



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Balak

June 30, 2018 17 Tammuz, 5778

<p>TORAH ARTSCROLL 856 HERTZ 669</p> <p>HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1189 HERTZ 682</p>	<p>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Parshat Balak</p>	
<p>Times</p>	<p>One of the most profound and influential comments ever made about Jewish destiny was made by the pagan prophet Bilaam in this week's sedra: As I see them from the mountain tops, Gaze on them from the heights, Behold it is a people that dwells alone, Not reckoned among the nations. (Num. 23:9) To many – Jews and non-Jews, admirers and critics alike – that has seemed to epitomize the Jewish situation: a people that stands outside history and the normal laws governing the fate of nations. For Jews it was a source of pride. For non-Jews, it was all too often a source of resentment and hate. For centuries, Jews in Christian Europe were treated, in Max Weber's phrase, as a "pariah people." All agreed, though, that Jews were different. The question is: how and why? The biblical answer is surprising and profound. It is not that Jews alone knew God. That is manifestly not the case. Bilaam – the very prophet who uttered these words – was not an Israelite. Nor were Abimelekh or Laban, to</p>	<p>whom God appears in the book of Genesis. Abraham's contemporary, Malkizedek, king of Shalem (the city that later became Jerusalem) is described as a priest of the most high God. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, was a Midianite high priest, yet the sedra that contains the supreme moment of Jewish history – the revelation at Mount Sinai – bears his name. Even the Pharaoh who ruled Egypt in the days of Joseph said of him, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"</p> <p>God does not appear only to Jews, members of the covenantal nation. Nor does He answer only Jewish prayers. At the dedication of the Temple, King Solomon made the following request: As for the foreigner who does not belong to Your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of Your name – for men will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of You, so that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears Your</p> <p>Name. The sages continued this great tradition when they said that "the righteous of the nations of the world have a share in the world to come." Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, contains the names of more than 20,000 righteous gentiles who saved lives during the Holocaust years.</p> <p>Nor is it that God's covenant with the children of Israel means that they are more righteous than others. Malachi, last of the prophets, has striking words to say on the subject: From where the sun rises to where it sets, My name is honored among the nations, and everywhere incense and pure oblation are offered to My name, for My name is honored among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. But you profane it... (Malachi 1:11-12) Nor did any of the major strands in Jewish thought ever see Jewish chosen-ness as a privilege. It was, and is, a responsibility. The key verse here is the famous prophecy of Amos: You alone have I singled out, Of all the families of the earth –That is why I will call you to account, For all your iniquities. (Amos 3:2)</p>
<p>Mincha 7:00 pm</p> <p>Candle Lighting 8:12 pm</p> <p>Hashkama 8:00 am</p> <p>Youth Minyan 8:30 am</p> <p>Parsha Shiur 8:30 am</p> <p>Main 9:00 am</p> <p>Beit Midrash 9:15 am</p> <p>Gemara Shiur 7:05 pm</p> <p>Mincha 8:05 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends 9:20 pm</p> <p>Sunday July 1 Fast of 17th of Tammuz Fast Begins: 4:15 am Fast Ends: 9:12 pm</p> <p>Mon. & Thurs. 6:35/7:45 am</p> <p>Tues., Wed., & Fri. 6:45/7:45 am</p> <p>Mincha 8:15 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei</p> <p>June 30 9:12/10:27 am</p> <p>July 7 9:15/10:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Shabbat Pinchas</p> <p>Mincha 7:00 pm</p> <p>Candle Lighting 8:11 pm</p>	<p>KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY ADINAH & MARK ABRAHAM & FAMILY IN HONOR OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF THEIR DAUGHTER SHARONA TO ADAM ROSEN</p>	

Where then did Jewish singularity lie? The clue lies in the precise wording of Bilaam’s blessing: “Behold it is a people that dwells alone.” For it was as a people that God chose the descendants of Abraham; as a people that He made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai; as a people that He rescued them from Egypt, gave them laws, and entered into their history. “You will be to Me,” He said at Sinai, “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Judaism is the only religion to place God at the centre of its self-definition as a nation. Jews are the only nation whose very identity is defined in religious terms. There were many nations in the ancient world who had national gods. There were other religions – Judaism’s two daughter faiths, Christianity and Islam – that believed in a universal God and a universal religion. Only Judaism believed, and still believes, in a universal God accessible to all, yet peculiarly manifest in the way of life, fate and destiny of a single and singular people: You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen...You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, that I am God. (Isaiah 43:10-12)

Israel, in its history and laws, would be God’s witness. It would testify to something larger than itself. So it proved to be. The historian Barbara Tuchman wrote: The history of the Jews is... intensely peculiar in the fact of having given the Western world its concept of origins and monotheism, its ethical traditions, and the founder of its prevailing religion, yet suffering dispersion, statelessness and ceaseless persecution, and finally in our times nearly successful genocide, dramatically followed by fulfillment of the never-relinquished dream of return to their homeland. Viewing this strange and singular history one cannot escape the impression that it must contain some special significance for the history of mankind, that in some way,

whether one believes in divine purpose or inscrutable circumstance, the Jews have been singled out to carry the tale of human fate.

Why, if God is the God of the universe, accessible to every human being, should He choose one nation to bear witness to His presence in the human arena? This is a profound question. There is no short answer. But at least part of the answer, I believe, is this. God is wholly Other. Therefore He chose a people who would be humanity’s ‘other’. That is what Jews were – outsiders, different, distinctive, a people who swam against the tide and challenged the idols of the age. Judaism is the counter-voice in the conversation of mankind. During two thousand years of dispersion, Jews were the only people who, as a group, refused to assimilate to the dominant culture or convert to the dominant faith. They suffered as a result – but what they taught was not for themselves alone. They showed that a nation does not need to be powerful or large to win God’s favor. They showed that a nation can lose everything else – land, power, rights, a home – and yet still not lose hope. They showed that God is not necessarily on the side of great empires or big battalions. They showed that a nation can be hated, persecuted, reviled, and yet still be loved by God. They showed that to every law of history there is an exception and what the majority believes at any given moment is not necessarily true. Judaism is God’s question-mark against the conventional wisdom of the age. It is neither an easy nor a comfortable fate to be “a people that dwells alone”, but it is a challenging and inspirational one.



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
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Dr. James Frisch, Assistant Director
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Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

LAWS OF THREE WEEKS & GNS JULY CHESSED

Laws of Three Weeks

Beginning with the 17th of Tammuz and continuing through the 9th of Av is the period in the Jewish calendar known as "The Three Weeks". These weeks correspond to the time when the walls of the city of Jerusalem were first breached until the burning and final destruction of the Temple. Accordingly, we relive this historical experience by adopting certain symbolic behavior commonplace to a state of mourning. As we approach that final destruction our symbolic mourning grows more pronounced. It is most intense on the day of Tisha B'av itself.

Jewish Law and tradition have established a pattern of behavior for this period of the year. This pattern of behavior clearly parallels behavior during the period of mourning following the loss of a family member. The motivating idea behind this is that our emotions are often controlled by the things that we do and ultimately bring about a sense of mourning and loss. The extent to which we are able to follow these patterns of behavior will determine the extent to which we will experience the destruction of our Temple.

Because of the historical implications of this time of year **marriages** are forbidden during the Three Week period. It seems that the prohibition stems not from the change in personal status, but rather from the celebration which is an intrinsic part of the marriage. Therefore **celebratory parties** would also be inappropriate during the three weeks. There are several different customs concerning listening to **music** during the three weeks. Although there is no prohibition to be found in the Shulchan Aruch, this is because music in general was frowned upon after the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash. Its prohibition during the three weeks might be seen as either an intrinsic part of our mourning for the Beit HaMikdash, or as an extension of the prohibition of celebratory events. Many permit music for a functional purpose, such as exercise or staying awake while driving. **Wearing of new garments** which would require the blessing of *shehecheyanu* is avoided during the three weeks (buying them is permitted). This is because that blessing allowed us to reach this time, a blessing inappropriate for this time of national calamity. **New fruits** and the like whose eating would also require the blessing of *shehecheyanu*, are not eaten until Shabbat when a *shehecheyanu* may be recited. New clothing purchased during the week may also be worn on Shabbat. In keeping with the customs of mourning, **hair cutting** is avoided during the three weeks, and there are many who refrain from **shaving** as well.

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE JULY CHESSED COLLECTION



All you need to do is drop off those items this week at the convenient drop-off location listed below. Here's how your items will help:

Shoes Your gently used shoes will go to Souls4Soles, a terrific charity dedicated to fighting poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Read more about it at <http://soles4souls.org/>

Eyeglasses and Sunglasses Your glasses or sunglasses will go to New Eyes, an outstanding charity based in New Jersey dedicated to providing free prescription glasses for those in need. Read more at <http://www.new-eyes.org>

Cell phones Your used cell phone can help provide cost-free communications to the brave members of our military. You can read more about the program at <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/>

Please drop your items off any time Sunday through Friday During the month of July

1. 88 Old Pond Road (Please leave by the garage.) Contact, if needed: Steve Blumner – [516-639-8941](tel:516-639-8941)

CHAVERIM AT GENIS

DATE:

June 27th

TIME:

11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY

Tina Machnikoff will be speaking about
"Zionism - The Back Story"

The different streams of thought that contributed to the Zionist idea

NEWS

July 11th - Peter Gordon on "Aging in Place"
July 25th - Book Discussion on Andrew Kane's
"Joshua, a Brooklyn Tale"

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

**SALLY & SEYMOUR OLSHIN
ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM
GNS SUMMER 2018
LEARNING PROGRAM**

Guest Speaker:
Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Weinberg



Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Weinberg currently teaches in Yeshiva University's Irving I. Stone Belt Midrash Program, where he also serves as the Mashgiach Ruchani. A graduate of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Weinberg received his semicha from Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg of Jerusalem and has also been certified by the Center for Integrated Teacher Education. He has served as a guest speaker and scholar in residence in Jewish communities and college campuses across the country. Additionally, Rabbi Weinberg offers a variety of weekly inspirational shiurim in Teaneck and Bergenfield area of New Jersey, where he lives with his family. Recently, he joined the rabbinic staff at Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield, serving as *Mashpia*, spiritual mentor. More than 900 of his recorded shiurim appear on yu.torah.org.

**Sunday, July 8th
9:15 am**

**Series
Sponsorships - \$180**

**To dedicate a
lecture, contact the
synagogue office**

**516.487.6100
mtwersky@gns.org**

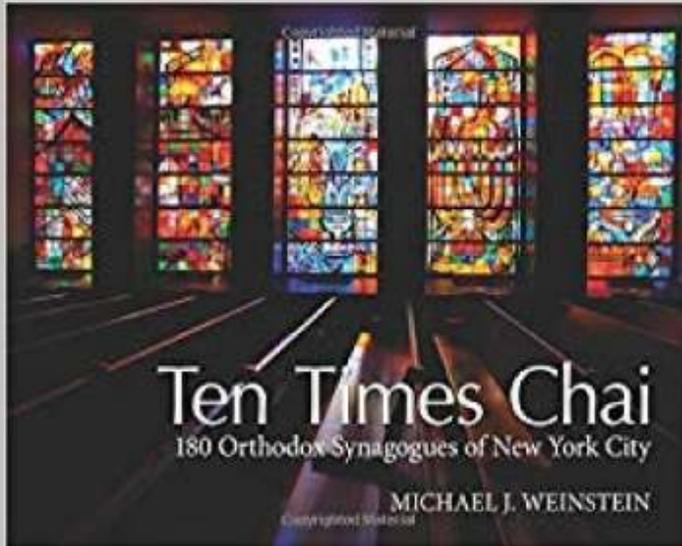


26 Old Mill Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

Great Neck Synagogue

★★★★★ Men's Club Presents ★★★★★

Sunday, July 15th at 10:00 am



Book Presentation
and Signing with

Michael J. Weinstein

Author of
"Ten Times Chai"

Inspired by his own heritage and dedicated to the Holocaust Survivors he met on his journeys, Michael J. Weinstein gives readers a tour of 180 Orthodox synagogues throughout the 5 boroughs of NYC.

This coffee table style book's 613 color photos represent each of the 613 mitzvot, or commandments, of Judaism in the Torah. Michael will share stories about each of these unique synagogues.

**SEYMOUR & SALLY
OLSHIN
ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

**SUNDAY MORNING
JUNE 24TH 9:15 AM**



RABBI BARUCH SIMON

**SUNDAY MORNING
JULY 8TH 9:15 AM**



RABBI MOSHE WEINBERG

**SUNDAY MORNING
JULY 29TH 9:15 AM**



RABBI DOVID HIRSCH

**GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
SUMMER
UPCOMING
LECTURES**

**TUESDAY EVENING
JULY 24TH 7:00 PM**



SANDRA RAPOPORT

**TUESDAY EVENING
AUGUST 14TH 8:15 PM**



DR. EDWARD REICHMAN

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
516.487.6100 OR
ILICHTER@GNS.ORG**

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.

SEYMOUR & SALLY OLSHIN ADULT ED PROGRAM

As the summer approaches, please take note of our special Summer Series Lectures:

Sun. July 8th @ 9:15 am - Rabbi Moshe Weinberger

Tues. July 24th @ 7:00 pm - Sandra Rapoport

Sun. July 29th @ 9:15 am - Rabbi Dovid Hirsch

Tues. August 14th @ 8:15 pm - Dr. Ed Reichman

Sponsorships are available by calling the shul office or emailing Rabbi Lichter at lichter@gns.org.

ROSH HASHANAH SCOPE DEADLINE & NEW FEATURE

Please submit all SCOPE magazine articles, recipes, photos, ads, sponsorships and any other material by today **June 25th** to Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net. We would also like to include a new feature in SCOPE magazine - Letters to the Editor (maximum 150 words per letter) - to express short responses and/or corrections to previously published articles. Thank you very much 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.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Join us on **June 27th from 11:30-2:00** to hear **Tina Machnikoff on "Zionism - The Back Story"**, detailing the different streams of thought that contributed to the Zionist idea.

July 11th - Peter Gordon on "Aging in Place"

July 25th - Book Discussion of Andrew Kane's "Joshua, a Brooklyn Tale".

MEN'S CLUB EVENT

July 15th @ 10:00 am: Book Presentation & signing with Michael J. Weinstein, author of "Ten Times Chai", a book that chronicles synagogues in NYC.

CHESSED VOLUNTEERS

GNS Volunteers needed to chair: GNS August Chesed - School Supply collection please email or contact mtwersky@gns.org or Sharon Goldwyn sgdesignermom@aol.com or 917-287-7334

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

June 27: Chaverim Center
July 8: Summer Lecture: Rabbi Moshe Weinberger
July 11: Chaverim Center
July 15: Men's Club Event with Michael J. Weinstein
July 24: Summer Lecture: Sandra Rapoport

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Davida & Marc Yehaskel** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Leah**. **Mazal Tov** to grandparents **Magda & Sam Yehaskel** and **Rosie & Mark Friedman**.

Mazal Tov to **Sanam & Harry Zubli** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Ethan**.

Mazal Tov to **Ilana & Aaron Wallenstein** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Kira**.

Mazal Tov to **Adinah & Mark Abraham** on the engagement of their daughter **Sharona** to **Adam Rosen**.

Mazal Tov to **Gloria Faizakoff** on the marriage of her daughter **Judy** to **Ian Griggs** of Israel.

BIKUR CHOLIM THANK YOU

If you know anyone that can benefit from Bikur Cholim, please email Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net. Thank you very much to our amazing team of approximately 25 volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort making weekly phone calls and visits over the past year to those in need in our shul. Their tremendous chesed is an inspiration to all of us.

Saturday, 17 Tammuz

Payman Rabiei for Pari bat Meyer
Elena Berkowitz for David Fridman
Leslie Kahn for Nathan Kahn
Gitty Louzoun for Gilbert Louzoun
Malka Louzoun for Gilbert Louzoun
Michelle Heisler for Gilbert Louzoun
Arthur Pomerantz for Ruth Pomerantz

Sunday, 18 Tammuz

Marc Gottlieb for Herman Gottlieb
Morris Nasser for Rafael Nasser

Monday, 19 Tammuz

Asher Pirouzian for Ayoub Pirouzian
Susan Goldman for Oscar Ring

Tuesday, 20 Tammuz

Dorothy Reiser for Mitsu Cohen
Rose Weiss for Sabina Fajz
Felix Glaubach for Baruch Glaubach
Charlene Milun for Sarah Israelite
Leo Mindick for Sam Rubinstein
Murray Honig for Joan Scheiner

Wednesday, 21 Tammuz

Rabbi Stuart Grant for Ada Auerbach
Steve Blumner for Malka bat Yehiel
Steve Blumner for Lillian Blumner
Marc Gottlieb for Fanny Gottlieb
Richard Lillien for Llewellyn Lillien
Ira Rosenberg for Gloria Rosenberg
Devorah Wang for Fay Saltzman

Thursday, 22 Tammuz

Arlette Shaya for Vita Dayan

Friday, 23 Tammuz

Lauren Hyman for Murray Cohen
Pauline Levy for Carrie Joseph
Lorraine Domnitch for Rosalind Mordkofsky
Karen Wolff for Ida Tessler
Adam Zalta for Maurice Zalta

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