An elderly American was waiting in line for Passport Control at Charles de Gaulle Airport. While fumbling for his passport, the passport control agent chastised him, "You should have your passport ready! Everyone knows you cannot enter France without a passport!" The American softly replied, "You know, the last time I visited France no one asked for my passport."

"Impossible!" declared the Passport Agent, "No one enters France without a passport!"

"Well," responds the American, "I can guarantee you that when my unit hit Omaha Beach on D-Day there was no Frenchman there asking me if I had a passport!"

Then the American asked the Frenchman, "Excuse me, but do you speak German?"
The Frenchman replied, "Of course not!"

"Then the American asked the Frenchman, "Excuse me, but do you speak German? In a huff, the Frenchman replied, "Of course not!" To which the American quietly responded, "You're welcome."

How, you might ask, does this connect to Pesach? First, one of the obstacles to spirituality (as well as good human relations) is arrogance. As you will see below, there is a connection between chametz (the leaven that we are to remove from our homes and our hearts) and arrogance. Second, the Haggadah is built around questions -- it is important to have good questions...and good answers. Third, if you can share a story with someone and lighten his or her burden with a laugh -- then you have earned your keep for the day. Chametz represents arrogance ("puffing up"). Passover is the time of freedom -- spiritual freedom (which is the essence of why the Almighty brought us out of Egypt). The only thing that stands between you and God ... is you. To come close to the Almighty (which is the essence of life and the opportunity of every mitzvah and holiday), one must remove his arrogance. This is the lesson of removing the chametz from our possession.

Freedom means having the ability to use your free will to grow and develop. People think they are free when really they are "slaves" to the fads and fashions of their society. Slavery is non-thinking action, rote behavior, following the impulse desires of the body. Our job on Pesach is to come out of slavery into freedom. One of the freedoms to work on during Pesach is "freedom of the mouth." The sages view the mouth as the most dangerous part of the body. It is the only organ that can cause problems in both directions -- what comes in (food and drink) and what goes out (speech). It is so dangerous that it has two coverings -- hard teeth and soft lips. Most of us are slaves to the mouth, both in what we eat and in what we speak. On Seder night we fix this. We have the mitzvah to speak about the Jewish people leaving Egypt to elevate speech, and the matzah and Four Cups of wine to elevate eating and drinking.

The structure of the Hebrew language hints at the goal of "freedom of the mouth." Pesach can be divided into two words: Peh Sach, which means "the mouth speaks" -- we are commanded to tell the story of the Exodus the whole night. The Hebrew word, Pharaoh, can be divided into two words: Peh Rah, a "bad mouth." Our affliction of the slavery in
According to the natural way of the world, it would have been impossible for a 17-year-old boy to reject the persistent advances of an attractive woman. Yet Yosef went against the natural order and prevented himself from succumbing. Thus, it was in the merit of Yosef, who counteracted nature, that God counteracted nature when He split the Sea for the Jewish people.

We might still have another question. The Midrash explained that the Sea fled after seeing Yosef's bones. But the Talmud teaches (Baba Batra 17a) that the bodies of righteous people do not decay after death! The phrase "Yosef's bones" (in Hebrew, "atzmot Yosef") certainly seems to imply that Yosef's body decayed! How can we resolve this difficulty? The word "etzem" (bone) in Hebrew also means "essence." We could therefore suggest that the phrase "atzmot Yosef" (Yosef's bones) in the Midrash is also hinting to "atzmiut Yosef" (Yosef's essence). This interpretation will deepen our understanding of the verse (Exodus 13:19) where we learn that Moses took "atzmot Yosef" with him before the Jews left Egypt. Although Moses literally carried Yosef's remains out of Egypt, he also took along Yosef's essence: the willingness to break nature in order to carry out God's will. Moses, as the leader of the nation, represented the attitude of the Jewish people as a whole, who were prepared to counteract nature if the situation required. Thus, we can understand the verse, "The ocean saw and fled," to mean that not only was Yosef's essence revealed at the splitting of the Sea, but that Yosef's ability to go against nature was also manifest in Moses and in the entire Jewish people.

The verse (Psalms 80:2) tells us, "God leads His flock, Yosef." We see from here that God's flock - the Jewish people - are called "Yosef." When we reflect the attitude that Yosef stood for, we are all called Yosefites. This year, on the seventh day of Passover, may we begin to understand what it means to represent Yosef the Tzaddik. May we cultivate a willingness to change ourselves even when it is not the natural or comfortable or easy thing to do, and in that merit, may all the seas of challenge in the world split before us, speedily in our days.

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.

Great Neck Synagogue
26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023
516-487-6100

Mon. - Thurs., April 22nd - 25th - Chol HaMoed
Shacharit 6:30/7:45 am
Mincha 7:25 pm

Thursday evening, April 25th
An eiruv tavshilin should be prepared
Mincha 7:25 pm
Candle Lighting 7:26 pm

Friday, April 26th - Pesach VII
Shacharit 8:00/9:00/9:15 am
Mincha 7:25 pm
Candle Lighting 7:27 pm

Shabbat, April 27th - Pesach VIII
Shir HaShirim & Yizkor are recited this morning
Shacharit 8:00/8:45/9:15 am
Gemara Shiru 6:20 pm
Mincha 7:20 pm
Shabbat & Yom Tov end 8:31 pm
YOM HASHOAH
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 8:00 P.M.
GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
INVITES YOU TO HEAR THE WARTIME EXPERIENCES OF
RUTH MERMELSTEIN
AS SHE RECALLS THE HORRIFYING YEARS THAT SHAPED HER
CHILDHOOD
IN MEMORY OF THE 6,000,000 JEWS WHO DIED IN THE
HOLOCAUST

Program
• Candle lighting ceremony for Holocaust survivors, their children and grandchildren
• Poignant reflections on the Holocaust by RUTH MERMELSTEIN

RUTH MERMELSTEIN
Ruth Mermelstein, one of six siblings, was born in Sighet, part of northern Transylvania, Romania. In 1940 this area of Romania was given to Hungary, Germany’s ally.

Soon afterwards, racial laws were imposed stripping Jews of their civil rights. Jewish men were sent into forced labor and Ruth’s father was sent to the Russian border. When the SS felt that these laborers were no longer useful, hundreds were locked into a building and it was set on fire. Ruth’s father escaped and made his way back to Sighet.

Ruth’s family was forced into a ghetto until they were sent to Auschwitz. She and her sister, Elisabeth, were the only family members to survive. Together they worked as slave laborers in Auschwitz and were eventually transported to another camp working at an ammunition factory in IG Farben.

As the war came nearer to an end the Russian army approached and Ruth was sent on a 5-week death march to Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. On April 18, 1945 Ruth was liberated by British troops.

Suffering from Tuberculosis, Ruth and her sister were transported to Sweden by the Red Cross. After several years in Sweden she met her husband, a survivor who lived in the U.S. They married and moved to the U.S. They lived in Bellmore where they raised two daughters.

Ruth is a frequent speaker to students and visitors at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove.
YOUNG FAMILY LUNCHEON, MEOROT & WOMEN’S SHABBATON

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Meorot
at North Shore Hebrew Academy

A Night of Inspiration for the Benefit of Meorot

Featuring:
Rabbi Zechariah Wallerstein

Monday, May 6 at 8pm
At the home of:
Drs. Ada & Dow Berkowitz
160 W Shore Road
Kings Point, NY

Meorot is an innovative Judaic Studies Special Education program, providing elementary aged students who present with language or learning based difficulties with an inspired Modern Orthodox Jewish education within a supportive environment.

Supporting Yehezkel:

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GNS Annual
Women's Shabbaton with
Mrs. Jackie Bitton
Shabbat May 10-11

Friday Night Dinner & Oneg for High School Girls

Dinner @ GNS 8:00 pm
Oneg @ Atlas Home 9:30 pm

RSVP to zehavaatlas18@gmail.com

Mother-Daughter Seudah Shlishit
Afternoon Shiur @ 5:45 pm
Braun Youth Center

SECOND CHANCES...what a gift!
Sponsorships Available
by calling the GNS office
North Shore Mikvah Association
Women’s Mikvah & Keilim Mikvah
Annual Fundraiser
In memory of Belle Goldwyn Z"L

A Celebration of Women and Community
Tuesday May 14th at 7:15 pm
A Tribute to Batya Dayanoff Z"L
Screening of 93QUEEN at 7:45 pm
Discussion with Paula Eiselt, Director

Boutique: On the Table
Great Neck Synagogue Ballroom
26 Old Mill Road

Open to men and women

Snacks & Refreshments will be served

$54 per person
$72 per couple
Lessons from a rich legacy of leadership

Forty years after the signing of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt, there is no better time to recognize Menachem Begin’s legacy of security, democracy, liberty and inclusivity. Begin, the man, was a brilliant, tough, humble and proud Jew who never compromised when the dignity and survival of Israel and the Jewish people were at stake. Begin, the leader, transformed Israel. Please join us to hear Herzl Makov shine light on Begin’s achievements and tough leadership decisions, and to learn more about a documentary project envisioned to tell the story of the founding of Israel and the liberation of the Jewish people through the lens of Begin’s life.

Speaker: HERZL MAKO

CEO, Menachem Begin Heritage Center

MAY 15 | 8:30 PM

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

26 Old Mill Road

Great Neck, NY 11023

ABOUT HERZL MAKO

Herzl Makov has been the CEO of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center for the last 15 years. Under his leadership, the Center, serving thousands of young people and soldiers who participate in its programs every year, has grown to become one of leaders in Zionist and democratic education led by the values of Menachem Begin. Mr. Makov served as the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and was a Major in the Israeli Defense Forces where his squadron participated in Operation Opera, which targeted the nuclear reactor in Osirak in Iraq during Menachem Begin’s time as Prime Minister.

To learn more about the documentary project, visit: www.hiddenlightinstitute.org
ISRAEL BONDS EVENT

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE MEN’S CLUB
YOUNG ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK
& ISRAEL BONDS

INVITE YOU TO AN EVENING WITH

CHARLIE HARARY
“ISRAEL AND THE SECRET
OF JEWISH GREATNESS”

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 • 8:00PM

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26 OLD MILL ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY

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Pearl Ginsburg will be honored with the
“Lifetime Achievement Award”
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 via cell 516.637.3674/dpolakoff@gns.org.

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION
Wednesday, May 1st at 8:00 pm: Ruth Mermelstein will share her powerful story through an interactive presentation.

SEUDEAH SHLISHIT – MAY 4th
On Shabbat, May 4th GNS member Sophia Rein will speak at Seudah Shlishit about her recent Mission to Moldova with Ramaz High School which partnered with the Joint Distribution Committee. Please join us to hear about her powerful and meaningful experience.

MEN’S CLUB EVENT
Sun. May 5th at 9:30 am: Annual Rabbinic Dialogue, hosted this year at Great Neck Synagogue.

MEOROT EVENTS
Meorot Community Lecture & Fundraiser, featuring guest speaker Rabbi Zechariah Wallerstein, will be held on Monday, May 6 at 8pm at the lovely home of Drs. Ada & Dov Berkowitz, 160 W. Shore Road in Kings Point.
Meorot Open House on Thursday, May 16 at 7pm at NSHA Cherry Lane Campus. Dr. Gutkind and the Meorot Staff will be providing a hands on opportunity to learn about the program's curriculum and individualized approach.

SISTERHOOD ANNUAL DINNER
Tuesday, May 7th at 6:30 pm @ Cho-sen Village Restaurant.
Speaker will be Janice Kaplan, author of "The Gratitude Diaries", each attendee will receive a free book! Cost is $40/member and $45/non-members. Sponsorships are available.

YOUNG FAMILY KIDDUSH LUNCHEON
Join us for our annual young family Kiddush luncheon taking place on Shabbat May 11th. Great youth programming will be available. Cost is $54/family. Email jfrisch@gns.org to sign up.

WOMEN’S SHABBATON WITH JACKIE BITTON
Shabbat May 10-11: High School Girls Oneg - RSVP at zehavaatlas18@gmail.com. Women's Seudah Shlisht 5:45 pm.

NORTH SHORE MIKVAH ASSOCIATION EVENT
Annual North Shore Mikvah Association event in memory of Belle Goldwyn z”l will be Tuesday May 14th at 7:15 pm in the GNS ballroom. The event is open to both men and women.

MENACHEM BEGIN LEGACY PROJECT EVENT
Wednesday evening, May 15th at 8:30 pm. Join us for a very special event to learn more about the amazing life of Menachem Begin from Menachem Begin Heritage Center CEO Herzl Makov.

ISRAEL BONDS EVENT
Great Neck Synagogue Men’s Club and Young Israel of Great Neck together with Israel Bonds invite you on Tuesday, May 21st at 8:00 pm with guest speaker Charley Harari.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
The GNS Nominating Committee is meeting to select candidates for Board positions. If you have someone you would like to nominate please contact a member of the committee.
Matt Ellis, Jack Lemonik, Mitchell Siegel, Yifat Mittleman, Marcy Aharon, Sara Feldschreiber and Ilana Kroll.

Mazal Tov to Rhonda & Jack Lipsky on the birth of a grandson born to their children Rachel & Mikey Bohnen and to big brother Caleb.

OHEL XTREME CHALLENGE CLASSIC
On Sunday May 19, Tami Secunda-Kramer will be participating with a team of women from Great Neck, Team IMOVE & SWEAT, in the OHEL Xtreme Challenge at Camp Kaylie. She will be challenging her body & testing her limits in support of children and adults with disabilities, foster children, children in OHEL’s 3 domestic violence shelters, and the elderly. Please donate to her page and help the Great Neck team be the highest fundraising team! Thank you! http://www.oheloxc.org/gntrainertami.

SHABBAT LUNCH FOR PREVIOUSLY MARRIED SINGLES
There is an upcoming Shabbat lunch for previously married men and women ages 35 to 50 years old that will take place in Great Neck. If you or anyone you know may be interested in attending, please be in touch with Rabbi Polakoff at dpolakoff@gns.org or Rabbi Lichter at ilichter@gns.org, so they can give your information to the event organizers.

KENSINGTON GATE SHAVUOT LUNCH AND LEARN
Back by popular demand, please join Rabbi Polakoff for a Shavuot Lunch and Learn at the home of Roselin Wagner, One Kensington Gate, Apt. 203 on Monday, June 3rd at noon. Dairy lunch will be served. We encourage you to sponsor the lunch in honor, in memory and/or for refuah shelaimah for a loved one at $36, $72 or $180 levels. Rabbi Polakoff will read out the dedications, in memory of and/or for refuah shelaimah.

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Saturday, 22 Nisan
Bonnie Diamond for Abraham Brandeis
Harold Domnitch for Julius Domnitch
Farla Frumkin for Seymour Kantrowitz
Richard Reiser for Sidney Reiser

Sunday, 23 Nisan
Yve Fouladi for Georgette Fruhling
Helen Ishofsky for Rabbi Shimon Hershkowitz
Iraj Kashani for David Kashani
Edward Wydra for Jack Wydra

Monday, 24 Nisan
Kathy Flatow for Olga David
Amy Goldberg-Reiss for Anna Goldberg
Sigalit Katz for Helen Hartman
Joan Katz for Anne Rezak
Jacob Toledano for Ester Toledano

Tuesday, 25 Nisan
David Bronheim for Sol Bronheim
Scott Danoff for Stuart Danoff
David Werber for Joseph Dreznzer
Martin Werber for Joseph Dreznzer

Wednesday, 26 Nisan
Asher Davoudpour for Mahjabin Davoudpour
Sadie Frank for Henny Ekstein
Phil Hanfling for Roslyn Hanfling
Thursday, 27 Nisan
Lev Dynkin for Berl Dynkin
Semyon Dynkin for Berl Dynkin
Stanley Fischer for Hedwig Fischer
Halina Greenwald for Yechiel Geller
Betty Crane for Simon Hochman
Karen Spitalnick for Jonas Steigman
Gisela Steigman for Jonas Steigman

Friday, 28 Nisan
Anne Lupkin for Sol Fischer
Nina Gourdzi for Nadji Gourdzi
Hedva Kessler for Mike Majus
Aaron Seligson for Sylvia Seligson