



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Acharei-Mot-Kedoshim

May 6, 2017 10 Iyar, 5777

TORAH ARTSCROLL 636 HERTZ 480 HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1173 HERTZ 509		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Acharei-Mot-Kedoshim		
Times		<p>Some years ago I was visited by the then American ambassador to the Court of St James, Philip Lader. He told me of a fascinating project he and his wife had initiated in 1981. They had come to realize that many of their contemporaries would find themselves in positions of influence and power in the not-too-distant future. He thought it would be useful and creative if they were to come together for a study retreat every so often to share ideas, listen to experts and form friendships, thinking through collectively the challenges they would face in the coming years. So they created what they called Renaissance Weekends. They still happen. The most interesting thing he told me was that they discovered that the participants, all exceptionally gifted people, found one thing particularly difficult, namely, admitting that they made mistakes. The Laders understood that this was something important they had to learn. Leaders, above all, should be capable of acknowledging when and how they had erred, and how to put it right. They came up with a brilliant</p>	<p>idea. They set aside a session at each Weekend for a talk given by a recognized star in some field, on the subject of "My biggest blooper." Being English, not American, I had to ask for a translation. I discovered that a blooper is an embarrassing mistake. A gaffe. A faux pas. A bungle. A boo-boo. A fashla. A balagan. Something you shouldn't have done and are ashamed to admit you did.</p> <p>This, in essence, is what Yom Kippur is in Judaism. In Tabernacle and Temple times, it was the day when the holiest man in Israel, the High Priest, made atonement, first for his own sins, then for the sins of his "house," then for the sins of all Israel. From the day the Temple was destroyed, we have had no High Priest nor the rites he performed, but we still have the day, and the ability to confess and pray for forgiveness. It is so much easier to admit your sins, failings and mistakes when other people are doing likewise. If a High Priest, or the other members of our congregation, can admit to sins, so can we. I have argued elsewhere (in the Introduction to the Koren Yom Kippur Machzor) that the move from the first Yom Kippur to the second was one of the great transitions in Jewish spirituality. The first Yom Kippur was the culmination of Moses' efforts to secure forgiveness for the people after the sin of the Golden Calf (Ex. 32-34). The</p>	<p>process, which began on 17th Tammuz, ended on the 10th of Tishri – the day that later became Yom Kippur. That was the day when Moses descended the mountain with the second set of tablets, the visible sign that God had reaffirmed his covenant with the people. The second Yom Kippur, one year later, initiated the series of rites set out in this week's parsha (Lev. 16), conducted in the Mishkan by Aaron in his role as High priest. The differences between the two were immense. Moses acted as a prophet. Aaron functioned as a priest. Moses was following his heart and mind, improvising in response to God's response to his words. Aaron was following a precisely choreographed ritual, every detail of which was set out in advance. Moses' encounter was ad hoc, a unique, unrepeatable drama between heaven and earth. Aaron's was the opposite. The rules he was following never changed throughout the generations, so long as the Temple stood. Moses' prayers on behalf of the people were full of audacity, what the sages called chutzpah kelapei shemaya, "audacity toward heaven," reaching a climax in the astonishing words, "Now, please forgive their sin – but if not, then blot out of the</p>
Mincha	7:37 pm			
Candle Lighting	7:00 pm			
Hashkama	8:00 am			
Youth Minyan	8:30 am			
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am			
Main	9:00 am			
Beit Midrash	9:15 am			
Women's SS w/ Mrs. Jackie Bitton	6:00 pm			
Gemara Shiur	6:30 pm			
Mincha	7:30 pm			
Shabbos Ends	8:46 pm			
R' Reisman Video	10:30 pm			
Sun. May 7	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Mincha	7:45 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
May 6	9:19/10:30 am			
May 13	9:15/10:27 am			
Next Shabbat Emor				
Candle Lighting	7:44 pm			
Mincha	7:00 pm			
KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE WITH FRUIT PLATTERS SPONSORED BY ALBERT HALIMI IN MEMORY OF ISRAEL'S FALLEN SOLDIERS				

book You have written.” (Ex. 32:32). Aaron’s behavior by contrast was marked by obedience, humility, and confession. There were purification rituals, sin offerings and atonements, for his own sins and those of his “house” as well as those of the people.

The move from Yom Kippur 1 to Yom Kippur 2 was a classic instance of what Max Weber called the “routinization of charisma”, that is, taking a unique moment and translating it into ritual, turning a “peak experience” into a regular part of life. Few moments in the Torah rival in intensity the dialogue between Moses and God after the Golden Calf. But the question thereafter was: how could we achieve forgiveness – we who no longer have a Moses, or prophets, or direct access to God? Great moments change history. But what changes us is the unspectacular habit of doing certain acts again and again until they reconfigure the brain and change our habits of the heart. We are shaped by the rituals we repeatedly perform. Besides which, Moses’ intercession with God did not, in and of itself, induce a penitential mood among the people. Yes, he performed a series of dramatic acts to demonstrate to the people their guilt. But we have no evidence that they internalized it. Aaron’s acts were different. They involved confession, atonement and a search for spiritual purification. They involved a candid acknowledgment of the sins and failures of the people, and they began with the High Priest himself. The effect of Yom Kippur – extended into the prayers of much of the rest of the year by way of tachanun, vidui, and selichot - was to create a culture in which people are not ashamed or embarrassed to say, “I got it wrong, I sinned, I made mistakes.” That is what we do in the litany of wrongs we enumerate on Yom Kippur in two alphabetical lists, one beginning Ashamnu-bagadnu, the other beginning Al cheit shechatanu.

As Philip Lader discovered, the capacity to admit mistakes is anything but widespread. We rationalize. We justify. We deny. We blame others. There have been several powerful books on the subject in recent years, among them Matthew Syed, Black Box Thinking: The Surprising Truth About Success (and Why Some People Never Learn from Their Mistakes); Kathryn Schulz, Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margins of Error, and Carol Tavis and Elliot Aronson, Mistakes Were Made, But Not By Me. Politicians find it hard to admit mistakes. So do doctors: preventable medical error causes more than 400,000 deaths every year in the United States. So do bankers and economists. The financial crash of 2008 was predicted by Warren Buffett as early as 2002. It happened despite the warnings of several experts that the level of mortgage lending and the leveraging of debt was unsustainable. Tavis and Aronson tell a similar story about the police. Once they have identified a suspect, they are reluctant to admit evidence of his or her innocence. And so it goes. The avoidance strategies are almost endless. People say, it wasn’t a mistake. Or, given the circumstances, it was the best that could have been done. Or it was a small mistake. Or it was unavoidable given what we knew at the time. Or someone else was to blame. We were given the wrong facts. We were faultily advised. So people bluff it out, or engage in denial, or see themselves as victims. We have an almost infinite capacity for interpreting the facts to vindicate ourselves. As the sages said in the context of the laws of purity, “No one can see his own blemishes, his own impurities.” We are our own best advocates in the court of self-esteem. Rare is the individual with the courage to say, as the High Priest did, or as King David did after the prophet Nathan confronted him with his guilt in relation to Uriah and Batsheva, chatati, “I have sinned.”

Judaism helps us admit our mistakes in three ways. First is the knowledge that God forgives. He does not ask us never to sin. He knew in advance that His gift of freedom would sometimes be misused. All he asks of us is that we acknowledge our mistakes, learn from them, confess and resolve not to do them again. Second is Judaism’s clear separation between the sinner and the sin. We can condemn an act without losing faith in the agent. Third is the aura Yom Kippur spreads over the rest of the year. It helps create a culture of honesty in which we are not ashamed to acknowledge the wrongs we have done. And despite the fact that, technically, Yom Kippur is focused on sins between us and God, a simple reading of the confessions in Ashamnu and Al Chet shows us that, actually, most of the sins we confess are about our dealings with other people. What Philip Lader discovered about his high-flying contemporaries, Judaism internalized long ago. Seeing the best admit that they too make mistakes is deeply empowering for the rest of us. The first Jew to admit he made a mistake was Judah, who had wrongly accused Tamar of sexual misconduct, and then, realizing he had been wrong, said, “She is more righteous than I” (Gen. 38:26). It is surely more than mere coincidence that the name Judah comes from the same root as Vidui, “confession”. In other words, the very fact that we are called Jews – Yehudim – means that we are the people who have the courage to admit our wrongs. Honest self-criticism is one of the unmistakable marks of spiritual greatness.



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

YOM HA'ATZMAUT



GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
YOM HA'ATZMAUT
CELEBRATION

MONDAY EVENING MAY 1ST



7:35 PM: MINCHA

7:50 PM: YOM HAZIKARON
COMMEMORATION

8:00 PM: FESTIVE MA'ARIV

8:30 PM: SPECIAL
YOM HA'ATZMAUT
ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
RABBI STEVEN WEIL

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE EVENT THAT CHANGED
JEWISH DESTINY:
AN ANALYSIS OF THE SIX-DAY WAR

LIGHT DINNER SERVED



At Kings Point Park
off Steamboat Rd.

To RSVP, call GNS office
(516) 487-6100

BBQ Dinner \$18 per family
Israel Program run by Rachel & Efrat
Use of ballfields & playground



GNS 5th Annual
Women's Shabbaton with
Mrs. Jackie Bitton
Shabbat May 5-6

Friday Night Dinner & Oneg for Young Women:
HS Seniors, College & Graduate Students

Dinner @ GNS 8:00 pm
Oneg @ Atlas Home 9:30 pm
RSVP to zehavaatlas18@gmail.com

Mother-Daughter Seudat Shlishit
Afternoon Shiur @ 6:00 pm
Braun Youth Center

Living with an
Attitude of Gratitude

Sponsorships Available
by calling the GNS office

YIZKOR BOOKLETS

GNS Book of Remembrance 2017-2018

Dear Friends,

Yizkor is a time of Remembrance. Those who have lost dear ones mark the memories of the deceased through memorial plaques on their Synagogue walls, kindling Yartzheit Lights on the anniversary and by reciting Yizkor four times during the year. Appropriately, we distribute a special booklet at each Yizkor service with the names to be memorialized clearly listed along with the appropriate prayers.

We will republish the "Book of Remembrance" before Shavuot. If you wish to perpetuate the name of your beloved deceased in this year's edition, please fill out the form below and return to the Synagogue as soon as possible.

It has been suggested that a minimum contribution of "Chai" (\$18.00) per name would be appropriate.

Please return this form by Thursday, May 11, 2017 to be included in this booklet.

Yours very truly,

Mark S. Twersky

Rabbi Dale Polakoff

Please list the full English names of deceased relatives.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	DATE OF DEATH
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

() Please include the same names that were printed in last year's Book.

Enclosed is a check for \$_____made payable to the Great Neck Synagogue.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____



**FUN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING!
MUST SIGN UP GNS.ORG
OR CONTACT JFRISCH@GNS.ORG**

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE 26 OLD MILL ROAD (516) 487-6100

GNS MEN'S CLUB DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Presented by AAA
\$30 per person
checks made out to GNS Men's Club

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY MAY 9TH - 10TH 7:00 PM
CALL THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE TO SIGN UP



Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series

Ronnie Halibard

Shabbat May 13, 2017

Shabbat Morning Drasha
11:30 am

**"Lag Ba'Omer's
Historical Setting
and Its Significance Today"**

Shabbat Afternoon Shiur
6:40 pm

**"Crowning Rabbi Akiva
as the Most Influential
Person in Jewish History"**

Seudah Shlishit
8:15 pm

**"The Man Who Blasphemed
in Parshat Emor:
When Exactly Did It Happen
& What Can We Learn
From Its Timing?"**

Ronnie Halibard is a dynamic English-born educator with many years of experience teaching students of all ages and administrating at Jewish schools. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Jewish studies from the University of London, a Master's in Education from Johns Hopkins University, and is a licensed school teacher in Israel, where he has lived for over a decade. Over the past six years, Ronnie has created 'Jewish History in a Flash' - a series of fast-paced and exciting interactive multimedia presentations summarizing Jewish history, each with a different subject focus. He has traveled extensively, enlightening communities in the USA, Israel, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Gibraltar, South Africa, Panama, Australia and New Zealand.

**NORTH SHORE
MIKVAH
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER**

**IN MEMORY OF
BELLE GOLDWYN Z"L**



**Tuesday May 16
7:30 pm**

**Pitfalls, Perverserance
& Ultimately Parenthood:
One Woman's Story of Persistence
and How You Can Help Others**

**At the Home of
Dina Ohebshalom
121 Beach Rd.**

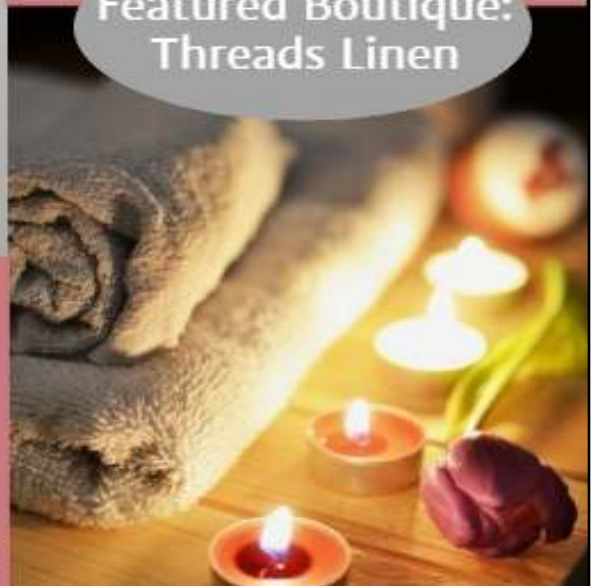
**Mikvah Board:
Sarah Akhavan, Katie Lichter,
Tovah Marmer, Diane Rein and
Roya Samuels**

Donate at northshoremikvah.org

**Featured Speaker
Elie Salomon**

**founder of
Yesh Tikvah
an organization which
raises awareness of
infertility within the
Jewish community**

**Featured Boutique:
Threads Linen**



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.

YOM HA'ATZAMUT

On **Monday evening, May 1st**, please join us as we commemorate **Yom HaZikaron** and celebrate **Yom Ha'atzmaut** with a festive Ma'ariv and hear from renowned speaker Rabbi Steven Weil. Mincha is at 7:35pm with program to follow.

Tuesday, May 2nd from 5:00-7:00 pm will be a Family Celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut in Kings Point Park.

WOMEN'S SHABBATON

This Shabbat, May 5-6, Jackie Bitton will be here as part of our annual women's shabbaton. There is a Friday night dinner at GNS for college aged young women as well as a mother-daughter Seudah Shlishit on Shabbat afternoon.

MEN'S CLUB EVENT

Tue. & Wed., May 9-10 at 7:00 pm - Defensive Driving Course. Sign up by calling the synagogue office.

HALLEL ARIEL Z"L EDUCATIONAL CENTER

After hearing Rena Ariel this past Shabbat address our congregation, we are following up with you to help fund the educational center that is being planned to be built in memory of Hallel Ariel, z"l. If you wish to contribute, please send a check to the GNS office made out to the Emergency Fund with Kerem Hallel in the memo line. Thank you very much!

THANK YOU

On behalf of the community we would like to thank **Dr. Mitchell Siegel** for organizing and running the community wide burning of chometz. Its a difficult job at a very busy time of the year and we are grateful for his involvement and leadership. Yashar koach!

MEALS FOR RABBINIC INTERN

Contact Rabbi Jesse & Lauren Shore at 610.329.2953 or nehoyvin@gmail.com to invite them for meals on the following Shabbatot: May 13th, June 3rd, 10th & 24th.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

May 1: Yom Ha'atzmaut Program w/ Rabbi Weil
 May 2: Yom Ha'atzmaut Kids Program
 May 6: Women's Shabbaton: Jackie Bitton
 May 9-10: Defensive Driving Course
 May 13: Guest Speaker: Ronnie Halibard
 May 13: Young Families Kiddush Luncheon

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Charles & Rori Sassoon and Brenda Sassoon-Rosmarin on the birth of a baby girl, born to their children **Carolyn & Ronnie Ebrani**.

Mazal Tov to Debbie & Hal Chadow on the birth of a grandson, born to her children, **Alex & Merav Rabizadeh** in Israel.

Mazal Tov to Vahid & Farangess Sedaghatpour on the birth of a baby girl to their children **Sean & Devorah Sedaghatpour**.

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Adam & Estee Acobas on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Moshe**.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION

Annual Fundraiser for the North Shore Mikvah Association will be **Tuesday, May 16th at 7:30PM**, at the home of Dina Ohebshalom, 121 Beach Rd. Elie Salomon, founding board member of Yesh Tikvah, will speak on "Pitfalls, Perseverance and Ultimately Parenthood: One woman's story of persistence and how you can help others."

BEREAVEMENT & GRIEF GROUP COUNSELING

If you are interested in participating in a grief counseling group led by rabbis and certified therapists, please call the GNS office.

NISHMAT DINNER

Nishmat's 27th Anniversary Gala Dinner will be on Sunday, June 4th, at espace in Manhattan, chaired by Sarita & Ben Greszes. To join the celebration: dinner@afnishmat.org.

Farla Frumkin would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff & Lichter, Chazzan Kron and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the passing of her beloved father, Seymour Kantrowitz z"l.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 10 Iyar

Perry Schneider for Rose Schneider

Sunday, 11 Iyar

Mark Bunim for Louis Bunim

Harriet Nathel for Pauline Chalfin

Arlette Shaya for Odette Dayan

Herschel Flax for Issy Pasvolsky

Mary Flax for Issy Pasvolsky

Osnass Shein for Isaac Shein

Helene Peyser for Paula Stadtmauer

Joseph Sokol for Rabbi Joseph Warren

Debbie Hollander for Rabbi Joseph Warren

Monday, 12 Iyar

Jerry Gil for Akiva Gil

Joseph Gil for Akiva Gil

Tuesday, 13 Iyar

Carol Karbowitz for Elizabeth Katzwer

Lynn Steinberg for Elizabeth Katzwer

Abigail Epstein for Ruth Ostrin

Thursday, 15 Iyar

Kathy Flatow for Imre David

Friday, 16 Iyar

Helene Bayme for Rhea Asher

Steven Zuckerman for Philip Zuckerman