



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayishlach

December 2, 2017 14 Kislev, 5778

TORAH ARTSCROLL 170 HERTZ 122 HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1141 HERTZ 135		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayishlach		
Times		<p>Why is Jacob the father of our people, the hero of our faith? We are “the congregation of Jacob”, “the children of Israel.” Yet it was Abraham who began the Jewish journey, Isaac who was willing to be sacrificed, Joseph who saved his family in the years of famine, Moses who led the people out of Egypt and gave it its laws. It was Joshua who took the people into the Promised land, David who became its greatest king, Solomon who built the Temple, and the prophets through the ages who became the voice of God.</p> <p>The account of Jacob in the Torah seems to fall short of these other lives, at least if we read the text literally. He has tense relationships with his brother Esau, his wives Rachel and Leah, his father-in-law Laban, and with his three eldest children, Reuben, Simon and Levi. There are times when he seems full of fear, others when he acts – or at least seems to act – with less than total honesty. In reply to Pharaoh he says of himself, “The days of my</p>	<p>life have been few and hard” (Gen. 47:9). This is less than we might expect from a hero of faith. That is why so much of the image we have of Jacob is filtered through the lens of midrash – the oral tradition preserved by the sages. In this tradition, Jacob is all good, Esau all bad. It had to be this way – so argued R. Zvi Hirsch Chajes in his essay on the nature of midrashic interpretation – because otherwise we would find it hard to draw from the biblical text a clear sense of right and wrong, good and bad. The Torah is an exceptionally subtle book, and subtle books tend to be misunderstood. So the oral tradition made it simpler: black and white instead of shades of grey.</p> <p>Yet perhaps, even without midrash, we can find an answer – and the best way of so doing is to think of the idea of a journey. Judaism is about faith as a journey. It begins with the journey of Abraham and Sarah, leaving behind their “land, birthplace and father’s house” and travelling to an unknown destination, “the land I will show you.” The Jewish people are defined by another journey in a different age: the journey of Moses and the Israelites from Egypt across the desert to the Promised</p>	<p>Land. That journey becomes a litany in the parsha of Massei: “They left X and they camped in Y. They left Y and they camped in Z.” To be a Jew is to move, to travel, and only rarely, if ever, to settle down. Moses warns the people of the danger of settling down and taking the status quo for granted, even in Israel itself: “When you have children and grandchildren, and have been established in the land for a long time, you might become decadent” (Deut. 4:25). Hence the rules that Israel must always remember its past, never forget its years of slavery in Egypt, never forget on Sukkot that our ancestors once lived in temporary dwellings, never forget that it does not own the land – it belongs to God – and we are merely there as God’s gerim ve-toshavim, “strangers and sojourners” (Lev. 25:23). Why so? Because to be a Jew means not to be fully at home in the world. To be a Jew means to live within the tension between heaven and earth, creation and revelation, the world that is and the world we are called on to make; between exile and home, and between the universality of the human</p>
<p>Candle Lighting 4:09 pm</p> <p>Mincha 4:10 pm</p> <p>Hashkama 8:00 am</p> <p>Parsha Shiur 8:30 am</p> <p>Main 9:00 am</p> <p>Beit Midrash 9:15 am</p> <p>Gemorah Shiur 3:30 pm</p> <p>Mincha 4:00 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends 5:17 pm</p> <p>R’ Reisman Video 7:30 pm</p> <p>Sunday Dec. 3rd 7:30/8:30 am</p> <p>Mon. & Thurs. 6:35/7:45 am</p> <p>Tue., Wed, & Fri. 6:45/7:45 am</p> <p>Mincha 4:10 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei</p> <p>December 2 9:22/10:09 am</p> <p>December 9 9:27/10:14 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Shabbat Vayeishev</p> <p>Candle Lighting 4:09 pm</p> <p>Mincha 4:10 pm</p>		KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY LIZ & DANIEL SOLEIMANI IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF THEIR DAUGHTER		

condition and the particularity of Jewish identity. Jews don't stand still except when standing before God. The universe, from galaxies to subatomic particles, is in constant motion, and so is the Jewish soul.

We are, we believe, an unstable combination of dust of the earth and breath of God, and this calls on us constantly to make decisions, choices, that will make us grow to be as big as our ideals, or, if we choose wrongly, make us shrivel into small, petulant creatures obsessed by trivia. Life as a journey means striving each day to be greater than we were the day before, individually and collectively. If the concept of a journey is a central metaphor of Jewish life, what in this regard is the difference between Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Abraham's life is framed by two journeys both of which use the phrase *lech lecha*, "undertake a journey", once in Genesis 12 when he was told to leave his land and father's house, the other in Gen. 22:2 at the binding of Isaac when he was told, "Take your son, the only one you love - Isaac - and go [*lech lecha*] to the region of Moriah." What is so moving about Abraham is that he goes, immediately and without question, despite the fact that both journeys are wrenching in human terms. In the first he has to leave his father. In the second he has to let go of his son. He has to say goodbye to the past and risk saying farewell to the future. Abraham is pure faith. He loves God and trusts Him absolutely. Not everyone can achieve that kind of faith. It is almost superhuman.

Isaac is the opposite. It is as if Abraham, knowing the emotional sacrifices he has had to make, knowing too the trauma Isaac must have felt at the binding, seeks to protect his son as far as lies within his power. He makes sure that Isaac does not leave the Holy Land (see Gen. 24:6 - that is

why Abraham does not let him travel to find a wife). Isaac's one journey (to the land of the Philistines, in Gen. 26) is limited and local. Isaac's life is a brief respite from the nomadic existence Abraham and Jacob both experience.

Jacob is different again. What makes him unique is that he has his most intense encounters with God - they are the most dramatic in the whole book of Genesis - in the midst of the journey, alone, at night, far from home, fleeing from one danger to the next, from Esau to Laban on the outward journey from Laban to Esau on his homecoming. In the midst of the first he has the blazing epiphany of the ladder stretching from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending, moving him to say on waking, "God is truly in this place but I did not know it...This must be God's house and this the gate to heaven" (28:16-17). None of the other patriarchs, not even Moses, has a vision quite like this. On the second, in our parsha, he has the haunting, enigmatic wrestling match with the man/angel/God, which leaves him limping but permanently transformed - the only person in the Torah to receive from God an entirely new name, Israel, which may mean, "one who has wrestled with God and man" or "one who has become a prince [*sar*] before God". What is fascinating is that Jacob's meetings with angels are described by the same verb '*p-g-sh*', (Gen. 28:11, and 32:2) which means "a chance encounter", as if they took Jacob by surprise, which clearly they did. Jacob's most spiritual moments are ones he did not plan. He was thinking of other things, about what he was leaving behind and what lay ahead of him. He was, as it were, "surprised by God."

Jacob is someone with whom we can identify. Not everyone can aspire to the loving faith and total trust of an Abraham, or to the seclusion of an Isaac. But Jacob is someone we understand. We can feel his fear, understand his pain at the tensions in his family, and sympathize with his deep longing for a life of quietude and peace (the sages say about the opening words of next week's parsha that "Jacob longed to live at peace, but was immediately thrust into the troubles of Joseph"). The point is not just that Jacob is the most human of the patriarchs but rather that at the depths of his despair he is lifted to the greatest heights of spirituality. He is the man who encounters angels. He is the person surprised by God. He is the one who, at the very moments he feels most alone, discovers that he is not alone, that God is with him, that he is accompanied by angels. Jacob's message defines Jewish existence. It is our destiny to travel. We are the restless people. Rare and brief have been our interludes of peace. But at the dark of night we have found ourselves lifted by a force of faith we did not know we had, surrounded by angels we did not know were there. If we walk in the way of Jacob, we too may find ourselves surprised by God.



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
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

The Great Neck Synagogue Hunger Initiative thanks all the contributors and volunteers who helped make Thanksgiving at the Arrandale Senior Center so successful.

*Lisa & Alan Adler in memory of Arnold Swartz
Dassie & Eddy Barth in memory of Roslyn Orenstein
Michelle & Philip Berman in memory of Naomi Kahn
Serge Fischler*

*Sylvia & Norman Fisher in memory of Esther & Saul Hirsh and Molly & Henry Fisher
Erica Zucker Heisler in honor of her family*

Les Kahn

Joan & Henry Katz

Dahlia & Mervin Klein in memory of Yehuda Abraham

*Farzin Khorramian in honor of Tanaz Bakhshi & in memory of David Bakhshi
and the Khorramian family*

Nechama & Billy Liss-Levinson in memory of their parents

Susan Mayer in memory of

Frieda Schein Abramson & Hans Abramson and Steven M. Mayer

Roselin Wagner in memory of David Wagner

Magda & Sam Yehaskel in memory of

Edith & Mendel Wohl and Lucy & Solomon Yehaskel

**Great Neck Synagogue
Bikur Cholim**



If you would like to volunteer for Bikur Cholim please fill out the form below and submit to the Synagogue office or Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net.

Contact Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Best time to reach you: _____

	I would like to volunteer for	Time(s) available*	Day(s) of week available**
()	Transportation (shopping, doctor appointments, etc.)		
()	Call people		
()	Visit people at home or hospital		
()	Shop for people		
()	Deliver food (homemade or store bought challah, soup, etc.)		
()	Other (Please specify:)		

***Times Available**

- All Day
- AM Only
- PM ONLY
- Evenings Only

****Days Available**

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Shabbat afternoon home visits

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

WEDNESDAY DEC. 13

2ND NIGHT OF CHANUKAH

A show the whole family will enjoy!

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 SHOW BEGINS AT 7:00
FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BEFORE THE SHOW

WONDERGY
LASER LIGHT SHOW
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE MAIN SANCTUARY



THE CHANUKAH STORY IS FUNDAMENTALLY ONE OF UNDERESTIMATION AND RESOURCEFULNESS. WITH OUR FESTIVAL OF LASER LIGHT, WE'LL SEE HOW WE CAN DO A LOT WITH A LITTLE BY USING IT WELL. THAT'S WHAT JUDAISM, SCIENCE AND LASER SHOWS ARE ALL ABOUT!

RSVP AT MTWERSKY@GNS.ORG

GNS BIKUR CHOLIM BREAKFAST and PRESENTATION



Please Join us at the home of
David & Diane Rein (1 Cove Lane)
on Sunday December 10th at 10:00 am.

Rabbi Dr. Hillel Fox
Chaplain at North Shore University Hospital,
will deliver a presentation titled,
"Guidelines for Visiting the Sick and Elderly"

Breakfast will be served.

The presentation is dedicated in memory of
David's beloved father, Dr. Howard Rein z"l,
on the occasion of his first yahrzeit.
Kindly RSVP to drein@verizon.net.



GNS DINNER Chesed Collection Chanukah Toys and Games for OHEL

Please drop off NEW and unwrapped
Toys and Games at the home of

Ilana and Jonathan Kroll

15 Old Pond Road

Please Drop off in front of garage!
Sunday - Thursday Nov. 12- Dec. 3rd

Thank you for Participating in this Mitzvah!

Challah Baking

BTH



Join the Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood and make your own
homemade delicious challah.

Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:00pm

Great Neck Synagogue Youth Center

26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck

\$18 per Person - Reservations required

All ingredients included

*Please click here for online registration or
call the shul office on 516-487-6100*

Learn the secret to great tasting challah



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
ANNUAL DINNER

HONORING

SARA & ANDREW
FELDSCHREIBER

RONA WOLDENBERG &
REUBEN ASKOWITZ



SATURDAY NIGHT
DECEMBER 9, 2017
22 KISLEV 5778



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
ANNUAL DINNER

HONORING

RONA WOLDENBERG &
REUBEN ASKOWITZ

SARA & ANDREW
FELDSCHREIBER

A NIGHT OF FUN, MUSIC
&
LAUGHTER WITH
MODI

SATURDAY NIGHT
7:30 PM
DECEMBER 9, 2017
22 KISLEV 5778

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
26 OLD MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11023

PARTY CHIC
SKIP THE TIE

PLEASE RESERVE _____ PLACE(S) AT \$600/COUPLE.

NO, I/WE CANNOT ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO PLACE A SCROLL OF HONOR LISTING AND/OR MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

\$25,000 BENEFACTOR LISTING
\$18,000 CHAI LISTING
\$10,000 DIAMOND LISTING

\$7,500 PLATINUM LISTING
\$5,000 GOLD LISTING
\$3,600 SILVER LISTING

\$2,500 BRONZE LISTING
\$1,800 COPPER LISTING
\$1,000 MAZAL LISTING

\$600 FRIEND LISTING
\$300 DONOR LISTING
\$180 SPONSOR LISTING

PLEASE NOTE: \$600 INCLUDES 2 DINNER RESERVATIONS & FRIEND LISTING • \$300 INCLUDES 1 DINNER RESERVATION & DONOR LISTING

PLEASE MAKE CHECK TO: GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE • RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS CAN ALSO BE COMPLETED AT

<https://www.gns.org/dinner/>

CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$125 PER PERSON ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

NAME(S): _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENCLOSED: () CHECK () MASTERCARD () VISA () AMEX

CARD NO: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5778 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.

CHAVERIM

Wednesday Nov. 29th from 11:30-2:00: Sue Talansky on her project and book "Ordinary Objects/Enduring Legacies".

GNS CHESSED

The GNS **Chanukah OHEL Toy Drive** through **Dec. 3rd** will be collected at the **Kroll home, 15 Old Pond**. Please leave all toys in a bag by the garage.

SISTERHOOD EVENTS

Thurs. Dec. 7th at 7:00 pm: Challah Baking \$18 /person. Please register with shul office.

If you'd like to receive email updates on upcoming Sisterhood events, please email farlafrumkin@gmail.com.

BIKUR CHOLIM BREAKFAST AND PRESENTATION

All our invited to the home of David and Diane Rein (1 Cove Lane) on **Sunday December 10th at 10:00am** to hear Rabbi Dr. Hillel Fox, Chaplain at North Shore University Hospital, deliver a presentation titled, "Guidelines for Visiting the Sick and Elderly." The presentation is dedicated in memory of David's beloved father, Dr. Howard Rein z"l, on the occasion of his first yahrzeit. Kindly RSVP to drein@verizon.net. Breakfast will be served!

CHANUKAH FAMILY EVENT

Wednesday night Dec. 13th at 6:30 pm:

A Chanukah Wondergy Laser Light Show. Doors open at 6:30 with food available for purchase. Show starts at 7:00 pm sharp! Please reserve your spot at mtwersky@gns.org.

RABBINIC INTERN

If you would like to invite our rabbinic intern, Aron & Leia Rubin for a Shabbat meal, please contact them at 917.500.1411. They will be here for Shabbat December 9th & 23rd.

GNS 66TH ANNUAL DINNER

To donate raffle prizes for the GNS dinner, please speak with Daniel Winter or email him at winter.Daniel@gmail.com.

GNS SHIVA CHESSED FUND RUNNING LOW

As our Shiva Chesed fund is running low we appreciate your help to donate now so we are ready to assist Shiva families at any time with meals and with whatever is needed. Please donate online at <https://www.gns.org/about/affiliates/shivachessed/shiva/> or make checks out to GNS Shiva Chesed Fund and mail to Shul.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

November 29: Chaverim Center
December 7: Sisterhood Challah Bake
December 9: GNS Annual Dinner
December 13: Chanukah Laser Light Show
December 16: Shabbat Speaker: Rabbi Steven Burg

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Zara & Eli Moradi** and **Natasha & Ebbie Bouteshaz** on the birth of their grandson and son.

Mazal Tov to **Sylvia & Norman Fisher** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter **Elizabeth Daisy Fisher** daughter of **Jeannie & Scott Fisher**.

Mazal Tov to **Ellen & Rabbi Dale Polakoff** on the birth of a baby boy born to her children **Eitan & Jessica Hoffman** in New Jersey.

Mazal Tov also to his big brother and sister, Nadav and Liana. **Mazal Tov** to **Aliza & Lior Tor** in Israel on the naming of their son, **Ro'ee Yitzchak**.

Mazal Tov to **Jeffrey Wisenfeld** on his induction into the Bronx Jewish Hall of Fame.

DARIO

Our Building Superintendent **Dario Taveras** lost his father over the week end. He is in the Dominican Republic with his family. Notes of condolence may be sent to him at 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck 11023.

NSHA PTA ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Come join us at the NSHA PTA Annual Book Fair at 16 Cherry Lane on **Sunday, Dec. 3rd from 11am-4pm** and **Monday, Dec. 4th from 6pm-8pm**. Choose from many secular and Judaic titles for ages Toddler to Adult. Free arts and crafts for kids and food for sale at Sunday's fair.

COMMUNAL SHABBAT FOR WOUNDED IDF VETERANS

On Shabbat Dec. 1-2, our community will have the honor of hosting wounded Israel Defense Force (IDF) veterans who are part of El Ami (For My People). Three Shabbat meals, open to all, have been organized in honor of the wounded IDF veterans visiting Great Neck:

Shabbat Dinner at Torah Ohr call Avigayil at 516.829.6629 for reservations.

Shabbat Lunch following program at Shaare Rachamim call Albert Basal at 917.771.3865 for reservations.

Seudah Shlishit at YI of Great Neck - No RSVP needed.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 14 Kislev

Drora Brody for Yosef Aharoni
Lili Weiss for Hanah Krendel
Martin Sokol for Sadie Sokol
Anna Herz for Ida Tsirulik
Alex Weiss for Margaret Weiss
Michael Weiss for Margaret Weiss

Sunday, 15 Kislev

Barry Maher for Faizollah Maher-Afarin
Issac Sachmechi for Helen Sachmechi
Lev Dynkin for Rabbi Aryeh Leib Shifman
Semyon Dynkin for Rabbi Aryeh Leib Shifman

Monday, 16 Kislev

Evelyn Benatar for Erica Gatsoff
Lillian Chubak for Malvina Graf

Tuesday, 17 Kislev

Eliezer Noy for Ahron ben Yitzchak

Wednesday, 18 Kislev

Harriet Frederick for Edwin Frederick
Pearl Ginsburg for Irving Helfman
Gedale Horowitz for Abraham Horowitz
Rita Silverman for Harris Schwartz

Thursday, 19 Kislev

Israel Rosenzweig for Jacob Bladow
Steven Rosenzweig for Jacob Bladow
Ellen Siegel for Mamie Bluestein
Morris Nasser for Tova Djemal
Gail Mizrahi for Rosalind Sussman

Friday, 20 Kislev

Rose Weiss for Kalman Fajg
Rhonda Lipsky for Annette Forman
Debbie Furst for Dora Kaminer
Ray Sandler for Abraham Sandler