

# Tefilla Notebook

11 Sivan • Parshat Naso • Birkat Hachodesh

May 21-22, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY MAY 21**

**CANDLELIGHTING 7:34pm**

**FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 6:30pm**

**SATURDAY, MAY 15TH**

**GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM**

**SHACHARIT 9:15AM**

**MINCHA 7:45pm**

**MAARIV 8:35pm**

**SHABBAT ENDS 8:38pm**

## WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

**SUN 8:00AM & 7:45PM**

**MON-THURS 7AM & 7:45PM**

## MAZAL TOV

**Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, **Yitzi Beck** this Shabbat. Mazal Tov to parents **Jonathan & Melisa Beck**. Mazal Tov to grandparents **David & Carol Beck** of Woodmere.

## HAVE A GRADUATE?

**MEMBERS - If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating this year, please send their information to [mkramer@yinh.org](mailto:mkramer@yinh.org). Please include a photo, where they are graduating from, and the degree they are receiving.**

**We will be listing all the graduates in the June 26th Tefilla Notebook.**

Dear Members & Friends,

By the time you read this there will probably be a ceasefire arrangement in place between Israel and the Hamas regime in Gaza, although the wounds of war will still be open and raw. This new ceasefire will just be the latest in a long list of so-called ceasefire arrangements between a legitimate democratic country, Israel, and a terrorist entity, which is what Gaza has become: a vicious autocratic regime with the single-minded intent of destroying Israel.

Thankfully, as a result of Israel's qualitative military edge, the existential danger to Israel from Gaza rockets is very limited. But make no mistake: if the shoe was on the other foot – by which I mean that casualty numbers in Israel exceeded those in Gaza, and the material damage to Israel was devastating – there would be no ceasefire, nor even any discussion of a ceasefire. Hamas has no interest in a cessation of violence against Israel, nor in sparing Israel any pain and misery that it can inflict. That's because as far as Hamas is concerned, Israel (and Jews) should be wiped off the face of the earth. To be fair, they don't hide it, rather it is their foolish friends and supporters, along with the obsessively woke media, who choose to airbrush this fact from any discussion on the conflict.

Just to pick up on the point of disparity in casualty numbers, and the international outcry by Hamas supporters for proportionality: the Law of Armed Conflict and the U.S. Army's Commander's Handbook on the Law of Land Warfare both make clear that "proportionality does not require equivalence." When you are trying to win a war against an aggressive enemy aiming to kill those you are charged with protecting, you can (and must) inflict as much pain and damage as possible on that enemy to get them to stop.

No one invited Gaza to stick their nose into Jerusalem riots over evictions in the Sheikh Jarrah (Shimon Hatzaddik) neighborhood, and frankly, it is none of their business. But as soon as Hamas fired the first rocket into Israel in support of the rioters, and then thousands more – they became the aggressor, and Israel is entitled – no, expected! – to do anything it can to protect its citizens. No country in the world would do anything remotely different. Imagine, for a moment, if Cuba fired 4,000 rockets into Florida over a period of a few days – would the United States respond with "proportionality"? I think we all know the answer to that.

At a time like this, it is also important to address the incessant calls by those on the progressive left for "peace" between Israel and her Palestinian neighbors – perfectly evoked by a demonstration that took place this week in Oak Park, Illinois. Just over 100 people gathered at Scoville Park – Jews and Arabs – to call for peace in "Palestine". One of the organizers of the demonstration was Rebekah Levin, founder of the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine – "a diverse, community-based group dedicated to [advancing] the cause of peace and justice for both Palestinians and Israelis." Well, you would not have been able to tell from what she told reporters that she had any interest in the welfare of, or justice for, Israelis, as she seemed entirely focused on Palestinians.

"The massive extent of the atrocities going on in Gaza, not to mention what's going on in East Jerusalem and the West Bank – I was without breath for three days," she said, not once mentioning the fact that it was Hamas that started the war, nor the fact that Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both of whom are Palestinian terrorist groups, had indiscriminately fired rockets at civilian neighborhoods across Israel with no other objective than to kill Israelis. Surely, if Rebekah Levin is so devoted to peace, she would acknowledge that the Palestinian cause is being represented by murderous thugs, and that the cause of peace would be better advanced if these terrorists were out of the picture?

In an inspiring essay on Parshat Nasso, the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks focuses on the word שלום – "peace" – which concludes the priestly blessing (Num. 6:26). Rabbi Sacks quotes Rabbi Isaac Arama, author of the Torah commentary Akeidat Yitzhak, who "explains that shalom does not mean merely the absence of war or strife; it means completeness, perfection, the harmonious working of a complex system, integrated diversity – a state in which everything is in its proper place and all is at one with the physical and ethical laws governing the universe."

In its truest sense, peace is never perfect – rather it is finding the route to perfection via the accommodation of reality's sharp edges. People are different and, in life, circumstances are hard, which inevitably leads to strife and acrimonious discord. In such situations, peace won't be reached by pretending there are no problems, nor by stopping a fight because you want the pain to stop. Peace is only ever reached when both sides are able to understand that the solution requires "the harmonious working of a complex system" and "integrated diversity."

The day that Hamas learns that fact will be the day that there is peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Meanwhile, by forcing any other resolution or pretending that all the suffering and pain is only being endured by the Palestinians – instead of fostering peace you are perpetuating war.

Another chief rabbi of the UK, the late Rabbi Lord Immanuel Jacobovits, noted that whenever we recite the prayer Oseh Shalom Bimromav – "He who makes peace in His heights, may He grant peace upon us and upon all Israel" – at the conclusion of kaddish or the amidah, we take three steps back and bow deferentially in three directions. This, he said, is because true peace is never reached by standing your ground. Only by taking three steps back and acknowledging a compromise on your part can one ever achieve peace.

Over the past few years, a number of Arab nations have been willing to take three steps back and find harmony within complexity, and to begin a process with Israel of integrated diversity. Let us hope and pray that with the conclusion of this latest round of war between Israel and the Palestinians, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, along with their international enablers, will finally pursue a true path toward peace, notwithstanding their litany of grievances. It is a path that may require three steps back – steps that Israel has long said it is willing to take – but ultimately it will lead all the parties forward into a harmonious future that will reflect the true meaning of "shalom".

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



## Sisterhood Corner

May

Tune in to Rabbi Dunner's New Series: Treasures from the Rabbi's Library

Premiering Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm PST

Email [office@yinbh.org](mailto:office@yinbh.org) for more information

Celebrate the full reopening of our synagogue!

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Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

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Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

## YAHRTZEITS

**Zelda Kaplan**  
Zelda bat Yaakov z"l  
Mother of  
**Jay Kaplan**  
Yahrtzeit - 12 Sivan

**Latsi Fischmann**  
Chaim Yehudah ben Yaakov z"l  
Father of  
**George Fischmann**  
Yahrtzeit - 12 Sivan

**Bluma Lewkowicz**  
Bluma Chana bat Yehuda Aryeh  
a"h  
Mother of  
**Rita Lewkowicz**  
Yahrtzeit - 15 Sivan

## Happy Anniversary

*James & Debby Fogelman*

*Daniel & Nathalie Paluch*

*Stephen & Jessica Samuel*

*Simon & Rita Elhiani*



*Abigail Kestenbaum*

*Debby Fogelman*

*Elizabeth Richter*

*Kyle Dordick*

*Justin Silver*

*Sydney Gross*

*Maiah Cohenca*

*Enzo Teboul*

*Scott Richter*

*Susanne Czuken*

PAUL FEDER Z"L

## GEMARA SHIUR

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי

Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara shiur on Shabbat mornings 45 minutes before Shacharit.

## כל הכבוד

Two weeks ago, we welcomed Eli Beer, the founder of United Hatzalah. He spoke about Hatzalah's remarkable work, and particularly about the activities of United Hatzalah during the terrible disaster in Meron, where they saved countless lives. We heard that 10 of the hospital grade defibrillators (costing \$2500 each) were lost during the tragedy. Due to our incredible generous community, we have now replaced all the missing defibrillators. On top of that, one of our members donated an ambucycle (costing \$36,000) - on top of the donation of the missing 10 defibrillators. **Kol HaKavod** to our amazing community for coming together, for donating the money to replenish the life saving equipment for United Hatzalah in Israel.



## YINBH UAE TOUR

OCTOBER 21-28, 2021

DETAILS COMING SOON

## MISSED THE RABBI'S CLASS?

Full archive of classes is available at

[www.rabbidunner.com](http://www.rabbidunner.com)

The recordings are also now available on Apple iTunes. Search for

"Deeper look at the Parsha"

Please contact the office if you have any questions or need help to access the classes.



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marking the full re-opening of our  
synagogue and the resilience of our  
community over the past year

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

HONORING



Rabbi  
Pini Dunner



Chazzan  
Nati Baram

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