



# Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Shoftim

August 18, 2018 7 Elul, 5778

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| <p><b>TORAH</b><br/><b>ARTSCROLL 1024</b><br/><b>HERTZ 820</b></p> <p><b>HAFTORAH</b><br/><b>ARTSCROLL 1199</b><br/><b>HERTZ 835</b></p>  | <p><b>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Shoftim</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Times</b></p>   | <p>The contribution of Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible, to political thought is fundamental, but not well known. In this study I want to look at the institution of monarchy. What does it tell us about the nature of government as the Torah understands it? The command relating to a king opens with these words: "When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," be sure to appoint over you the king the Lord your God chooses..."(Deut 17:14-15). It continues by warning against a king acquiring "great numbers of horses for himself". He "must not take many wives", nor may he "accumulate large amounts of silver and gold." He must write a Sefer Torah, and "he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and...not consider himself better than his brothers, or turn from the law to the right or to the left."</p> <p>The entire passage is fraught with ambivalence. The dangers are clearly</p>  | <p>spelled out. There is a risk that a king will exploit his power, using it to acquire wealth, or wives, or horses (one of the status symbols of the ancient world). This is exactly what Solomon is described as doing in the Book of Kings. His "heart may be led astray". He may be tempted to lord it over the people, considering himself "better" than everyone else. The most resonant warning note is struck at the outset. Rather than commanding the appointment of a king, the Torah envisages the people asking for one so that they can be "like all the nations around us". This is contrary to the whole spirit of the Torah. The Israelites were commanded to be different, set apart, counter-cultural. To want to be like everyone else is not, for the Torah, a noble wish but a failure of imagination and nerve. Small wonder then that a number of medieval commentators held that the creation of a monarchy is not a biblical imperative. Ibn Ezra held that the Torah did not command it but merely permitted it. Abarbanel – who favored republican government over monarchy – regarded it as a concession to popular sentiment.</p> <p>However, the key passage is not here but in I Samuel 8. As predicted in Deuteronomy, the people do eventually request a king. They come to Samuel, the prophet-judge, and say: "You are</p> |
| <p>Mincha 7:00 pm</p> <p>Candle Lighting 7:32 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 6:25 pm</p> <p>Mincha 7:25 pm</p> <p>Shabbat Ends 8:38 pm</p> <p>Sun. Aug. 19 7:30/8:30 am</p> <p>Mon. &amp; Thurs. 6:35/7:45 am</p> <p>Tues., Wed. &amp; Fri. 6:45/7:45 am</p> <p>Mincha 7:25 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Latest Times for<br/>Shema/Shemoneh Esrei</p> <p>August 18 9:33/10:41 am</p> <p>August 25 9:35/10:42 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Shabbat<br/>Ki Teitzei</p> <p>Mincha 7:00 pm</p> <p>Candle Lighting 7:21 pm</p> | <p>old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." Samuel is displeased. God then tells him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected Me as their king." This seems to be the heart of the matter. Ideally, Israel should be under no other sovereign but God. Yet God does not reject the request. To the contrary, God had already signaled, through Moses, that such a request would be granted. So He says to Samuel: "Listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do." The people may appoint a king, but not without having been forewarned as to what are the likely consequences. Samuel gives the warning in these words: "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots...He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and</p> |  |
| <p><b>KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE</b></p>  |   |  |
| <p><b>BIMA FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY RIVKA &amp; CARL ROSENBERG<br/>IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER HENRY ROSENBERG Z"l</b></p>  |   |  |
| <p><b>SEUDAT SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY THE STEINBERG AND GINSBURG FAMILY<br/>IN HONOR OF THE 41ST YAHRZTEIT<br/>OF THEIR HUSBAND, FATHER AND GRANDFATHER, PHILIP R. STEINBERG<br/>AND IN HONOR OF ALAN'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY</b></p>  |   |  |

attendants...and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the Lord will not answer you in that day." Despite the warning, the people are undeterred. "'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.' When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. The Lord answered, 'Listen to them and give them a king.'"

What is going on here? The sages were divided as to whether Samuel was setting out the powers of the king, or whether he was merely trying to dissuade them from the whole project (Sanhedrin 20b). The entire passage, like the one in Deuteronomy, is profoundly ambivalent. Is God in favor of monarchy or against? If He is in favor, why did He say that the people's request was tantamount to rejecting Him? If He is against, why did He not simply command Samuel to say no?

The best analysis of the subject was given by one of the great rabbis of the 19th century, R. Zvi Hirsch Chajes, in his *Torat Nevi'im*. His thesis is that the institution of monarchy in the days of Samuel took the form of a social contract – as set out in the writings of Locke and Rousseau, and especially Hobbes. The people recognize that they cannot function as individuals without someone having the power to ensure the rule of law and the defense of the nation. Without this, they are in what Hobbes calls a "state of nature". There is anarchy, chaos. No one is safe. Instead, in Hobbes' famous phrase, there is "continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short" (Hobbes was writing in the wake of England's civil war). This is the Hobbesian equivalent of the last line of the Book of Judges: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." The only way to escape from anarchy is by everyone agreeing to transfer some of their rights – especially the use of coercive force – to a human sovereign. Government comes at a high price. It means transferring to a ruler rights over one's own property and person. The king is entitled to seize

property, impose taxes, and conscript people into an army if these are necessary to ensure the rule of law and national security. People agree to this because they calculate that the price of not doing so will be higher still – total anarchy or conquest by a foreign power. That, according to Chajes, is what Samuel was doing, at God's command: proposing a social contract and spelling out what the results would be. If this is so, many things follow. The first is that Ibn Ezra and Abarbanel were right. God gave the people the choice as to whether or not to appoint a king. It was not compulsory but optional. The second – and this is the fundamental feature of social contract theories – is that power is ultimately vested in the people. To be sure, there are moral limits to power. Even a human king is under the sovereignty of God. God gives us the rules that are eternal.

Politics is about the laws that are temporary, for this time, this place, these circumstances. What makes the politics of social contract distinctive is its insistence that government is the free choice of a free nation. This was given its most famous expression in the American Declaration of Independence: "to secure these rights (life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness) Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." That is what God was telling Samuel. If the people want a king, give them a king. Israel is empowered to choose the form of government it desires, within the parameters set by Torah law.

Something else follows – spelled out by R. Avraham Yitzhak haCohen Kook (Responsa Mishpat Cohen, no. 143-4, pp. 336-337): "Since the laws of monarchy pertain to the general situation of the people, these legal rights revert [in the absence of a king] to the people as a whole. Specifically it would seem that any leader [shofet] who arises in Israel has the status of a king [din melekh yesh lo] in many respects, especially when it concerns the conduct of the people...Whoever leads the people may rule in accordance with the laws of kingship, since these encompass the needs of the people at that time and in that situation." In other words, in the absence of a king of Davidic descent, the people may choose to be ruled by a non-Davidic king, as they did in the age of the Hasmoneans, or to be ruled instead by a democratically elected Parliament, as in the current State of Israel.

The real issue, as the Torah sees it, is not between monarchy and democracy, but between government that is, or is not, freely chosen by the governed. To be sure, the Torah is systematically skeptical about politics. In an ideal world, Israel would be governed by God alone. Given, however, that this is not an ideal world, there must be some human power with the authority to ensure that laws are kept and enemies repelled. But that power is never unlimited. It comes with two constraints: first, it is subject to the overarching authority of God and His law; second, it is confined to the genuine pursuit of the people's interests. Any attempt by a ruler to use power for personal advantage (as in the case of King Ahab and Naboth's vineyard: 1 Kings 21) is illegitimate. The free society has its birth in the Hebrew Bible. Far from mandating a retreat from society, the Torah is the blueprint of a society – a society built on freedom and human dignity, whose high ideals remain compelling today.



**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](mailto: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**  
**Erran Kagan, President**  
**Rabbi Aron Rubin, Rabbinic Intern**  
**Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board**  
**Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111**

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



August 14th 2018  
8:15 pm promptly  
Mincha 7:35 pm

Light Refreshments Free of Charge  
Everyone is Welcome

**RABBI DR. EDWARD REICHMAN**

To dedicate a lecture  
please contact the synagogue office  
at 516.487.6100 or mtwersky@gns.org

Sponsorships:  
\$180  
\$360  
\$500  
\$750

**Pidyon HaBen in the 21st Century:  
The Impact of Modern Medicine on the Performance of One Mitzvah**

Edward Reichman is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and an Associate Professor of Philosophy and History of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM) of Yeshiva University, where he teaches Jewish medical ethics.

He received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and writes and lectures widely in the field of Jewish medical ethics. He is the recipient of a Kornfeld Foundation Fellowship and the Rubinstein Prize in Medical Ethics. He is a past member of the advisory board for the Institute of Genetics and Public Policy. His research is devoted to the interface of medical history and Jewish law.



**DATE:**

August 22nd

**TIME:**

11:30 - 2:00

**ACTIVITY**

Making Cards & Soup  
for Pass It Forward

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

Chaverim will return after the Chagim  
on Oct. 10th

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema



Order your New Year's Cards  
From  
Sisterhood

10 cards for \$18.00 or \$2.50 each



**Great Neck Synagogue  
presents a Conversation with**

**Senator Elaine Phillips & Anna Kaplan**

**two State-Senate candidates speaking on issues affecting  
the Jewish community in New York State**

**Senator Elaine Phillips  
(R)**



**Anna Kaplan  
(D)**



**Following Kiddush in the Beit Midrash Shabbat September 1st**

**LEIL SLICHOT AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE  
SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 1ST 2018**

**10:00 PM**

**RABBI LAWRENCE HAJIOFF**

**Redemption and the Jews:  
How to Bring Mashiach This Year**

**10:45 PM**

**SLICHOT LED  
BY EVAN TWERSKY**



Originally from London, England, Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff graduated with honors in political science from Manchester University. After working for MTV in news production and winning the national competition 'Jewish Stand-Up Comedian' of the Year, Rabbi Hajioff traveled to study in Israel and then Monsey to receive his rabbinical semicha ordination from Ohr Somayach.

Rabbi Hajioff is the educational director of Birthright Israel Alumni in Manhattan. He has been instrumental in implementing programs for Birthright Israel in Manhattan such as the very successful adult bar and bat mitzvah program which some four hundred people have completed so far. He also leads trips to Israel & Poland three times a years for hundreds of young professionals.

Rabbi Hajioff is on the full-time faculty of Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University. His very popular credited courses include courses on Jewish Philosophy, Mysticism, Jewish Holidays, Shabbat, and many others.

# **GNS CHESED DRIVE FOR AUGUST**

**WE ARE COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES**



**ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO ONEG SHABBOS  
THE SUPPLIES WILL BE USED BY FAMILIES WITH  
CHILDREN FROM KINDERGARTEN - HIGH SCHOOL.**

**KNAPSACKS, NOTEBOOKS, MARKERS, LOOSELEAFS,  
GLUE, SCISSORS, PAPER, RULERS, ETC.**

**2 DROP OFF locations: Sunday – Thursday**

**Talia & Sol Goldwyn - 22 Vista Drive**

**Please leave at side door**

**Louise & Lenny Kahn - 18 Oak Drive**

**Please leave bags in garage only**

**GNS July Chessed Collection A Great Success!!**

**Many thanks to everyone in our Shul who contributed to our July Chessed Drive!!**

We collected 253 Pairs of shoes - 103 eyeglasses and 24 cell phones which were donated to Souls4soles, Sara's shoes, New-eyes.org, and Cellphones for soldiers.

We thank Steve Blumner and Jonny Ambalo for always taking the time to make sure that all the items donated from our GNS members were boxed and delivered to all the right places so that so many people in need will benefit. Thank you!!

• Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club  
8th Annual Ocean Fishing Trip •

Sunday, August 26th  
4:15 pm

Men's Club Members \$65  
Non-Members \$75  
Children (ages 6-11) \$45  
Dinner Included

First 6 children to sign up  
under 12 are free (1 per family)

We are sold out every year!  
Registration and payment  
are due August 19

540 Guy Lombardo Ave.  
Freeport NY 11520

Contact:

Mark Friedman 516.384.5491

Hilly Milun 516.448.4890

GNS office 516.487.6100

[www.gnsny.com](http://www.gnsny.com)



**GNS 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROSH HASHANA  
PASS IT FORWARD HUNGER INITIATIVE  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5th, 2018**

**BRING THE SWEETNESS OF ROSH HASHANA TO THOSE IN NEED!**

Now in its 11th 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!! If you are making food, please email us at [yomtovchickens@gmail.com](mailto:yomtovchickens@gmail.com).

**Deliver food to GNS COAT ROOM LOBBY**  
on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** between **11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Donate \$\$:** Purchase a special meal for a **\$20** contribution at one of the kosher food markets in town, where there are signs at the cash registers. Meals will be delivered on your behalf. Or make a donation to the GNS Hunger Initiative.

**Donate Time:** We need **packers on Wednesday Sept. 5th** from 1:00-3:00pm and **drivers** for about 25 different routes, from 3:00-4:00pm, meeting at **GNS Coat Lobby**. To VOLUNTEER, email **Michelle Berman** [michberman@gmail.com](mailto:michberman@gmail.com).

**Leadership Opportunities:** If you would like to join our **Leadership Team**, host a cooking event, improve our presence on social media, coordinate a project, email **Cindy Hodkin** [koshercookinggn@gmail.com](mailto:koshercookinggn@gmail.com) or text her at **516.317.9632**.

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

# 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

## MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mazal Tov** to **Lisa & Michael Aryeh** on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, **Joseph & Aliza Aryeh**.  
**Mazal Tov** to great grandmother **Mahin Aryeh** as well.

**Mazal Tov** to **Drora & Paul Brody** on the birth of a grandson, born to their children, **Tali & Judah Spector**.

**Mazal Tov** to **Yafa & Mansour Farhadian** on the marriage of their son, **Joseph** to **Rebecca Zacaim**.

### MIKVAH HOURS FOR MEN FOR YOM TOV

The North Shore Mikvah will be open for men only on Erev Rosh Hoshana, **Sept 9th**, and Erev Yom Kippur, **Sept 18th**, from 5AM-3PM. Men must bring their own towels. Cost is \$36. Sponsorships are available: Platinum \$500, Gold \$250, Silver \$180, Sponsor \$100. Please contact for more info: Jenny Katz at [jenniferfrank2@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferfrank2@gmail.com) or Zehava Atlas at [zehavaatlas18@gmail.com](mailto:zehavaatlas18@gmail.com).

### BIKUR CHOLIM THANK YOU

If you know anyone that can benefit from Bikur Cholim, please email Diane Rein at [drein@verizon.net](mailto: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.

**IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.**

### RABBI POLAKOFF

Office Hours are cancelled for the summer and will resume in the fall. He can be reached on his cell 516.637.3674.

### HIGH HOLIDAY REQUESTS

Please send in your High Holiday request forms as well as your synagogue obligations ASAP.

### SEYMOUR & SALLY OLSHIN ADULT ED PROGRAM

**Tues. August 14th @ 8:15 pm - Dr. Ed Reichman**  
"Pidyon HaBen in the 21st Century: The Impact of Modern Medicine on the Performance of One Mitzvah."

Sponsorships are available by calling the shul office or emailing Rabbi Lichter at [ilichter@gns.org](mailto:ilichter@gns.org).

### CHAVERIM CENTER

Please Join us on **August 22nd from 11:30-2:00** for our next Chaverim Center to make Rosh Hashana cards and soup for Pass it Forward.

### MEN'S CLUB EVENT

Join the Men's Club for the 8th annual Fishing Trip on **Sunday, August 26th** at 4:15 pm at Guy Lombardo Ave. in Freeport. Cost for MC members/\$65 and \$45/children (ages 6-11). For non-MC members/\$75. The first 6 children under the age of 12 are free. Register by 8/19.

### GNS CHESED

August Chesed is collecting school supplies to be dropped off at the Goldwyn home, 22 Vista Dr. or the Kahn residence, 18 Oak Dr.

### SISTERHOOD ROSH HASHANA CARDS

Rosh Hashana cards are now available for purchase at \$18 for a pack of 10, designed by Celia Lemonik, contact Judy Lillien at [syny98@gmail.com](mailto:syny98@gmail.com).

Anyone interested in receiving Sisterhood updates should email [farlafrumkin@gmail.com](mailto:farlafrumkin@gmail.com) or to be included in the Sisterhood WhatsApp, please text her at 516.641.5153.

### PASS IT FORWARD

GNS 11th Annual Rosh Hashana Pass it Forward Hunger Initiative will take place on **Wednesday, Sept 5th**. Please consult the flyer for the many ways that you can help.

### LOST ALIYAH PLAQUE IN THE BEIT MIDRASH

We are missing the silver maftir plaque from the Beit Midrash minyan, which was accidentally not returned one week. Please check your pockets from the last 6-8 weeks.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Aug. 14: Summer Lecture: Dr. Reichman  
Aug. 22: Chaverim Center  
Aug. 26: Men's Club Annual Fishing Trip  
Sept. 1: Slichot Night w/ Rabbi Hajioff & Evan Twersky

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### Saturday, 7 Elul

Elly Engelstein for Renee Jeret  
Vera Bernstein for Jacob Lefkowitz

### Sunday, 8 Elul

Rita Gordonson for Dora Gershkowitz  
Stanley Lupkin for David Lupkin  
Hersel Rabanipour for Gohar Rabanipour  
Jack Wachstock for Judith Wachstock  
Harriet Cooper for Celeste Weber

### Monday, 9 Elul

Arthur Kirsch for Tessie Zuckerman

### Tuesday, 10 Elul

Evelyn Henis for Marshall Henis  
Anita Beretz for Joseph Levi  
Avraham Markowitz for Bernard Markowitz  
Rabbi Dale Polakoff for Gail Polakoff  
Sharyn Falkenstein for Philip Steinberg  
Alan Steinberg for Philip Steinberg  
Pearl Ginsburg for Philip Steinberg

### Wednesday, 11 Elul

Gloria Faizakoff for Rose Cohen  
Felix Glaubach for Ethel Glaubach  
Larry Horn for Irene Horn

### Thursday, 12 Elul

Jeffrey Freedman for Ettie Freedman  
Ellen Siegel for Anna Givner  
Sharon Goldwyn for Solomon Goldwyn  
Elaine Miller for Harry Grant

### Friday, 13 Elul

Leslie Kahn for Fanny Eisman  
Serge Fischler for Abraham Fischler  
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Tova Gabbazadeh  
Gary Knobel for Paul Knobel  
Meredith Bachrach for Maureen Shapiro