

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by
Evan & Liz Greenspan in memory of Evan's mother,
Sylvia Greenspan, Sara bat Dov Ber a"h, whose
yahrtzeit is on the 28th of Tishrei.

29 Tishrei • Bereshit • Birkat Hachodesh

October 13-14, 2023

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

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Dear Members and Friends,

When things couldn't possibly get more grim, the power of historical reflection can often become a beacon of hope, granting vital solace to anxious hearts. Amid all the turmoil following the Hamas invasion of Southern Israel, and the looming shadows of a potential war in Gaza, and possibly Lebanon,

many might ask – and not without good reason: why is the Jewish connection to Eretz Yisrael constantly tested and contested?

While a full answer to that question is very complex, this is hardly a new challenge – to the extent that a defense of the Jewish claim to Israel is as old as Judaism's most ancient scripture: the Torah. In the very first commentary on the Torah by Rashi, one of the most important Jewish commentators of all time, we are provided with a profound insight, an insight that is so pertinent and insightful that it resonates even today – and perhaps even more so today than ever.

Rashi asks why the Torah – which is essentially a guidebook for Jewish life – begins with the account of creation, instead of starting with the first commandment that was given to the Jews. Moreover, the creation narrative merely opens the door to a whole range of other narrative material – stories of ancient heroes, and some villains too. But while they were undoubtedly foundational figures of humanity, and some of them were the ancestors of the Jewish people, they all lived out their lives in the period before the Jewish nation had emerged.

Rashi's incredible explanation is that the Torah chronicles creation and the events and people that followed, to establish the rightful claim of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. It's as simple as that. God created the world, and there were tribes and families who dominated early human history. And then, when God deemed it appropriate, He gave the holy land to His chosen nation. It's all there in the bible, recorded for all time.

Thousands of years later, this powerful message still resonates. Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel, is not merely some random geographical location – it is the spiritual heart of the Jewish people, a land accompanied by a divine promise, and the oxygen that gives life to Jewish identity. All the challenges we face today, as Jews who love and cherish Israel, now with another violent adversary denying the Jewish claim to our land – these are just a test of our resolve, and a further opportunity to demonstrate our enduring commitment to God's promise that is embedded in the very first chapters of our foundational text.

The narrative flow of Bereishit is not merely an account of the world's creation followed by some random stories of ancient heroes, rather it is a reminder of our sacred bond with the land. Throughout history, this bond has been tested time and again – through exiles, conquests, and invasions. And yet, each time, the Jewish spirit has prevailed, proving unambiguously that our connection to Eretz Yisrael is not fleeting, but eternal.

And to be clear: nothing infuriates Israel's enemies more than this

truth. Indeed, as last weekend proved, they are willing to rape and slaughter, kidnap and destroy, just to vent their anger. In today's guise this ancient hatred operates under the hollow, facile slogan "Free Palestine" – but we've seen it all before, and we know it only too well.

Our ancestors faced challenges that defy humanity's wildest nightmares, but they always held firm, drawing strength from their unwavering faith – even when they faced genocide, banishment, enslavement, and exile. Between the challenges from the Arameans, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Mamluks, and the Ottomans – among others, Israel has continually faced formidable foes and violent incursions. Each adversary believed in their own time that they would finally subdue the Jewish spirit. However, while these once-mighty empires have faded into the annals of history, the Jewish people have remained resilient, always returning to the land they hold dear.

Abraham and Sarah planted the seeds of the Israelite nation when they settled in Canaan and established their family in ancient cities like Hebron and Beersheba. Later, Moses led our ancestors out of Egypt and through the desert, preparing them for their legacy inheritance – Eretz Yisrael. King David conquered Jerusalem more than 3,000 years ago, and his son, King Solomon, built the Jewish Temple on Temple Mount, a location purchased by his father from the Jebusites, thereby establishing for all time the Jewish claim to the most cherished site of our faith.

So, let me say this to those who have anxious hearts, and also to the haters who continue to cling to their false tropes of antisemitism: the stories of Bereishit are a testament to our legitimate claim and our everlasting bond with the land of Israel. Jews have stood the test of time, and we will continue to do so. Yes, we have been through our ups and downs, and through the kinds of tests that would have seen off almost anyone else. Tragically, this latest test is no exception. Nevertheless, when anxiety looms large, rather than giving in to our fears and sinking into despair, we confidently draw strength from our rich heritage, and from the tales of tough resilience, and from our boundless faith, and our undying hope. We, the Jewish people, are not just defending a land; we are upholding an ancient legacy.

In this trying time, let us all unite – and let all those who value truth over fear unite with us – bolstered by the unyielding truths of Jewish history and the divine promise that underscores our bond with Eretz Yisrael. Thousands of years may have passed, and yet we still find ourselves in the ridiculous predicament of needing to prove our legitimacy. But, as history has shown time and time again, we will prevail, and prevail we must.

May peace reign in Eretz Yisrael. May the murderers who seek our destruction be obliterated. And may the resilience of our people be the strength that guides us through these turbulent times. Amen.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Pini Dunner

FRIDAY, OCT 13TH

6:04 PM CANDLELIGHTING
6:05 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, OCT 14TH

8:30 AM GEMARA SHIUR
9:15 AM SHACHARIT
6:05 PM MINCHA
6:55 PM MAARIV
6:59 PM SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING

Sun 8:00am 6:05pm
Mon-Thu 7:00am 6:05pm
Fri 7:00am 6:00pm

*Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan is on
Sunday and Monday*

THANK YOU

Seudah Shlishit is
sponsored by **Dr. Susan
Graysen** in memory of her
mother, **Ruth Kahnowitz
Davidoff, Ruth bat Moshe
Yona HaKohen z"l**, whose
yahrtzeit is on the 19th of
Tishrei.

MAZAL TOV

Chatan Torah
Eli Dunner

Chatan Bereshit
Elliott Kahn

Chatan Kol Hane'arim
Steve Dorfman

Let's Talk Sisterhood

with Gina Raphael & Maryjo Schnitzer

We appreciate the outpouring of support from our YINBH community during this challenging time for our brothers and sisters in Israel.
Am Yisrael Chai



Happy Anniversary
JJ & Wendy Wallack

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DAVID SOROUDI
SEYMOUR STOLL
SHAINA STOLL
KAYLEEN JAVAHERIAN
LUCA BRENNER
LEE SAMSON
MIKA BRENNER
SYDNEY FOGELMAN
HILLEL LAKS
MICHAEL HALIMI

REINHOLD PRINZ
100 years old!

Yahrtzeits

Linda Komorsky Liker
Chana bat Gittel a"h
Mother of
Sherri Fogelman
Yahrtzeit - 2 Cheshvan

Harriet Schnitzer Dorfman
Esther bat Yosef a"h
Sister of
Avrumie Schnitzer
Yahrtzeit - 2 Cheshvan

Helen Schnitzer
Chaya bat Avraham a"h
Mother of
Avrumie Schnitzer
Yahrtzeit - 3 Cheshvan

Pamela Feldberg
Perl bat Itumar a"h
Sister of
Marty Feldberg
Yahrtzeit - 3 Cheshvan

Tizku Le'mizvot

We had an incredible response in Solidarity and Support for Israel. Members of our shul plus many more people from the greater Los Angeles community bonded together and were extremely generous with their time, money, and energy.

Pro-Israel Rally in Beverly Hills on Monday



Evening of Tefillah, Tehillim & Solidarity at Beth Jacob Congregation on Monday



Packing and Shipping of Essential Supplies for IDF Soldiers and Displaced Families in Israel





SOLIDARITY MARCH FOR ISRAEL

THIS SUNDAY!

OCTOBER 15, 2023 10:30 am

BEGIN AT: YOUNG ISRAEL OF CENTURY CITY 9317 W Pico Blvd

MARCH TO: MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE 9786 Pico Blvd

SIMON
WIESENTHAL
CENTER



MOT
museum of tolerance

**The Jewish
FEDERATION**
OF GREATER LOS ANGELES

In formation:

JEWISH JOURNAL

aish
LOS ANGELES

CLUB Z
Zionists of America

JPAC
JEWISH PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE OF CALIFORNIA

MIZRACHI
RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS OF
AMERICA

SSI STUDENTS
SUPPORTING
ISRAEL

**JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND
USA**
Voice in Israel

AIPAC



ADL

StandWithUs

AJC Los Angeles

Beth Jacob
CONGREGATION



**B'NAI
DAVID-JUDEA**



BNEI AKIVA



YULA
HIGH SCHOOL

Chabad

**WEST COAST
NCSJ**
Inspiring the Jewish Future

**YOUNG
ISRAEL**
OF CENTURY CITY
WHERE COMMUNITY HAPPENS

ISRAELI BONDS



THE BOARD OF RABBIS
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

LINK KOLLEL

YINBH
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE

BE THERE! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.