



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Bo

January 20, 2018 4 Shevat, 5778

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 340
HERTZ 248

HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1151
HERTZ 263

BAR MITZVAH
OF
SHLOMO YEHASKEL

Times

Candle Lighting	4:38 pm
Mincha	4:40 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Main	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Gemorah Shiur	4:00 pm
Mincha	4:30 pm
Shabbat Ends	5:47 pm
R' Reisman Video	7:30 pm
Sunday Jan. 21	7:30/8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tue., Wed., & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	4:50 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
January 20	9:40/10:28 am
January 27	9:38/10:28 am
Next Shabbat Beshalach	
Candle Lighting	4:47 pm
Mincha	4:50 pm

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Bo

It is no accident that Parshat Bo, the section that deals with the culminating plagues and the exodus, should turn three times to the subject of children and the duty of parents to educate them. As Jews we believe that to defend a country you need an army, but to defend a civilization you need education. Freedom is lost when it is taken for granted. Unless parents hand on their memories and ideals to the next generation – the story of how they won their freedom and the battles they had to fight along the way – the long journey falters and we lose our way. What is fascinating, though, is the way the Torah emphasizes the fact that children must ask questions. Two of the three passages in our parsha speak of this: And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when He struck down the

Egyptians.' (Ex. 12:26-27) In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. (Ex. 13:14) There is another passage later in the Torah that also speaks of question asked by a child: In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?" tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. (Deut. 6:20-21) The other passage in today's parsha, the only one that does not mention a question, is: On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' (Ex. 13:8) These four passages have become famous because of their appearance in the Haggadah on Pesach. They are the four children: one wise, one wicked or rebellious, one simple and "one who does not know how to ask." Reading them together the sages came to the conclusion that [1] children should ask questions, [2] the Pesach narrative must be constructed in response to, and begin with, questions asked by a child, [3] it is the

duty of a parent to encourage his or her children to ask questions, and the child who does not yet know how to ask should be taught to ask. There is nothing natural about this at all. To the contrary, it goes dramatically against the grain of history. Most traditional cultures see it as the task of a parent or teacher to instruct, guide or command. The task of the child is to obey. "Children should be seen, not heard," goes the old English proverb. "Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord," says a famous Christian text. Socrates, who spent his life teaching people to ask questions, was condemned by the citizens of Athens for corrupting the young. In Judaism the opposite is the case. It is a religious duty to teach our children to ask questions. That is how they grow. Judaism is the rarest of phenomena: a faith based on asking questions, sometimes deep and difficult ones that seem to shake the very foundations

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of faith itself. "Shall the Judge of all the earth not do justice?" asked Abraham. "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people?" asked Moses. "Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?" asked Jeremiah. The book of Job is largely constructed out of questions, and God's answer consists of four chapters of yet deeper questions: "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?...Can you catch Leviathan with a hook? ...Will it make an agreement with you and let you take it as your slave for life?"

In yeshiva the highest accolade is to ask a good question: Du fregst a gutte kashe. Rabbi Abraham Twersky, a deeply religious psychiatrist, tells of how when he was young, his teacher would relish challenges to his arguments. In his broken English, he would say, "You right! You 100 prozent right! Now I show you where you wrong." Isadore Rabi, winner of a Nobel Prize in physics, was once asked why he became a scientist. He replied, "My mother made me a scientist without ever knowing it. Every other child would come back from school and be asked, 'What did you learn today?' But my mother used to ask: 'Izzy, did you ask a good question today?' That made the difference. Asking good questions made me a scientist."

Judaism is not a religion of blind obedience. Indeed, astonishingly in a religion of 613 commandments, there is no Hebrew word that means "to obey". When Hebrew was revived as a living language in the nineteenth century, and there was need for a verb meaning "to obey," it had to be borrowed from the Aramaic: le-tsayet. Instead of a word meaning "to obey," the Torah uses the verb shema, untranslatable into English because it means [1] to listen, [2] to hear, [3] to understand, [4] to internalize, and [5] to

respond. Written into the very structure of Hebraic consciousness is the idea that our highest duty is to seek to understand the will of God, not just to obey blindly. Tennyson's verse, "Theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do or die," is as far from a Jewish mindset as it is possible to be. Why? Because we believe that intelligence is God's greatest gift to humanity. Rashi understands the phrase that God made man "in His image, after His likeness," to mean that God gave us the ability "to understand and discern." The very first of our requests in the weekday Amidah is for "knowledge, understanding and discernment." One of the most breathtakingly bold of the rabbis' institutions was to coin a blessing to be said on seeing a great non-Jewish scholar. Not only did they see wisdom in cultures other than their own, they thanked God for it. How far this is from the narrow-mindedness than has so often demeaned and diminished religions, past and present.

The historian Paul Johnson once wrote that rabbinic Judaism was "an ancient and highly efficient social machine for the production of intellectuals." Much of that had, and still has, to do with the absolute priority Jews have always placed on education, schools, the beit midrash, religious study as an act even higher than prayer, learning as a life-long engagement, and teaching as the highest vocation of the religious life. But much too has to do with how one studies and how we teach our children. The Torah indicates this at the most powerful and poignant juncture in Jewish history - just as the Israelites are about to leave Egypt and begin their life as a free people under the sovereignty of God. Hand on the memory of this moment to your children, says Moses. But do not do so in an authoritarian way. Encourage your children to ask, question, probe, investigate, analyze, explore. Liberty means freedom of the mind, not just of the body. Those who are confident of their faith need fear no question. It is only those who lack confidence, who have secret and suppressed doubts, who are afraid.

The one essential, though, is to know and to teach this to our children, that not every question has an answer we can immediately understand. There are ideas we will only fully comprehend through age and experience, others that take great intellectual preparation, yet others that may be beyond our collective comprehension at this stage of the human quest. Darwin never knew what a gene was. Even the great Newton, founder of modern science, understood how little he understood, and put it beautifully: "I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me." In teaching its children to ask and keep asking, Judaism honored what Maimonides called the "active intellect" and saw it as the gift of God. No faith has honored human intelligence more.



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
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THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



AIPAC and Great Neck Synagogue invite you to a Shabbaton

Shabbat Parshat Yitro
Saturday, February 3, 2018

featuring

AIPAC's Jonathan Kessler

Shabbat morning at the end of services

**Challenges and Opportunities
Facing the Pro-Israel Movement
Over the Next Decade**

followed by lunch

**BRING YOUR STUDENTS!
No Time to Waste: Empowering
Tomorrow's Leaders Today for
Battles on and Beyond Campus**

and

**Seudah Shlishit: Ask AIPAC Anything
with Jonathan Kessler and Julie Blinbaum**

Jonathan Kessler



Jonathan Kessler currently serves as AIPAC's Director of Strategic Initiatives responsible for identifying future organizational challenges and opportunities and developing recommendations for dealing with them. Jonathan has spent the last 14 years serving as AIPAC Leadership Development

Director, responsible for the strategic development and oversight of AIPAC's highly acclaimed campus efforts and their positioning within the larger pro-Israel political movement. Jonathan has served as a member of AIPAC's Senior Staff since 2002.

Advance Lunch Reservations Required

Please register online at www.gns.org or call the synagogue at (516) 487-6100. Lunch is \$36/adult and \$25/teen, \$15/child and \$125/family maximum.

Great Neck Synagogue | 26 Old Mill Rd



GNS SISTERHOOD & MEN'S CLUB
PRESENTS

A Fabulous Talk By
Pam Bilfeld



Efficient Sleep


Hint: It's Not What You Think!

February 6th, 2018

Great Neck Synagogue

26 Old Mill Road Great Neck

7:30 pm



Cutting Edge tips for a more restful and
regenerative sleep at night and more
strength and vitality during the day

MEN'S CLUB EVENT

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS

CORKS & CANVAS

PAINT & SIP

FEBRUARY
10TH

SATURDAY NIGHT | 8 PM

WINE, CHEESE & NOSH
\$45/PERSON
\$36/MEN'S CLUB MEMBER

Join us!

RSVP BY TUESDAY FEB. 6TH
AT 516.487.6100

ANNUAL GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

CHOLENT COOK-OFF

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**SHABBAT
FEBRUARY 17**

PRIZES FOR:

**JUDGES (PANEL) CHOLENT
MEMBERS (KIDDUSH) CHOLENT**

**CONTACT ILICHTER@GNS.ORG
TO ENTER AS CHEF & HEAR
ABOUT NEW REVISED RULES**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RIVETING TALK

Great Neck Synagogue, 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY
Saturday, February 17, 2018.
Synagogue Address after Services



FREE
AND OPEN
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HARPOON

THE MOSSAD'S COVERT WAR AGAINST TERRORISM'S MONEY MASTERS

Harpoon tells the story of Mossad director Meir Dagan and his campaign of targeting — and draining — the finances of organizations that fund attacks against Israel.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner is an Israel activist and human rights attorney. As the president of Shurat HaDin — Israel Law Center, she has represented hundreds of terror victims in lawsuits worldwide.



GREAT NECK
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SHURAT HADIN
ISRAEL LAW CENTER

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.

AIPAC SHABBATON LUNCHEON

Join us for a communal luncheon on **Shabbat Feb. 3rd** to hear Jonathan Kessler of AIPAC. RSVP at gns.org. \$36/adult \$25/teen \$15/child \$125/family maximum

The AIPAC Policy Conference this year is scheduled for March 4-6, 2018. To sign up, please visit AIPACPolicyConference.org.

MEN'S CLUB EVENT

Saturday night, Feb. 10th @ 8:00 pm: Corks & Canvas A night of painting and fun. \$45/person \$36/MC Member

SISTERHOOD EVENT & UPDATE

Tues. Feb. 6th @ 7:30 pm: Pam Bilfeld on Efficient Sleep

We are now happily getting ready for Purim. If anyone would like to be a sponsor for our Purim Packages for College Students and Beyond, or purchase Purim cards, contact Judy Lillien 516.487.6845 or syny98@gmail.com.

PESACH SCOPE MAGAZINE DEADLINE & SPONSOR

Please submit all SCOPE magazine articles, recipes, photos, ads, sponsorships and any other material by Monday, January 22nd to Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net.

Thank you to our SCOPE sponsors (we have about 70!) for their strong support. The cost is \$100 for the year to sponsor three issues (Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Pesach). We encourage those who are not currently SCOPE sponsors to join and have their names added. The Pesach SCOPE edition is right around the corner! You can dedicate the sponsorship in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please email drein@verizon.net to sign up - Thank you!

CHOLENT COOK-OFF

We are looking for a number of chefs to partake in the Cholent Cook-Off on **Shabbat February 17th**. Prizes will be awarded, To sign up, please email ilichter@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 on: **Jan. 27th; Feb. 10th & 17th.**

GNS BIKUR CHOLIM TO DELIVER HOMEMADE FOOD

Do you like to bake challah? cookies? cake? Do you like to make soup or other dishes? We have several GNS members who are ill or homebound that would love to receive a nice food gift to lift their spirits, especially on Erev Shabbat. Please text Diane Rein at [516.522.1262](tel:516.522.1262) to get a name and address of someone that would greatly appreciate your kindness. Thank you so much!

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Davida & Marc Yehaskel** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Shlomo**. **Mazal Tov** as well to grandparents **Magda & Sam Yehaskel** and **Rosie & Mark Friedman**.

Mazal Tov to **Tina Machnikoff** on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter **Jessie Kurlander**.

Mazal Tov to **Olga & Matthew Gartenhaus** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Avigail Meira**, born to their children **Sara & Jeff Bernstein**.

SAVE THE DATE

The North Shore Hebrew Academy's Annual Dinner celebrating 63 years of excellence in education, will take place on **Sunday, March 11 at Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation**. The honorees are all our members - Gail & Maurice Setton, as Guests of Honor, Karen & Robert Spitalnick, as Grandparents of the Year and Susan Frisch, receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award. Those wishing to serve to serve on the Dinner Committee, please contact Arnie Flatow at aflatow@nsha.org or call the Business office at 487-8687 ext 2.

SHAARE ZEDEK

Please join Team Shaare Zedek in the NYC Half Marathon - the NYC Full Marathon or NYC Triathlon in support of Shaare Zedek Medical Center's new Cancer Radiotherapy Center.

NYC Half Marathon - Sunday, March 18, 2018

NYC Triathlon - Sunday, July 1, 2018

NYC Marathon - Sunday November 4, 2018

For information, please contact sgoldwyn@acsz.org.

KEILIM MIKVAH

Due to the icing over of the Keilim Mikvah, the North Shore Mikvah will have hours for tevilat keilim on Sundays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Y A H R Z E I T

Saturday, 4 Shevat

Aryeh Family for Rafael Aryeh
Holly Hoenig for Irene Berns
Philip Hanfling for Max Hanfling
Jeffrey Wiesenfeld for Markus Wiesenfeld

Sunday, 5 Shevat

Pam Bilfeld for Raymond Grant
Miriam Glaubach for Max Herlinger

Monday, 6 Shevat

Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Ayuma bat Moshiah
Elly Engelstein for Steven Engelstein

Tuesday, 7 Shevat

Arnold Breitbart for Lucy Breitbart
Adeline Markowitz for Leon Perlman

Wednesday, 8 Shevat

Sylvia Fisher for Esther Hirsch
Ken Magida for Sidney Magida

Thursday, 9 Shevat

Richard Lillien for Minnie Lillien
Rita Silverman for Leon Silverman

Friday, 9 Shevat

Michael Landsman for Phyllis Landsman
Leslie Kahn for Lily Marcus
Milton Rabinowitz for Minnie Rabinowitz
Stephen Rabinowitz for Minnie Rabinowitz