



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Bereishit/Shabbat Mevarchim

October 6, 2018 27 Tishrei, 5779

TORAH
ARTSCROLL 2
HERTZ 2
HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1130
HERTZ 21

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
ROSH CHODESH CHESHVAN
OCT. 9-10 MON. & TUES.
MOLAD: TUES. OCT. 9
AT 9:01:11 PM

BAT MITZVAH
OF
ARIEL REISS

Times

Candle Lighting	6:12 pm
Mincha	6:15 pm
Hashkama	8:00 am
Youth Minyan	8:30 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Main	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Gemara Shiur	5:00 pm
Mincha	6:00 pm
Shabbat Ends	7:18 pm
Sun. Oct. 7	7:30 /8:30 am
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am
Tues. & Wed.	6:30/7:45 am
Rosh Chodesh	
Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Mincha	6:05 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
October 6	9:49/10:47 am
October 13	9:52/10:48 am
Next Shabbat Noach	
Candle Lighting	6:01 pm
Mincha	6:05 pm

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Bereishit

In stately prose the Torah in its opening chapter describes the unfolding of the universe, the effortless creation of a single creative Force. Repeatedly we read, "And God said, Let there be ... and there was ... and God saw that it was good" – until we come to the creation of humankind. Suddenly the whole tone of the narrative changes: And God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of heaven, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every moving thing that moves upon the earth." So God created man in His image, In the image of God He created him, Male and female He created them. (Gen. 1:26-27)

The problems are obvious. First, why the preface, "Let us make..."? In no other case does God verbally reflect on what He is about to create before He creates it. Second, who is the "us"? At that time there was no "us." There was only God. There are many answers, but here I want to focus only on one given by the Talmud. It is quite

extraordinary. The "us" refers to the angels with whom God consulted. He did so because He was faced with a fateful dilemma. By creating Homo sapiens, God was making the one being other than Himself capable of destroying life on earth. Read Jared Diamond's Guns, Germs and Steel or Collapse and you will discover how destructive humans have been wherever they have set foot, creating environmental damage and human devastation on a massive scale. We are still doing so. This is how the Talmud describes what happened before God created humankind: When the Holy One, blessed be He, came to create man, He created a group of ministering angels and asked them, "Do you agree that we should make man in our image?" They replied, "Sovereign of the Universe, what will be his deeds?" God showed them the history of mankind. The angels replied, "What is man that You are mindful of him?" [in other words, let man not be created]. God destroyed the angels. He created a second group, and asked them the same question, and they gave the same answer. God destroyed them. He created a third group of angels, and they replied, "Sovereign of the Universe, the first and second group of angels told You not to create man, and it did not avail them. You did not listen. What then can we say but this: The

universe is Yours. Do with it as You wish." Then God created man.

When it came to the generation of the Flood, and then to the generation of the builders of Babel, the angels said to God, "Were not the first angels right? See how great is the corruption of mankind." Then God replied (Isaiah 46:4), "Even to old age I will not change, and even to grey hair, I will still be patient." (Sanhedrin 38b) This goes to the core of the dilemma even God could not escape. Were He not to create humanity there would be no-one in the universe capable of understanding that he or she was created and that God exists. Only with the birth of humanity did the universe become self-conscious. Without us, it would be as if God had created billions of robots mindlessly doing what they been programmed to do for all eternity. So, even though by creating humans God was putting the entire future of creation at risk, God went ahead and made humankind.

This is radical theology indeed. The Talmud is telling us is that the existence of humankind can only be explained by the fact that God had faith in man. As the Sifre

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THEIR HUSBAND & FATHER
GEORGE NAIM Z"l

explains the phrase in Moses' song, "the God of faith" – this means, "the God who had faith in the universe and created it." The real religious mystery, according to Judaism, is not our faith in God. It is God's faith in us. This is the extraordinary idea that shines through the entire Tanakh. God invests his hopes for the universe in this strange, refractory, cantankerous, ungrateful and sometimes degenerate creature called Homo sapiens, part dust of the earth, part breath of God, whose behavior disappoints and sometimes appals him. Yet He never gives up. He tries with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, a string of judges and kings. He tries with women also, and here succeeds much better. They are more faithful, less violent, less obsessed with power. But He refuses to give up on men. He has His most passionate relationship with the prophets. They understand Him and become bearers of His word. Yet most of the prophets end up as disappointed with people as God is.

The real subject of the Torah is not our faith in God, which is often faltering, but His unfailing faith in us. The Torah is not man's book of God. It is God's book of man. He spends a mere 34 verses describing His own creation of the universe, but more than 500 verses describing the Israelites' creation of a tiny, temporary, portable building called the Mishkan, the Sanctuary. God never stops believing in us, loving us, and hoping for the best from us. There are moments when He almost despairs. Our parsha says so. The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and He was grieved to His very core. But Noah, good, innocent, upright, consoles Him. For the sake of one good man God was prepared to begin again. Of course, all of this is a matter of faith – as is all belief in the thoughts and feelings of persons other than myself. Do I really know whether those closest to me – my marriage partner, my children, my companions, my friends – love me or have faith in me, or is that just wishful thinking on my part? Atheists sometimes think

that belief in God is irrational while belief in other people is rational. That is simply not so. The proof is the failure of the man who, at the dawn of the Enlightenment, sought to put philosophy on a rational basis: Rene Descartes. Descartes famously said, Cogito ergo sum, "I think, therefore I am." All he was sure of was his own existence. For anything else – the existence of physical objects, let alone other minds – even he had to invoke God. I for one do not have enough faith to be an atheist. To be an atheist you have to have faith, either in humankind as a whole, or in yourself. How anyone can have faith in humankind after the Holocaust defies all reason. The single most calculated, sustained crime of man against man happened not in some benighted third world country but in the heart of a Europe that had given birth to Kant and Hegel, Bach and Beethoven, Goethe and Schiller. Civilization utterly failed to civilize. Humanism did not make men humane.

When I first stood at Auschwitz-Birkenau the question that haunted me was not, "Where was God?" God was in the command, "You shall not murder." God was in the words, "You shall not oppress the stranger." God was saying to humanity, "Your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground." God did not stop the first humans eating forbidden fruit. He did not stop Cain committing murder. He did not stop the Egyptians enslaving the Israelites. God does not save us from ourselves. That, according to the Talmud, is why creating man was such a risk that the angels advised against it. The question that haunts me after the Holocaust, as it does today in this new age of chaos, is "Where is man?" As for believing only in yourself, that is hubris. Every serious thinker since the dawn of history has known that this ends in nemesis. There are only two serious possibilities to be entertained by serious minds. Either the one put forward by the Torah that we are here because a Force greater than the universe wanted us to be, or the alternative: that the universe exists because of a random fluctuation in the quantum field, and we are here because of a mindless sequence of genetic mutations blindly sifted by natural selection. Either there is or is not meaning to the human condition. The first possibility yields Isaiah, the second, Sophocles, Aeschylus and Greek tragedy. The Greece of antiquity died. The Israel of Abraham and Moses still lives. I respect those who choose Greek tragedy over Jewish hope. But those who choose Judaism have made space in their minds for the most life-changing idea of all: Whether or not we have faith in God, God has faith in us.

There may be times in our lives – certainly there have been in mine – when the sun disappears and we enter the cloud of black despair. King David knew these feelings well. They are theme of several Psalms. People can be brutal to one another. There are some who, having suffered pain themselves, find relief in inflicting it on others. You can lose faith in humanity, or in yourself, or both. At such times, the knowledge that God has faith in us is transformative, redemptive. As David said in Psalm 27: Even were my father or mother to forsake me, The Lord would still receive me. (Ps. 27:10) We may lose heart; God never will. We may despair; God will give us hope. God believes in us even if we don't believe in ourselves. We may sin and disappoint and come short again and again, but God never ceases to forgive us when we fail and lift us when we fail. Have faith in God's faith in us and you will find the path from darkness to light.



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
Yitzy Spinner, 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
Erran Kagan, President
Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board
Lisa Septimus, Yoetzet Halacha 516-415-1111

GNS SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

MONDAYS

Rabbi Ian Lichter - Tanach 8:00 – 9:00 pm (Beit Midrash)

This class will take a look at each Haftara, analyzing its significance and practicality.

START DATE: OCTOBER 15th

Rabbi Dale Polakoff - Talmud 9:00 – 10:00 pm (Bilfeld home)

Join us in discovering the deeper teachings of the Talmud Rosh Hashana.

START DATE: OCTOBER 8th

TUESDAYS

Rabbi Ian Lichter - Parsha 7:00 – 7:30 pm (Chalfin Room)

1st-5th graders learn the Parsha with an opportunity to share a dvar Torah at the Shabbat table.

START DATE: OCTOBER 9th

Chazzan Yitzzy Spinner - Tefillah 8:00 - 8:45 pm (Beit Midrash)

Learn proper Nusach Ha'Tefillah for Shabbat with Chazzan Spinner to enable you to lead the davening with proper form and concentration.

Series I – Kabbalat Shabbat
**Dates: Oct. 23, Oct. 30,
Nov. 6, Nov. 13 & Nov. 20**

Series II – Shacharit (Shabbat)
**Dates: Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Feb. 5,
Feb. 12 & Feb. 19**

Series III – Mussaf (Shabbat)
**Dates: Mar. 26, Apr. 2,
Apr. 9, May 21 & May 28**

WEDNESDAYS

Rabbi Yossi Singer - Talmud 8:30 - 9:30 pm (Weinstein Room)

Join a class that has been going strong for over 30 years. Learning Masechet Yoma.

HAS ALREADY BEGUN

Rabbi Ian Lichter - Halacha 9:00 – 10:30 pm (homes)

Join this growing shiur focused on exploring the world of halacha and hashkafa.

START DATE: OCTOBER 24th

THURSDAYS

Rabbi Dale Polakoff - Chumash 9:15 – 10:30 am (Chalfin Room)

This Women's Chumash Class takes an in-depth look at Sefer Bamidbar and relates the mitzvot and narratives of the Torah to our daily lives.

START DATE: OCTOBER 4th

Rabbi Ian Lichter - Hashkafa 6:30 - 7:15 pm (Weinstein Technology Rm.)

A class for High School teenagers with pizza and schmoozing.

START DATE: OCTOBER 4th

Rabbi Dale Polakoff - Chumash 8:00 – 9:00 pm (Chalfin Room)

This Power Chumash class utilizes the breadth of Torah commentaries in dissecting passages in the Torah to provide a broad picture into isolated mitzvot: Sefer Shemot.

START DATE: OCTOBER 4th

CANASTA LESSONS

GNS

SISTERHOOD

-JUST-
\$36 FOR GNS MEMBERS

\$50 FOR NON-GNS MEMBERS

➤ Instructor: Ellen Domnitch

➤ Evening Classes in October: 9th, 23rd & 30th

➤ Open to men & women
Possible daytime classes if sufficient enrollment

Contact Farla at farlafrumkin@gmail.com



GNS MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS

NY JETS FOOTBALL

SUN. OCT. 14TH
AT MET LIFE STADIUM, NJ

1:00 PM GAMETIME
NY JETS VS. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

EVENT IS SOLD OUT!

LIMITED NUMBER OF GREAT SEATS IN SECTION 204

\$50

PER TICKET FOR MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS

\$70

PER TICKET FOR NON MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS

CAR POOLING WILL BE ARRANGED

TALKING PARTY IS BEING PLANNED

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WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 10, 2018

6PM | ELABORATE BUFFET
& COCKTAILS
8PM | PROGRAM

FRESH MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB

255 LAKEVILLE RD | LAKE SUCCESS, NY 11020

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ALEX.SCHIEBER@FIDF.ORG OR 646-274-9661

GNS SHABBAT SPEAKERS PROGRAM



October 19-20, 2018

HANOCH TELLER

For dedications to our Speakers Program please contact the synagogue office at 516.487.6100 or mtwersky@gns.org

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

Shabbat Drasha: Honorable Mentschen

Seudah Shlishit: To Dream the Impossible Scheme:
The Founding of Israel's Most Improbable Community

Internationally-acclaimed as one of the most original and inspiring motivational speakers of our time, story-teller extraordinaire, Rabbi Hanoch Teller, has been dubbed a "globe-trotting modern-day maggid." He has enthralled audiences on five continents, in over 40 American states and 24 other countries, delivering a precious message imbued with joy and drama, laughter and pathos.

His electrifying presentations on a vast range of topics - sometimes hilarious, always stirring, meaningful and pragmatic - are underwritten by prodigious scholarship and more than three decades as a hands-on, beloved educator. U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, proclaimed him "probably the most sophisticated storyteller of our time."



THE BEATLES

TRIBUTE

GNS MEN'S CLUB AND SISTERHOOD
DINNER & CONCERT
AT COLBEH RESTAURANT IN GREAT NECK

SATURDAY NIGHT
NOVEMBER 10TH
7:00 PM

TALIA REESE
COMEDIAN
&
GROUP MYSTERY
TOUR
BEATLES BAND

SPONSORSHIPS: \$250/COUPLE
MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS: \$150/COUPLE - \$75/PERSON
NON-MEN'S CLUB MEMBERS: \$100/COUPLE - \$90/PERSON

PAYMENT & RSVP BY NOV. 5TH (LIMITED SEATING)
HILLY MILUN 516.504.0320; MARK FRIEDMAN 516.384.5491; GNS OFFICE 516.487.6100

OHEL SHABBATON

OCT. 12-13
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
HOSTING PLEASE EMAIL
ILICHTER@GNS.ORG



SCHEDULE:

Friday night Davening: 6:05 pm
Friday Night Dinner @ GNS 7:00 pm
Oneg @ GNS: 8:30 PM
Shabbat Morning Davening: 9:00/9:15 am
Kiddush: 12:00 pm
Shabbat Lunch at Hosts Homes: 1:00 pm
Mincha: 5:50 pm
Shabbat Ends: 7:07 pm



Education
Saves Lives

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Join us for a free community-wide event

EMPATHY: STANDING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

featuring Shera Dubitsky MEd, MA, Sharsheret Senior Advisor



Wednesday, October 24, 2018

8:00 PM

Great Neck Synagogue - Youth Lounge
26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY



Light Dessert Reception

RSVP at sharsheret.org/empathy

For questions contact Melissa Pelcovitz: mpelcs@gmail.com

or Heidi Zuckerman: heidizuckerman@optonline.net

The Event Committee:

Talia Goldwyn, Debbie Hollander, Jill Katz

Melissa Pelcovitz, Ellen Polakoff and Heidi Zuckerman



SHARSHERET
Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5779
IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF **DOVID BEN NISSAN v'LEAH**
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

Tuesdays 10:00-12:00; Thursdays 1:00-3:00.
He can always be reached on his cell 516.637.3674 or at dpolakoff@gns.org.

HASHKAMA MINYAN KIDDUSH

Hashkama Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by **Jill & Ron Swartz** and by **Lisa & Alan Adler** in honor of Ron's being honored with Chatan Beresheit.

WOMEN'S TEFILA

Women's Tefila will meet this Shabbat at 5:00 pm and is sponsored by **Amy & Jonathan Reiss** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Ariel**.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Chaverim will next meet on **October 10th**.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Sun. October 14th: Jets Game @ Met Life Stadium.
Sat. night Nov. 10th: Dinner & Concert: Beatles Tribute.
Cost: MC Members \$150/couple \$75/person. Non-MC members \$180/couple \$90/person.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Canasta lessons are being offered for \$36 for three evenings in October: **9th, 23rd, & 30th**. Given by Ellen Domnitch. Sign up by emailing farlafrumkin@gmail.com.
Anyone interested in receiving Sisterhood updates should email farlafrumkin@gmail.com or to be included in the Sisterhood WhatsApp, please text her at 516.641.5153.

CHANUKAH SCOPE DEADLINE, NEW FEATURE & SPONSORSHIP

Please submit all SCOPE magazine articles, recipes, photos, ads, sponsorships and any other material by **October 15th** 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 for their strong support by sponsoring 3 issues for a total cost of \$100 for the year.

SHARSHERET LECTURE

Please join on us **Wednesday, Oct. 24th** at 8:00 pm at Great Neck Synagogue for a Sharsheret lecture given by Shera Dubitsky entitled "Empathy: Standing on Someone Else's Shoes."

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Oct. 10: Chaverim Center
Oct. 12-13: OHEL Shabbaton
Oct. 14: Men's Club JETS Game

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to Amy & Jonathan Reiss on the Bat Mitzvah of the daughter **Ariel**.

Mazal Tov to Lorraine & Harold Domnitch and Martin & Ellen Domnitch on being Guests of Honor at the Friends of IDF Dinner this week.

Mazal Tov to Raphael Marcus who has published a new book: Israel's Long War With Hezbollah. Military Innovation and Adaptation Under Fire.

KEILIM MIKVAH

Please note that the Keilim Mikvah will be closed after Yom Tov for some time for repairs. You can visit the GNS office during business hours to claim any lost items.

YOM KIPPUR MACHZOR MISSING

A member's YK machzor with a brown cover, gold leaf pages and a name engraved in gold letters is missing. If you have any information, please email mtwersky@gns.org.

YAHARZEIT

Saturday, 27 Tishrei

Susan Mayer for Steven Mayer
Jason Mayer for Steven Mayer
Mariana Naim for George Naim
Albert Safdieh for Shaul ben Avraham Safdieh

Sunday, 28 Tishrei

Ira Lubin for Max Gerber

Monday, 29 Tishrei

Baruch Toledano for Joseph Toledano

Tuesday, 30 Tishrei

Perry Schneider for Harry Colton
Robert Glaser for Sophie Glaser
Marcia Toledano for Julia Karten
Stephen Rabinowitz for Marion Rabinowitz
Murray Rabinowitz for Marion Rabinowitz
Paul Weinberg for Ida Weinberg

Wednesday, 1 Cheshvan

Sharon Herman for Muriel Adler
Leon Kutcher for Fran Kutcher
Herschel Flax for Ethel Pasvolsky
Mary Flax for Ethel Pasvolsky
Rita Silverman for Zelda Schwartz
Lorraine Domnitch for Jennie Speisel

Thursday, 2 Cheshvan

Sheila Bachman for Pauline Bachman
Lisa Adler for Sol Gelfond
Ron Swartz for Sol Gelfond
Joyce Swartz for Sol Gelfond
Ira Lubin for Pauline Gerber

Deena Heisler for Joseph Heisler
Eliot Heisler for Joseph Heisler
George Schuman for Erna Schuman
Debbie Hollander for Judith Sokol
Martin Sokol for Judith Sokol

Joseph Sokol for Judith Sokol
Rabbi Shimon Wolf for Nathan Wolf

Friday, 3 Cheshvan

Pauline Levy for David Gruber
Paul Marcus for Victor Marcus