

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **Barry Novack & Annie Baum** in memory of Barry's mother, **Jean Novack, Sheindal bat Menachem Mendel a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 5th of Av.

4 Av • Devarim • Shabbat Chazon

July 21-22, 2023

Steven Dorfman, President

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This is the letter I sent to Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), after she hit the headlines for calling Israel a "racist state":



Dear Representative Jayapal,

Earlier this week, I came across the remarks you had made at a pro-Palestinian rally, where you referred to Israel as a racist state. I was both shocked and saddened by your negative perspective, which I believe to be an undeserved slur that is simply untrue. Which is why your subsequent retraction, in which you asserted

unequivocally that you "do not believe the idea of Israel as a nation is racist" – although it was qualified with certain stipulations – was a source of relief. It was particularly encouraging to see you acknowledge the indiscretion of your initial statement, especially in the fiercely contentious political atmosphere we find ourselves in today, where retracting one's words as a politician is no easy task.

My fervent hope is that this reversal on your part wasn't merely a matter of political expedience, but a reflection of your sincere desire to reassess your understanding of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians, and, more broadly, of Israel's legitimacy as a member of the global family of nations. To this end, I would like to share some insights and facts with you, with the hope that this incident isn't relegated to a minor mishap in your political journey, but instead becomes a catalyst for a significant voyage of discovery.

The renowned French novelist, Marcel Proust, famed for his profound explorations of memory, time, and the intricacies of human emotions, wrote that "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Indeed, it requires courage to discard bias and preconceptions, and see things anew.

As a Rabbi, I have encountered many individuals who tirelessly work towards alleviating the sufferings of others, despite their personal lives being filled with difficulties. If Israel is culpable of anything, it is exactly this. It is a nation filled with well-intentioned individuals striving for a better, safer world, even as it grapples with internal societal divisions and seemingly insurmountable problems. This scenario might well remind you of another place—the United States. Despite still being riddled with deep-rooted issues after 247 years, we haven't discredited the United States. Meanwhile, Israel is just 75 years old, and still has a long way to go.

What is so remarkable about Israel is that despite its youth and diminutive size, it is a world class innovator that brings hope and optimism to so many, and on so many fronts. For example, in the face of the escalating nuclear tensions that have recently been triggered by Russia's deployment of short-range nuclear missiles in proximity to its European neighbors, an Israeli biotech firm, Pluri, has emerged as a beacon of hope.

This innovative company is spearheading the development of a potential game-changing treatment for nuclear radiation poisoning—a hazard that could cause untold havoc and misery in the aftermath of a nuclear accident or attack. Just last week, in a bid to bolster its own preparedness against potential nuclear

threats, the U.S. government approved a funding grant for Pluri, marking a significant milestone in the quest for an affordable and scalable treatment for Hematopoietic Acute Radiation Syndrome (H-ARS), which will become a crucial and affordable medical countermeasure notably absent in today's market. And what makes Pluri even more impressive is that its employees include Jews and Arabs from across the spectrum.

Meanwhile, just last month, an experimental treatment developed at Israel's Hadassah-University Medical Center announced a 90% success rate at bringing patients with multiple myeloma into remission with a new experimental treatment. Until this announcement, multiple myeloma was considered virtually incurable; this year alone, in the U.S., 12,590 people are expected to die of this cancer.

In the same week as the news of this breakthrough emerged, Israeli researchers at Tel Aviv University and the Sheba Medical Center announced another discovery that they are confident will contribute to the development of a vaccine against the deadly skin cancer, melanoma. Just to put this in perspective: in 2020, 325,000 new cases of melanoma were diagnosed around the world, and 57,000 people died from the disease.

Rep. Jayapal – I could go on and on. The good news from Israel is literally a constant stream, all of it astounding and heartwarming in equal measure, and a testament to the desire of Israel – and I mean its citizenry as a whole – to make a positive impact on the world. And yes, there is much that they could do to clear up their own house, and as a lover of Israel and as a believer in the miracle of its existence, it can sometimes be painful to watch the paroxysms that grip the country, and the pain that so many of its inhabitants must endure, on all sides, as the intractable issues continue to defy solution.

But I am an optimist, always an optimist. And I encourage you, too, to be an optimist. Rather than write off an entire country because it is dogged by historical issues that have yet to be resolved, let us embrace a country that has good intentions, and genuinely wishes to be a force for good both within its borders and beyond its borders for the benefit of humanity as a whole.

The prophet Isaiah, whose inspirational prophecies remain the foundation of faith for so many, shared God's vision of the beacon of light that Israel would yet become, even as he freely pointed out its many failings: "I will also give you for a light unto the nations, that my salvation may be unto the end of the earth... And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." (Is. 49:6, 60:3).

My dear Rep. Jayapal: that is the Israel I know and love – a light unto the nations that draws nations to its light. It is not a new landscape, but there to see – as long as you have new eyes.

With respect and esteem,

Rabbi Pini Dunner



FRIDAY, JULY 21

7:44pm CANDLELIGHTING
6:30pm KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, JULY 22

8:30 am GEMARA SHIUR
9:15 am SHACHARIT
7:25 pm PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR
7:50 pm MINCHA
8:40 pm MAARIV
8:45 pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING

Sun	8:00am	7:40pm
Mon	7:30am	7:40pm
Tues	7:00am	7:40pm
<i>Wed & Thurs Tisha B'Av</i>		
Fri	7:00am	6:30pm

TISHA B'AV SCHEDULE

<u>Wednesday, July 26th</u>	<u>Thursday, July 27th</u>
7:00am Shacharit	8:00am Shacharit/Kinnot
6:00pm Mincha	12:59pm Chatzot
7:59pm Fast Begins	4:45pm Film Screening
8:10pm Maariv	7:45pm Mincha/Maariv
followed by Megillat Eicha	8:33pm Fast Ends

Let's Talk Sisterhood

with Gina Raphael & Maryjo Schnitzer

Join us for a special pre-New Year evening of inspiration and challah braiding for teens and women of all ages. Featuring special guest hosts "The Sephardic Spice Girls" and Jewish Children's Author **Sarah Sassoon**.

Sign up now, space is limited.
Thursday August 31st, 5-7pm
Sign up at yinhb.org/challah

♦
Watch Out for the upcoming book launch of Hearts & Minds II in September.

♦
Join us for Shabbat and Sunday Gourmet Lunches on Rosh Hashana 5784. Sign up now!

Happy Anniversary

Barry Novack & Annie Baum

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Julia Baum
Ilana Stoll
Bruce Schloss
Joan Lopatin
Jaron Wallack
Lily Kramer
Darryl Kam
Dena Sier
Madeline Kramer
Michael Bayer
Esther Miller

Yahrtzeits

Haim Joseph Belzberg

Haim Yosef z"l
Father of
Ella Thompson
Yahrtzeit - 3 Av

Howard Jack Eisen

Yechezkel Yaakov ben Hershel
Tzvi z"l
Father of
Fran Miller
Yahrtzeit - 6 Av

Jean Novack

Sheindel bat Menachem
Mendel a"h
Mother of
Barry Novack
Yahrtzeit - 5 Av

Julius Samson

Yehonatan Ben Eliyahu
Menachem z"l
Father of
Lee Samson
Yahrtzeit - 6 Av

ROSH HASHANA 5784 LUNCHEONS

SPACE IS LIMITED - SIGN UP NOW



YINBH SISTERHOOD IS PLANNING ROSH HASHANA LUNCHEONS ON BOTH DAYS OF ROSH HASHANA SHABBAT & SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 16TH & SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023

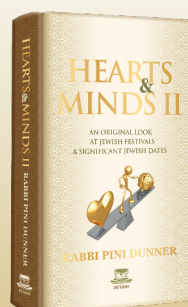
\$225 ADULTS
\$150 AGES 10 AND BELOW

YINBH
SISTERHOOD

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Moosa & Karla Lari
Jon & Alexis Waterman

COMING SOON



Hearts & Minds II

An Original Look at
Jewish Festivals
& Significant
Jewish Dates

By Rabbi Pini Dunner

Membership Renewal 5784

All current members are invited to renew their membership for the upcoming year 5784. Please visit yinhb.org/renewal. You can also call the office at 310-276-7650 or email office@yinhb.org.

Once you renew your membership, you can...



Reserve your **High Holiday Seats** at yinhb.org/seats. Please Reserve by September 8th.



Order your **Arba Minim** directly from the shul. Please order by September 21st. Order online at yinhb.org/arbaminim



Place names in the **Yizkor Booklet**. Please submit by September 11th. Sign up at yinhb.org/yizkor



Sign up your children or grandchildren for **Youth Group** during High Holiday Services. Sign up at yinhb.org/youth.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ALREADY RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR 5784

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS TISHA B'AV FILM SCREENING



**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 26TH**

6:00pm Mincha

7:59pm Fast Begins

8:10pm Mincha/Maariv,
followed by Megillat
Eicha

**THURSDAY,
JULY 27TH**

8:00am Shacharit/Kinnot
Tallis and Tefillin are not
worn

12:59pm Chatzot

4:45pm Film Screening:
Getting Away with
Murder(s)

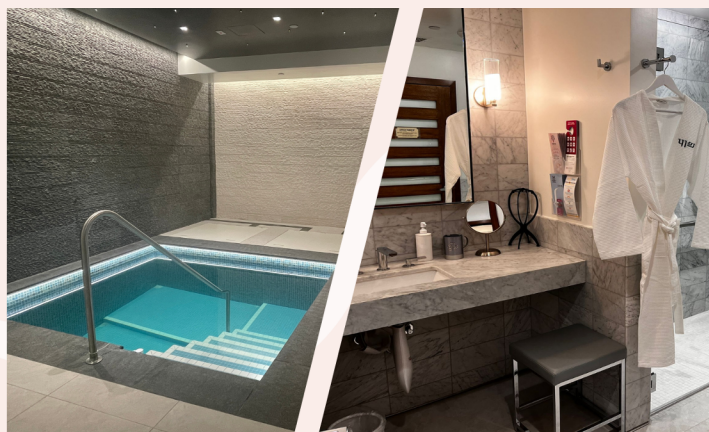
7:45pm Mincha/Maariv
with tefillin & leining

8:33pm Fast Ends

RSVP at
BEVERLYHILLSSYNAGOGUE.ORG/TISHABAV

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Yinhb Mikvah



HOURS

The Mikvah is open every evening including Shabbat, Yom Tov and Motzei Shabbat.
Kallah appointments also available.
All appointments must be made in advance.

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

www.yinhb.org/mikvah or Download the MikvahCloud app



OUR LOCATION
9261 Alden Drive
Beverly Hills

CONTACT US
310-299-1792 (Text Only)
www.yinhb.org/mikvah

NEW!

Children's Play Area

Open During Kiddush

Toys, Books, Games and
Activities during Kiddush
for Kids!

NOTES FOR PARENTS:

- ◆ Children must be supervised at all times
- ◆ The Balcony and Risers are off-limits
 - ◆ No Playing Under the Tables
 - ◆ No Running (Throughout the Rest of the Building)

Please Return All the
Toys to their Containers
before you leave

YINBH SISTERHOOD

 **YINBH**
SISTERHOOD



Challah Braiding

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST

5:00-7:00PM

Challah braiding with inspiration for the new year.
Teens & Women of all ages welcome!
Light Refreshments served.

FEATURING

**Sharon Gomperts &
Rachel Emquies Sheff,**
The Sephardic Spice Girls

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Sarah Sassoon,
Author of "Shoham's Bangle"



Register at yinbh.org/challah

\$54 per person • \$18 under 25 • Sponsorships start at \$180



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The Jewish Breast & Ovarian Cancer Community

