



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Terumah

March 4, 2017 6 Adar, 5777

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Terumah

It was the first Israelite house of worship, the first home Jews made for God. But the very idea is fraught with paradox, even contradiction. How can you build a house for God? He is bigger than anything we can imagine, let alone build. King Solomon made this point when he inaugurated another house of God, the First Temple: "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain You. How much less this house I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27). So did Isaiah in the name of God himself: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What house can you build for me? Where will my resting place be? (Is. 66:1). Not only does it seem impossible to build a home for God. It should be unnecessary. The God of everywhere can be accessed anywhere, as readily in the deepest pit as on the highest mountain, in a city slum as in a palace lined with marble and gold.

does not live in buildings. He lives in builders. He lives not in structures of stone but in the human heart. What the Jewish sages and mystics pointed was that in our parsha God says, "Let them build me a sanctuary that I may dwell in them" (Ex. 25:8), not "that I may dwell in it." Why then did God command the people to make a sanctuary at all? The answer given by most commentators, and hinted at by the Torah itself, is that God gave the command specifically after the sin of the golden calf. The people made the calf after Moses had been on the mountain for forty days to receive the Torah. So long as Moses was in their midst, the people knew that he communicated with God, and God with him, and therefore God was accessible, close. But when he was absent for nearly six weeks, they panicked. Who else could bridge the gap between the people and God? How could they hear God's instructions? Through what intermediary could they make contact with the divine presence? That is why God said to Moses, "Let them build me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." The key word here is the verb sh-kh-n, to dwell. Never before had it been used in connection with God. It eventually became a keyword

of Judaism itself. From it came the word Mishkan meaning a sanctuary, and Shekhinah, the divine presence.

Central to its meaning is the idea of closeness. Shakhen in Hebrew means a neighbor, the person who lives next door. What the Israelites needed and what God gave them was a way of feeling as close to God as to our next-door neighbor. That is what the patriarchs and matriarchs had. God spoke to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah intimately, like a friend. He told Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child. He explained to Rebecca why she was suffering such acute pain in pregnancy. He appeared to Jacob at key moments in his life telling him not to be afraid. That is not what the Israelites had experienced until now. They had seen God bringing plagues on the Egyptians. They had seen Him divide the sea.

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**TORAH
ARTSCROLL 444
HERTZ 326**

**HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1157
HERTZ 336**

Times

Candle Lighting	5:30 pm
Mincha	5:30 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Youth Minyan	8:30 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Main	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Gemara Shiur	4:25 pm
Mincha	5:25 pm
Shabbos Ends	6:40 pm
R' Reisman Video	8:30 pm
Sun. March 5	7:30/8:30 am
Mon.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed, Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Thurs.	
Ta'anit Esther	6:30/7:45 am
Mincha	5:40 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Mar. 4	9:15/10:12 am
Mar. 11	9:08/10:07 am
Next Shabbat Tetzaveh	
Candle Lighting	5:38 pm
Mincha	5:40 pm

They had seen Him send manna from heaven and water from a rock. They had heard His commanding voice at Mount Sinai and found it almost unbearable. They said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." God had appeared to them as an overwhelming presence, an irresistible force, a light so bright that to look at it makes you blind, a voice so strong it makes you go deaf. So for God to be accessible, not just to the pioneers of faith – the patriarchs and matriarchs – but to every member of a large nation, was a challenge, as it were, for God Himself. He had to do what the Jewish mystics called tzimtzum, "contract" Himself, screen His light, soften His voice, hide His glory within a thick cloud, and allow the infinite to take on the dimensions of the finite.

But that, as it were, was the easy part. The difficult part had nothing to do with God and everything to do with us. How do we come to sense the presence of God? It isn't difficult to do so standing at the foot of Mount Everest or seeing the Grand Canyon. You do not have to be very religious or even religious at all, to feel awe in the presence of the sublime. The psychologist Abraham Maslow, whom we encountered a few weeks ago in these pages, spoke about "peak experiences", and saw them as the essence of the spiritual encounter. But how do you feel the presence of God in the midst of everyday life? Not from the top of Mount Sinai but from the plain beneath? Not when it is surrounded by thunder and lightning as it was at the great revelation, but when it is just a day among days? That is the life-transforming secret of the name of the parsha, Terumah. It means "a contribution". God said to Moses: "Tell the Israelites to take for me a contribution. You are to receive the contribution for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give" (25:2). The best way of

encountering God is to give. The very act of giving flows from, or leads to, the understanding that what we give is part of what we were given. It is a way of giving thanks, an act of gratitude. That is the difference in the human mind between the presence of God and the absence of God. If God is present, it means that what we have is His. He created the universe. He made us. He gave us life. He breathed into us the very air we breathe. All around us is the majesty, the plenitude, of God's generosity: the light of the sun, the gold of the stone, the green of the leaves, the song of the birds. This is what we feel reading the great creation psalms we read every day in the morning service. The world is God's art gallery and His masterpieces are everywhere. When life is a given, you acknowledge this by giving back. But if life is not a given because there is no Giver, if the universe came into existence only because of a random fluctuation in the quantum field, if there is nothing in the universe that knows we exist, if there is nothing to the human body but a string of letters in the genetic code and to the human mind but electrical impulses in the brain, if our moral convictions are self-serving means of self-preservation and our spiritual aspirations mere delusions, then it is difficult to feel gratitude for the gift of life. There is no gift if there is no giver. There is only a series of meaningless accidents, and it is difficult to feel gratitude for an accident.

The Torah therefore tells us something simple and practical. Give, and you will come to see life as a gift. You don't need to be able to prove God exists. All you need is to be thankful that you exist – and the rest will follow. That is how God came to be close to the Israelites through the building of the sanctuary. It wasn't the quality of the wood and metals and drapes. It wasn't the glitter of jewels on the breastplate of the High Priest. It wasn't the beauty of the architecture or the smell of the sacrifices. It was the fact that it was built out of the gifts of "everyone whose heart prompts them to give" (Ex. 25:2). Where people give voluntarily to one another and to holy causes, that is where the divine presence rests. Hence the special word that gives its name to this week's parsha: Terumah. I've translated it as "a contribution" but it actually has a subtly different meaning for which there is no simple English equivalent. It means "something you lift up" by dedicating it to a sacred cause. You lift it up, then it lifts you up. The best way of scaling the spiritual heights is simply to give in gratitude for the fact that you have been given. God doesn't live in a house of stone. He lives in the hearts of those who give.



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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Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

Thursday, March 9, 2017
Ta'anit Esther - Fast of Esther
Fast Begins: 5:03 am
Shacharit with Slichot: 6:30/7:45 am
Mincha: 5:30 pm
Fast Ends: 6:29 pm

SISTERHOOD PURIM PACKAGES, PURIM CARDS & CHESD



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: _____

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Payment enclosed: cash, check or credit card

Credit Card Number: _____

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**We appreciate all contributions of this amount even if you don't have a college student. Please credit your sponsorship professional advice and add your payment. Thank you for your support.

\$36 Sponsor \$52 Sponsor \$100 Sponsor \$_____ Other
 Questions? Contact Judy at 516-487-8845 or Vivian at vivian@afyafoundation.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Mini Shabbaton

OLD MILL ROAD-GREAT NECK NEW YORK

NERF WAR II

GRADES 3-4 BOYS

saturday night 4 MARCH

★ 7:00-8:45pm ★ Friends

★ Pizza ★ Snacks

DON'T MISS THIS.



GNS February Chesed Collection

Don't know what to do with medical supplies you no longer need?

Donate them to help underserved people, clinics and hospitals in US, Haiti, and Africa

**Drop off from Sunday - Thursday
 Leave supplies at front door
 13 Church St. Great Neck**

We are collecting:
 wheel chairs, canes, walkers, commodes, eyeglasses, bandages, cribs, drains, tubing, face masks, gloves, catheters, IV kits, soap, autoclaves, shower seats, raised toilet seats, hospital beds, crutches, sutures, braces etc.

NO PRESCRIPTION MEDS
 NO POST EXPIRATION DATES

Donations will be distributed by:
www.afyafoundation.org

For more info, Call Nechama 516.773.3572

BUY PURIM CARDS FROM SISTERHOOD



10 for \$25 or \$3 each

Available in the Synagogue office

SOLD OUT!

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

6:30-7:15: Shabbat Friendly Entertainment

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

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

7:30-7:45

Dessert

\$100 per family (members)

\$125 per family (non members)

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

**RSVP
by Feb. 24**

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

ANNUAL RABBINIC DIALOGUE

ARE WE STILL ONE PEOPLE?

A FRANK LOOK AT THE
POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS & SOCIAL ISSUES
DIVIDING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY



Join Rabbis
Dale Polakoff,
Tara & Meir Feldman,
Yamin Levy &
Howard Stecker
for a community event

DATE: SUNDAY MARCH 5TH

SITE: TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

**COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST 9:15 AM
DIALOGUE 10:00 AM**

CO-SPONSORED BY:
TEMPLE ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB
**GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
MEN'S CLUB**
AND BETH-EL BROTHERHOOD

UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDY. LEARN. GROW.

GNS Women's Learning Series



Rebbetzin Aviva Feiner
on

The Pursuit of Happiness: Can We Catch It?

Tuesday Evening, March 7th
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 she also serves as a kallah teacher and organizes community events. She earned her B.A. in psychology from Queens College and a Masters Degree in Special Education from Johns Hopkins University.

GNS MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD PRESENT

"AN EVENING
THAT WILL BE
TALKED ABOUT FOR YEARS"



The
Newlywed
Game

MC'D BY
RABBI POLAKOFF

SATURDAY NIGHT
MARCH 18TH
8:30 PM

COUPLES
TO BE ANNOUNCED

\$18 per person in advance/\$25 at door
\$15 per person for paid up members of Men's Club & Sisterhood

Sushi, Pizza & Dessert, BYOB

All Welcome

RSVP with Mark or Jim
GNS office 516.487.6100



Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series



Rabbi Aaron Leibowitz

March 18, 2017

Sponsored by
David & Diane Rein
in memory of
Dr. Howard Rein z"l

Shabbat Morning Drasha

Can I Trust You?
Kashrut, Social Dynamics
& Jewish Unity

Seudah Shlishit Drasha

Let it Rain:
The Eco-Erotic Roots of
Jewish Prayer

Rabbi Aaron Leibowitz is a Jerusalem Council City Member, representing the Yerushalmim Party, a joint party of religious and secular representatives. He is the founder of Hashgacha Pratit, an Alternative Kosher Supervision agency making waves in Israel today. He is a master and inspirational teacher and a gifted storyteller.

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
Rachel Barnehama
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
Tia DiSalvo
Isaac Elyassoff
Jacob 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
Dalia Katan
Elena Katan
Gloria Kaylie
Jack Khorramian
Ariella Kohansieh
Michelle Kohansieh
Celia Lemonik
Jack Lemonik
Alec Ludwig
Cindy Ludwig
Tina Machnikoff
Adeline Markowitz
Avraham Markowitz
Jaime Mittleman
Jared Ort
Edward Parver

Brenda Parver
Harlan Pittell
Rabbi Dale Polakoff
Ellen Polakoff
Hersel Rabanipour
Payman Rabiei
Amy Reiss
Jonathan Reiss
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Jonathan Spielman
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Karen Spitalnick
Alan Steinberg
Orly Steinberg
Daniel Tavakoli
Devorah Wang
Howard Wolf
Michele Wolf

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 KIDDUSH

Hashkama Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by **Dina & Mehran Sharifian** in memory of **Yacob ben Yosef, z"l.**

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Ruth & Milton Mitzner** in memory of his siblings, Morris Mitzner, Anne Shapiro and Pearl Ducker, z"l.

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.

MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD NEWLYWED EVENT

NEW DATE!! - Sat. night, March 18th at 8:30 pm, "Newlywed Game", hosted by Rabbi Polakoff. Cost \$18 per person, \$25 at door, \$15 per person for members of Men's Club and Sisterhood. RSVP Shul office.

GNS FEBRUARY CHESS (And Early March)

During the months of Feb. & Mar., please drop off medical supplies - Sun. - Thurs. at **13 Church St.**

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.

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

Mar. 3: Young Family Friday Night Dinner
Mar. 5: Men's Club Annual Rabbinic Dialogue
Mar. 7: Women's Learning: Rebbetzin Aviva Feiner
Mar. 11: Purim Extravaganza
Mar. 18: Guest Speaker: Rabbi Aaron Leibowitz
Mar. 18: Men's Club/Sisterhood "Newlywed Game"

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHAARE ZEDEK EVENTS

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.

NYC Half Marathon Spots Available

Sun. March 19, 2017 If you would like a spot in the United Airlines NYC Half Marathon - please join Team Shaare Zedek! For more information about these events please contact sgoldwyn@acsz.org or [917.287.7334](tel:917.287.7334).

SAVE THE DATE

The North Shore Hebrew Academy's Annual Dinner will be **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 afatow@nsha.org or call the Business Office at 487-8687 ext 2.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

Annual Fundraiser for the North Shore Mikvah Association will be **Tuesday, May 16th at 7:30PM**, featuring Elie Salomon, founding board member of Yesh Tikvah. "Pitfalls, Perseverance and Ultimately Parenthood: One woman's story of persistence and how you can help others." Boutique: Threads Linen

FLORENCE SHAFFER SCHOLARSHIP

Cindy Hodkin is chairing our Florence Shaffer 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.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 6 Adar

Phyllis Weinberg for Sadye Herchkowitz
Glenn Ludwig for Doris Ludwig
Gerda Weissfeld for Max Weissfeld
Phyllis Kirsch for Charles Zuckerman

Sunday, 7 Adar

Dan Horowitz for Robert Horowitz
Michelle Landsman for Robert Horowitz
Robin Bours for Harold David Siegel
Mitchell Siegel for Rachel Siegel
Murray Weiss for Anna Weiss

Monday, 8 Adar

Norman Fisher for Henry Fisher
Naeema Pomerantz for Rachamim Soleimani
Moosa Soleimani for Rachamim Soleimani

Tuesday, 9 Adar

Ken Magida for Frieda Magida
Milton Mitzner for Morris Mitzner
Rabbi Dale Polakoff for Herbert Rosen

Wednesday, 10 Adar

Martin Brownstein for Florence Brownstein
Harry Lumerman for Avraham Moshe David

Thursday, 11 Adar

Aaron Hanasab for Farokh bat David
Sammy Cohan for Ayoob Cohen
Morris Nasser for Ezra Nasser

Friday, 12 Adar

Phil Hanfling for Nathan Hanfling
Barry Lipsius for Corrine Lipsius
Dina Sharifian for Yagoub Misaghi
Deena Heisler for Ada Wachsberg