



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Mikeitz/Rosh Chodesh/Chanukah

December 28, 2019 30 Kislev, 5780

**TORAH
ARTSCROLL 222
HERTZ 155**

**7TH ALIYAH - R. CHOD.
ARTSCROLL 890
HERTZ 695**

**MAFTIR - CHANUKAH
ARTSCROLL 768
HERTZ 599**

**HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL 1210
HERTZ 987**

Times

Candle Lighting	4:15 pm
Mincha	3:00/4:15 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	3:35 pm
Mincha	4:05 pm
Shabbat Ends	5:20 pm
R' Reisman Video Shiur	7:30 pm
Sun. Dec. 29	7:30/8:30 am
Teen Minyan	9:30 am
Mon. Chanukah	6:30/7:45 am
Tues. & Fri.	6:45/7:45 am
Wed. Jan. 1	7:30/8:30 am
Thurs.	6:30/7:45 am
Mincha	4:25 pm
Latest Times for Shema/Shemoneh Esrei	
Dec. 28	9:37/10:23 am
Jan. 4	9:39/10:26 am
Next Shabbat Vayigash	
Candle Lighting	4:21 pm
Mincha	4:25 pm

Message & Laws of Chanukah - Rabbi Sacks

MESSAGE OF CHANUKAH

Hanukkah is the festival on which Jews celebrate their victory in the fight for religious freedom more than two thousand years ago. Tragically that fight is no less important today, and not only for Jews, but for people of all faiths. The Jewish story is simple enough. In around 165 BCE Antiochus IV, ruler of the Syrian branch of the Alexandrian empire, began to impose Greek culture on the Jews of the land of Israel. Funds were diverted from the Temple to public games and drama competitions. A statue of Zeus was erected in Jerusalem. Jewish religious rituals such as circumcision and the observance of the Sabbath were banned. Those who kept them were persecuted. It was one of the great crises in Jewish history. There was a real possibility that Judaism, the world's first monotheism, would be eclipsed.

A group of Jewish pietists rose in rebellion. Led by a priest, Mattathias of Modi'in, and his son Judah the Maccabee, they began the fight for liberty. Outnumbered, they suffered heavy initial casualties, but within

three years they had secured a momentous victory. Jerusalem was restored to Jewish hands. The Temple was rededicated. The celebrations lasted for eight days. Hanukkah, which means "rededication", was established as a festival to perpetuate the memory of those days.

It would be hard to find a precedent in recent history for this widening wave of chaos and barbarity. The end of the Cold War has turned out to be not the start of an era of peace but instead an age of proliferating tribal, ethnic and religious clashes. Region after region has been reduced to what Thomas Hobbes called "the war of every man against every man", in which life becomes "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

Is there a way forward? More than half a century ago the Oxford philosopher John Plamenatz noted that religious freedom was born in Europe in the seventeenth century after a devastating series of religious wars. All it took was a single shift, from the belief that "Faith is the most important thing; therefore, everyone should honor the one true faith", to the belief that "Faith is the most important thing; therefore, everyone should be free to honor his or her own faith."

This meant that people of all faiths were guaranteed that whichever religion was dominant, he or she would still be free to obey their own call of

conscience. Plamenatz's striking conclusion was that "Liberty of conscience was born, not of indifference, not of skepticism, not of mere open-mindedness, but of my faith." The very fact that my religion is important to me allows me to understand that your quite different religion is no less important to you. It took much bloodshed before people were prepared to acknowledge this simple truth, which is why we must never forget the lessons of the past if we are to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. Hanukkah reminds us that people will fight for religious freedom, and the attempt to deprive them of it will always end in failure.

The symbol of Hanukkah is the menorah we light for eight days in memory of the Temple candelabrum, purified and rededicated by the Maccabees all those centuries ago. Faith is like a flame. Properly tended, it gives light and warmth, but let loose, it can burn and destroy. We need, in the twenty-first century, a global Hanukkah: a festival of freedom for all the world's faiths. For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.

KIDDUSH IS PROVIDED BY GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE

**BIMA FLOWERS IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY ARE SPONSORED BY
ELAINE & ALBERT MILLER**

IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER MOLLY MILLER Z"l

ACTIVITIES DURING LIGHTING

While the Chanukah candles are burning, it is permitted to work; however, it is customary for women not to work for at least the first half hour of the candles' burning, and some have the custom not to work for the entire time of burning. The types of activities that are forbidden are things like sewing and laundry etc. (Cooking is permitted.)

CHANUKAH MEALS

There is no obligation to have festive meals; however, it is customary to celebrate by eating special meals anyway, because of the fact that the dedication of the Temple and Altar took place during Chanukah. It is customary to eat milk foods because Yehudit, daughter of Yochanan the High Priest, was taken to be defiled by the Greek ruler Holofernes. She fed him cheese (to make him thirsty) and wine (to quench his thirst); and after getting him drunk she killed him. This was one of the events that sparked the Maccabean uprising. Food fried in oil is also eaten to commemorate the miracle of the Menorah. Latkes and donuts are the most common foods.

LAWS OF LIGHTING

The minimum obligation is that every household should have one candle burning every night. It is customary to be scrupulous regarding this mitzvah: to have one candle on the first night and an additional candle every night, and for everyone in the house as well. Any type of oil is acceptable for use in the menorah, however, it is best to use olive oil. The menorah should be similar to the Menorah in the Temple and hence most authorities forbid using electric lights or gas lamps. If a number of people are lighting in one household, they should make a slight separation between their menorahs so that there is no confusion to the observer as to the number of candles. Ideally, the Menorah should be placed outside the house to the left of the entrance. Since anti-Semitism was so common throughout Jewish history it became customary among many communities to place the Menorah inside the house, near the entrance or on the table. In many families it is the custom to place the menorah in a window facing the public, especially where many people share one entrance (e.g., apartment building). In Israel it is customary to light outside in a special box that prevents the flames from blowing out. The Menorah should have all the candle or wicks on the same level, none higher or lower than the others. It is customary to have an additional candle (the shamash) with which to light the other candles and in order to use its light. The shamash should be placed in a way that shows that it is not one of the Chanukah candles.

It is forbidden to derive benefit from the light of the Menorah just as it was forbidden to derive benefit from the Menorah in the Temple, and also in order to show that its purpose of the Menorah is for a Mitzvah, not just for illumination. It is preferable to have the candles in a straight line, and not in a semi-circle. It is prohibited to light the shamash from the Chanukah candles. It is obligatory to put in enough oil, or a long enough candle to burn for at least 1/2 hour after nightfall (i.e. the appearance of three medium size stars). In exceptional circumstances one may light one and a quarter hours before sunset with a blessing. (However, one should be careful to put in more oil or to use longer candles). If one forgot or was not able to light at the correct time, one may light as long as people are still awake in the house in which one is lighting. It is best to light in the presence of many people in order to publicize the miracle.

BRACHOT & SET UP OF MENORAH

On the first night three brachot, blessings are recited. "Lehadlik ner shel Chanukah", "She asa nissim" and "Shehecheyanu". On the other nights only the first two blessings are said. All the blessings should be recited before actually lighting the candles. First light the Shamash before the blessings to avoid delay. It is forbidden to speak between the recitation of the blessings and the completion of candle lighting. "Haneirot Halalu" is recited either during or after the lighting of the additional candles. "Maoz tsur yeshuati" then is sung. We place the first candle on the extreme right of the Menorah. On the second night add a candle on the left. Light the newest candle first and proceed to the right. The Menorah should not be moved after it has been lit. If the Menorah was lit in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law and it was extinguished, one is not obligated to relight it, but one may relight it without reciting a blessing. If the Menorah was not lit properly in the first place or was lit in a windy place and blew out, then one is obligated to relight if it went out within 1/2 hour after nightfall.

SHABBAT & MOTZAI SHABBAT

On Friday afternoon, the Chanukah candles should be lit before the Shabbat candle-lighting time. Mincha should be said before lighting, if possible. When lighting on Saturday night, some authorities say that one should light Chanuka candles before Havdalah, others say after Havdalah. One should follow their family custom in this.

GUEST IN SOMEONE'S HOME

If one is a guest at someone's house and staying there, one should give the owner a small amount of money to buy a portion in their candles and one may fulfil the obligation through the owner. Alternatively, the guest may light his own Menorah. If one is eating out, then one should light the Menorah at their place of residence.

TEFILOT

During morning prayers, Shacharit, one should recite the full Hallel every day. "Al hanissim" the special paragraph of prayers for Chanukah is added in the silent prayers, Shmoneh Esreh and also in Birkat HaMazon. If one forgot to say this addition, one should not repeat either Shmoneh Esreh or Birkat HaMazon. It is customary to light a Menorah in the Synagogue every evening. It is placed at the southern wall of the Synagogue, in imitation of the Menorah in the Temple in Jerusalem.



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

Rabbi Dale Polakoff, Rabbi
Rabbi Ian Lichter, Assistant Rabbi
Rabbi Aron White, Intern 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
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Harold Domnitz, Chairman of the Board

**GNS DECEMBER CHESED
PURIM COSTUMES COLLECTION**



DAFNA'S HEART

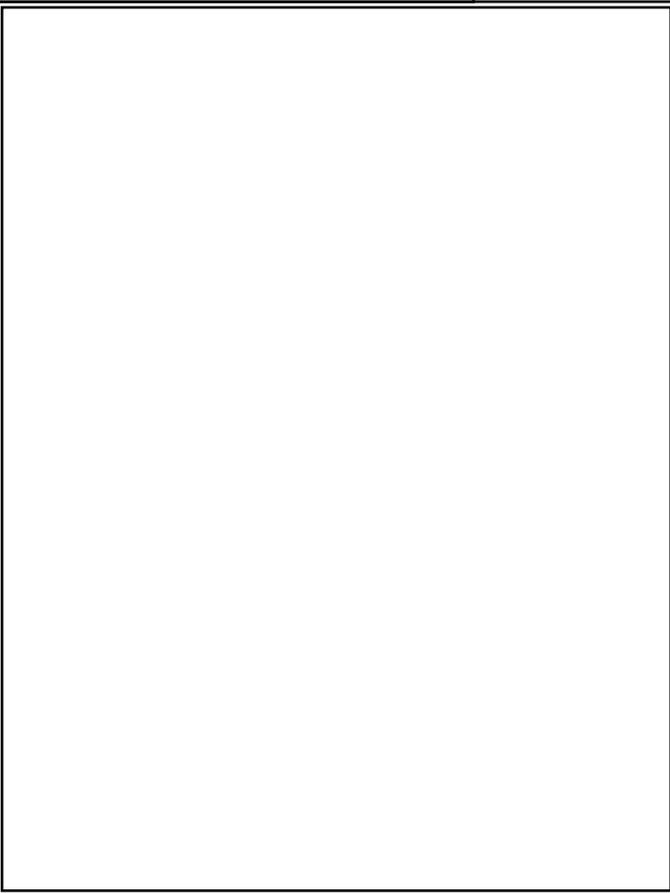
CHANGING THE FACE OF PURIM IN ISRAEL

Please drop off all costumes at the Kroll home
15 Old Pond Rd. Great Neck, NY 11023
Questions? Text 917.653.5224 - Tizku L'mitzvot!

Yogev Atoon, in memory of his mother Dafna ז"ל - with the help of his family and kind strangers - is working to change the face of Purim in Israel. For those who cannot afford costumes for their children, Atoon created an organization, DAFNA'S HEART, which largely relies on the donations of gently used costumes.



DAFNA'S HEART is looking for new or gently used costumes for all ages (kids & adults). No accessories needed.



This is the picture of the **Holocaust Wall**. We have already identified the pictures that are outlined in black but still need your help to identify all the pictures. Please call the office to identify the photo. Thank you!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5780 IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF **DOVID BEN NISSAN v'LEAH** FOR OTHER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD WOLF 516-643-3344

MAZAL TOVS & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Lillian & Gary Chubak** on the engagement of their daughter **Jenny** to **Etan Slomovic** of Manhattan.

Mazal Tov to **Kathy & Arnie Flatow** on the engagement of their daughter **Sara** to **Jonathan Korman**, son of **Deborah & Dr. Jerald Korman** of Lawrence NY.

Mazal Tov to **Ellen & Mitchell Siegel** on the birth of a grandson born to their children **Jessica and Ben Siegel**.

Mazal Tov to **Fani & Jonathan Mael** on the birth of a daughter.

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 516.637.3674/dpolakoff@gns.org.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you very much to Joan and Henry Katz for hosting a wonderful Chanukah Lunch and Learn at their beautiful home in Kensington Gate – it was a huge success with over 40 people. Thank you very much to Rabbi Polakoff for a beautiful Dvar Torah which everyone greatly enjoyed. Thank you also to Crawford's Café for their amazing catering. We are grateful for our generous sponsors of this event (in ABC order): Joan Begun; Anita and Hal Beretz; Bertram and Marilyn Drachtman; Linda and Bob Glaser; Devorah Hanfling; Joan and Henry Katz; Susan Mayer; Brenda and Ed Parver; Diane and David Rein; Irvin and Florence Spira; Roz Wagner.

GNS DECEMBER CHESED

Please drop off all new or gently used Purim costumes at the Kroll home, 15 Old Pond Rd. throughout the month of December. Costumes will be distributed to families in need through the organization Dafna's Heart in Israel.

SUPPORT GREAT NECK EIRUV

Our yearly fundraising for the Great Neck Eiruv will be in January. We depend on your generosity to maintain our Eiruv. Due to the increased expenses we are suggesting a **minimum donation this year of \$200**. We have not raised this suggested minimum for over 25 years. If you are able, a larger donation would be GREATLY appreciated. If you would like to make your fully tax deductible charitable donation before year end, you may do so by either:

A. Mailing a check to the G N Eiruv Association, P.O. Box 234243, Great Neck, NY 11023

B. Donating online at: <http://greatneckeiruv.org/donate>
Thank you in advance for your help in maintaining our community Eiruv.

SISTERHOOD CHALLAH BAKE THANKS YOU

The Sisterhood Challah Baking last week was a great success with 49 women and 21 children baking challah together under the inspirational leadership of Mindy Leventhal who explained the meaning behind each ingredient, led us in Tehillim and demonstrated braiding techniques. Thank you to Mindy and to the organizers Ilana Kroll, Vivian Kron & Judy Lillien – and to Ellen Polakoff, Robyn Blumner, Cynthia Weisenfeld and our other helpers. Thank you also to our Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors – Robyn Blumner, Tannaz Dror, Ruth Goykadosh, Debbie Hollander, Ilana Kroll, Judy Lillien, Tina Machnikoff, Liz Ort, Diane Rein, Rebecca Weisel and Udi Winokur. A portion of the evenings proceeds will go to Meorot of NSHA, a special education after school Judaic studies program.

LACTATION ROOM

If there are any mothers in need of a private room to nurse their child, please see Katie Lichter or Zehava Atlas for the key and room instructions. Thank you.

TOUR DE SIMCHA AND BIKE4CHAI

Are you interested in joining a ride of a lifetime?

Tour de Simcha - July 14th, 2020

Bike4Chai - August 12-13th, 2020

For more info: Chazan Spinner at YSpinner@gns.org.

SHAARE ZEDEK NYC HALF MARATHON

Please join Team Shaare Zedek as a runner in the NYC Half Marathon for Shaare Zedek Medical Center to support the Emergency Room expansion. The NYC Half Marathon will take place Sunday, March 15, 2020. For further info please contact Sharon Goldwyn at sgoldwyn@acsz.org.

Jeffrey Liebmann & Family would like to thank Rabbis Polakoff and Lichter, Chazzan Spinner, Mark Twersky and the entire community for their outpouring of support following the passing of their beloved father Robert Liebmann z"l.

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Saturday, 30 Kislev

Edith Lubin for Annie Goldberg

Drora Brody for Mazal Yefet

Sunday, 1 Tevet

Chava Shalmon for Yosef Grinszpan

Steven Kashan for Ezra Kashan

Stuart Schwartz for Herbert Schwartz

Martin Sokol for Milton Sokol

Gerald Traub for Emil Traub

Monday, 2 Tevet

Alla Landa for Leo Fleyscher

Joseph Hyman for Leon Hyman

Joe Rosenthal for Paul Rosenthal

Tuesday, 3 Tevet

Doreen Zobel for Harry Geist

Leonard Kahn for Robert Kahn

Joan Katz for Nathan William Rezak

Joan Katz for Max Sadinoff

Susan Frisch for Felix Samelson

Lev Dynkin for Rakhil Shifman

Semyon Dynkin for Rakhil Shifman

Jerrald Weinstein for Morris Weinstein

Wednesday, 4 Tevet

Israel Freeman for Naftali Freeman

Chaya Gilad for Naftali Freeman

Sharon Goldwyn for Emanuel Goldwyn

Judith Soleimani for Lily Hajdu

Ilene Schuman for Louis Tabachnick

Baruch Toledano for Jamila Toledano

Paul Brody for Miriam Weiner

Thursday, 5 Tevet

Albert Miller for Molly Miller

Deena Heisler for Samuel Jacob Wachsberg

Friday, 6 Tevet

Randi Luxenberg for Evelyn Beeber

Stewart Kaplan for Evelyn Kaplan

Rabbi Shimon Wolf for Rebecca Miller

Susan Goldman for Ilana Pachinsky