



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Yitro

February 18, 2017 22 Shevat, 5777

TORAH ARTSCROLL 394 HERTZ 288		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Yitro		
HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1154 HERTZ 302		<p>The Ten Commandments are the most famous religious-and-moral code in history. Until recently they adorned American courtrooms. They still adorn most synagogue arks. Rembrandt gave them their classic artistic expression in his portrait of Moses, about to break the tablets on seeing the golden calf. John Rogers Herbert's massive painting of Moses bringing down the tablets of law dominates the main committee room of the House of Lords. The twin tablets with their ten commands are the enduring symbol of eternal law under the sovereignty of God. It is worth remembering, of course, that the "ten commandments" are not Ten Commandments. The Torah calls them aseret hadevarim (Ex. 34:28), and tradition terms them aseret hadibrot, meaning the "ten words" or "ten utterances". We can understand this better in the light of documentary discoveries in the twentieth century, especially Hittite covenants or "suzerainty</p>	<p>treaties" dating back to 1400-1200 BCE, that is, around the time of Moses and the exodus. These treaties often contained a twofold statement of the laws laid down in the treaty, first in general outline, then in specific detail. That is precisely the relationship between the "ten utterances" and the detailed commands of parshat Mishpatim (Ex. 22-23). The former are the general outline, the basic principles of the law. Usually they are portrayed, graphically and substantively, as two sets of five, the first dealing with relationships between us and God (including honoring our parents since they like God brought us into being), the second with the relations between us and our fellow humans.</p> <p>However, it also makes sense to see them as three groups of three. The first three (one God, no other God, do not take God's name in vain) are about God, the Author and Authority of the laws. The second set (keep Shabbat, honor parents, do not murder) are about createdness. Shabbat reminds us of the birth of the universe. Our parents brought us into being. Murder is forbidden because we are all created in God's image (Gen. 9:6). The</p>	<p>third three (don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't bear false witness) are about the basic institutions of society: the sanctity of marriage, the integrity of private property, and the administration of justice. Lose any of these and freedom begins to crumble. This structure serves to emphasize what a strange command the tenth is: "Do not be envious of your neighbor's house. Do not be envious of your neighbor's wife, his slave, his maid, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that is your neighbor's." At least on the surface this is different from all the other rules, which involve speech or action. Envy, covetousness, desiring what someone else has, is an emotion, not a thought, a word or a deed. And surely we can't help our emotions. They used to be called the "passions", precisely because we are passive in relation to them. So how can envy be forbidden at all? Surely it only makes sense to command or forbid matters that are within our control. In any case, why should the occasional spasm of</p>
Times				
Candle Lighting	5:14 pm	<p>KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</p>	<p>SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY OLGA & MATT GARTENHAUS IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER STANLEY GARTENHAUS, Z"l, BY SUSAN & DAVID SEDGH IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER YAACOV SEDGH, Z"l AND BY KATHY & ARNOLD FLATOW IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER MORRIS FLATOW, Z"l.</p>	
Mincha	5:15 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	4:10 pm			
Mincha	5:10 pm			
Shabbos Ends	6:23 pm			
R' Reisman Video	8:00 pm			
Sun. Feb. 12	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Mincha	5:25 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
Feb. 18	9:26/10:20 am			
Feb. 25	9:21/10:17 am			
Next Shabbat Mishpatim				
Candle Lighting	5:22 pm			
Mincha	5:25 pm			

envy matter if it does not lead to anything harmful to other people?

Here, it seems to me, the Torah is conveying a series of fundamental truths we forget at our peril. First, as we have been reminded by cognitive behavioral therapy, what we believe affects what we feel. Narcissists, for instance, are quick to take offence because they think other people are talking about or "dissing" (disrespecting) them, whereas often other people aren't interested in us at all. Their belief is false, but that does not stop them feeling angry and resentful. Second, envy is one of the prime drivers of violence in society. It is what led Iago to mislead Othello with tragic consequences. Closer to home it is what led Cain to murder Abel. It is what led Abraham and then Isaac to fear for their lives when famine forced them temporarily to leave home. They believe that, married as they are to attractive women, the local ruler will kill them so that they can take their wives into their harem. Most poignantly, envy lay at the heart of the hatred of the brothers for Joseph. They resented his special treatment at the hands of their father, the richly embroidered cloak he wore, and his dreams of becoming the ruler of them all. That is what led them to contemplate killing him and eventually to sell him as a slave. Rene Girard, in his classic *Violence and the Sacred*, says that the most basic cause of violence is mimetic desire, that is, the desire to have what someone else has, which is ultimately the desire to be what someone else is. Envy can lead to breaking many of the other commands: it can move people to adultery, theft, false testimony and even murder.

Jews have especial reason to fear envy. It surely played a part in the existence of anti-semitism throughout the centuries. Non-Jews envied their ability to prosper in

adversity – the strange phenomenon we noted in parshat Shemot that "the more they afflicted them the more they grew and the more they spread." They also and especially envied them their sense of chosenness (despite the fact that virtually every other nation in history has seen itself as chosen). It is absolutely essential that we, as Jews, should conduct ourselves with an extra measure of humility and modesty. So the prohibition of envy is not odd at all. It is the most basic force undermining the social harmony and order that are the aim of the Ten Commandments as a whole. Not only though do they forbid it; they also help us rise above it. It is precisely the first three commands, reminding us of God's presence in history and our lives, and the second three, reminding us of our createdness, that help us rise above envy.

We are here because God wanted us to be. We have what God wanted us to have. Why then should we seek what others have? If what matters most in our lives is how we appear in the eyes of God, why should we want anything else merely because someone else has it? It is when we stop defining ourselves in relation to God and start defining ourselves in relation to other people that competition, strife, covetousness and envy enter our minds, and they lead only to unhappiness. If your new car makes me envious, I may be motivated to buy a more expensive model that I never needed in the first place, which will give me satisfaction for a few days until I discover another neighbor who has an even more costly vehicle, and so it goes. Should I succeed in satisfying my own envy, I will do so only at the cost of provoking yours, in a cycle of conspicuous consumption that has no natural end. Hence the bumper sticker: "He who has the most toys when he dies, wins." The operative word here is "toys", for this is the ethic of the kindergarten, and it should have no place in a mature life.

The antidote to envy is gratitude. "Who is rich?" asked Ben Zoma, and replied, "One who rejoices in what he has." There is a beautiful Jewish practice that, done daily, is life-transforming. The first words we say on waking are *Modeh ani lefanekha*, "I thank you, living and eternal King." We thank before we think. Judaism is gratitude with attitude. Cured of letting other people's happiness diminish our own, we release a wave of positive energy allowing us to celebrate what we have instead of thinking about what other people have, and to be what we are instead of wanting to be what we are not.



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
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GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

Friday Night Oneg

Grades 7-8

February 17th

Come on by to the Atlas Home 9 Brook Lane from 7:45-9:45 pm for great food, ruach, and friends!



Kiddush Class This Shabbat Parshat Yitro

Feb. 18th 12:15 pm

Rabbi Dale Polakoff

**“Honoring Parents:
When Am I Allowed to
Disregard Their Wishes?”**

G N S Y O U T H



SATURDAY NIGHT FEBRUARY 18 8:00PM

GRADES 6-10
PRIZES TO WIN!!
\$5 ENTRANCE FEE

YOUNG FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT AT GNS!

Fun for all ages!

Mishenichnas Adar Marbim Besimcha!

Friday, March 3rd

5:15-6:00: Children 0-3 years old

Tot Shabbat
with moms & Morah Zehava

5:15-6:00: Children 4-5 years old

Welcome Shabbat
drop off with Morah Rebeka

5:15-6:00: First Grade & Up

Family Centered Minyan
with Rabbi Jensen and Dr. Mike

6:00-7:30:

Family Dinner with friends and Adar dancing

6:10-7:15: Shabbat Friendly Entertainment

Children 3-6 years old: **Interactive Juggling Show!**

Children 7 and up: **Interactive Magic Show!**

RSVP
by Feb. 24

\$100 per family (members)
\$125 per family (non members)

*no dinner reservation needed if you only plan to come to Tot Shabbat and services.

7:30-7:45
Dessert

Make reservations online at gns.org or call the shul office.

SISTERHOOD PURIM PACKAGES



GOT kids/grandchildren in College????

Friends & Family far away?

PURIM is coming March 12, 2017!!!!

Purim Packages for your College Students

and beyond...

Order a Purim package from the **GNS SISTERHOOD** and we will send it to your loved one(s) anywhere in the USA. **Order Deadline is Monday, February 27, 2017.**

Please send _____ package(s) at \$20 each to:

*** _____ Please check here if contents need to be nut free***

Recipient's Name: _____

Complete Shipping Address: _____

*(*Additional names and addresses can be added on the back of this page.)*

From: _____

(You can attach a note that you would like us to enclose or we will prepare one for you.)

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Payment enclosed: cash, check or credit card

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name On Card: _____

***We appreciate all sponsorships of this project even if you don't have a college student. Please circle your sponsorship preference below and add your payment. Thank you for your support.*

\$36 Sponsor \$52 Sponsor \$100 Sponsor \$_____ Other

Questions? Contact Judy at 516-487-6845 or Vivian at vivian@vikron.com

GNS Men's Club & Sisterhood Presents



The Newlywed Game

Love & Marriage

Saturday Night March 4th

8:00 pm

\$36/couple

Men's Club/Sisterhood members

\$30/couple

MC'd by Rabbi Polakoff

Sushi, Pizza & Dessert

All Welcome

RSVP with Mark or Jim in the

GNS office 516.487.6100



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAVERIM AT GNS

DATE: February 22nd **11:30 - 2:00**

ACTIVITY Comedian Tali Reiss

LUNCH RSVP by calling the shul office or emailing Michelle

LAST EVENT'S SPONSORS Thank you to Erica Weisler for sponsoring our Tu B'Shevat Seder

Upcoming Chaverim dates:
 March 8th - Book Group "The Last Chinese Chef" by Nicole Mones
 March 22nd - Anna Kaplan
 Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

"Unforgettable... A fitting tribute to Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, one of the great heroes of the 20th century."
 JEFFREY LYONS, NBC REEL TALK

I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

SATURDAY NIGHT 8:30 PM
FEBRUARY 25 BEIT MIDRASH

NARRATED BY NICOLE KIDMAN

EMERSON WILCOX PRODUCTIONS • MORGAN FILMS PRODUCTION
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JASON ALLEN • PRODUCED BY: JERRY AND STRETTON • WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY: MICHAEL WIESENTHAL
 CASTING BY: LEE WILCOX • COSTUME DESIGNER: JEFFREY WATSON • HAIR & MAKEUP: JESSICA WIESENTHAL • PRODUCTION DESIGNER: RICHARD TRANK
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MICHAEL WIESENTHAL AND RICHARD TRANK • DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD TRANK

STUDY. LEARN. GROW.

GNS Women's Learning Series

presents
 Rebbetzin Aviva Feiner

Pre - Purim Lecture

Monday Evening, March 6th
8:00 pm
 Hosted by Lisa Stein
 10 Beach Rd in Great Neck

Rebbetzin Aviva Feiner is an internationally recognized lecturer with years of experience at various seminaries in Eretz Yisrael. She is the co-founder of the highly successful post-seminary Chochmas Nashim learning program in Jerusalem, where she lectured weekly on Tanach. She is currently the Rebbetzin of Congregation Kneseth Yisrael ("The White Shul") in Far Rockaway, NY where in addition to her many duties, she also serves as a kallah teacher and organizes community events. She earned her BA in psychology from Queens College and a Masters Degree in Special Education from Johns Hopkins University.

Save a life Give Blood

Men's Club
 Spring Blood Drive

Sunday, March 19, 2017

See David Rein or Michael Kohler for more information

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
Jonathan Bakshi
Steven Blumner
Robyn Blumner
Jeroen Bours
Robin Bours
Arnold Breitbart
Viviane Breitbart
Hal Chadow
Deborah Chadow
Gary Chubak
Lillian Chubak
Laura Cohen
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
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Didi Hutt
Mitchell Hutt
Rachel Hutt
Rabbi Sean Jensen
Erran Kagan
Lisa Kagan
Leonard Kahn
Leslie Kahn
Marc Kalter
Dalia Katan
Elena Katan
Gloria Kaylie
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Ariella Kohansieh
Michelle Kohansieh
Celia Lemonik
Jack Lemonik
Alec Ludwig
Cindy Ludwig
Tina Machnikoff
Adeline Markowitz
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Jaime Mittleman
Jared Ort
Edward Parver
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Harlan Pittell
Rabbi Dale Polakoff
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Amy Reiss
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Devorah Wang
Howard Wolf
Michele Wolf
Maxine Wiesenfeld

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.

SCOPE

SCOPE magazine is interested in you and your families. The happy news and the less than happy - please send the background stories behind the marriages, engagements, bar/bat mitzvahs and birth announcements. We also want to remember and honor those who died and share their life story. Please email submissions to SCOPE Contributing Editor, Zach Dicker at zdicker@verizon.net.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Shaare Zedek Medical Center's Women's Health Day - **Wed. March 15, 2017** at the New York Academy of Medicine. Sign up at www.acsz.org/healthday. For more information contact Sharon Goldwyn at sgoldwyn@acsz.org.

SATURDAY NIGHT FILMS

GNS will be showing "I Have Not Forgotten You - The Life & Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal", **Feb. 25th at 8:30 pm.**

SAVE THE DATE

The North Shore Hebrew Academy's Annual Dinner will take place on **Sunday, April 2**, at Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation. The Guests of Honor are **Cheryl & Ronald Silverman, in loving memory of Markus Orbach, z'l and Drs. Laura and Scott Danoff and Mrs. Susan Newborn**, Distinguished Faculty Award. Those wishing to serve on the Dinner committee, please contact aflatow@nsha.org or call the Business Office at 487-8687 ext 2.

YOUNG FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Please join us **Friday Night, March 3rd** to bring in the month of Adar, with a Tot Shabbat Program, Family minyan, Friday night dinner and a juggling and magic show. Cost is \$100 and \$125 for non-members. Sign up at gns.org or call the office.

MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD NEWLYWED EVENT

On **Saturday night, March 4th at 8:00 pm**, the Men's Club & Sisterhood present "Newlywed Games", hosted by Rabbi Polakoff. Cost for members of Men's Club/Sisterhood is \$30 and \$36 for non-members. RSVP at the GNS office.

Arnold Breitbart would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff & Lichter, and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the loss of his beloved mother, Lucy Breitbart.

SISTERHOOD PURIM BASKETS & CARDS

Sisterhood is once again selling Purim baskets and cards to be sent to your loved ones. The baskets are \$20 and the cards can be purchased for \$3 each or 10 for \$25. Contact Vivian Kron at Vivian@vikron.com or 516.244.6330 or Judy Lillien at 516.487.6845.

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

Please feel free to reach out to Rabbi Jesse & Lauren Shore to invite them for meals on the following Shabbatot: Feb. 25th, Mar. 11th, Mar. 18th, and Apr. 8th. Contact them 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

Feb. 25: Sat. Night Film: "I Have Never Forgotten You"
Mar. 3: Young Family Friday Night Dinner
Mar. 4: Men's Club & Sisterhood Newlywed Games
Mar. 5: Men's Club Annual Rabbinic Dialogue

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Saturday, 22 Shevat

Arnie Flatow for Morris Flatow
Diane Seidle for Louis Melnick
Rita Silverman for Dora Pentol
Perry Schneider for Samuel Schneider

Sunday, 23 Shevat

Sheila Bachman for Max Bachman
Halina Greenwald for David Greenwald
Albert Safdieh for Irene Lipsein
Phil Hanfling for Julius Schneider
Phil Hanfling for Yehuda Schneider

Monday, 24 Shevat

Matthew Gartenhaus for Stanley Gartenhaus
Moselle Berkowitz for Hannah Kerben

Tuesday, 25 Shevat

Mark Abraham for Shalom Yitzhak ben David Abraham
David Birnbaum for Andor Jack Birnbaum
Louis Goldstein for Minnie Goldstein
Abraham Krieger for Tonia Krieger

Wednesday, 26 Shevat

Ruth Seif for Hadassa Dolinsky
Diane Rein for Helene Marcia Fink

Thursday, 27 Shevat

Sharon Herman for Joseph Adler
Uri Rosin for Miriam Aldouby
Doreen Zobel for Sabina Geist
Morris Seidman for Mala Seidman

Friday, 28 Shevat

Frank Bachrach for Ludwig bachrach
Shulamid Gavronsky for Israel Kopelowitz
Howard Lorber for Ronald Lorber