



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Vayeishev/Shabbat Mevarchim

December 1, 2018 23 Kislev, 5779

<p>TORAH ARTSCROLL 198 HERTZ 141</p> <p>HAFTORAH ARTSCROLL 1142 HERTZ 152</p>	<h2>Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Vayeishev</h2>																																											
<p>SHABBAT MEVARCHIM ROSH CHODESH TEVET: SHABBAT & SUNDAY DEC. 8-9</p> <p>MOLAD: FRI. DEC. 7 AT 10:29:13 PM</p>	<p>We live life looking forward but we understand it only looking back. As we live from day to day, our life can seem like a meaningless sequence of random events, a series of accidents and happenstances that have no shape or inner logic. A traffic jam makes us late for an important meeting. A stray remark we make offends someone in a way we never intended. By a hair's-breadth we fail to get the job we so sought. Life as we experience it can sometimes feel like Joseph Heller's definition of history: "a trashbag of random coincidences blown open in a wind." Yet looking back, it begins to make sense. The opportunity we missed here led to an even better one there. The shame we felt at our unintentionally offensive remark makes us more careful about what we say in the future. Our failures, seen in retrospect many years later, turn out to have been our deepest learning experiences. Our hindsight is always more perceptive than our foresight. We live life</p>	<p>facing the future, but we understand life only when it has become our past.</p> <p>Nowhere is this set out more clearly than in the story of Joseph in this week's parsha. It begins on a high note: "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was a son of his old age, and he made a richly embroidered robe." But with dramatic speed, that love and that gift turn out to be Joseph's undoing. His brothers began hating him. When he told them his dream, they hated him even more. His second dream offended even his father. Later, when he went to see his brothers tending their flocks, they first plotted to kill him, and eventually sold him as a slave. At first, in Potiphar's house, he seemed to be favored by fortune. But then his master's wife tried to seduce him and when he refused her advances she accused him of attempted rape and he was sent to prison with no way of proving his innocence. He seemed to have reached his nadir. There was nowhere lower for him to fall. Then came an unexpected ray of hope. Interpreting the dream of a fellow prisoner, who had once been Pharaoh's cup-bearer, he predicted his release and return to his former elevated role. And so it happened. Joseph asked only one thing in return: "Remember me when it goes well with you, and please show me kindness: mention me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this place. For I was forcibly taken from the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing to deserve being put in this pit."</p> <p>The last line of the parsha is one of the cruelest blows of fate in the Torah: "The chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him." Seemingly his one chance of escape to freedom is now lost. Joseph, the beloved son in his magnificent robe has become Joseph, the prisoner bereft of hope. This is as near the Torah gets to Greek tragedy. It is a tale of Joseph's hubris leading, step after step, to his nemesis. Every good thing that happens to him turns out to be only the prelude to some new and unforeseen misfortune. Yet a mere two years later, at the beginning of next week's parsha, we discover that all this has been leading to Joseph's supreme elevation. Pharaoh makes him Viceroy over Egypt, the greatest empire of the ancient world. He gives him</p>																																										
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his own signet ring, has him dressed in royal robes and a gold chain, and has him paraded in a chariot to the acclaim of the crowds. A mere thirty years old, he has become the second most powerful man in the world. From the lowest pit he has risen to dizzying heights. He has gone from zero to hero overnight.

What is stunning about the way this story is told in the Torah is that it is constructed to lead us, as readers, in precisely the wrong direction. Parshat Vayeshev has the form of a Greek tragedy. Mikeitz then comes and shows us that the Torah embodies another worldview altogether. Judaism is not Athens. The Torah is not Sophocles. The human condition is not inherently tragic. Heroes are not fated to fall. The reason is fundamental. Ancient Israel and the Greece of antiquity – the two great influences on Western civilization – had profoundly different understandings of time and circumstance. The Greeks believed in moira or ananke, blind fate. They thought that the gods were hostile or at best indifferent to humankind, so there was no way of avoiding tragedy if that is what fate had decreed. Jews believed, and still believe, that God is with us as we travel through time. Sometimes we feel as if we are lost, but then we discover, as Joseph did, that He has been guiding our steps all along.

Initially Joseph had flaws in his character. He was vain about his appearance; he brought his father evil reports about his brothers; his narcissism led directly to the advances of Potiphar's wife. But the story of which he was a part was not a Greek tragedy. By its end – the death of Joseph in the final chapter of Genesis – he had become a different human being entirely, one who forgave his brothers the crime they committed against him, the man who saved an entire region from famine and starvation, the one Jewish tradition calls "the tzaddik."

Don't think you understand the story of your life at half-time. That is the lesson of Joseph. At the age of twenty-nine he would have been justified in thinking his life an abject failure: hated by his brothers, criticized by his father, sold as a slave, imprisoned on a false charge and with his one chance of freedom gone. The second half of the story shows us that Joseph's life was not like that at all. His became a tale of unprecedented success, not only politically and materially, but also morally and spiritually. He became the first person in recorded history to forgive. By saving the region from famine, he became the first in whom the promise made by God to Abraham came true: "Through you, all the families of the land will be blessed" (Gen. 12:3). There was no way of predicting how the story would end on the basis of the events narrated in parshat Vayeshev. The turning-point in his life was a highly improbable event that could not have been predicted but which changed all else, not just for him but for large numbers of people and for the eventual course of Jewish history. God's hand was at work, even when Joseph felt abandoned by every human being he had encountered.

We live life forward but we see the role of Providence in our lives only looking back. That is the meaning of God's words to Moses: "You will see My back" (Ex. 33:23), meaning, "You will see Me only when you look back." Joseph's story is a precise reversal of the narrative structure of Sophocles' Oedipus. Everything Laius and his son Oedipus do to avert the tragic fate announced by the oracle in fact brings it closer to fulfillment, whereas in the story of Joseph, every episode that seems to be leading to tragedy turns out in retrospect to be a necessary step to saving lives and the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams.

Judaism is the opposite of tragedy. It tells us that every bad fate can be averted (hence our prayer on the High Holy Days that "penitence, prayer and charity avert the evil decree") – while every positive promise made by God will never be undone. Hence the life-changing idea: Despair is never justified. Even if your life has been scarred by misfortune, lacerated by pain, and your chances of happiness seem gone forever, there is still hope. The next chapter of your life can be full of blessings. You can be, in Wordsworth's lovely phrase, "surprised by joy." Every bad thing that has happened to you thus far may be the necessary prelude to the good things that are about to happen because you have been strengthened by suffering and given courage by your ability to survive. That is what we learn from the heroes of endurance from Joseph to the Holocaust survivors of today, who kept going, had faith, refused to despair, and were privileged to write a new and different chapter in the book of their lives. Seen through the eye of faith, today's curse may be the beginning of tomorrow's blessing. That is a thought that can change a life.



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 Women's Learning Series

Mrs. Toba Shifrin

**Tuesday Evening November 27th
8:00 pm**

**Generously Hosted by Sara feldschreiber
34 Gateway Drive Great Neck**

**"The Menorah's Secret Gift:
Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude
in 3 Daily Minutes"**

Mrs. Toba Shifrin is a veteran educator with over two decades of classroom experience. She travels extensively lecturing and teaching Torah to women of all ages. A Gallup Strengths Coach, she coaches families with teens in crisis, and is the Director of Camp Anna Heller for the last fifteen years. Mrs. Shifrin resides in Passaic, NJ with her husband Meyer and their seven children.

Co-sponsored by the

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE & YOUNG ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

YOETZET HALACHA LISA SEPTIMUS

AM I THE ONLY ONE?
A Frank Conversation About
Marriage and the Mikvah

Wednesday, November 28th | 8:00PM

at the home of
Heather & Jerry Siegelman
6 Larch Drive

GNS YOUTH GAMING TRUCK



**Dec 1st
6:00-8:00pm**

Mini Shabbaton
Boys Grades 3-4

pizza, snacks, & friends

*Members \$10 Non-Members \$15

GNS Mini Shabbaton!

SATURDAY NIGHT DEC 1ST

Girls grades 3-4

6:00-8:00pm

JEWELRY MAKING

Pizza, Snacks, Friends, & Fun!



Members: \$10 Non Members: \$15

CHAVERIM CENTER

A T G N S

DATE

November 28th

11:30

–

2:00

ACTIVITY

Chanukah program with Chazzan Spinner

&

Book Club Discussion of "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry"

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & SPONSORS

Next Meeting: Dec. 12th

Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema

MOTHER-DAUGHTER TOGETHER IN SHUL

AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Join us for

Shabbat Mevarchim - Parshat Vayeishev

December 1st

Once a month, on or near Shabbat Mevarchim, mothers and daughters are encouraged to come to any of the Shul's minyanim and daven together to help create a sense of the importance of tefillah for girls and women. There will be a kiddush with "curated coffees and delicious dairy delicacies" in the downstairs lunchroom following davening, accompanied by Divrei Torah from the girls, specially geared to the extraordinary women of our Synagogue.

Kiddush is Sponsored by Marla & Micah Lemonik & Stephanie & Ruvane Vilinsky
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Elisheva Lemonik & Sara Vilinsky

Get Ready for Chanukah

Preschool-2nd grade

Learn how to bake & decorate Chanukah cookies with Morah Zehava & Special Guest

sunday
december 2
10:00-11:30am

\$10 members
\$15 nonmembers

Braun Youth Center



**GNS Chanukah Bash
Shabbat December 8**

"DON'T MISS"
YOUTH EVENT!!

Prizes, Dreidel Competition,
Bingo! Luncheon, Ticket Hunt
& **Grand Raffle!**

Please pick up prizes after Shabbat

Grades 1-8
Pickup 4:00pm

JOIN GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE AT THE KNICKS GAME!



**CHANUKAH
AT THE GARDEN**

KNICKS vs. WASHINGTON WIZARDS

MON. DECEMBER 3RD GAME TIME 7:30 PM



FAN EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

Jr. Knicks Game
& Pre-Game Warm-Up

SOLD OUT

SOLD OUT

Great Neck Synagogue Shabbat Speakers Program



Shabbat Chanukah
December 8th, 2018

RABBI ARI LAMM

Special Advisor to the
President of Yeshiva University

Rabbi Ari Lamm is the Special Advisor to the President of Yeshiva University. He works closely with the president on all matters concerning the university's mission and vision, and oversees intellectual and philosophical initiatives emerging from the Office of the President.

Rabbi Lamm received his BA from Yeshiva University. He earned his MA, as a US-UK Fulbright Scholar, in Jewish Studies and Eastern Christianity from University College London, as well as an MA from Princeton University in Religion, and semikhah from RIETS.

Most recently, he was a Resident Scholar at the Jewish Center in Manhattan. He is currently pursuing his Phd in ancient Judaism and Christianity at Princeton University.

Shabbat Drasha:
Vigilante Justice
and the Story of Chanukah

Kiddush Class:
The Maccabean Revolt -
From Judaism to Christianity
and Back Again

Seudah Shlishit:
The Wizard vs. The Prophet

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

Sponsorships Available at
\$180; \$360; \$500; \$750

GNS ANNUAL DINNER

67

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
ANNUAL DINNER

HONORING
RABBI DALE POLAKOFF

IN CELEBRATION OF
**30 YEARS OF DEDICATION
AS OUR MARA D'ATRA**

FOR A NIGHT OF FUN & MUSIC

SATURDAY NIGHT
7:30 PM
DECEMBER 15, 2018

8 TEVET 5779

TEMPLE ISRAEL
108 OLD MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11023

RABBI CHIC
SKIP THE TIE

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

67

ANNUAL DINNER

DEADLINE FOR SCROLL OF HONOR JOURNAL FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2018
PLEASE INDICATE BELOW HOW YOUR NAME(S) SHOULD APPEAR IN THE SCROLL OF HONOR
(E.G. EVE AND ADAM FIRST).
OR EMAIL TO [JFRISCH@CNS.ORG](mailto:jfrisch@cns.org)

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS NOW

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRE-SALE RAFFLE DISCOUNTS BY FILLING OUT THE ORDER FORM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS CARD
OR BY LOGGING ON TO <https://www.gns.org/dinner/>

YOUR PRE-PRINTED TICKETS WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE DOOR

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND, PLEASE EMAIL MARK TWERSKY (MTWERSKY@CNS.ORG) AND HE WILL ENTER TICKETS FOR YOU.

**THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
OF GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE**

HONORING:
RABBI DALE POLAKOFF

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.

WOMEN'S LEARNING

Join us for a Shiur at the home of Sara Feldschreiber, 34 Gateway Dr. on Tuesday evening, Nov. 27th at 8:00 pm. Shiur given by Toba Shifrin on "The Menorah's Secret Gift: Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude in 3 Daily Minutes."

CHAVERIM CENTER

Join us Wednesday, November 28th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm for the next Chaverim Center. Chazzan Yitzy Spinner will be performing in honor of Chanukah and there will be a book group discussion of "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry".

YOETZET HALACHA

There is a join GNS & YIGN lecture given by our Yoetzet Halacha, Lisa Septimus on Wednesday evening, Nov. 28th at 8:00 pm at the home of Heather & Jerry Siegelman, 6 Larch Dr. Lisa will speak on the topic of "Am I the Only One: A Frank Conversation about Marriage and the Mikvah?"

GNS YOUTH CHANUKAH PROGRAMMING

A. Sunday Dec. 2nd: Pre-School - 2nd Grade 10:00-11:30 am Learn how to decorate and bake Chanukah cookies with Morah Zehava & Special Guest. \$10 members; \$15 non-members.

B. Monday Dec 3rd: Families 7:30 pm Game Time GNS celebrating Chanukah @ MSG for the NY Knicks Game with GNS playing on the court & Access to pre-game warm-ups.

C. Shabbat Dec. 8th: Grades 1-8 Pick up time is 4:00 pm GNS Chanukah Bash & Grand Raffle

KENSINGTON GATE CHANUKAH LUNCH AND LEARN

Please join Rabbi Polakoff for a Chanukah Lunch and Learn at the home of Joan and Henry Katz, One Kensington Gate, PH19 on the first day of Chanukah, Monday, December 3rd at noon. Dairy lunch will be served. RSVP to mtwersky@gns.org.

SHABBAT FOOD

Friday drop-offs are continuing at 91 Baker Hill Rd before 1:30 pm. Please have food neatly wrapped and placed in coolers on front porch.

MIAMI MARATHON—ANNA GLASMAN

Anna Glasman is hoping to raise \$5,000 for Chai Lifeline and has organized a team for the Miami Marathon in January in memory of her close friend Adeena Paknouch who passed away from cancer almost a year ago. The link to her personal page is: <https://www.teamlifeline.org/team-lifeline-miami/annasteam>

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

Nov. 27: Women's Learning Shiur
Nov. 28: Chaverim Center
Nov. 28: Yoetzet Halacha Lecture
Dec. 1: Mother/Daughter Tefillah & Kiddush
Dec. 2: Youth Pre-School-2nd Grade Pre-Chanukah Event
Dec. 3: NY Knicks Game
Dec. 8: Shabbat Speaker: Rabbi Ari Lamm
Dec. 8: GNS Youth Chanukah Bash

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to George & Doreen Zobel on the marriage of their daughter **Michelle** to **Jason Deck**.

Mazal Tov to Sharon & Robert Herman on the marriage of their daughter **Brittany** to **Daniel Adler**.

NSHA PTA ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Come visit the NSHA PTA Annual Book Fair at 16 Cherry Lane on **Sun. Dec. 2nd** from 11:00am-4:00pm and **Mon. night Dec. 3rd** 6:00-8:00pm. Browse a selection of Judaic and secular books for toddler aged through adult.

KFAR YELADIN DAVID GALA DINNER

The Kfar Yeladim David Gala Dinner is to take place on **Tuesday evening, December 4th at 7:30 pm** at Great Neck Synagogue. Guests of Honor are Sam & Magda Yehaskel. RSVP at kathy4kyd@gmail.com.

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

Join us for our Open House on **Sunday December 9, 2018** from 10:00-1:00 to learn about our college preparatory General Studies courses and inspiring Judaic Studies curriculum including the only co-ed Beit Midrash program in New York. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the NSHAHS experience.

WOMEN'S TEFILA

If you'd like to receive updates, please send your name and email to Nechama Liss-Levinson at lisslev@verizon.net.

MEOROT COMMUNITY-WIDE CHANUKAH FUNDRAISER

Please join Meorot at North Shore Hebrew Academy as we embark on our first community-wide Chanukah Fundraiser and Awareness campaign. The theme of the campaign is "To Give the Gift of Jewish Education to the Children of Meorot." We are partnering with the PTAs of all the local Yeshivot and many of the local Shuls to sell boxes of candles in preparation for Chanukah. Please visit: www.meorotqn.org/donate to purchase your box or to gift a sponsorship.

**Y
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Saturday, 23 Kislev

Harriet Sherman Schimel for Sherry Grodofsky
Karen Wydra for Evelyn Stein
Edward Weiss for Joseph Weiss
Peter Weiss for Joseph Weiss
Zinat Yacobi for Michal Yacobi

Sunday, 24 Kislev

Michal Malen for Emanuel Hoschander
Susan Goldman for Malia Ring
Farangess Sedaghtpour for Dr. Habibolah Sedaghatpour

Monday, 25 Kislev

Ebrahim Ghabaizadeh for Yehudit Chaya bat Rav Shlomo
Mark Abraham for Sara Malka bat Sara

Tuesday, 26 Kislev

Hyman Katz for Sally Katz
Mahin Aryeh for Marilyn Schwadron
Eliezer Noy for Yosef Zargaryan

Wednesday, 27 Kislev

David Rein for Dr. Howard Rein

Thursday, 28 Kislev

Jeffrey Pittell for Dr. Robert Pittell
Donna Schwechter for Myer Tulkoff

Friday, 29 Kislev

Helaine Helmreich for Harry Gewirtz