



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Bamidbar

May 27, 2017 2 Sivan, 5777

TORAH		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Bamidbar		
ARTSCROLL 726		<p>Bamidbar is usually read on the Shabbat before Shavuot. So the sages connected the two. Shavuot is the time of the giving of the Torah. Bamidbar means, "In the desert." What then is the connection between the desert and the Torah, the wilderness and God's word? The sages gave several interpretations. According to the Mekhilta the Torah was given publicly, openly and in a place no one owns because had it been given in the land of Israel, Jews would have said to the nations of the world, "You have no share in it." Instead, whoever wants to come and accept it, let them come and accept it. Another explanation: Had the Torah been given in Israel the nations of the world would have had an excuse for not accepting it. This follows the rabbinic tradition that before God gave the Torah to the Israelites he offered it to all the other nations and each found a reason to decline. Yet another: Just as the wilderness is free – it costs nothing to enter –</p>	<p>so the Torah is free. It is God's gift to us. But there is another, more spiritual reason. The desert is a place of silence. There is nothing visually to distract you, and there is no ambient noise to muffle sound. To be sure, when the Israelites received the Torah, there was thunder and lightning and the sound of a shofar. The earth felt as if it were shaking at its foundations. But in a later age, when the prophet Elijah stood at the same mountain after his confrontation with the prophets of Baal, he encountered God not in the whirlwind or the fire or the earthquake but in the kol demamah dakah, the still, small voice, literally "the sound of a slender silence." I define this as the sound you can only hear if you are listening. In the silence of the midbar, the Medaber, the Speaker, and the medubar, that which is spoken. To hear the voice of God you need a listening silence in the soul.</p>	<p>argumentative voices in the Bet Midrash, the house of study. Remarking on this to Elie Wiesel, he asked, "Is there such a thing as a silence in Judaism?" Wiesel replied: "Judaism is full of silences...but we don't talk about them." Judaism is a very verbal culture, a religion of holy words. Through words, God created the universe: "And God said, Let there be...and there was." According to the Targum, it is our ability to speak that makes us human. It translates the phrase, "and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7) as "and man became a speaking soul." Words create. Words communicate. Our relationships are shaped, for good or bad, by language. Much of Judaism is about the power of words to make or break worlds.</p>
HERTZ 568				
HAFTORAH		<h2 style="margin: 0;">KIDDUSH</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">IS SPONSORED BY</h3> <h1 style="margin: 0;">GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</h1>		
ARTSCROLL 1180				
HERTZ 582				
Times				
Mincha	7:00 pm			
Candle Lighting	7:57 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	6:50 pm			
Mincha	7:50 pm			
Shabbos Ends	9:06 pm			
R' Reisman Video	10:30 pm			
Sun. May 28	7:30/8:30 am			
Mon.	7:30/8:30 am			
Memorial Day				
Tues. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Wed. & Thurs.	Shavuot Pg. 6			
Mincha	8:05 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
May 27	9:10/10:24 am			
June 3	9:09/10:23 am			
Next Shabbat Naso				
Candle Lighting	8:03 pm			
Mincha	7:00 pm			

the loss of his children and other afflictions, "Then they sat down with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, yet no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great." (Job 2:13). But not all silence is sad. Psalms tells us that "to You, silence is praise" (Ps. 65:2). If we are truly in awe at the greatness of God, the vastness of the universe and the almost infinite extent of time, our deepest emotions will indeed lie too deep for words. We will experience silent communion. The sages valued silence. They called it "a fence to wisdom." If words are worth a coin, silence is worth two. R. Shimon ben Gamliel said, "All my days I have grown up among the wise, and I have found nothing better than silence." The service of the priests in the Temple was accompanied by silence. The Levites sang in the courtyard, but the priests – unlike their counterparts in other ancient religions – neither sang nor spoke while offering the sacrifices. The Zohar (2a) speaks of silence as the medium in which both the Sanctuary above and the Sanctuary below are made. There were Jews who cultivated silence as a spiritual discipline. Bratslav Hassidim meditate in the fields. There are Jews who practice taanit dibbur, a "fast of words." Our most profound prayer, the private saying of the Amidah, is called tefillah be-lachash, the "silent prayer." It is based on the precedent of Hannah, praying for a child. "She spoke in her heart. Her lips moved but her voice was not heard" (1 Sam. 1:13).

God hears our silent cry. In the agonizing tale of how Sarah told Abraham to send Hagar and her son away, the Torah tells us that when their water ran out and the young Ishmael was at the point of dying, Hagar cried, yet God heard "the voice of the child" (Gen. 21:16-17). Earlier when the angels came to visit Abraham and told him that Sarah would have a child, Sarah laughed inwardly, that is,

Silently, yet she was heard by God (Gen. 18:12-13). God hears our thoughts even when they are not expressed in speech. The silence that counts, in Judaism, is thus a listening silence – and listening is the supreme religious art. Listening means making space for others to speak and be heard. As I point out in my commentary to the Siddur, there is no English word that remotely equals the Hebrew verb sh-m-a in its wide range of senses: to listen, to hear, to pay attention, to understand, to internalize and to respond in deed.

This was one of the key elements in the Sinai covenant, when the Israelites, having already said twice, "All that God says, we will do," then said, "All that God says, we will do and we will hear [ve-nishma]" (Ex. 24:7). It is the nishma – listening, hearing, heeding, responding – that is the key religious act. Thus Judaism is not only a religion of doing-and-speaking; it is also a religion of listening. Faith is the ability to hear the music beneath the noise. There is the silent music of the spheres, about which Psalm 19 speaks: The heavens declare the glory of God; The skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day to day they pour forth speech, Night to night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech, there are no words, Their voice is not heard. Yet their music carries throughout the earth. There is the voice of history that was heard by the prophets. And there is the commanding voice of Sinai, that continues to speak to us across the abyss of time. I sometimes think that people in the modern age have found the concept of "Torah from heaven" problematic, not because of some new archaeological discovery but because we have lost the habit of listening to the sound of transcendence, a voice beyond the merely human.

It is fascinating that despite his often fractured relationship with Judaism, Sigmund Freud created in psychoanalysis a deeply Jewish form of healing. He himself called it the "speaking cure", but it is in fact a listening cure. Almost all effective forms of psychotherapy involve deep listening. Is there enough listening in the Jewish world today? Do we, in marriage, really listen to our spouses? Do we as parents truly listen to our children? Do we, as leaders, hear the unspoken fears of those we seek to lead? Do we internalize the sense of hurt of the people who feel excluded from the community? Can we really claim to be listening to the voice of God if we fail to listen to the voices of our fellow humans?

In his poem, 'In memory of W B Yeats,' W H Auden wrote: In the deserts of the heart, Let the healing fountain start. From time to time we need to step back from the noise and hubbub of the social world and create in our hearts the stillness of the desert where, within the silence, we can hear the kol demamah dakah, the still, small voice of God, telling us we are loved, we are heard, we are embraced by God's everlasting arms, we are not alone.



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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OHEL SHABBATON

**SHABBAT
MAY 27TH**

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HOUSING OR DINNER**

- Shabbat dinner at GNS hosts homes
- Shabbat lunch in shul for clients & GNS hosts
- Shabbat Afternoon Oneg @ Steinberg home

CONTACT ILICHTER@GNS.ORG

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR \$50



CHAVERIM AT GNS

DATE:

May 24th

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Activity with NSHA Middle School Students
&

Book Club Discussion

The Sweetness of Forgetting by Kristin Harmel

LUNCH

RSVP by calling the shul office
or emailing Michelle

**LAST EVENT'S
SPONSORS**

Thank you to our lunch sponsor:
Shelia Bachman
in memory of her husband
Allan Bachman z"l

Next Chaverim Center: June 7

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

Yom Yerushalayim



**Wednesday Evening
May 24th**

**Great Neck Synagogue
Annual Meeting
&
Celebration of
Yom Yerushalayim**

**50 Years of a
Reunited Jerusalem**

7:15 pm: Mincha/Maariv

**7:45 pm:
A Yom Yerushalayim
Torah Exploration Video
presented by the
Orthodox Union**

Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter



Shawarma Dinner Served

8:30-9:15 pm: Annual Meeting

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE & MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

TUES. NIGHT MAY 30TH


Candle Lighting: 8:00 pm
Mincha: 8:05 pm
Shavuot Night Learning
@ GNS: 11:35 pm

WED. MAY 31ST - SHAVUOT I

Shacharit: 9:00/9:15 am
Kiddush Class: 12:15 pm
Mincha: 8:05 pm
Candle Lighting after: 8:19 pm


THURS. JUNE 1ST - SHAVUOT II


Shacharit: 8:45/9:15 am
Yizkor: approx 10:30 am
Mincha: 7:45 pm
Neilat HaChag: 8:00 pm
Yom Tov Ends: 9:10 pm



HERE COMES THE JUDGE !!!!
TALES FROM BEHIND THE BLACK ROBE

→ **SUNDAY JUNE 11TH at 10AM**

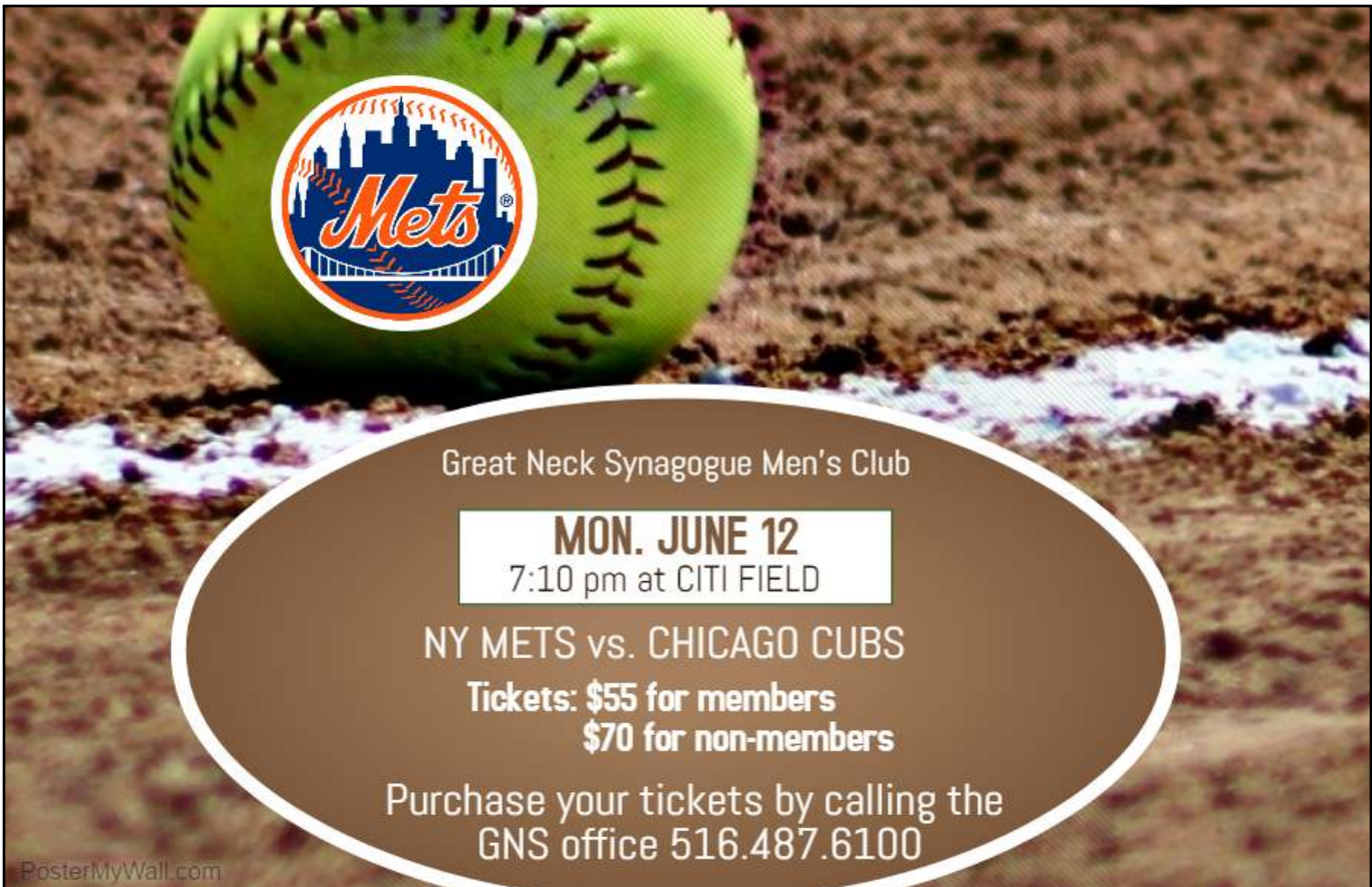
→ **The HONORABLE JUDGE GARY F. KNOBEL**
Acting County Court Judge
Supreme Court Nassau County 

→ 
Great Neck Synagogue
26 Old Mill Road
ALL WELCOME

→ **Complimentary BREAKFAST**
Bagels, Lox, Coffee & More!

→ **Judge Knobel, a GNS member,**
has been on the bench for the last 12 years and assigned to preside over guardianship cases. He has extensive knowledge of criminal and civil law, including psychiatric hearings under Kendra's Law. Judge Knobel has taught NY Civil Procedure at Hofstra Law for the past 14 years.

PosterMyWall.com



Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club

MON. JUNE 12
7:10 pm at CITI FIELD

NY METS vs. CHICAGO CUBS

Tickets: \$55 for members
\$70 for non-members

Purchase your tickets by calling the
GNS office 516.487.6100

PosterMyWall.com



Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series

David Hazony

Shabbat June 17, 2017

**Memorial Lecture and Luncheon
in memory of
Sharon Sokol-Heisler z"l
"Defending Israel
in the Time of Trump"**

**Seudah Shlishit at 8:30 pm
"Israeliness as a
Jewish Identity"**

RSVP: 516.487.6100 or jfrisch@gns.org \$40/adult \$25/teen \$15/child \$136/family maximum

David Hazony is an American-born writer and editor living in Washington after spending almost two decades in Israel. In 2013, he launched "The Tower Magazine", a long form online monthly publication dedicated to deepening our understanding of Israel and the Middle East.

David received his Ph.d in Jewish Philosophy from the Hebrew University and is a contributing editor at The Forward. His writings have appeared in the Jerusalem Post, cnn.com, The Jewish Chronicle, The New York Sun and more.

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE GRADUATION & CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

CELEBRATE ALL OF YOUR SMACHOT WITH US

BIRTHS
BAR & BAT MITZVAH
GRADUATIONS
WEDDINGS
ANNIVERSARIES
BIRTHDAYS

OR COMMEMORATE
A LOVED ONES YAHRZEIT

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CALL THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE OR SEND YOUR
INFORMATION TO MTWERSKY@GNS.ORG

COST IS \$100 PER FAMILY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5777 IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF PINCHAS BEN YOSEPH FOR OTHER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD WOLF 516-643-3344

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 be reached by email at dpolakoff@gns.org, or on his cell at 516-637-3674.

ANNUAL MEETING & YOM YERUSHALAYIM

Wednesday May 24th beginning at 7:15 pm with Mincha, followed by program and Annual Meeting at 8:30 pm.

MAY 27TH OHEL SHABBATON

If you are interested in hosting or sponsoring (\$50) the Shabbat lunch in shul, please email jlichter@gns.org.

GREAT NECK MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday, May 29, at 9:15 am. We are looking for shul members of all ages to join us as we march behind our shul's banner. To make our presentation even more exciting those with convertibles, classic cars or motorcycles, and scooters are encouraged to join with us as well. There will be T-shirts and flags for all, sponsored by the Men's club and Sisterhood. For questions, contact Alan Steinberg, our Parade chair at orlyalan@aol.com.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Sun. June 11 at 10:00 am - Judge Gary Knobel
Mon. June 12 at 7:10 pm - Mets Game vs. Cubs.
Tickets: \$55/Men's Club Members and \$70/non-members. Sign up by calling the synagogue office.

UNVEILING FOR SAM LEVITT Z"l

The Levitt family has asked to share with the community that the unveiling for Sam Levitt will take place on **Sunday, June 4, at 11 am** at Wellwood cemetery in Farmingdale. They would be very appreciative of any GNS members who knew Sam that could come and help to make a minyan at the cemetery. Please contact Rabbi Polakoff for more information.

SHARON SOKOL-HEISLER MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

On Shabbat June 17 we will be hosting David Hazony as the guest speaker for the memorial luncheon. RSVP at the synagogue office.

CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

Great Neck Synagogue Graduation & Congregational Kiddush will be **Shabbat, June 24**. Celebrate all of your smachot with us or commemorate a loved ones yahrtzeit.
To participate, please call the synagogue office or send your information to mtwersky@gns.org. Cost is \$100 per family.

DO A MITZVAH AND GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Time is of the essence! My sister is at Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease and is in need of a kidney donor. We are looking for someone with Type O blood. Are you that special person who would literally give the gift of life by donating one of your kidneys? If so, please email Karenwydra@gmail.com or call Karen Wydra at 917-299-5107. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

May 24: Annual Meeting & Yom Yerushalayim Event
May 27: OHEL Shabbaton
May 30: Shavuot Night Learning
Jun. 11: Men's Club Event: Judge Knobel
Jun. 12: Men's Club Mets Game
Jun. 17: Memorial Luncheon: David Hazony

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Regina & Joseph Gil on the upcoming marriage of their daughter **Alexandra** to **Itamar Ben Haim**.

Mazal Tov to Renee & Stuart Schwartz on the birth of a granddaughter, **Aydell Reena** born to their children **Dara Bet & Yuval Attia** in Israel.

Mazal Tov to Bonnie & Elliot Diamond on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Jack**, son of **Melissa & Ethan Feinberg** of Roslyn.

Mazal Tov to Louise & Leonard Kahn on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Gavi**, son of **Doron & DV Kahn** in Hollywood, Fl.

Mazal Tov to Anita & Hal Beretz and Rachel & Michael Singer on the graduation of their granddaughter **Dyana Beretz**, Summa Cum laude from University of Binghamton.

SAVE THE DATE

Introducing Meorot, a Judaic Studies after school program providing students with an inspired Modern Orthodox specialized Jewish education. Meorot at North Shore Hebrew Academy is a Great Neck community partnership between the local Yeshivot serving Great Neck and seeks to serve elementary aged students who present with learning or language difficulties Please save the date **Monday, June 12** for our inaugural Parlor Meeting.

YESHIVA HAR TORAH'S 17TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Monday June 19th, at the beautiful North Shore Country Club in Glen Head, NY. Guest of Honor is the outing's Founder **Alan Steinberg**. The day will start with a full breakfast, great golf, on-course BBQ lunch, cocktail party and buffet awards dinner. For information and reservations/sponsorships, please contact Marc Yehaskel at Myehaskel@gmail.com or call [\(718\) 343 2533](tel:7183432533).

SARA'S SHOES - GEMACH

Shoes and makeup can be dropped off at the Lunzers at 91 Bayview Ave. Please email Sarahshoegemach@gmail.com, text [516-241-1086](tel:5162411086) or [516-316-8690](tel:5163168690) before dropping off.

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Saturday, 2 Sivan

Rita Litvin for Tsilya Marianovsky

Sunday, 3 Sivan

Adam Hutt for Frances Hutt
Cindy Ludwig for Bertha Siegal

Monday, 4 Sivan

Trudy Jettelson for Jules Jettelson
Alan Levy for Cheryl Levy
Karen Wydra for Henry Stein-Wallach
Goldie Lorber for Nathan Winter

Tuesday, 5 Sivan

Osnass Shein for Isaac Charchat
Marc Gottlieb for Bernhard Gottlieb
Edward Mazur for Rose Mazur
Robert Spitalnick for Oscar Spitalnick
David Werber for Millie Werber
Martin Werber for Millie Werber

Wednesday, 6 Sivan

Rita Gordonson for Lewis C. Gordonson
Roselin Wagner for Fannie Tarnofsky

Thursday, 7 Sivan

Michelle Berman for Sara bat Moshe Aharon
Sanford Brand for Aron Brand
Leslie Kahn for Sally Krawchuk

Friday, 8 Sivan

Murray Frank for Meyer Frank
Roselin Wagner for Anna Seider
Jerrald Weinstein for Abraham Weinstein