



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Nitzavim-Vayeilech

September 16, 2017 25 Elul, 5777

<p>TORAH ARTSCROLL 1086 HERTZ 878</p> <p>HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1202 HERTZ 883</p>	<h2>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Nitzavim-Vayeilech</h2>																																												
<p>Times</p>	<p>When I was a student at university in the late 1960s – the era of student protests, psychedelic drugs, and the Beatles meditating with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi – a story went the rounds. An American Jewish woman in her sixties travelled to north India to see a celebrated guru. There were huge crowds waiting to see the holy man, but she pushed through, saying that she needed to see him urgently. Eventually, after weaving through the swaying throng, she entered the tent and stood in the presence of the master himself. What she said that day has entered the realm of legend. She said, "Marvin, listen to your mother. Enough already. Come home." Starting in the sixties Jews made their way into many religions and cultures with one notable exception: their own. Yet Judaism has historically had its mystics and meditators, its poets and philosophers, its holy men and women, its visionaries and prophets. It has often seemed as if the longing we have for spiritual enlightenment is in direct proportion to its distance, its foreignness, its unfamiliarity. We prefer the far to the near. I used to think that this was</p>	<p>unique to our strange age, but in fact Moses already foresaw this possibility: Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will climb to heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and let us hear it so that we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. (Deut. 30:11-14)</p> <p>Moses had an intimation that in the future Jews would say that to find inspiration we have to ascend to heaven or cross the sea. It's anywhere but here. And so it was for much of Israel's history during the First and Second Temple periods. First came the era in which the people were tempted by the gods of the people around them: the Canaanite Baal, the Moabite Chemosh, or Marduk and Astarte in Babylon. Later, in Second Temple times, they were attracted to Hellenism in its Greek or Roman forms. It is a strange phenomenon, best expressed in the memorable line of Groucho Marx: "I refuse to belong to a club that would accept me as a member." Jews have long had a tendency to fall in love with people who don't love them and pursue almost any spiritual path so long as it is not their own. But it is very debilitating. When great minds</p>																																											
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Judaism in the nineteenth century did not end Anti-Semitism; it inflamed it. Hence the power of Moses' insistence: to find truth, beauty and spirituality, you don't have to climb to heaven or cross the sea. "The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it." The result was that Jews enriched other cultures more than their own. Part of Mahler's Eighth Symphony is a Catholic mass. Irving Berlin, son of a chazzan, wrote "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." Felix Mendelssohn, grandson of one of the first "enlightened" Jews, Moses Mendelssohn, composed church music and rehabilitated Bach's long neglected St Matthew Passion. Simone Weil, one of the deepest Christian thinkers of the twentieth century, described by Albert Camus as "the only great spirit of our times" was born to Jewish parents. So was Edith Stein, celebrated by the Catholic Church as a saint and martyr, but murdered in Auschwitz because to the Nazis she was a Jew. And so on. Was it the failure of Europe to accept the Jewishness of Jews and Judaism? Was it Judaism's failure to confront the challenge? The phenomenon is so complex it defies any simple explanation. But in the process, we lost great art, great intellect, great spirits and minds.

To some extent the situation has changed both in Israel and the Diaspora. There has been much new Jewish music and a revival of Jewish mysticism. There have been important Jewish writers and thinkers. But we are still spiritually underachieving. The deepest roots of spirituality come from within: from within a culture, a tradition, a sensibility. They come from the syntax and semantics of the native language of the soul: "The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it." The beauty of Jewish spirituality is precisely that in Judaism, God is close. You don't need to climb a mountain or enter an ashram to find the Divine presence. It is there around the table at a Shabbat meal, in the light of the candles and the simple holiness of the Kiddush wine and the challot, in the praise of the Eishet chayil and the blessing of children, in the

peace of mind that comes when you leave the world to look after itself for a day while you celebrate the good things that come not from working but resting, not from buying but enjoying, the gifts you have had all along but did not have time to appreciate. In Judaism, God is close. He is there in the poetry of the psalms, the greatest literature of the soul ever written. He is there listening in to our debates as we study a page of the Talmud or offer new interpretations of ancient texts. He is there in the joy of the festivals, the tears of Tisha be-Av, the echoes of the shofar of Rosh Hashanah and the contrition of Yom Kippur. He is there in the very air of the land of Israel and the stones of Jerusalem, where the oldest of the old and the newest of the new mingle together like close friends. God is near. That is the overwhelming feeling I get from a lifetime of engaging with the faith of our ancestors. Judaism needed no cathedrals, no monasteries, no abstruse theologies, no metaphysical ingenuities, beautiful though all these are, because for us God is the God of everyone and everywhere, who has time for each of us, and who meets us where we are, if we are willing to open our soul to Him.

I am a rabbi. For twenty-two years I was a Chief Rabbi. But in the end I think it was we, the rabbis, who did not do enough to help people open their doors, their minds, and their feelings to the Presence-beyond-the-universe-who-created-us-in-love that our ancestors knew so well and loved so much. We were afraid. Of the intellectual challenges of an increasingly secular culture. Of the social challenges of being in, yet not entirely of, the world. Of the emotional challenge of finding Jews or Judaism or the state of Israel criticized and condemned. So we retreated behind a high wall, thinking that made us safe. High walls never make you safe; they only make you fearful. The only thing that makes you safe is confronting the challenges without fear and inspiring others to do likewise. What Moses meant in those extraordinary words, "It is not up in heaven... nor is it beyond the sea," was: "Kinderlech, your parents trembled when they heard the voice of God at Sinai. They were overwhelmed. They said: If we hear any more we will die. So God found ways in which you could meet Him without being overwhelmed. Yes He is creator, sovereign, supreme power, first cause, mover of the planets and the stars. But He is also parent, partner, lover, friend. He is Shekhinah, from shakhen, meaning, the neighbor next door. So thank Him every morning for the gift of life. Say the Shema twice daily for the gift of love. Join your voice to others in prayer so that His spirit may flow through you, giving you the strength and courage to change the world. When you can't see Him, it is because you are looking in the wrong direction. When He seems absent, He is there behind the door, but you have to open it. Don't treat Him like a stranger. He loves you. He believes in you. He wants your success. To find Him you don't have to climb to heaven or cross the sea. His is the voice you hear in the silence of the soul. His is the light you see when you open your eyes to wonder. His is the hand you touch in the pit of despair. His is the breath that gives you life.



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 Aron Rubin, Rabbinic Intern**
- Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board**
- Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111**

Save The Date
Rabbi and Ellen Polakoff
OPEN SUKKAH
Thursday, October 5th 4-5:30 pm

CHAVERIM AT GENS

DATE: September 13 **11:30 - 2:00**

Inspiration for Rosh Hashana
Rabbi Polakoff

ACTIVITY

Book Discussion of
"Vanessa and Her Sister" by Priya Parmar

LUNCH LAST EVENT'S SPONSORS

RSVP by calling the shul office
or emailing Michelle

Thank you to Jared Ort and Joseph Farhadian for the donation of vegetables.
Thank you to all who brought chickens and vegetables. We made 95 quarts of soup!

Shana Tova!

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

Great Neck Synagogue Guest Speaker Series

Shabbat September 16, 2017

Michal Horowitz



Shabbat Drasha:

Rebuilding Ourselves: The Power of Repentance

Seudah Shlishit:

Loving G-d: Practical Application of Three Modes of Divine Service

Mrs. Michal Horowitz has a Bachelor of Science from combined studies at York University, Toronto and Brooklyn College and a Masters of Science from Brooklyn College. Mrs. Horowitz teaches weekly classes at venues in the Five Towns and Far Rockaway. As a dynamic and inspiring teacher and speaker, Mrs. Horowitz has been a guest lecturer and scholar in residence in many communities, both nationally and internationally.

Michal serves as a Scholar in Residence at the Yeshiva University RIETS Annual Shavuot Retreat. Her website is michalhorowitz.com. Mrs. Horowitz lives in Woodmere with her husband and children.

Motzai Shabbat Selichot Program
September 16, 2017

Pre-Selichot Inspiration with Mrs. Michal Horowitz
10:00 pm Beit Midrash

Exploring & Understanding the Efficacy of Prayer:
Can We Really Change the Decree?

Slichot in the Beit Midrash led by Evan Twersky
10:45 pm



Born and raised in Great Neck, Evan Twersky has been leading High Holiday services in the Great Neck Synagogue for the last 12 years. He grew up listening to Cantor Schulman, Cantor Kron, Rabbi Jensen, Dovid Erblich lead the davening and credits them for his appreciation of nusach and melody.

When not davening, Evan is an IT Professional managing the global IT infrastructure for a financial software firm. He, and his wife Tamar, and their four children currently live in West Hempstead.

**GNS 10TH ANNUAL ROSH HASHANA
PASS IT FORWARD HUNGER INITIATIVE**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17th, 2017

BRING THE SWEETNESS OF ROSH HASHANA TO THOSE IN NEED!

Now in its 10th year, the PASS IT FORWARD program of the GNS Hunger Initiative provides food to families for Yom Tov. Last year, volunteers packed and delivered over **1000** meals to needy individuals, families and kosher food pantries.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Donate Food: If you have a kosher kitchen (separate meat and dairy utensils and kosher certification on all processed foods), make extra food (soup, main, side or dessert) and pack it in containers serving 4-8 (no bags please!). Brownie mixes, aluminum pans & plastic containers available at 11 Margaret Court and 9 Myrtle Drive. Special request for matzah balls!!

Deliver food to GNS COAT ROOM LOBBY on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17th between
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

Donate Funds: Purchase a special meal for an \$18 contribution from Middle Neck Glatt or Everfresh, which will be delivered on your behalf. You can also make a donation directly to the GNS Hunger Initiative.

Donate Time: We need packers (from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm) and drivers for about 25 different routes, starting from 3:00 pm on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17th meeting at GNS Coat Lobby.

All Volunteers, please email Michelle Berman at michberman@gmail.com

Do A Mitzvah... Make Life Meaningful... Rosh HaShana is coming...

YOUTH EVENTS

GNS Youth Leadership
Training Shabbaton
September 15-16

a true
LEADER
isn't
ALWAYS
in the
LEAD

Friday night dinner in GNS
Walking groups available

MOTZEI SHABBAT
SEPTEMBER 16
YOUTH SELICHOT
NIGHT

What makes us happy?
The Pursuit of Happy-ness

DOORS OPEN AT 8:30PM /Chalfin Room
Pizza, Sushi, Selichot to follow



**ROSH HASHANA FUN
WITH MORAH ZEHAVA**

Make a Rosh Hashana craft and
learn all about bees and honey with a special guest

BEEKEEPER

SUNDAY SEPT. 17TH
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PRE-SCHOOL-2ND GRADE
DOWNSTAIRS LUNCHROOM

\$10 PER CHILD
\$25 MAX PER FAMILY
PIZZA LUNCH INCLUDED



STUDY. LEARN. GROW.

GNS Women's Learning Series

Mrs. Chani Juravel
Tshuva: The Gift of Self

Thursday Evening September 28th
8:00 pm

Chani Juravel has been teaching and counseling in various capacities since 1983. She has a BA in Psychology from Brooklyn College and a MSW from Fordham University.

Currently, she works with individuals and couples in her private practice in Rockland County and lectures across the world, combining Torah Hashkafa and psychological insights.

Chani writes for Binah Magazine and some of her lectures can be found at Aish.com and Torahyanytime.com.

Generously Hosted by Doreen Hadid
5 Magnolia Drive in Great Neck

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: 10-12; Thursdays: 1-3. He can always be reached via 516.637.3674 or dpolakoff@gns.org.

HIGH HOLIDAY SHUT-INS

Please let the office know of any local home-bound individuals who would like to hear the shofar blowing.

HUNGER INITIATIVE/PASS IT FORWARD

A) Looking for drivers to deliver care packages to those in need for Rosh HaShanah on **Sunday, Sept. 17th from 3:00-5:00 pm**. Contact Michelle Berman at michberman@gmail.com. Start the year out right...

B) Want to do something fun? Bake brownies or cakes for those in need for Rosh HaShanah. Mixes and pans are available at 11 Margaret Court and 9 Myrtle Drive. Bring your baked goods to GNS Coat Room Lobby on **Sunday Sept. 17th from 11:00-1:00 pm**. Feel good; Do the Right Thing.

C) When you're cooking, cook for one more for those in need. Freeze it and deliver on **Sunday Sept. 17th to GNS coat lobby at 11:00-1:00 pm**. Let us know at yomtovchicken@gmail.com.

D) **Freezer space** available for you to store food you are preparing for Pass it Forward for Rosh HaShana. Bring your soups, chickens, kugels to 59 Berkshire Road and go to the back of the house. You will find the freezer there, outside, near the back door.

E) **Chesed Hours** available for a high school student who likes to work with computers. Help work out driving routes for Pass it Forward. Contact: jack.lemonik@verizon.net.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Join us **September 13th** from 11:30-2:00 with a book discussion of "Vanessa and Her Sister" by Priya Parmar.

WOMEN'S LEARNING

Come here Mrs. Chani Juravel on **Thursday evening, Sept. 28th** at the home of **Doreen Hadid** at 15 Magnolia Drive at 8:00 pm on the topic of "*Tshuva: The Gift of Self*".

SIMCHAT TORAH LAINERS/ROSH HASHANA USHERS

If you are interested in laining on Simchat Torah, please speak to Natan Hamerman. To assist the shul in serving as an usher for Rosh Hashana, please email jfrisch@gns.org.

SISTERHOOD ROSH HASHANA CARDS

Sisterhood is selling beautiful Rosh Hashana cards designed by Celia Lemonik for 10 for \$18 or \$2.50 each. Cards may be purchased in the shul office or by Judy Lillien [516 487 6845](tel:5164876845). Sisterhood supports many programs throughout the year by the monies raised. Thank you for your continued support!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

September 13: Chaverim Center
September 16: Shabbat Speaker: Mrs. Michal Horowitz
September 16: Leil Slichot: Mrs. Horowitz & Evan Twersky
September 16: Youth Leadership Training Shabbaton

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Jordan & Rivkah Wolf on the birth of a baby girl, a sister to Jonathan and Carrie. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents **Michele & Howard Wolf**.

Mazal Tov to Debbie & Hal Chadow on the engagement of his son, **David**, to **Joelle Harari**, of Lawrence.

Mazal Tov to Magda & Sam Yehaskel on the birth of a grandson, born to their children **Rachel & Yaacov Brecher**.

Mazal Tov to Sam & Melissa Toledano and Benjamin & Nancy Aryeh on the engagement of their children, **Sophie & Brandon**.

Mazal Tov to Sandy & Mark Gold on the birth of their granddaughter, born to their children **Brittany & Yonatan Kamel**.

MEOROT REGISTRATION

Meorot is still taking applications and registration information can be found on the website www.meorotgn.org. For inquiries please contact Rabbi Hercman at rabbihercman@meorotgn.org.

SHIDDUCHIM COMMITTEE

If you are single and interested in meeting someone, please email Robyn Blumner at mitzvamatcher@gmail.com. Welcome all backgrounds!

KIDNEY DONATION FOR SISTER OF KAREN WYDRA

If you know anyone who is willing to save a life by donating a kidney - no matter what their blood type, please have them contact R23229@Renewal.org. This is my sister's renewal number. My sister would be given the consideration for the donation and a matched donation could be set up.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 25 Elul

Ellen Siegel for Stacy Cair
Edith Lubin for Reuben Feigenbaum
Galina Weiss for Shara Lebovich
Richard Lillien for Joseph Tatarsky

Sunday 26 Elul

Hal Beretz for Leo Beretz
Allan Beyda for Joshua Beyda
Jane Tuvia for Yakov Ebin
Judith Weinstein for Regina Kloogman

Monday, 27 Elul

Payman Rabiei for Efraim Mashala ben Rabie
Celia Lemonik for Rosalie Dorner
Lauren Hyman for Arnold Glatt
Hindi Lunzer for Selma Mermelstein

Tuesday, 28 Elul

Ron Malen for Schmuel ben Pesachya

Wednesday, 29 Elul

Susan Mayer for Frieda Abramson
Zachary Dicker for Mintza Dicker
Stanley Dacher for Shirley Fox
Edward Parver for Harry Parver

Thursday, 1 Tishrei

Charles Berger for Ellen Berger
Anne Gold for Rebecca Feinstein
Abraham Glasman for Arthur Glasman
Chava Shalmon for Abraham Grinszpan
Bijan Niknam for Avraham Rouholla Niknam

Friday, 2 Tishrei

Vicki Maher for Herschel Brzezinski