



Tefilla Notebook

5 Nissan • Tazria

April 12-13, 2024

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



Dearest Members & Friends,

A report in January revealed that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) was experiencing significant mental health issues with some of their personnel as a result of the October 7th massacre and war in Gaza; at that stage, 1,600 soldiers had been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), with some requiring in-patient treatment. Most of the

affected soldiers had been exposed to the gruesome aftermath of the Hamas attack in Southern Israel, seeing tortured and mutilated bodies, as well as witnessing their friends dying or wounded in the effort to clear the area of Hamas operatives.

According to the January report, 90 soldiers were deemed unable to continue their service and had been discharged from duty. The IDF's mental health experts also expressed concerns about the broader psychological repercussions of the massacre and war over time, particularly for reservists who needed to transition back to civilian life. They warned of the potential for "functioning difficulties" and a pervasive sense of meaninglessness in daily life after active service in urban warfare situations, and voiced concerns for the long-term welfare of those who were serving and continued to serve.

Three months later, the grisly six-month anniversary since October 7th has come and gone. Sadly, the situation has not improved, and indeed, it may have worsened. Moreover, with many of the reservists now back in civilian life, the predicted malaise has filtered its way into Israel's population. Add to that those affected by the massacre and war through displacement and bereavement, plus the uncertainty of a war that isn't over and a very uncertain political situation – clearly Israel is not in a good place. The bitter taste left by the audacious terrorism of the massacre itself, which exposed a vulnerability that most Israelis had convinced themselves had been mitigated by impenetrable defenses, has been compounded by months of war, IDF personnel killed, growing dissatisfaction with Israel's leadership, and an acute awareness that the world-at-large is not on the same page as Israel regarding the threats it faces.

Early last month, it was announced that the official state ceremony for Israel's 76th Independence Day in May will not feature the customary fireworks display due to the ongoing conflict. Miri Regev, the government minister overseeing the celebrations, explained that the adjustments to the ceremony's format were in response to the October 7th massacre and the ongoing war. She also called on municipal leaders across Israel to omit fireworks from their local celebrations. This week, Regev revealed that the official state-sponsored Independence Day ceremony will take place without a live audience, and will be pre-recorded. This set-piece event, usually held at Mount Herzl as the country transitions from Memorial Day to Independence Day, will be held in advance and then broadcast as Independence Day begins – the first time this has ever happened since Israel's establishment in 1948, marking a significant departure from tradition.

Against this backdrop of strife and difficulty, we must reflect on the deeper spiritual and historical essence of Eretz Yisrael, the land of Jewish heritage that has been at the center of Jewish faith and identity for millennia, and at the same time a place of immense sacrifice and suffering. To this end, Ramban (Nahmanides) offers a profound insight in his commentary on tzara'at, the malady described in detail in Tazria and Metzora. Tzara'at can only occur in the Land of Israel – which means, says Ramban, that it is not a natural disease, but rather a miraculous manifestation of Divine providence, highlighting the unique spiritual stature of Eretz Yisrael, where Divine presence is most acutely felt. Ramban also mentions that tzara'at on houses

only came into effect in Eretz Yisrael after the Israelites, led by Joshua, had completed the full fourteen years of conquest and division of the land after crossing the Jordan River following Moses' death.

If you paused at that point in Ramban's commentary, you might think that this rule is connected to his previous point – namely that tzara'at is a manifestation of the Divine status of Eretz Yisrael. Given that the full sanctity of the land wasn't achieved until after fourteen years had passed—a period after which regulations like tithes and offerings began to apply—you might assume that the laws regarding tzara'at on houses followed a similar pattern, appearing only when the land's full sanctity had been established.

However, Ramban offers a far more meaningful insight to explain this phenomenon: the reason why afflictions on houses did not occur during the period of conquest was not due to a lack of sanctity, but because a heightened state of God-consciousness is essential for witnessing a divine intervention like tzara'at. But in times of war, when survival dominates thought and action, achieving such a level of spiritual awareness is nearly impossible. The fog of war not only obscures the ordinary course of events in day-to-day life, it also puts up a barrier between us and God – and in that state we are incapable of being sensitive to the sanctity that is so obvious in times of peace.

Over the past few months, as the fog of war has descended upon us and clouded our minds, I have worried that the incredible miracle of Israel will recede from our consciousness. We are all in survival mode, even those who live in the Diaspora – all of us fielding unbridled hatred, and wondering how it will all end. In moments of doubt, we wonder what lies ahead for Israel in the long term, now that the existential threat has been revealed as ever-present and far more vigorous than we had ever previously imagined.

It is in exactly times like these that we must remember the resilient spirit and sacred essence of Eretz Yisrael. As we reflect upon our current hardships, we must draw strength from the profound wisdom of Ramban. His teaching regarding those fourteen foundational years must remind us that even when the fog of war obscures the holiness of the land, that holiness remains, waiting to reemerge once peace is restored. Just as Joshua and the Israelites persisted through years of conquest so that they could bask in the land's holiness and glory, we too must persevere, maintaining faith that the trials we face today are but temporary shadows over the enduring light of our nation.

Israel's story is one of overcoming great adversities, the unbreakable spirit of its people, and the deep, abiding connection to Eretz Yisrael. The challenges of war and social discord cannot and will not diminish the sanctity of Eretz Yisrael, nor can they permanently cloud the divine providence that has guided our history. The current conflict, as harrowing as it is, presents an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to this sacred land, recognizing it as a source of strength and hope for us all.

As we approach the period in our Jewish calendar celebrating redemption and the formation of our nation, both in ancient history and in modern times, and while we endure the greatest challenges we have faced for generations, let this be a time of reflection and renewal. We must hold fast to the belief that peace will return, and with it, the full expression of our land's holiness and elevation. In the spirit of those who came before us, let us bear these trials with dignity and strength, looking forward to a future where Israel can once again shine as a light unto the nations, its sanctity fully rekindled.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom and a great week ahead,
 Rabbi Pini Dunner

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH
 7:05PM CANDLELIGHTING
 6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT
SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
 8:30 AM GEMARA SHIUR
 9:15 AM SHACHARIT
 6:45 PM PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR
 7:10 PM MINCHA
 8:00 PM MAARIV
 8:03 PM SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING

Sun	8:00am	7:10pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	7:10pm
Fri	7:00am	6:30pm



THANK YOU

Thank you to the **Goldberger family** for sponsoring this week's kiddush in honor of **Regina's 90th Birthday**.

עד מאה כעשרים שנה!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Henry & Lana Graham
Farshad & Naz Nassibi
Josh & Talia Smith



Mazal Tov to **Michael & Susan Baum** on new granddaughter, **Evelyn Heidi**, born to **Julia & Adam Feldman**. Mazal Tov to Grandparents

Batya Gorin and Howard Feldman.

THANK YOU

Thank you to **Ben and Mojie Neydavood** for sponsoring next week's parsha shiur in memory of Ben's father, **Khalil Neydavood, Hillel z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 7th of Nissan.

SHMURA MATZA FOR SALE

WE HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF HAND-BAKED SHMURA MATZAH FROM ISRAEL THAT WE HAVE ORDERED FOR OUR MEMBERS.

THE PRICE IS \$40/LB. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

THE MATZAH IS מצות חבורה - בית שמש

ORDER AT YINBH.ORG/SHMURA

LIVE VIRTUAL YIZKOR SERVICE

יזכור

Sunday April 28th, 2024
11:00am PST via zoom

Zoom Code: 310 276 7650
Password: yinbh
yinbh.org/zoom



Yahrtzeits

Irving Silberspitz

Yitchak ben Avraham Aba z"l

Father of

Cecile Gromis

Yahrtzeit - 5 Nissan

Johanna Klein

Yona bat Yaakov Mordechai a"ח

Mother of

Debbie Cohen

Yahrtzeit - 6 Nissan

Khalil Neydavood

Hillel z"l

Father of

Behnam Neydavood

Yahrtzeit - 6 Nissan

Abraham J. Kaufler

Abraham Yosef ben Chaim z"l

Father of

Philip Kaufler

Yahrtzeit - 7 Nissan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Philip Kaufler

Regina Goldberger

Brigitte Silkin

Susy Rubinstein

Aiden Huberman

Shaked Berenson

Michael Novack

Robin Broidy

PESACH

INFO

CHAMETZ SALE FORM

Please return completed Chametz Sale forms by Sunday, April 21st at 10:00am.

yinbh.org/chametz

MAOT CHITIM/PASSOVER FUND

It is customary to give a donation to help those who cannot afford essentials for passover. Rabbi dunner will be distributE the funds locally and in israel. donate online at yinbh.org/donate and select "maot chitim/passover fund" from the donation type dropdown

PESACH 2024 WHATSAPP GROUP

For Pesach Questions please join our Pesach 2024 WhatsApp group yinbh.org/whatsapp

PRINTABLE PASSOVER SCHEDULE

yinbh.org/schedule

More Passover resources can be found at

yinbh.org/passover



SOLIDARITY TRIP TO ISRAEL

FRIDAY JUNE 21 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 26

Trip includes accommodations at the Inbal Hotel, airport transfers, transportation within Israel, security, site visits, support staff & all meals. PARTICIPANTS WILL ARRANGE THEIR OWN TRAVEL TO ISRAEL, & TRAVEL INSURANCE.

Cost: \$3100 per person with double occupancy • Single Supplement \$500

Contact Carly for sponsorship opportunities

SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

Shabbat, April 20th

Drasha 6:10pm • Mincha 7:15pm

OPENING DOORS, POURING OUT WRATH

Elijah's Promise and Our Quest for Justice on Seder Night



Rabbi Pini Dunner

Rabbi Dunner takes us to the heart of a cherished Passover tradition: opening our doors for Elijah the Prophet towards the end of the Seder, as we solemnly declare 'Shefoch Chamatcha El Hagoyim Asher Lo Yeda'ucha' - 'Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You.' What is the origin of this strange custom? Why does Elijah the Prophet appear at our Seder? How does the harsh sentiments of 'Shefoch Chamatcha' fit in with the Seder night theme? Rabbi Dunner examines the origins and significance of inviting Elijah into our homes juxtaposed with the powerful plea to God to pour out His divine wrath upon oppressors, uncovering the layers of meaning behind these rituals and how they challenge us to reflect on what celebrating the Exodus from Egypt is all about.

First Night SEDER

Monday, April 22nd, 2024

SEDER LED BY RABBI PINI DUNNER & RABBI PERLSTEIN

Gourmet Glatt Kosher

International Wine Selection

EARLY BIRD BEFORE APRIL 8TH
ADULT \$195 • CHILD \$110

AFTER APRIL 8TH
ADULT \$210 • CHILD \$125

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ישיבת YINBH
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE



LIVE MUSIC
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
GOURMET BARBECUE
GIANT LAWN GAMES



TUESDAY MAY 14 • 4:30 PM
RSVP: YINBH.ORG/BBQ
PRIVATE ESTATE, BEVERLY HILLS

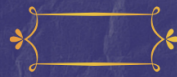
JOIN US IN CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 76TH BIRTHDAY WITH COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS!

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL GALA BANQUET
SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2024

HONORING TWO GENERATIONS OF SERVICE TO YINBH

JOSEPH & GALINA
SAMUEL



STEPHEN & JESSICA
SAMUEL