



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Beha'alotcha

June 10, 2017 16 Sivan, 5777

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 774
HERTZ 605
HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1182
HERTZ 620

BAR MITZVAH
OF
JASON KASHANIAN

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Beha'alotcha

There have been times when one passage in today's parsha was for me little less than life-saving. No leadership position is easy. Leading Jews is harder still. And spiritual leadership can be hardest of them all. Leaders have a public face that is usually calm, upbeat, optimistic and relaxed. But behind the façade we can all experience storms of emotion as we realize how deep are the divisions between people, how intractable are the problems we face, and how thin the ice on which we stand. Perhaps we all experience such moments at some point in our lives, when we know where we are and where we want to be, but simply cannot see a route from here to there. That is the prelude to despair. Whenever I felt that way I would turn to the searing moment in our parsha when Moses reached his lowest ebb. The precipitating cause was seemingly slight. The people were engaged in their favorite activity: complaining about the food. With self-deceptive nostalgia, they spoke about the fish they ate in Egypt, and the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. Gone is their memory of slavery. All

they can recall is the cuisine. At this, understandably, God was very angry (Num. 11:10). But Moses was more than angry. He suffered a complete emotional breakdown. He said this to God: "Why have You brought this evil on your servant? Why have I failed to find favor in Your eyes, that You have placed the burden of this whole people on me? Did I conceive this whole people? Did I give birth to it, that You should say to me, Carry it in your lap as a nurse carries a baby?...Where can I find meat to give to this whole people when they cry to me saying, Give us meat to eat? I cannot carry this whole people on my own. It is too heavy for me. If this is what You are doing to me, then, if I have found favor in Your eyes, kill me now, and let me not look upon this my evil." (Num. 11:11-15)

This for me is the benchmark of despair. Whenever I felt unable to carry on, I would read this passage and think, "If I haven't yet reached this point, I'm OK." Somehow the knowledge that the greatest Jewish leader of all time had experienced this depth of darkness was empowering. It said that the feeling of failure does not necessarily mean that you have failed. All it means is that you have not yet succeeded. Still less does it mean that you are a failure. To the contrary, failure comes to those who take risks; and the willingness to take risks is absolutely necessary if you seek, in however small a

way, to change the world for the better.

What is striking about Tanakh is the way it documents these dark nights of the soul in the lives of some of the greatest heroes of the spirit. Moses was not the only prophet to pray to die. Three others did so: Elijah (1 Kings 19:4), Jeremiah (Jer. 20:7-18) and Jonah (Jon. 4:3). The Psalms, especially those attributed to King David, are shot through with moments of despair: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:2). "From the depths I cry to You" (Ps. 130:1). "I am a helpless man abandoned among the dead...You have laid me in the lowest pit, in the dark, in the depths" (Ps. 88:5-7). What Tanakh is telling us in these stories is profoundly liberating. Judaism is not a recipe for blandness or bliss. It is not a guarantee that you will be spared heartache and pain. It is not what the Stoics sought, apatheia, a life undisturbed by passion. Nor is it a path to nirvana, stilling the fires of feeling by extinguishing the self. These things have a spiritual beauty of their own, and their counterparts can be found in the more mystical strands of Judaism. But they are not the world of the heroes and heroines of Tanakh. Why so? Because Judaism is a faith for those

Times

Mincha	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting	8:07 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	7:00 pm
Mincha	8:00 pm
Shabbos Ends	9:15 pm
Sun. June 11	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	8:10 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
June 10	9:08/10:24 am
June 17	9:09/10:25 am
Next Shabbat Shelach	
Candle Lighting	8:10 pm
Mincha	7:00 pm

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DEBORAH & FARZAM KASHANIAN

IN HONOR THE BAR MITZVAH OF THEIR SON JASON

who seek to change the world. That is unusual in the history of faith. Most religions are about accepting the world the way it is. Judaism is a protest against the world that is in the name of the world that ought to be. To be a Jew is to seek to make a difference, to change lives for the better, to heal some of the scars of our fractured world. But people don't like change. That's why Moses, David, Elijah and Jeremiah found life so hard.

We can say precisely what brought Moses to despair. He had faced a similar challenge before. Back in the book of Exodus the people had made the same complaint: "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death" (Ex. 16:3). Moses, on that occasion, experienced no crisis. The people were hungry and needed food. That was a legitimate request. Since then, though, they had experienced the twin peaks of the revelation at Mount Sinai and the construction of the Tabernacle. They had come closer to God than any nation had ever done before. Nor were they starving. Their complaint was not that they had no food. They had the manna. Their complaint was that it was boring: "Now we have lost our appetite (literally, "our soul is dried up"); we never see anything but this manna!" (Ex. 11:6). They had reached the spiritual heights but they remained the same recalcitrant, ungrateful, small-minded people they had been before. That was what made Moses feel that his entire mission had failed and would continue to fail. His mission was to help the Israelites create a society that would be the opposite of Egypt, that would liberate instead of oppress, dignify, not enslave. But the people had not changed. Worse: they had taken refuge in the most absurd nostalgia for the Egypt they had left: memories of fish, cucumbers, garlic and the rest. Moses had discovered it was easier to take the Israelites out of Egypt than to take Egypt out of the Israelites. If the people had not changed by now, it was a reasonable assumption that they never would. Moses was

staring at his own defeat. There was no point in carrying on. God then comforted him. First He told him to gather seventy elders to share with him the burdens of leadership, then He told him not to worry about the food. The people would soon have meat in plenty. It came in the form of a huge avalanche of quails.

What is most striking about this story is that thereafter Moses appears to be a changed man. Told by Joshua that there might be a challenge to his leadership, he replies: "Are you jealous on my behalf? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit on them" (Num. 11:29). In the next chapter, when his own brother and sister begin to criticize him, he reacts with total calm. When God punishes Miriam, Moses prays on her behalf. It is specifically at this point in the long biblical account of Moses' life that the Torah says, "The man Moses was very humble, more so than any other man on earth" (Num. 12:3). The Torah is giving us a remarkable account of the psychodynamics of emotional crisis. The first thing it is telling us is that it is important, in the midst of despair, not to be alone. God performs the role of comforter. It is He who lifts Moses from the pit of despair. He speaks directly to Moses' concerns. He tells him he will not have to lead alone in the future. There will be others to help him. Then He tells him not to be anxious about the people's complaint. They would soon have so much meat that it would make them ill, and they would not complain about the food again. The essential principle here is what the sages meant when they said, "A prisoner cannot release himself from prison." It needs someone else to lift you from depression. That is why Judaism is so insistent on not leaving people alone at times of maximum vulnerability. Hence the principles of visiting the sick, comforting mourners, including the lonely ("the stranger, the orphan and the widow") in festive celebrations, and offering hospitality – an act said to be "greater than receiving the Shekhinah." Precisely because depression isolates you from others, remaining alone intensifies the despair. What the seventy elders actually did to help Moses is unclear. But simply being there with him was part of the cure.

The other thing it is telling us is that surviving despair is a character-transforming experience. It is when your self-esteem is ground to dust that you suddenly realize that life is not about you. It is about others, and ideals, and a sense of mission or vocation. What matters is the cause, not the person. That is what true humility is about. As C. S. Lewis wisely said: humility is not about thinking less of yourself. It is about thinking of yourself less. When you have arrived at this point, even if you have done so through the most bruising experiences, you become stronger than you ever believed possible. You have learned not to put your self-image on the line. You have learned not to think in terms of self-image at all. That is what Rabbi Yohanan meant when he said, "Greatness is humility." Greatness is a life turned outward, so that other people's suffering matters to you more than your own. The mark of greatness is the combination of strength and gentleness that is among the most healing forces in human life. Moses believed he was a failure. That is worth remembering every time we think we are failures. His journey from despair to self-effacing strength is one of the great psychological narratives in the Torah, a timeless tutorial in hope.



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.



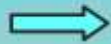
Great Neck Synagogue
 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023
 516-487-6100

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
Dr. James Frisch, Assistant Director
Dov Sassoon, President
Rabbi Jesse Shore, Rabbinic Intern
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



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.

PosterMyWall.com

CHAVERIM AT GINS

DATE:

June 7th

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Presentation by Fred Shaw
Jews in the Military

LUNCH

RSVP by calling the shul office
or emailing Michelle

**LAST EVENT'S
SPONSORS**

Sponsors Welcome

Next Chaverim Center: June 21

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.

Meorot

מאורות

at North Shore Hebrew Academy

"זהו למאורת ברקיע השמים להאיר על-הארץ ויהי-כן:" בראשית, א"טו

Introducing Meorot, a new Jewish Special Education Program Servicing the Great Neck Community

We are an innovative Judaic Studies special education after school program, providing students with an inspired Modern Orthodox Jewish education within a supportive environment.

Meorot is a community partnership serving elementary aged students with learning or language difficulties that prevent them from attending day school Yeshivot.

- Located at North Shore Hebrew Academy
- Focus on teaching Hebrew reading & comprehension skills, Limudei Kodesh and Jewish culture
- Special Education Teacher led classroom, with low student to teacher ratio
- Recruiting students in grades K-3 for the initial year
- Admission subject to approval of director and admission committee
- Accepting applications for Fall 2017*

SUPPORTING YESHIVOT:

NORTH SHORE
HEBREW ACADEMY
"שיבת חזק הצפון"



Please join the Heads of our supporting schools
and the Meorot Board for our inaugural event:

Monday, June 12 at 8:00pm

At the lovely home of:
Tara and Irv Golombeck
24 Arleigh Road, Great Neck, NY 11021

LEARN MORE ABOUT MEOROT AT WWW.MEOROTGN.ORG

**All services in connection with Meorot are contingent on and subject to the program's anticipated Fall 2017 opening*



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

516-672-0313

Healthfromwithinme.com

Facebook: Health From
Within

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

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Deborah & Farzam Kashanian on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Jason**.

Mazal Tov to Shahnaz Malekan & Ben-Zion Tartak on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Sahar**.

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.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Lynn Steinberg & Carol Karbowitz** in memory of their father **Jacob Katzwer, z"l**.

CHAVERIM

Wed. **June 7**: Fred Shaw: Jews in the Military, 11:30-2:00

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.

SHARON SOKOL-HEISLER MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

On 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**. Celebrate all of your smachot with us or commemorate a loved ones yahrtzeit. To participate, please register online at gns.org, call the synagogue office, or send your information to mtwersky@gns.org. Cost is \$100 per family.

MEOROT

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 at 8:00 pm** for our inaugural Parlor Meeting at the home of Tara & Irv Golombeck, 24 Arleigh Rd.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Jun. 11: Men's Club Event: Judge Knobel
Jun. 12: Men's Club Mets Game
Jun. 17: Memorial Luncheon: David Hazony
Jun. 17: Youth Bash
Jun. 20: Sisterhood Event
Jun. 24: Congregational Kiddush

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.

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).

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.

Sharon Mazur would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff, Lichter, Chazzan Kron and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the passing of her beloved mother Irene Wald z"l.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 16 Sivan

Phil Hanfling for Feivul Hanfling
Phil hanfling for Roslyn Hanfling

Sunday, 17 Sivan

Rona Mittleman for Michael Haber
Edmund Kessler for Lillie Kessler
Ronald Braun for Leo Kloper
Pamela Toledano for Harold Kovar
Paul Brody for Sarah Weinstein

Monday, 18 Sivan

Steven Kashan for Monavar Kashan
Sharon Janovic for Ronald Meltz
Meier Stein for Zvi Mordechai Stein
Judith Weinstein for Joseph Weisman
Claire Behar for Lionel Winston

Tuesday, 19 Sivan

Ira Lubin for Irma Lubin
Osnass Shein for Joshua Shein
Cindy Ludwig for Max Siegal

Wednesday, 20 Sivan

Rhonda Lipsky for Sylvia Olk
Issac Sachmechi for Nissim Sachmechi
Paul Weinberg for Nathan Weinberg
Nathaniel Weisel For Gertrude Weisel

Thursday, 21 Sivan

Sheila Ebrahimian for Faizullah Aminoff
Evelyn Henis for Anita Greenberg
Jack Gruber for Samuel Gruber
Ben Jampel for Judith Jampel
Evelyn Benatar for Stephen Lantos
Michail Litvin for Tsilyah Litvin

Friday, 22 Sivan

Eddy Barth for Mazal Barth
Dov Berkowitz for Meilech Berkowitz
Vahid Sedaghatpour for Parvaneh Ohebshalom
Louise Kahn for Samuel Tuch