



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Shelach

June 17, 2017 23 Sivan, 5777

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 798
HERTZ 623

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1184
HERTZ 635

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
TAMMUZ

MOLAD: SHABBAT
JUNE 24 AT 10:16:13 AM

ROSH CHODESH:
SHABBAT & SUNDAY
JUNE 24-25

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Shelach

One of the most powerful addresses I ever heard was given by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, on this week's parsha: the story of the spies. For me, it was nothing less than life-changing. He asked the obvious questions. How could ten of the spies have come back with a demoralizing, defeatist report? How could they say, we cannot win, the people are stronger than us, their cities are well fortified, they are giants and we are grasshoppers? They had seen with their own eyes how God had sent a series of plagues that brought Egypt, the strongest and longest-lived of all the empires of the ancient world, to its knees. They had seen the Egyptian army with its cutting-edge military technology, the horse-drawn chariot, drown in the Reed Sea while the Israelites passed through it on dry land. Egypt was far stronger than the Canaanites, Perrizites, Jebusites and other minor kingdoms that they would have to confront in conquering the land. Nor

was this an ancient memory. It had happened not much more than a year before. What is more, they already knew that, far from being giants confronting grasshoppers, the people of the land were terrified of the Israelites. They had said so themselves in the course of singing the Song at the Sea: The peoples have heard; they tremble; Pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; Trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; All the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; Because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone (Ex. 15:14-16) The people of the land were afraid of the Israelites. Why then were the spies afraid of them? What is more, continued the Rebbe, the spies were not people plucked at random from among the population. The Torah states that they were "all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel." They were leaders. They were not people given lightly to fear.

The questions are straightforward, but the answer the Rebbe gave was utterly unexpected. The spies were not afraid of failure, he said. They were afraid of success. What was their situation now? They were

eating manna from heaven. They were drinking water from a miraculous well. They were surrounded by Clouds of Glory. They were camped around the Sanctuary. They were in continuous contact with the Shekhinah. Never had a people lived so close to God. What would be their situation if they entered the land? They would have to fight battles, maintain an army, create an economy, farm the land, worry about whether there would be enough rain to produce a crop, and all the other thousand distractions that come from living in the world. What would happen to their closeness to God? They would be preoccupied with mundane and material pursuits. Here they could spend their entire lives learning Torah, lit by the radiance of the Divine. There they would be no more than one more nation in a world of nations, with the same kind of economic, social and political problems that every nation has to deal with.

The spies were not afraid of failure. They were afraid of success. Their mistake was the mistake of very holy men. They wanted to spend their lives in the closest

Times

Mincha	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting	8:10 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	7:05 pm
Mincha	8:05 pm
Shabbos Ends	9:18 pm
Sun. June 18	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	8:15 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
June 17	9:09/10:25 am
June 24	9:10/10:26 am
Next Shabbat Korach	
Candle Lighting	8:12 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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possible proximity to God. What they did not understand was that God seeks, in the Hasidic phrase, "a dwelling in the lower worlds". One of the great differences between Judaism and other religions is that while others seek to lift people to heaven, Judaism seeks to bring heaven down to earth. Much of Torah is about things not conventionally seen as religious at all: labor relations, agriculture, welfare provisions, loans and debts, land ownership and so on. It is not difficult to have an intense religious experience in the desert, or in a monastic retreat, or in an ashram. Most religions have holy places and holy people who live far removed from the stresses and strains of everyday life. There was one such Jewish sect in Qumran, known to us through the Dead Sea Scrolls, and there were certainly others. About this there is nothing unusual at all.

But that is not the Jewish project, the Jewish mission. God wanted the Israelites to create a model society where human beings were not treated as slaves, where rulers were not worshipped as demigods, where human dignity was respected, where law was impartially administered to rich and poor alike, where no one was destitute, no one was abandoned to isolation, no one was above the law and no realm of life was a morality-free zone. That requires a society, and a society needs a land. It requires an economy, an army, fields and flocks, labor and enterprise. All these, in Judaism, become ways of bringing the Shekhinah into the shared spaces of our collective life. The spies feared success, not failure. It was the mistake of deeply religious men. But it was a mistake. That is the spiritual challenge of the greatest event in two thousand years of Jewish history: the return of Jews to the land and state of Israel. Perhaps never before and never since has there been a political movement accompanied by so many dreams as Zionism. For some it was the fulfillment of

prophetic visions, for others the secular achievement of people who had decided to take history into their own hands. Some saw it as a Tolstoy-like reconnection with land and soil, others a Nietzschean assertion of will and power. Some saw it as a refuge from European anti-Semitism, others as the first flowering of messianic redemption. Every Zionist thinker had his or her version of utopia, and to a remarkable degree they all came to pass. But Israel always was something simpler and more basic. But Israel was always something more simpler and more basic. Jews have known virtually every fate and circumstance between tragedy and triumph in the almost four thousand years of their history, and they have lived in almost every land on earth. But in all that time there only ever was one place where they could do what they were called on to do from the dawn of their history: to build their own society in accord with their highest ideals, a society that would be different from their neighbors and become a role model of how a society, an economy, an educational system and the administration of welfare could become vehicles for bringing the Divine presence down to earth.

It is not difficult to find God in the wilderness, if you do not eat from the labor of your hands and if you rely on God to fight your battles for you. Ten of the spies, according to the Rebbe, sought to live that way forever. But that, suggested the Rebbe, is not what God wants from us. He wants us to engage with the world. He wants us to heal the sick, feed the hungry, fight injustice with all the power of law, and combat ignorance with universal education. He wants us to show what it is to love the neighbor and the stranger, and say, with Rabbi Akiva, "Beloved is humanity because we are each created in God's image." Jewish spirituality lives in the midst of life itself, the life of society and its institutions. To create it we have to battle with two kinds of fear: fear of failure, and fear of success. Fear of failure is common; fear of success is rarer but no less debilitating. Both come from the reluctance to take risks. Faith is the courage to take risks. It is not certainty; it is the ability to live with uncertainty. It is the ability to hear God saying to us as He said to Abraham, "Walk on ahead of Me" (Gen. 17:1).



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
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Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

The Rebbe lived what he taught. He sent emissaries out to virtually every place on earth where there were Jews. In so doing, he transformed Jewish life. He knew he was asking his followers to take risks, by going to places where the whole environment would be challenging in many ways, but he had faith in them and in God and in the Jewish mission whose place is in the public square where we share our faith with others and do so in deeply practical ways. It is challenging to leave the desert and go out into the world with all its trials and temptations, but that is where God wants us to be, bringing His spirit to the way we run an economy, a welfare system, a judiciary, a health service and an army, healing some of the wounds of the world and bringing, to places often shrouded in darkness, fragments of Divine light.



Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series

David Hazony

Shabbat June 17, 2017

Youth
End of Year Bash
this Shabbat

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.

GNS YOUTH
END OF YEAR BASH
GNS YOUTH
Shabbat June 17th
Luncheon 12:15 pm
Pick up at 4:00 pm
Bingo & Ticket Hunt
Grand Raffle
Remember to sign your tickets
before Shabbat and bring them
with you to shul!
Gluten free
available

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

**Please consider the many ways in which you can support
Great Neck Synagogue!**



Sponsor a Kiddush or Seudah Shlishit

Sponsor a Kiddush, Seudah Shlishit, Bima Flowers, Youth Snacks or Sunday Midrash Breakfast.



Enhance Your Dues

Offer to contribute a little extra each month in addition to regular dues. It all adds up and helps us a lot!



Add 3% To Your Credit Card Payment

Help us offset those fees when you make a payment with a credit card.



Donate To a Synagogue Fund

We love all donations and all our funds are important! There are 13 funds to choose from so go to gns.org to choose one that is meaningful to you.



Sponsor or Dedicate in Honor or In Memory of Someone Special

Dedicate a weekly class or lecture or a Chaverim Center lunch!



Advertise Your Business

There are a number of advertising opportunities that exist: New Member gift bags and website.



Shop on www.Smile.Amazon.com

Select Great Neck Synagogue as your preferred organization. We never see any purchasing information but we do get a commission on all purchases using the smile link.



Dedicate a Siddur (\$45) or Chumash (\$60)

Your book will be plated with a dedication in honor/memory of a person or occasion.



Honor the Memory of a Loved One

Dedicate a plaque on the GNS yizkor memorial board in the main sanctuary (\$500).



Tree of Life Leaf (\$500)

Buy a leaf to honor a loved one by commemorating a special occasion which is displayed in the lobby outside the main sanctuary.



SCOPE Magazine Sponsor (\$100 per year)

If you love reading our shul magazine, please consider being a sponsor!

To find out more about any of these opportunities, please contact the Great Neck Synagogue office at [\(516\)487-6100](tel:5164876100).



AGING Well

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017
8PM

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
SISTERHOOD

How kind are you to your body?
Are you tired, irritable, get sick often?
Is your immune system functioning optimally?
Or do you make it work twice as hard by eating junk foods?
Do you have cravings? Lead a healthy lifestyle?
Are you happy with how you are aging?

**Learn to listen to
your body**

**Live Well to Age
Well**

**Are your habits
aging you?**

**Are you holding
on to grudges?**

Valerie Engelson N.C.

HEALTH FROM WITHIN

Holistic Nutrition and
Wellness

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Within

CHAVERIM AT GNS

DATE:

June 21st

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Attorney Abraham Mazloumi
will speak on
"Simplifying Elder Law and Medicaid Planning"

LUNCH

RSVP by calling the shul office
or emailing Michelle

**LAST EVENT'S
SPONSORS**

Sponsors Welcome

Please note we will not meet on July 5th
Next Chaverim Center: July 19th

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

**SEYMOUR & SALLY
OLSHIN
ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

**TUESDAY EVENING
JULY 18TH 7:00 PM**



SANDRA RAPOPORT

**GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
SUMMER
UPCOMING
LECTURES**

**SUNDAY MORNING
AUGUST 6TH 9:15 AM**



RABBI DOVID HIRSCH

**TUESDAY EVENING
JULY 25TH 7:15 PM**



RABBI BARUCH SIMON

**TUESDAY EVENING
AUGUST 15TH 8:15 PM**



DR. EDWARD REICHMAN

**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE
516.487.6100 OR
ILICHTER@GNS.ORG**

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:

Mondays 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.

HASHKAMA MINYAN KIDDUSH

Hashkama Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by **Annie & Robert Mendelson** in honor of **Eli's** graduation from University of Pennsylvania with a dual degree.

SHARON SOKOL-HEISLER MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

This Shabbat June 17 we will be hosting David Hazony as the guest speaker for the Sharon Sokol-Heisler Memorial Luncheon. Please RSVP at gns.org or at the office.

SISTERHOOD EVENT

Tuesday, June 20 at 8:00 pm at GNS for a presentation on Health From Within by Valerie Engelson N.C.

CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

Great Neck Synagogue Graduation & Congregational Kiddush will be **Shabbat, June 24**. Please register online at gns.org, call the synagogue office, or send your information to mtwersky@gns.org. Cost is \$100 per family.

PASS IT FORWARD

Pass it forward needs driver for the summer. Two deliveries in Great Neck. Pick up between time flexible. It takes about 30 minutes. These families rely on our food for Shabbat! Contact Cindy Hodkin [516.317.9632](tel:516.317.9632) or KosherCookinggn@gmail.com.

CHOLIM FOR REFUAH SHELEIMAH

If you would like to regularly receive email blasts listing names of people in the community who are ill and in need of our prayers for a refuah shelaimah, please send your name and email to Randa Pittell (randai@optonline.net). You can also send names as needed to include on the Tehillim lists. Please include them in your daily prayers, when you light Shabbat candles and bake challah so they may merit a complete and speedy recovery.

ROSH HASHANAH SCOPE DEADLINE & SPONSORS

Please submit all articles, advertisements, photos, recipes, sponsorships and any other matters of interest for our membership for the upcoming Rosh Hashanah issue of SCOPE magazine to Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net. The deadline for all submissions is **Monday, June 26th** – thank you so much!

Thank you to our SCOPE sponsors (we have about 70!) for their strong support this past year by sponsoring 3 issues (Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Pesach) for a total cost of \$100 for the year. Without this important financial support, we would no longer be able to produce SCOPE which is enjoyed by so many people that are members and friends of Great Neck Synagogue. If you would like to continue to be a SCOPE sponsor, then it is not necessary to contact the shul. If you no longer would like to be a SCOPE sponsor please contact Mark Twersky by **Monday, June 26th** to remove your name from the list. We hope others who are not currently SCOPE sponsors will request to have their names added. You can dedicate the sponsorship in honor or in memory of a loved one. Thank you very much!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Jun. 17: Memorial Luncheon: David Hazony/Youth Bash
Jun. 20: Sisterhood Event
Jun. 24: Congregational Kiddush

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Chazzan Zeev & Bracha Kron** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, **Avi**, son of **Ruchi & Yoni Turgow**.

Mazal Tov to **Elena & Anthony Berkowitz** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Noah**.

Mazal Tov to **Melissa & Ron Zwecker** on the birth of a son.

Mazal Tov and welcome back to **Benjamin Shor** who completed 18 months of distinguished service in the IDF Golani Brigade.

Mazal Tov to **Iris & Josh Adler** on the upcoming wedding of their daughter, **Michal** to **Brian Goodman**.

Mazal Tov to **Alan Steinberg** on being the guest of honor at Yeshiva Har Torah's 17th Annual Golf outing on Monday, June 19th.

Mazal Tov to **Dassie & Eddy Barth** on the engagement of their daughter **Naomi** to **Jonathan Henkin** son of **Laurie & Bruce Henkin** of Edgemont, NY.

NAMES, NOT NUMBERS AT NSHA

Please join the North Shore Hebrew Academy on **June 15th at 7:15 pm** as the 8th grade students present their 2017 Names, Not Numbers film. Names, Not Numbers is an interactive multi-media Holocaust oral history film project created by educator Tova Fish-Rosenberg. This special event is open to the community. RSVP is required. Please contact Ms. Lisa Guggenheimer at (516) 487-9163 or lguggenheimer@nsha.org to RSVP or for more information.

AMIT

AMIT Shalhevet Chapter invites you to meet Moshe Uziel, Director of the Center for Technology & Leadership Values at AMIT Kfar Blatt, on **Wed. June 14 at 7:30 pm** at the home of Marisa & Andrew Gadlin, 1 Arleigh Road. RSVP to genenek@amitchildren.org.

**Y
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Saturday, 23 Sivan

Alan Prawer for Genia Prawer
Erein Justin for Moshe Tweg

Sunday, 24 Sivan

William Helmreich for Mark Helmreich
Allegra Goldberg for Judith Messer
Michael Singer for Jules Singer
Jill Haft for Helen Strulovic

Monday, 25 Sivan

Jack Lipsky for David Lipsky

Tuesday, 26 Sivan

Steven Blumner for Chaim ben Simcha Dovid
Steven Blumner for Chune ben Simcha Dovid
Steven Blumner for Dov ben Simcha Dovid
Steven Blumner for Tvi ben Simcha Dovid
Steven Blumner for Simcha Dovid ben Yitzhak
Barry Maher for Javaher Maher-Afarin

Wednesday, 27 Sivan

Steven Blumner for Chaya Sarah bat Yehuda
Rebeka Simhaee for Avinam ben Chaim
Rebecca Soleimani for Miriam Bigdoli
Moosa Ebrahimiyan for Amin Ebrahimiyan
Mahin Mardkha for Amin Ebrahimiyan
Farzam Kashanian for Dania Kashanian
Mali Meisel for Annie Maultasch
Mindy Leventhal for Charlotte Scheinkman
Gerald Traub for Mollie Traub

Thursday, 28 Sivan

Richard Lillien for Sol Engelhard
Jerry Gil for Esther Gil
Joseph Gil for Esther Gil
Betty Crane for Chuma Hochman
Benjamin Lunzer for Shoshana Lunzer
Herschel Flax for Joshua Paslovsky
Mary Flax for Joshua Paslovsky

Friday, 29 Sivan

Myles Mittleman for Phillip Mittleman