



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Korach/Rosh Chodesh

June 24, 2017 30 Sivan, 5777

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| <p>TORAH ARTSCROLL 820 HERTZ 639</p> <p>MAFTIR ARTSCROLL 890 HERTZ 695</p> <p>HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1208 HERTZ 944</p> | <h2>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Korach</h2> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Times</p> | <p>It was a classic struggle for power. The only thing that made it different from the usual dramas of royal courts, parliamentary meetings or corridors of power was that it took place in Burgers' Zoo in Arnhem, Holland, and the key characters were male chimpanzees. Frans de Waal's study, Chimpanzee Politics, has rightly become a classic. In it he describes how the alpha male, Yeroen, having been the dominant force for some time, found himself increasingly challenged by a young pretender, Luit. Luit could not depose Yeroen on his own, so he formed an alliance with another young contender, Nikkie. Eventually Luit succeeded and Yeroen was deposed. Luit was good at his job. He was skilled at peacekeeping within the group. He stood up for the underdog and as a result was widely respected. The females recognized his leadership qualities and were always ready to groom him and let him play with their children. Yeroen had nothing to gain by opposing him. He was already too old to become alpha male again. Nonetheless, Yeroen decided to join forces with the young Nikkie. One night they caught Luit</p> | <p>unawares and killed him. The deposed alpha male had his revenge.</p> <p>Reading the story I thought of the story of Hillel in Pirkei Avot (2:6): "He saw a skull floating upon the water, and said: Because you drowned others, you were drowned; and those who drowned you, will themselves be drowned." In fact, so humanlike were power-struggles among the chimpanzees that in 1995, Newt Gingrich, Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, included de Waal's work among the twenty-five books he recommended young congressional Republicans to read. Korach was a graduate of the same Machiavellian school of politics. He understood the three ground rules. First you have to be a populist. Play on people's discontents and make it seem as if you are on their side against the current leader. "You have gone too far!" he said to Moses and Aaron. "The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" Second, assemble allies. Korach himself was a Levite. His grievance was that Moses had appointed his brother Aaron as high priest. Evidently he felt that as Moses' cousin - son of Yitzhar, the brother of Moses' and Aaron's father Amram - he felt that the position should have gone to him. He thought it unfair</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mincha</td> <td>7:00 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candle Lighting</td> <td>8:12 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hashkama</td> <td>8:00 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth Minyan</td> <td>8:30 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parsha Shiur</td> <td>8:30 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Main</td> <td>9:00 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beit Midrash</td> <td>9:15 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gemara Shiur</td> <td>7:05 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mincha</td> <td>8:05 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shabbos Ends</td> <td>9:20 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sun. June 25 Rosh Chodesh</td> <td>7:30/8:30 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon. & Thurs.</td> <td>6:35/7:45 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tues., Wed. & Fri.</td> <td>6:45/7:45 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mincha</td> <td>8:15 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 24</td> <td>9:10/10:26 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 1</td> <td>9:13/10:28 am</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Next Shabbat Chukat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candle Lighting</td> <td>8:12 pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mincha</td> <td>7:00 pm</td> </tr> </table> | | | Mincha | 7:00 pm | Candle Lighting | 8:12 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 | 9:20 pm | Sun. June 25 Rosh Chodesh | 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 24 | 9:10/10:26 am | July 1 | 9:13/10:28 am | Next Shabbat Chukat | | Candle Lighting | 8:12 pm | Mincha |
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Third, choose the moment when the person you seek to depose is vulnerable. Ramban notes that the Korach revolt took place immediately after the episode of the spies and the ensuing verdict that the people would not enter the land until the next generation. So long as the Israelites, whatever their complaints, felt that they were moving toward their destination, there was no realistic chance of rousing the people in revolt. Only when they realized that they would not live to cross the Jordan was rebellion possible. The people seemingly had nothing to lose.

The comparison between human and chimpanzee politics is not meant lightly. Judaism has long understood that Homo sapiens is a mix of what the Zohar calls nefesh ha-behamit and nefesh ha-Elokit, the animal soul and the Godly soul. We are not disembodied minds. We have physical desires and these are encoded in our genes. Scientists speak today about three systems: the 'reptile' brain that produces the most primal fight-or-flight responses, the 'monkey' brain that is social, emotional and sensitive to hierarchy, and the human brain, the prefrontal cortex, that is slow, reflective and capable of thinking through consequences of alternative courses of action. This confirms what Jews and others, Plato and Aristotle among them, have long known. It is in the tension and interplay between these systems that the drama of human freedom is played out. In his most recent book, Frans de Waal notes that "among chimpanzees, hierarchy permeates everything." Among the females this is taken for granted and does not lead to conflict. But among males, "power is always up for grabs." It "has to be fought for and jealously guarded against contenders." Male chimpanzees are "schmoozing and scheming Machiavellians." The question is: Are we?

This is not a minor question. It may even be the most important of all if humanity is to have a future. Anthropologists are generally agreed that the earliest humans, the hunter-gatherers, were generally egalitarian. Everyone had his or her

part to play in the group. Their main tasks were to stay alive, find food, and avoid predators. There was no such thing as accumulated wealth. It was only with the development of agriculture, cities and trade that hierarchy came to dominate human societies. There was usually an absolute leader, a governing (literate) class, and the masses, used as labor in monumental building schemes and as troops for the imperial army. Judaism enters the world as a protest against this kind of structure. We see this in the opening chapter of the Torah in which God creates the human person in His image and likeness, meaning that we are all equally fragments of the Divine. Why, asked the sages, was man created singly? "So that no one could say, My ancestors were greater than yours." Something of this egalitarianism can be heard in Moses' remark to Joshua, "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that He would rest his spirit on them." However, like many of the Torah's ideals – among them vegetarianism, the abolition of slavery and the institution of monogamy – egalitarianism could not happen overnight. It would take centuries, millennia, and in many respects has not yet been fully achieved. There were two hierarchical structures in biblical Israel. There were kings and there were priests, among them the High Priest. Both were introduced after a crisis: monarchy after the failure of the rule of the 'judges', the Levitical and Aaronide priesthood after the sin of the Golden Calf. Both led, inevitably, to tension and division. Biblical Israel survived as a united kingdom for only three generations of kings and then split in two. The priesthood became a major source of division in the late Second Temple period, leading to sectarian divisions between Sadducees, Boethusians and the rest. The story of Korach explains why. Where there is hierarchy, there will be competition as to who is the alpha male.

Is hierarchy an inevitable feature of all advanced civilizations? Maimonides seems to say Yes. For him, monarchy was a positive institution, not a mere concession. Abarbanel seems to say No. There are passages in his writing that suggest he was a utopian anarchist who believed that in an ideal world no one would rule over anyone. We would each acknowledge only the sovereignty of God. Putting together the story of Korach and Frans de Waal's chimpanzee version of House of Cards, the conclusion seems to follow that where there is hierarchy, there will be struggles to be alpha male. The result is what Thomas Hobbes called "a perpetual and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death." That is why the rabbis focused their attention not on the hierarchical crowns of kingship or priesthood but on the non-hierarchical crown of Torah, which is open to all who seek it. Here competition leads not to conflict but to an increase of wisdom, and where Heaven itself, seeing sages disagree, says, "These and those are the words of the living God." The Korach story repeats itself in every generation. The antidote is daily immersion in the alternative world of Torah-study that seeks truth not power, and values all equally as voices in a sacred conversation.



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
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 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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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.

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Within

CHAVERIM AT GNS

DATE:

June 21st

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Attorney Abraham Mazloui
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

**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.



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



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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).

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE GRADUATION &
CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

CELEBRATE ALL OF YOUR SMACHOT WITH
US

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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

**SEYMOUR & SALLY
OLSHIN
ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

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



SANDRA RAPOPORT

**TUESDAY EVENING
JULY 25TH 8:30 PM**



RABBI BARUCH SIMON

**SUNDAY MORNING
JULY 2ND 9:15 AM**



RABBI MOSHE WEINBERG

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



RABBI DOVID HIRSCH

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



DR. EDWARD REICHMAN

**GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE SUMMER LECTURES
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.

HASHKAMA MINYAN KIDDUSH

Hashkama Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by **Regina & Joseph Gil**, in memory of his mother **Esther Gil z"l**.

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 **this 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.

SUMMER LEARNING SPONSORS

Those interested in sponsoring the Summer Program, please contact Rabbi Lichter - ilichter@gns.org.

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 KosherCookingqn@gmail.com.

DO A MITZVAH AND GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

My sister is at Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease and in need of a kidney donor with Type O blood. If you are a willing donor, please contact Karenwydra@gmail.com or Karen Wydra at 917-299-5107.

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 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!

BACK SECTION OF MAIN SANCTUARY

Beginning this Shabbat 6/24 and through the summer, please be aware that due to the various renovations in the ballroom, the main sanctuary will be configured to extend up to the wall for Shabbat services.

CHAVERWEB

Chaverweb is the most convenient place to view your account status, pay your bills and manage your online profile. Accessible at gns.org with your account password.

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Judy & Jerrald Weinstein on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, **Rachael Wren & Ra'anan Eichler**. **Mazal Tov** to great-grandmother, **Mrs. Shirley Weinstein**.

Mazal Tov to Robyn & Steve Blunner on the marriage of their daughter, **Sarah** to **Douglas Dolitsky**, son of **Drs. Charisse & Jay Dolitsky** of Cedarhurst.

Mazal Tov to Bianca & Edwin Shirazian on the birth of a daughter. **Mazal Tov** also to grandparents **Zara & Eli Moradi**.

Mazal Tov to Sheila Bachman on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, **Alice Maya Bachman**, daughter of **Deborah & Michael Bachman** of Scotch Plains, NJ.

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 (randai1@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.

Saturday, 30 Sivan

Albert Benak for Jacob benak
Stephen Rabinowitz for Abraham Getreu
Harriet Nathel for Daniel Nathel
Richard Reiser for Freida Reiser

Sunday, 1 Tammuz

Adin Abraham for David ben Nissan Prio
Sonia Weiss for Haim Klein
George Zobel for Alez Zobel

Monday, 2 Tammuz

Jacques Aboaf for Albert J. Aboaf
Lev Dynkin for Zalman Dynkin
Halina Greenwald for Psachje Salpeter
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Jack Shaw

Tuesday, 3 Tammuz

Henry Katz for Fred Katz
Joe Fischman for Magdalena Fischman
Sharon Janovic for Valerie Meltz
Fred Shaw for Bernard Shaw
Mitchell Siegel for Isadore Siegel
Shimon Wolf for Hinda Wolf

Wednesday, 4 Tammuz

James Frisch for Laszlo Frisch
Amy Goldberg-Reiss for Jack Goldberg
Ellie Werber for Michael Preis
Jill Haft for Manny Stulovic
Debbie Hollander for David Warren
Joseph Sokol for David Warren

Thursday, 5 Tammuz

Helen Ishofsky for Ethel Herskovits
Edward Parver for Sylvia Parver
Yafa Gabbazadeh for Eliazar Sadigh

Friday, 6 Tammuz

Rona Mittleman for Ida Haber
Moosa Soleimani for Kockab Kahen
Naeema Pomerantz for Kockab Kahan
Leslie Kahn for Benny Kahn
Lili Sedaghatpour for Monavar Mirakhor
Joe Rosenthal for Blanche Rosenthal

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