



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei/HaChodesh/Shabbat Mevarchim

March 25, 2017 27 Adar, 5777

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 516
HERTZ 373

MAFTIR
ARTSCROLL 348
HERTZ 253

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1218
HERTZ 1001

BAR MITZVAH OF
DAVID LUDWIG

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
MOLAD:
MON. 3/27 8:04:10 PM
ROSH CHODESH NISAN:
TUES. MAR. 28

Times

Candle Lighting	6:53 pm
Mincha	6:55 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	5:50 pm
Mincha	6:50 pm
Shabbos Ends	8:02 pm
R' Reisman Video	9:30 pm
Sun. March 26	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues. R. Chodesh	6:30/7:45 am
Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	7:00 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Mar. 25	9:55/10:57 am
April 1	9:48/10:52 am
Next Shabbat Vayikra	
Candle Lighting	7:01 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei

At the beginning of Vayakhel Moses performs a tikkun, a mending of the past, namely the sin of the Golden Calf. The Torah signals this by using essentially the same word at the beginning of both episodes. It eventually became a key word in Jewish spirituality: k-h-l, "to gather, assemble, congregate." From it we get the words kahal and kehillah, meaning "community". Far from being merely an ancient concern, it remains at the heart of our humanity. As we will see, recent scientific research confirms the extraordinary power of communities and social networks to shape our lives. First, the biblical story. The episode of the Golden Calf began with these words: "When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered themselves [vayikahel] around Aaron..." (Ex. 32:1). At the beginning of this week's parsha, having won God's forgiveness and brought down a second set of tablets, Moses began the work of

rededicating the people: "Moses assembled [vayakhel] the entire Israelite congregation..." (Ex. 35:1). They had sinned as a community. Now they were about to be reconstituted as a community. Jewish spirituality is first and foremost a communal spirituality. Note too exactly what Moses does in this week's parsha. He directs their attention to the two great centers of community in Judaism, one in space, the other in time. The one in time is Shabbat. The one in space was the Mishkan, the Tabernacle, that led eventually to the Temple and later to the synagogue. These are where kehillah lives most powerfully: on Shabbat when we lay aside our private devices and desires and come together as a community, and the synagogue, where community has its home.

Judaism attaches immense significance to the individual. Every life is like a universe. Each one of us, though we are all in God's image, is different, therefore unique and irreplaceable. Yet the first time the words "not good" appear in the Torah are in the verse, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18). Much of Judaism is about the shape and structure of our togetherness. It values the individual but

does not endorse individualism. Ours is a religion of community. Our holiest prayers can only be said in the presence of a minyan, the minimum definition of a community. When we pray, we do so as a community. Martin Buber spoke of I-and-Thou, but Judaism is really a matter of We-and-Thou. Hence, to atone for the sin the Israelites committed as a community, Moses sought to consecrate community in time and place.

This has become one of the fundamental differences between tradition and the contemporary culture of the West. We can trace this in the titles of three landmark books about American society. In 1950, David Riesman, Nathan Glazer and Reuel Denney published an insightful book about the changing character of Americans, called *The Lonely Crowd*. In 2000 Robert Putnam of Harvard published *Bowling Alone*, an account of how more Americans than ever were going ten-pin bowling but fewer were joining bowling clubs and leagues. In 2011, Sherry Turkle of MIT published a book on the impact of smart phones and social networking

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IN HONOR OF THE
BAR MITZVAH
OF THEIR SON DAVID

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LISA & ALAN ADLER
IN MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS
BELLA & MURRAY ADLER, Z"l.

software called Alone Together. Listen to those titles. They are each about the advancing tide of loneliness, successive stages in the long, extended breakdown of community in modern life. Robert Bellah put it eloquently when he wrote that "social ecology is damaged not only by war, genocide and political repression. It is also damaged by the destruction of the subtle ties that bind human beings to one another, leaving them frightened and alone." That is why the two themes of Vayakhel – Shabbat and the Mishkan, today the synagogue – remain powerfully contemporary. They are antidotes to the attenuation of community. They help restore "the subtle ties that bind human beings to one another." They reconnect us to community.

Consider Shabbat. Michael Walzer, the Princeton political philosopher, draws attention to the difference between holidays and holy days (or as he puts it, between vacations and Shabbat). The idea of a vacation as a private holiday is relatively recent. Walzer dates it to the 1870s. Its essence is its individualist (or familial) character. "Everyone plans his own vacation, goes where he wants to go, does what he wants to do." Shabbat, by contrast, is essentially collective: "you, your son and daughter, your male and female servant, your ox, your donkey, your other animals, and the stranger in your gates." It is public, shared, the property of us all. A vacation is a commodity. We buy it. Shabbat is not something we buy. It is available to each on the same terms: "enjoyed for everyone, enjoyed by everyone." We take vacations as individuals or families. We celebrate Shabbat as a community. Something similar is true about the synagogue – the Jewish institution, unique in its day, that was eventually adopted by Christianity and Islam in the form of the church and mosque. We noted above Robert Putnam's argument in Bowling Alone, that Americans were becoming more individualistic. There was a loss, he said, of "social capital," that is, the ties that bind us together in

shared responsibility for the common good. A decade later, Putnam revised his thesis. Social capital, he said, still exists, and you can find it in churches and synagogues. Regular attendees at a place of worship were – so his research showed – more likely than others to give money to charity, engage in voluntary work, donate blood, spend time with someone who is depressed, offer a seat to a stranger, help find someone a job, and many other measures of civic, moral and philanthropic activism. They are, quite simply, more public spirited than others. Regular attendance at a house of worship is the most accurate predictor of altruism, more so than any other factor, including gender, education, income, race, region, marital status, ideology and age.

Most fascinating of his findings is that the key factor is being part of a religious community. What turned out not to be relevant is what you believe. The research findings suggest that an atheist who goes regularly to a house of worship (perhaps to accompany a spouse or a child) is more likely to volunteer in a soup kitchen than a fervent believer who prays alone. The key factor again is community. This may well be one of the most important functions of religion in a secular age, namely, keeping community alive. Most of us need community. We are social animals. Evolutionary biologists have suggested recently that the huge increase in brain size represented by Homo sapiens was specifically to allow us to form more extended social networks. It is the human capacity to co-operate in large teams – rather than the power of reason – that marks us off from other animals. As the Torah says, it is not good to be alone.

Recent research has shown something else as well. Who you associate with has a powerful impact on what you do and become. In 2009 Nicholas Christakis and James Fowler did statistical analysis of a group of 5,124 subjects and their 53,228 ties to friends family and work colleagues. They found that if a friend takes up smoking, it makes it significantly more likely (by 36 percent) that you will. The same applies to drinking, slenderness, obesity, and many other behavioral patterns. We become like the people we are close to. A study of students at Dartmouth College in the year 2000 found that if you share a room with someone with good study habits, it will probably raise your own performance. A 2006 Princeton study showed that if your sibling has a child, it makes it 15 per cent more likely that you will within the next two years. There is such a thing as "social contagion". We are profoundly influenced by our friends – as indeed Maimonides states in his law code, the Mishneh Torah (Laws of Character Traits, 6:1). Which brings us back to Moses and Vayakhel. By placing community at the heart of the religious life and by giving it a home in space and time – the synagogue and Shabbat – Moses was showing the power of community for good, as the episode of the Golden Calf had shown its power for bad. Jewish spirituality is for the most part profoundly communal. Hence my definition of Jewish faith: the redemption of our solitude.



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
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Rabbi Jesse Shore, Rabbinic Intern
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

PESACH PREPARATIONS

**PASSOVER SHMURAH MATZAH
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE**

is again pleased to serve its membership with the sale of
Hand Baked SHMURAH MATZAH
Pick-up for Matzah will be on

Thursday, April 6, 2017 Between 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm

All orders must be prepaid

Please make checks payable to GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

All orders must be received **before March 31, 2017**, while supplies last.

Please order early!

Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Bus.) _____

Email _____

_____ lb. Shmurah Matzah @ \$32.00 per lb. _____

Total Cost _____

Check must be included with order.

TWO WAYS TO GET A MITZVAH THIS PASSOVER

GNS - Passover Food Chesed Collection 2017

Got Matzah??

Please drop off Passover Matza, boxed & canned food items
to donate to needy families!!

Please drop off at the

Lunzer Home, 91 Bayview Ave, Sunday - Friday until April 4th

Please ring bell so it can be brought into the house. Please leave all food in
shopping or garbage bags. Do Not bring items in Glass containers.

Chometz Chesed Collection 2017

Don't throw out your Chometz! Please donate your Chometz now!!!

Please drop off your Chometz

at the Atlas home, 9 Brook Lane, Sunday - Friday: until April 4th

Please leave in bags at the garage door!

Thank you for being a part of this special Mitzvah!

CHAVERIM AT GENS

DATE: March 22nd

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Presentation by Anna Kaplan on
Town of North Hempstead's
Project Independence

LUNCH

RSVP by calling the shul office
or emailing Michelle

LAST EVENT'S SPONSORS

Thank you to Michele Wolf for sponsoring lunch
in memory of
her mother Ruth Berman's 15th yahrtzeit
and her father Philip Berman's 17th yahrtzeit.

Break for Pesach
Next Program - April 26th

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

An Extraordinary Event by the United Jewish Communities
of Long Island & New York City

Premiering Distinguished Guest of Honor
Ambassador Dani Dayan

The United States Approach to Israel and the Two-State Solution



Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - 7:30 pm
Grand Ballroom of Temple Israel of Great Neck

General Admission: \$100
Gourmet Glatt Kosher Dinner

Open Bar, Music & Entertainment

Tickets on Sale for Purchase at
Great Neck Synagogue office

Proceeds of event are dedicated to Jewish National Funds of Israel for severe losses and damages caused by raging fires throughout Israel in November, 2016.

MINI SHABBATON Boys Grades 5-7

Saturday Night
March 25, 8:30-10:00pm

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

**Pizza, snack,
raffle & more!!**



ParentsOnly.com

A collage of baseball-related images. At the top left is a pennant that says "MEN'S CLUB". To the right, text reads "SUNDAY APRIL 2ND @ 10AM". Below this is a photo of two men in jackets, one pointing. A green banner says "Complimentary Breakfast ALL WELCOME!". The center features a group of Brooklyn Dodgers players in white uniforms with blue accents, including a catcher and a player with jersey number 58. Below the players, text reads "TALKING BASEBALL: HISTORY & TRIVIA" and "Ira Dornstein & Paul Fredericks share their encyclopedic knowledge of America's pastime by presenting an audio-visual feast for those who enjoy the game and its history." Below that, it says "A prize will be awarded to a winner of a baseball trivia contest!". At the bottom are three smaller images: a baseball player at bat, a man in a white shirt holding a bat, and two men in Mets jerseys. A yellow baseball bat is positioned vertically on the right side of the collage.

**SUNDAY
APRIL 2ND
@
10AM**

Complimentary Breakfast
ALL WELCOME!

TALKING BASEBALL: HISTORY & TRIVIA
Ira Dornstein & Paul Fredericks share their encyclopedic knowledge of America's pastime by presenting an audio-visual feast for those who enjoy the game and its history.

A prize will be awarded to a winner of a baseball trivia contest!

BIG LEAGUE TRIVIA

METS

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

REMEMBER

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE PRESENTS
ROMAN KENT

CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS AND TREASURER OF THE CONFERENCE OF
MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY

ROMAN KENT HAS WORKED WITH PRESIDENTS, SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN,
AMBASSADORS AND A MULTITUDE OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS WHILE FIGHTING
TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS, THE STOLEN PROPERTY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
THE LOST DIGNITY OF HIS FELLOW SURVIVORS.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017 • 8:00 P.M.

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.

NOT TOO LATE! JOIN US!!

Peyman Ahdout
Nathaniel Aryeh
Penny Aryeh
Kousha Askari
Jonathan Bakshi
Rachel Barnehama
Bart Baum
Emma Baum
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
Elliot Frumkin
Tom Furst
Debbie Furst

Sharon Goldwyn
Chris Hackel
Jessica Hackel
Dina Hamerman
Natan Hamerman
Joseph Hecht
Donna Hecht
Erik Herz
Jen Hillel
Rabbi Sean Jensen
Erran Kagan
Lisa Kagan
Leonard Kahn
Leslie Kahn
Lisa Kalimi
Marc Kalter
Dalia Katan
Elena Katan
Gloria Kaylie
Jack Khorramian
Ariella Kohansieh
Michelle Kohansieh
Mina Kotler
Herman Kotler
Celia Lemonik
Jack Lemonik
Alec Ludwig
Cindy Ludwig
Tina Machnikoff
Adeline Markowitz
Jaime Mittleman
Jared Ort

Edward Parver
Brenda Parver
Harlan Pittell
Rabbi Dale Polakoff
Ellen Polakoff
Hersel Rabanipour
Payman Rabiei
Amy Reiss
Jonathan Reiss
Ben Rosenberg
Carl Rosenberg
Jonathan Rozenberg
Ariel Sassoon
Dov Sassoon
Harriet Schimel
Leon Schwechter
Donna Schwechter
Hayel Shaban
Ronnie Shaban
Daniella Siuni
Charlene Soleimani
Robert Sperber
Cheryl Sperber
Robert Spitalnick
Karen Spitalnick
Alan Steinberg
Orly Steinberg
Daniel Tavakoli
Devorah Wang
Ron Wasserman
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.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Join the Chaverim Center this **Wednesday, March 22nd** from 11:30-2:00 to hear Anna Kaplan's presentation on the Town of North Hempstead's Project Independence. Lunch will be served.

GNS CHESED PRE-PESACH

Drop off Passover food items to be donated to families at the Lunzer home, 91 Bayview Ave. and Chametz can be dropped off at the Atlas home, 9 Brook Lane.

JNF FUNDRAISER IN GREAT NECK

Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 pm at Temple Israel

Join us for an extraordinary event by the United Jewish Communities of Long Island & New York City. General Admission: \$100 includes Gourmet Glatt Kosher Dinner, Open Bar, Music & Entertainment. Tickets on Sale for purchase at Great Neck Synagogue office.

KASHER-IN

Monday evening, April 3rd from 7:45-10:00 pm will be the Kasher-In. Please ensure that utensils have not been used for 24 hours and they are clean and polished.

SHOE GEMACH FOR PESACH

Sara's Shoes is in need of women's shoes in new or nearly new condition in advance of the Pesach season. Shoes can be dropped off by the Lonzers at 91 Bayview Ave. Please email Sarahshoegemach@gmail.com or call Ariella Lunzer at 516-241-1086 for more information.

HUNGER INITIATIVE

Great Neck Synagogue Hunger initiative delivers Passover food to needy families and elderly people living alone. As you are shopping and preparing, we ask you to think of others less fortunate and donate funds to the GNS Hunger Initiative.

Also, DRIVERS needed to deliver Passover food to those in need, **Wednesday April 5th at 1:00 pm**. Please contact Michelle Berman michberman@gmail.com. Don't pass over this chance to do Chesed! Help others enjoy Passover.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Mar. 22: Chaverim Center
Mar. 22: JNF Fundraiser at Temple Israel
Mar. 26: AIPAC Policy Conference
Apr. 2: Men's Club Event: Talking Baseball
Apr. 3: Pesach Kasher-In

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Cindy & Glen Ludwig on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **David**.

Mazal Tov to Lisa & Dov Weinstein on the birth of a baby boy. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents, **Judy & Jerrald Weinstein**.

Mazal Tov to Malka Gad on the birth of a great grandson born to her grandchildren **Sara & Jonathan Tsur**.

NSHA ANNUAL DINNER

The North Shore Hebrew Academy's Annual Dinner celebrating 62 years of excellence in education will be 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**.

BEREAVEMENT & GRIEF GROUP COUNSELING

Many of our members who have recently lost a beloved family member may benefit from a small group which provides advice, comfort and support to those who are having difficulty in dealing with their grief. If you would be interested in participating in such a group led by rabbis and certified therapists, please call the synagogue's office giving your name and phone number where you can be reached. We hope that by sharing our grief in a small group it will provide a healing process.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 27 Adar

Alan Adler for Bella Adler

Alan Adler for Murray Adler

Leslie Kahn for Sam Krawchuk

Aaron Seligson for Hyman Seligson

Cheryl Sneag for Esther Sneag

Sunday, 28 Adar

Richard Lillien for Frances Engelhard

Joan Katz for Frank Sadinoff

Michael Aryeh for Morris Schultz

Monday, 29 Adar

Mehran Soleimani for Salar ben Sharif

Charles Berger for Joan Berger

Nadine Eckstein for Lila Gittleman

Frederick Shaw for Selma Shaw

Mansou Farhadian for Nazanin Sohayegh

Tuesday, 1 Nisan

Steven Blumner for Chaya bat Chaim

Henry Katz for Erna Katz

Edwin Rosman for Flora Rosman

Myles Mittleman for Annie Tischler

Rabbi Shimon Wolf for Arnold Wolf

Mark Abraham for Sara Rivka bat Yosef Hakohen

Wednesday, 2 Nisan

Payman Rabiei for Junjan bat Mashala

Thursday, 3 Nisan

Steven Blumner for Feige Tova bat Chaim

Ken Magida for Rachel Bilsky

Charlene Milun for Israel Israelite

Sharon Goldwyn for Frances Kessler

Carl Mosesson for Norman Mosesson

Mali Meisel for Pauline Rosenthal

Friday, 4 Nisan

Joseph Farajian for Mrs. Farajian

Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Sarah Gabbazadeh

Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Yehuda Gabbazadeh

Mark Gersten for Richard Gersten

Pia Shlomo for David Spilke