



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Toldot

November 10, 2018 2 Kislev, 5779

TORAH		Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Toldot		
ARTSCROLL 124		<p>Why Isaac, not Ishmael? Why Jacob, not Esau? These are among the most searing questions in the whole of Judaism. It is impossible to read Genesis 21, with its description of how Hagar and her son were cast out into the wilderness, how their water ran out, how Hagar placed Ishmael under a bush and sat at a distance so she would not see him die, without feeling intensely for both of them, mother and child. They are both crying. The Torah tells us that God heard Ishmael's tears and sent an angel to comfort Hagar, show her a well of water, and assure her that God would make her son "a great nation" (Gen. 21:18) – the very promise he gave Abraham himself at the start of his mission (Gen. 12:2). Likewise in the case of Esau. The emotional climax of the parsha occurs in chapter 27, at the point when Jacob leaves Isaac's presence, having deceived him into thinking that he was Esau. Then Esau enters, and slowly both father and son realize</p>	<p>what has happened. This is what we read: Then Isaac trembled with a very great trembling, and said, "Who then was it who hunted game and brought it to me and I ate it before you came and I blessed him?—and he will be blessed." When Esau heard his father's words, he cried an intensely loud and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, me too, my father!" (Gen. 27:33-34)</p> <p>These are among the most powerful descriptions of emotion in the whole of the Torah, and they are precisely the opposite of what we would expect. We would expect the Torah to enlist our sympathies for the chosen: Isaac and Jacob. Instead it almost forces us to empathize with the unchosen: Hagar, Ishmael and Esau. We feel their pain and sense of loss.</p> <p>So, why Isaac and not Ishmael? Why Jacob and not Esau? To this there are two types of answer. The first is given by midrash. On this reading Isaac and Jacob were righteous. Ishmael and Esau were not. Ishmael worshipped idols. He violated married women. He tried to kill Isaac with his bow and arrow while making it look as if it were an accident. Esau</p>	<p>was attracted, even in the womb, to idolatrous shrines. He trapped not only animals but also his father Isaac by pretending to be pious when he was not. God cut short Abraham's life by five years so that he would not live to see his grandson violate a betrothed woman, commit murder, deny God, deny the resurrection of the dead, and despise the birthright. Such is the way of midrash. It helps us see Isaac and Jacob as perfectly good, Ishmael and Esau as dangerously bad. That is an important part of our tradition. But it is not the way of the written Torah itself, at least insofar as we seek what Rashbam called <i>omek peshuto shel mikra</i>, the "deep plain sense of Scripture." The Torah does not portray Ishmael and Esau as wicked. The worst it has to say about Ishmael is that Sarah saw him <i>metzachek</i> (Gen. 21:9), a word with many meanings, most of them not negative. Literally, it means, "he was laughing." But Abraham and Sarah also laughed. So did Isaac. Indeed Isaac's name, chosen by God himself, means, "He will laugh." There is nothing in the word</p>
HERTZ 93				
HAFTORAH				
ARTSCROLL 1137				
HERTZ 102				
Times				
Candle Lighting	4:24 pm			
Mincha	4:25 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	3:45 pm			
Mincha	4:15 pm			
Shabbat Ends	5:31 pm			
R' Reisman Video	7:30 pm			
Sun. Nov. 11	7:30 /8:30 am			
Veteran's Day				
Mon. & Thurs.	6:35/7:45 am			
Tues., Wed. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am			
Mincha	4:20 pm			
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei				
November 10	9:07/9:57 am	KIDDUSH IS SPONSORED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE WITH FRUIT PLATTERS SPONSORED BY ALBERT HALIMI IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER RACHAMIN BEN AGHABABA Z"l		
November 17	9:12/10:01 am	BIMA FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY MORRIS SEIDMAN IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER KALMA SEIDMAN		
Next Shabbat Vayeitzei				
Candle Lighting	4:17 pm	SEUDAH SHLISHIT IS SPONSORED BY DONNA & JOSEPH HECHT IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER PINCHAS BEN YOSEF Z"l		
Mincha	4:20 pm			

itself that implies improper conduct. In the case of Esau, the most pointed verse is the one in which he agrees to part with his birthright in return for a bowl of soup (Gen. 25:34). In a staccato series of five consecutive verbs, the Torah says that he "ate, drank, rose, went and despised" his birthright. Yet this tells us that he was impetuous, not that he was evil.

If we seek the "deep plain sense," we must rely on the explicit testimony of the Torah itself – and what it tells us is fascinating. An angel told Hagar before Ishmael was born that he would be "a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him" (Gen. 16:12). He became an expert archer (Gen. 21:20). Esau, red-haired, physically mature at a young age, was "a skilful hunter, a man of the field" (Gen. 25:27). Ishmael and Esau were at home in nature. They were strong, adroit, unafraid of the wild. In any other culture they might have emerged as heroes. And that is the point. We will only understand the Torah if we recall that every other religion in the ancient world worshipped nature. That is where they found God, or more precisely, the gods: in the sun, the moon, the stars, the storm, the rain that fed the earth and the earth that gave forth food. Even in the twenty-first century, people for whom science has taken the place of religion still worship nature. For them we are physical beings. For them there is no such thing as a soul, merely electrical impulses in the brain. For them there is no real freedom: we are what we are because of genetic and epigenetic causes over which we have no real control. Freewill, they say, is an illusion. Human life, they believe, is not sacred, nor are we different in kind from other animals. Nature is all there is. Such was the view of Lucretius in ancient Rome and Epicurus in pre-Christian Greece, and it is the view of scientific atheists today.

The faith of Abraham and his descendants is different. God, we believe, is beyond nature, because He created nature. And because He made us in His image, there is something in us

that is beyond nature also. We are free. We are creative. We can conceive of possibilities that have not yet existed, and act so as to make them real. We can adapt to our environment, but we can also adapt our environment to us. Like every other animal we have desires, but unlike any other animal we are capable of standing outside our desires and choosing which to satisfy and which not. We can distinguish between what is and what ought to be. We can ask the question "Why?" After the Flood God was reconciled to human nature and vowed never again to destroy the world (Gen. 8-9). Yet He wanted humanity to know that there is something beyond nature. That is why He chose Abraham and his descendants as His "witnesses". Not by accident were Abraham-and-Sarah, Isaac-and-Rebekah, and Jacob-and-Rachel, unable to have children by natural means. Nor was it mere happenstance that God promised the holy land to a landless people. He chose Moses, the man who said, "I am not a man of words," to be the bearer of His word. When Moses spoke God's words, people knew they were not his own. God promised two things to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: children and a land. Throughout history, most people at most times have taken children and a land for granted. They are part of nature. They constitute the two most basic natural drives: the Darwinian imperative and the territorial imperative. All animals have children, and many have their own territory that they mark and defend.

Jews – one of the world's smallest people – have rarely been able to take children for granted. Abraham's first recorded words to God were: "O Lord God, what can you give me seeing that I go childless?" and even today we ask, Will we have Jewish grandchildren? Nor have they been able to take their land for granted. They were often surrounded by enemies larger and more powerful than themselves. For many centuries they suffered exile. Even today they find the State of Israel's very right to be called into question in a way that applies to no other sovereign people. As David Ben-Gurion said, "In Israel, to be a realist you have to believe in miracles."

Isaac and Jacob were not men of nature: the field, the hunt, the gladiatorial game of predator-and-prey. They were not Ishmael and Esau, people who could survive by their own strength and skill. They were men who needed God's spirit to survive. Israel is the people who in themselves testify to something beyond themselves. Jews have consistently shown that you can make a contribution to humanity out of all proportion to your numbers, and that a small nation can outlive every empire that sought its destruction. They have shown that a nation is strong when it cares for the weak, and rich when it cares for the poor. Jews are the people through whom God has shown that the human spirit can rise above nature, testifying that there is something real that transcends nature. That is a life-changing idea. We are as great as our ideals. If we truly believe in something beyond ourselves, we will achieve beyond ourselves.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAVERIM AT GNS

DATE: November 7th **TIME:** 11:30 - 2:00

ACTIVITY
Veteran's Day Program

LUNCH SPONSORS
Thank you to Sadie Frank for sponsoring lunch in memory of her husband Murray.
Thank you to Brenda Kopelowitz for sponsoring dessert.

UPCOMING PROGRAM DATES
Nov. 28th - Chanukah Program with Chazzan Spinner & Book Group Discussion of "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zvon
Cindy, Erica, Michelle & Naeema
Donations and Sponsorships are always welcome.



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/SISTERHOOD MEMBERS: \$150/COUPLE \$75/PERSON
NON-MEN'S CLUB/SISTERHOOD MEMBERS: \$180/COUPLE \$90/PERSON
PAYMENT & RSVP BY NOV. 5TH (ONLY 10 SEATS LEFT, AFTER THAT SEATING IS CLOSED)
HILLY MILUN 516.504.0320; MARK FRIEDMAN 516.384.5491; GNS OFFICE 516.487.6100

Challah Baking

Join the Great Neck Synagogue Sisterhood and make your own 5 lbs of homemade delicious challah.

Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30pm

*Great Neck Synagogue Youth Center
26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck*


\$20 per Person - Reservations required
Sponsorships Available:
Bronze—\$36, Silver—\$72, Gold—\$100
All ingredients included

*Please click here for online registration or
Contact Marla Lemanik at 646-220-8105 or marlalemanik@gmail.com*

Great Neck Synagogue

★★★★ Men's Club Presents ★★★★★

Sunday, November 18th, 2018 at 10:00 am



David Matlow

on

Theodor Herzl

David Matlow is the owner of the world's largest private collection of Herzl memorabilia, which he has exhibited in Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton. Together with Israeli film maker Eli Tal-EI, he has produced a 52-minute documentary called My Herzl, which explores the continued relevance of the life and work of Theodor Herzl. My Herzl has been screened at film festivals and other venues around the world.

David is a corporate and securities law partner at Goodmans LLP in Toronto and Chairman of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto with C\$600 million of assets and planned gifts. David is currently working on a photography book with highlights of his collection to be called Collecting the Dream which is targeted for publication in early 2019.

All Welcome - Complimentary Breakfast - 26 Old Mill Rd.

GNS Mini Shabbaton
1-2nd grade girls

Slime party

Wear your pj's and make slime with Ofra!

November 10
6:30-8:30pm
Chalfin Room
Pizza will be provided
Members \$10
Nonmembers \$15

GNS SATURDAY NIGHT SPORTS



6:00-8:00pm Boys & Girls Soccer Grades 1-5
Soccer with Coach Chris (*new for this season)
Game room, movies, pizza & more
Please drop off and pick up at the assigned time

8:15-10:30pm Middle & High School (after program)
Basketball (open gym)
Movies
Big Games on TV
Game Room
Pizza



Give Thanks by
Thinking of Others!

GNS Youth
Annual
Loaves
of Love

Challah Baking with Morah Zehava and
professional "Challahs 'n More" baker!



When: Friday, November 23rd, 9:30-11:00
Who: 1st -5th grade
Where: Braun Youth Center
RSVP: email zehavaatlas18@gmail.com
by November 18

Every person will receive 2 challot:
1 to take home and 1 to pass along to someone else



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:

Pre-Game Warm-Up

(no-ticket purchase minimum required)

TICKET OPTIONS:

~~\$75~~; ~~\$85~~; \$115; \$135; ~~\$160~~

marked in red have been sold out

Great Neck Synagogue Shabbat Speakers Program



Yonah Jeremy Bob lectures on foreign affairs and is the Jerusalem Post Intelligence, Terrorism and Legal Analyst. Speaking in the US, Canada, and Israel since 2000, he covers diplomacy, security, the Mossad, war crimes and BDS, cyber warfare and politics. He was an IDF lawyer and worked for multiple ministries. Yonah has provided analysis to CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, the Washington Post and Sky News.

Shabbat
November 17th, 2018

YONAH JEREMY BOB

Foreign Affairs Lecturer
Intelligence, Terrorism
& Legal Analyst
The Jerusalem Post

Shabbat Drasha:

Spy Wars:
Revealing New Color
to Mossad, CIA,
Shin Bet and other
Spy Agency Stories

Seudah Shlishit:

Israel Update:
The Hottest & Latest

For dedications to our Speakers Program please contact the synagogue office at 516.487.6100 or mtwersky@gns.org
Sponsorships Available at \$180; \$360; \$500; \$750

GNS New Members Committee
PRESENTS



The GNS Annual
BOWLING
Invitational



Dairy meal included

\$35/person \$70/couple
RSVP at mtwersky@gns.org

Defend Your Crown
or
Restore Your Reputation

Saturday Night

November 17th

7:30-10:00 pm

AMF Sheridan Lanes
199 E. Jericho Turnpike Mineola, NY





NORTH SHORE
HEBREW ACADEMY
ישיבת חוף הצפון

NSHA

COMMUNITY SHABBAT


November 16-17

**Current and Prospective Families
and NSHA Friends**

Join us for a celebratory
Shabbat together with our
school leadership

**FRIDAY NIGHT
ONEG**
NOVEMBER 16

For current and prospective
high school students (Grades
8-12) led by Rabbi Dr. Noam
Weinberg together with our
faculty and Great Neck
community Rebbeim.
8:45pm

 **The home of Didi
and Adam Hutt**
32 Old Mill Road


**SHABBAT
MORNING
TEFILA**
NOVEMBER 17

Tefila at Great Neck Synagogue
led by Chazzen Yitzy Spinner with
participation by NSHA students.

Rabbi Dr. Noam Weinberg will
speak at the Mashadi Jewish Center
Teen Minyan

**SHABBAT
KIDDUSH
LUNCHEON**
NOVEMBER 17

For NSHA current and
prospective families,
faculty, alumni, and friends
12:45pm-3:30pm

Great Neck Synagogue 
26 Old Mill Road

*Children ages 2+ join
Rabbi Jensen, Dr. Mike
and Morah Zehava for
incredible youth
programming*



Registration Required at
www.nsha.org/shabbaton

For more information on these events contact Abigail Zausmer Weiss at
516.487.8687 Ext. 167 or by email at aweiss@nsha.org

Shabbat hospitality available for students or families living outside of Great Neck

This year for Thanksgiving
You can really give thanks and be giving!

Buy a Thanksgiving Dinner for a
resident at Arrandale Senior Housing
and make your parents proud of you.

\$18 can sponsor a dinner
in honor of/in memory of your parents

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Meals purchased in memory/ in honor of:

Amount enclosed: _____

**We are also looking for a limited number of volunteers (ALL AGES)
to help serve the dinner, clean up, play music, sing & talk to the residents**

I would like to volunteer on Thursday, Nov 22nd from 11:30-2:00 pm

Food Server: _____

Other Talent: _____

Volunteer Names & Kids' Ages: _____

Co-Sponsored by: **GNS Hunger Initiative, Sisterhood & Women's Tefila**

For more info: email lisslev@verizon.net or text 516-770-3572

Please return to: GNS 26 Old Mill Road Great Neck, NY 11023

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.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Albert Halimi** in memory of his father Rachamin Ben Aghababa z"l.

CHAVERIM CENTER

Join us on next **Wednesday November 7th from 11:30-2:00** for a Veteran's Day Program.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Sat. night Nov. 10th: Dinner & Concert: Beatles Tribute. Cost: MC/Sisterhood Members \$150/couple \$75/person. Non-MC/Sisterhood members \$180/couple \$90/person.

Sun. Nov. 18th @10:00 am: David Matlow on Theodore Hertzl

BIKUR CHOLIM AND SISTERHOOD JOIN TOGETHER FOR CHALLAH BAKE

Bikur Cholim and Sisterhood of GNS are working together for the upcoming Challah Bake on **Thurs. evening, Nov. 15th**. They expect 50 ladies to come together that night to recite the special prayer over the challah which is particularly powerful at that moment. If you would like the name of someone who is ill to be recited, please email their Hebrew name with their mother's Hebrew name to Diane Rein at drein@verizon.net. If you would like to sponsor this event in memory or in honor of someone, the cost is Bronze \$36, Silver \$72, Gold \$100.

VETERAN'S DAY

Reminder for all GNS vets of armed forces, to inform the synagogue office of your rank and country served, so that the congregation can recognize your service in time for Veterans Day on November 11th. Email jfrisch@gns.org.

LIVE-IN CAREGIVER NEEDED FOR SHUL MEMBER

A longtime, elderly GNS member who lives alone needs a live-in caregiver to help her. If you can recommend someone, please email Sharon Ahdut at sharonsa18@yahoo.com.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM ANNUAL DINNER

Sun. November 11th at 5:00 pm at The Plaza in NYC, honoring **Celina & Marvin Zborowski** with the American Society for Yad Vashem Remembrance Award. For details, contact rgrossman@yadvashemusa.org.

MTA OPEN HOUSE

Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MTA) invites you to our Open House on Sunday, **Nov. 11th** at 9:30 am. Register online at yuhsb.org/openhouse.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

- Nov. 7: Chaverim Center
- Nov. 10: Men's Club/Sisterhood Concert @ Colbeh
- Nov. 15: Sisterhood Challah Bake
- Nov. 17: Shabbat Guest Speaker: Yonah Jeremy Bob
- Nov. 17: Bowling Invitational

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Harriet Sherman Schimel** on the birth of twin granddaughters, **Eleanor Harper and Amelia Lotte**, born to her children **Elliot & Alison Schimel**.

Mazal Tov to **Hon. Gary Knobel** on his being honored by the Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County.

Mazal Tov to **Miriam & Shimon Ghatan** on the birth of a son.

Mazal Tov to **Aviva & Mikey Rosenberg** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Jordan**.

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Nov. 11th, 10:00am-1:00pm Join us to learn about NSHA's premier Toddler-Eighth grade academic program. This event will take place at our Cherry Lane campus, [16 Cherry Lane](#). To RSVP and visit www.nsha.org/openhouse. For more information contact Abigail Zausmer Weiss at aweiss@nsha.org.

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.

LONG ISLAND HEBREW ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at LIHA'S Open House, 122 Cutter Mill Rd. on **Thursday, Nov. 15th** for one of two sessions: 10:00-10:45 am or 1:15-2:00 pm. By appointment only, please call 516.466.3656.

MIAMI MARATHON—ANNA GLASMAN

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

YAHARZEIT

Saturday, 2 Kislev

Cindy Ludwig for Florence Gelber
Michal Malen for Rhoda Hoschander
Arthur Kirsch for Ruth Kirsch
Carol Karbowitz for Leopold Schwartz
Lynn Steinberg for Leopold Schwartz

Sunday, 3 Kislev

Anthony Berkowitz for Barney Berkowitz
Cindy Ludwig for Frank Gelber
Evelyn Henis for A. Richard Henis
Reuben Kerben for Lawrence Kerben
Moselle Berkowitz for Lawrence Kerben

Monday, 4 Kislev

Michal Rosenzweig for Claire Khazzam

Tuesday, 5 Kislev

Norma Bilbool for Shimon Bilbool
Lili Weiss for David Buch
Benjamin Lunzer for Julius Peter Lunzer

Wednesday, 6 Kislev

Roya Shavolian for Elyahu Amirian
Asher Davoudpour for Aharon Dovid Davoudpour
Joseph Esrail for Saied Esrail
Evelyn Henis for Albert Noah

Friday, 8 Kislev

Michael Hoenig for Dr. Edward Hoenig
Abraham Krieger for Nathan Krieger
Magda Yehaskel for Mendel Wohl