



Shabbat Announcements

Dedicated in memory of Alice Setton

Pesach VII-VIII

April 3, 2021 21 Nissan, 5781

**PESACH VII TORAH,
MAFTIR & HAFTORAH**
ARTSC. 366, 892, 1224
HERTZ 265, 695, 1017
SIDDUR 962, 959, 964

**PESACH VIII TORAH,
MAFTIR & HAFOTRAH**
ARTSC. 1018, 892, 1226
HERTZ 814, 695, 1023
SIDDUR 965, 959, 966

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Shir HaShirim

Shir HaShirim (which will be read this Shabbat, the 7th day of Pesach) is not the only biblical book about love. It is a complex emotion that cannot be defined from a single perspective, nor do all its dimensions become apparent at the same time. In a way that is subtle and richly complex, the Shalosh Regalim, the three pilgrimage festivals, all have their special book, each about love but about different phases of it.

because he could find no English word that meant chesed. Beginning as it does with death, bereavement and childlessness, and ending with marriage and the birth of a child it is about the power of love to redeem grief and loneliness and "make gentle the life of this world." It is about what Shir HaShirim is not: about marriage, continuity and keeping faith with "the living and the dead" (Ruth 2:20). That too, in Judaism, is a significant part of love, for we are not just selves: we are part of the living chain of generations.

spiritually and morally textured exhilaration about which William Blake wrote, "He who binds to himself a joy / Does the winged life destroy. / He who kisses the joy as it flies / Lives in eternity's sun rise." Kohelet learns that happiness is to be found not in what you own (bind to yourself) but in what you share. It exists not where you invest your money but where you give of yourself. It lives in work and love: "Enjoy life with the woman you love all the days of this fleeting life you have been given under the sun, all the fleeting days, for that is your portion in life and in all your labor under the sun" (Eccles. 9:9). This is love that has grown from passion to responsibility to existential joy: the joy of being with one you love.

The essential message of Judaism is contained in no one of these books but in the combination of all three. Eros is the fire that gives love its redemptive, transforming, other-directed quality. Marriage is the covenantal bond that turns love into a pledge of loyalty and brings new life into the world. Companionship, experience and a life well lived bring simcha, a word that appears only twice in Shir HaShirim, not at all in Ruth but seventeen times in Kohelet.

Love as passion; love as marriage and childbirth and continuity; love as abiding happiness: three stages of

Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs, on Pesach is about love as passion. The lovers are young. There is no mention of marriage, a home, children, responsibility. They have no thought for the morrow nor for others. They are obsessed with one another. They live conscious of the other's absence, longing for the other's presence. That is how love should be some of the time if it is to be deep and transforming all the time.

On Sukkot we have a third story about love: love grown old and wise. Kohelet, Ecclesiastes, is a book easy to misread as a study in disillusionment, but that is because of sustained series of mistranslations of its key word, hevel. This is variously rendered as "vanity, vapor, meaningless, futile, useless," leading readers to think that its author finds life without purpose or point. Hevel does not mean that: it means "a fleeting breath." It is about the brevity of life on earth. It begins with the author seeking happiness in philosophy (chokhma), pleasure, laughter, the accumulation of wealth, fine houses and pleasure gardens, the perennial secular temptations. He discovers that none of them can defeat death. Objects last but those who own them do not. Wisdom may be eternal, but the wise still die.

The book of Ruth, the scroll we read on Shavuot, is about love as loyalty: Ruth's loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi, and Boaz's to Naomi, Ruth and the family heritage. It is about "loving-kindness," the word coined by Myles Coverdale in his Bible translation of 1535

We defeat death not by seeking a this-worldly immortality but by simcha, the

Times

Weekly Times

Shacharit: **Chol HaMoed**
 Wed. - Fri. 7:30 am

Mincha 7:05 pm

Shabbat Times

Candle Lighting 7:03 pm

Friday Night
 Mincha 7:05 pm

Hashkama 8:00 am

Main Sanctuary 9:00 am

Beit Midrash
 (Gym) 9:15 am

Tent Minyan 9:30 am

Youth Minyan 9:45 am

Gemara Shiur 6:10 pm

Mincha 6:55 pm

Pesach Schedule Page 2

Latest Times for
 Shema/Shemoneh Esrei

Apr. 3 9:46/10:50 am

Apr. 10 9:39/10:45 am

Next Shabbat
 Shmini

Mincha 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting 7:10 pm

love, traced out in the course of a life and the course of a year and its seasons: Shir HaShirim in spring, Ruth in harvest time, Kohelet in autumn as the days grow colder and the nights longer. With a wonderful touch of serendipity, Kohelet ends with the advice, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them" (12:1), thus leading us back to youthfulness, spring and the Shir HaShirim where we began.

LAST DAYS OF PESACH SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 30th - Friday, April 2nd

Chol HaMoed

Shacharit: 7:30 am

Mincha: 7:05 pm

Friday Night, March 30th

Candle Lighting: 7:03 pm

Mincha: 7:05 pm

Shabbat, April 3rd - Pesach VII

Shir HaShirim is recited this morning

Hashkama Minyan (Beit Midrash): 8:00 am

Main Sanctuary Minyan: 9:00 am

Beit Midrash Minyan (Gym): 9:15 am

Tent Minyan: 9:30 am

Youth Minyan: 9:45 am

Grades 1-4 (NSHA Lunchroom): 10:15-11:15 am

Tefillah Together Mommy & Me (Beit Midrash):
10:45-11:15 am

Gemara Shiur: 6:10 pm

Mincha: 6:55 pm

Candle Lighting & Preparations for 8th day:

Not before 8:04 pm

Sunday, April 4th - Pesach VIII

Yizkor is recited today

Hashkama Minyan (Beit Midrash): 8:00 am

Main Sanctuary Minyan: 9:00 am

Beit Midrash Minyan (Gym): 9:15 am

Tent Minyan: 9:30 am

Youth Minyan: 9:45 am

Grades 1-4 (NSHA Lunchroom): 10:15-11:15 am

Tefillah Together Mommy & Me (Beit Midrash):
10:45-11:15 am

Mincha: 7:05 pm

Yom Tov concludes: 8:05 pm



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

Rabbi Dale Polakoff, Rabbi
Rabbi Ian Lichter, Assistant Rabbi
Rabbi Yehoshua Lefkowitz, 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
Jordan Wolf, President
Dov Sassoon, Chairman of the Board

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

זכור
REMEMBER

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

BRONIA BRANDMAN

WILL SHARE HER WARTIME EXPERIENCES AS A YOUNG CHILD IN AUSCHWITZ.
HER RAISON D'ETRE IS TO TELL HER HARROWING STORY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7, 2021

8:00 P.M.

Great Neck Synagogue

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL RABBINIC DIALOGUE

CO-SPONSORED BY:

TEMPLE ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB

GREAT NECK SYNAGOGUE
MEN'S CLUB

AND TEMPLE BETH-EL'S
BROTHERHOOD

ONLINE-ONLY EVENT
SUNDAY, APRIL 18
10:00 AM

REGISTER ONLINE
<https://bit.ly/2PCctNO>

ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO THE EVENT

Join
Rabbis Dale Polakoff,
Tara & Meir Feldman,
& Howard Stecker
for a community event



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI POLAKOFF'S SHABBOS DRASHA THROUGH 5781 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 **Ellen & Alex Lyakhov** on the Bar Mitzvah of their sons **Michael & Gregory**.

Mazal Tov to **Hal & Debbie Chadow** on the birth of a grandson, born to his children **David & Joelle Chadow**.

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS MOVING INTO THE GREAT NECK AREA PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee for the GNS Board of Trustees has been formed. If you have any suggestions for whom you would like to see nominated please contact any of the following: Erran Kagan, Chair, Seth Silberstein, Rona Mittleman, Danielle Danoff, Harvey Ishofsky, Dina Hamerman and Jonathan Mael.

YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM

Join us on **Wednesday evening, April 7th at 8:00 pm** for a virtual Yom HaShoah Program featuring Holocaust survivor, Mrs. Bronia Brandman. She will share her wartime experiences as a young child in Auschwitz. Her raison d'être is to tell her harrowing story.

MEN'S CLUB BLOOD ANNUAL RABBINIC DIALOGUE

Join us **Sunday, April 18th at 10:00 am** for a virtual rabbinic dialogue together with Temple Israel Men's Club and Temple Beth-El's Brotherhood. Please register at <https://bit.ly/2PCctNO> and a zoom link will be sent with your registration.

GNS YOUTH GROUPS OVER PESACH

There will only be groups over 2nd days of Pesach.

MEN'S CLUB BLOOD DRIVE THANKS YOU

Thank you to everyone who generously participated in the GNS Men's Club Blood Drive this past Sunday, collectively donating 50 units of blood to those in medical need.

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIPS

We encourage our members to think about sponsoring the safe and socially distant Kiddush at the conclusion of davening or the Kiddush Bags to go. Please email mtwersky@gns.org for more details.

GNS CONNECTIONS

GNS Connections is a new initiative to reach out to members of our synagogue – many who usually attend services but are not able to during this COVID pandemic for health and safety reasons. If you are interested in volunteering to make phone calls 1-2x month to keep in touch with these members, please email the Chair of GNS Connections, Rachel Brecher at rachelbrecher@icloud.com.

PASS IT FORWARD

Pass it forward is preparing for its Pesach program and is facing the largest communal need it has seen in its 14 years. In light of the Pandemic, we are unable to accept food donations, which makes it more important for you to donate money this year. We have been helping families on a weekly basis, and the communal need is growing. Many young families are living week to week. It is absolutely heartbreaking. Please consider making a donation to support Pass it Forward. The work we do is critical to our Community. Please make your donation through the Shul and note that it is for Pass it Forward.

Cindy, Nechama, Michelle and Marla

SEFORIM AND SHAIMOT

Seforim/Shaimos will be picked up at your home in Great Neck. All proceeds going to Tomchei Shabbos. Contact Rabbi Steve Moskowitz at Smoskowitz@saracademy.org

GREAT NECK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

As you may know, we are fortunate to have a Great Neck Community Calendar where one can post their upcoming simcha or special event. It is suggested that when planning a simcha or event that you post it on the calendar in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts. To post your simcha, send your request to greatneckcalendar@gmail.com. If you post on the Community Calendar, do not assume that you are booked on the GNS calendar as well. You must reserve your date on the GNS calendar independently.

HUNGER INITIATIVE

During these difficult times, we are providing food for numerous families in our community and nearby areas. If you cook in excess during the week, please freeze your extras, neatly wrap them and drop them off in the cooler on the porch at 91 Baker Hill road on Friday from 7 am - 1 pm. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP PERISHABLE FOOD OFF DURING THE WEEK.** Canned goods, cereal, any grocery items, fruit and vegetables are also appreciated. If you would like to volunteer to make a deliveries and help collect food for these families, Please contact Cindy Hodkin at 516.317.9632 or at koshercookinggn@gmail.com.

Y A H R Z E I T S

Tuesday, 17 Nissan

Paul Brody for Minnie Brody
Judith Traub for Usher Hechtkopf

Thursday, 19 Nissan

Paul Brody for Marion Brown
Sigalit Katz for Tiberiu Eliyahu Cziesler
Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Yochanan ben Shlomo Gabbai
Hindi Lunzer for Isidore Mermelstein
David Sedgh for Ghodrat Yazhgai

Friday, 20 Nissan

Ebrahim Gabbazadeh for Binah ben Yehuda Gabbazadeh
Theodore Perlman for Elsie Perlman

Saturday, 21 Nissan

Mel Fox for Celia Fox Blumenfeld
Hadassah Wachstock for Abraham Kessler
Alex Novogrudsky for Fanya Novogrudsky
Anna Herz for Laura Yellin

Sunday, 22 Nissan

Bonnie Diamond for Abraham Brandeis
Harold Domnitch for Julius Domnitch
Farla Frumkin for Seymour Kantrowitz
Sharon Janovic for Louis Meltz
Richard Reiser for Sidney Reiser

Monday, 23 Nissan

Yve Fouladi for Georgette Fruhling
Helen Ishofsky for Rabbi Shimon Hershkovitz
Iraj Kashani for David Kashani
Edward Wydra for Jack Wydra