

Tefilla Notebook

10 Shevat • Bo

January 19-20, 2024

Steven Dorfman, President • Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi • Rabbi Aryeh Perlstein, Assistant Rabbi



Dear Members and Friends,

The Talmud in Chulin tells of a dramatic scene straight out of award season in Hollywood.

On the fourth day of creation, God created two great luminaries to light the sky, the sun and the moon - two lead roles - and immediately the moon begins to protest having to share the spotlight with the sun: "Says the moon before God: Master of the Universe, is it possible for two kings to serve with one crown? One of us must be subservient to the other. God therefore said to her [the moon]: if so, go and diminish yourself."

Yet it is the moon that is honored with being the very first mitzvah that we receive from God - in Parshat Bo, when we are commanded to sanctify the new moon - "Kiddush Hachodesh". Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch explains this mitzvah - the highly inefficient process of determining the months by witnesses and courts - as a prime example of the value Judaism places on human free will.

Judaism believes that the world is not a fixed and deterministic place, but rather a place where human beings have the power to make choices and create change. So much so, that even with the adaptation of a fixed calendar by Hillel II, the Jews of the diaspora are directed to keep two festival days, partially in recognition of the original way of determining the new month through the people.

Judaism advocates for a participatory religion where knowledge is an obligation for every citizen, challenging religions that conform to the status quo. These religions allow the ruling class to maintain godlike power and keep the masses in ignorance. Judaism turns the pyramid of power on its head. While we were still slaves in Egypt, God instructed us - three times just in Parshat Bo - regarding the importance of educating our children, to achieve freedom from slavery by fostering a society of knowledge and participation. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes, regarding the uniqueness of these Jewish priorities: "The Mesopotamians built ziggurats. The Egyptians built pyramids. The Greeks built the Parthenon. The Romans built the Coliseum. Jews built schools."

In 1939, Rabbi Mordechai Wulliger, my great-grandfather arrived from his native Hungary in the United States and assumed an administrative role in the Mesivta and Yeshiva of Torah Vodaat. He traveled across the United States, Mexico,

and Canada, raising funds for the yeshiva - though he was far from a traditional fundraiser. Wherever he went, he would significantly expand the yeshiva's budget and his obligations by recruiting and bringing numerous students back to the yeshiva in New York. His story - that of a foreigner in a new land, a Jew dedicating his life to education - exemplifies the quintessential Jewish narrative.

It is this same narrative that is most frightening to the ruling class, to nations that rely on subservience. The prospect of a free, educated and proud Jew. They will do everything in their power to ensure that our neighbors in the Middle East and their citizens do not learn from our ways and challenge the status quo.

Much like the Romans, who sought to preserve their slave labor by critiquing the sacred day of Shabbat, the Nazis and Soviets demonized the Jews, who they saw as a threat to their totalitarian regimes. Today, many countries like Iran, Qatar, Russia, China and South Africa, cynically use Israel as a diversion from their own lamentable human rights records.

It is not surprising, then, that the accusation of "Apartheid" against Israel originated from the "father of Apartheid" himself, former South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd. This libel, born after Israel's 1961 UN vote against South African apartheid, has ironically been embraced by those who have supposedly broken free from his racist legacy.

As Israel's legal advisor, Tal Becker, said last week at The Hague: "We live at a time when words are cheap in an age of social media and identity politics. The temptation to reach for the most outrageous term to vilify and demonize has become, for many, irresistible..."

Parshat Bo serves as a stark reminder to the world of the power of free will and expression, and the importance of never surrendering to the mob. Not all movements and revolutions are created equal. The voices rising up against the Jewish people, that seek to annihilate Israel, the sole democracy in the Middle East - must be recognized for what they are, an attempt to expand and bolster their own malevolent pursuits. Much like Pharaoh and the oppressive civilizations of the past, we, the Children of Israel, God's chosen arbiters of freedom, will certainly outlive them.

Shabbat Shalom & wishing you a week filled with blessings!
Rabbi Aryeh Perlstein

FRIDAY, JAN 19th

4:52 PM CANDLELIGHTING
4:55 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, JAN 20th

8:30 AM GEMARA SHIUR
9:15 AM SHACHARIT
5:00 PM MINCHA
5:50 PM MAARIV
5:52 PM SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING

| | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Sun | 8:00am | 5:00pm |
| Mon-Thur | 7:00am | 5:00pm |
| Fri | 7:00am | 5:00pm |

**BRING THEM
HOME NOW**

WELCOME

Maya & Gili Roman will be joining us Shabbat morning to speak about their relative **Carmel Gat**, who is still being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JONATHAN
BOYER

DAVID SOSTCHEN

ROBERT
TENCER

AVRUMIE
SCHNITZER

JULIA
GREENSPAN

JUNE BRENNER

MICHAEL LAVAEE ELI TENENBAUM

DANIEL GROMIS

MARILYN
SOHACHESKI

SCARLETT
RUIMY

Yahrtzeits

Magda Weiss

Shayndal bat Moshe a"h

Mother of

Suzi Fischmann

Yahrtzeit - 10 Shevat

Moshe Samuel

Moshe ben Yaakov z"l

Brother of

Joe Samuel

Yahrtzeit - 12 Shevat

Shaindle Gutman

Shaindle Gittle bat Chaim Shaul a"h

Sister of

Aaron Fuchs

Aunt of

Jason Fuchs

Yahrtzeit - 11 Shevat

Gershon Cooper z"l

Husband of

Ruth Cooper

Yahrtzeit - 15 Shevat

Samuel Miller

Shmuel Yosef ben David

HaLevi z"l

Father of

Stuart Miller

Yahrtzeit - 16 Shevat

Happy Anniversary

Paul & Emma

Almond

Michael & Sharon

Weiner



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Sponsorships are still available for many aspects of the trip, see the
back page for details.

STEVEN & VIVIAN DORFMAN KEILIM MIKVAH



The Keilim Mikvah is open for use. You can buzz-in for access via the intercom at the entrance to the garage, during weekday office hours. It is customary to give tzedakah before doing to mitzvah of tovelling Keilim. You can give a donation directly to the keilim mikvah by visiting yinhb.org/keilim



SNL Family Night at YINBH

Thank you to
our sponsors

HOST: Ari & Esther Lastenko

GUEST DIRECTOR: Joe & Galina Samuel in memory of Joe's brother,
Moshe Samuel, Moshe ben Yaakov z"l, whose yahrtzeit is on the 12th
of Shevat

CAST MEMBER - Howard & Judy Raykoff

JOIN US IN SPIRIT IN ISRAEL



THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT!

GIVE YOUR DONATION TO SHOW THAT
WE SUPPORT THEM DURING THIS TIME.

WHILE IN ISRAEL WE WILL BE:

- VISITING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE WAR AND DISTRIBUTING TOYS
- VISITING WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN A HOSPITAL AND DISTRIBUTING GIFTS
- HOSTING A BBQ FOR 300 SOLDIERS

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