chubak for Benjamin Chubak
Dorothy Reiser for Theodore Cohen

Ron Malen for Eli Malen

Henry Schwartz for Max Schwartz

Sunday, 17 Tevet

Perry Schneider for Ann Colton

Norman Fisher for Molly Fisher

Cheryl Sperber for Isaac Forst

Ester Noy for Rachel Nir

Grace Oster for Joseph Abraham Oster

Monday, 18 Tevet

Mahin Aryeh for Malka Aryeh

Leslie Kahn for Naomi Kahn

Michelle Berman for Naomi Kahn

Trudy Jettelson for Lena Sirota

Tuesday, 19 Tevet

Harvey Ishofsky for Morris Ishofsky

Judy Hoffman for Frances Karbowitz

Stephen Karbowitz for Frances Karbowitz

Wednesday, 20 Tevet

Garce Oster for Greda Horowitz

Vivian Kron for Salim Mahlab

Fred Pomerantz for Mina Pomerantz

Nathaniel Weisel for Estelle Sechster

Thursday, 21 Tevet

Lev Dynkin for Rasha Dynkin

Semyon Dynkin for Rasha Dynkin

Helaine Helmreich for Dorothy Gewertz

Helaine Helmreich for Perry Gewertz

Arnold Swartz for Irma Swartz

Friday, 22 Tevet

Arnie Flatow for Miriam Flatow

Anita Beretz for Seigfried Reischenberg