



Tefilla Notebook

25 Tammuz • Parshat Matot-Masei • Birkat Hachodesh

July 17-18, 2020

Stephen Rothman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

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SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 17

6:30pm KABBALAT SHABBAT
IN SHUL & VIA ZOOM
7:45pm CANDLELIGHTING

SATURDAY, JULY 18

8:48pm SHABBAT ENDS
9:15pm HAVDALAH VIA ZOOM

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sunday 8:00am & 7:45pm
Mon - Friday 7:00am & 7:45pm

We are continuing to stream via zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/226829899>

Guidelines for Praying at home:

When davening at home, it is best to daven at the same time that you would have davened when in shul. Although you cannot *hear* the krias Hatorah, you should still read the torah portion and haftarah aloud, using the tunes if you know them.

Stone Chumash (Artscroll)

Matot p. 900

Masei p. 918

Haftora Masei p. 1193

Thank you

Aaron & Lillian Fuchs and **Jason Fuchs** for sponsoring this week's Daf Yomi Series in memory of Aaron's mother and Jason's grandmother, **Sara Fuchs, Chaya Surahbat Gittel a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on 26 Tammuz.

Those who are going to be attending our in-person minyanim **must pre-register**. Services are open to MEMBERS ONLY at this time. Space is limited. **ALL services are being held at a private residence tennis court in Beverly Hills.**

Dearest Members and Friends,

This week, the fightback against "woke culture" – the almost Orwellian control of what one is allowed to think and say in polite company – finally got underway in earnest. Bari Weiss, a well-credentialed left-wing journalist, announced her resignation from that bastion of liberal journalism, the New York Times, effective immediately, simultaneously publishing a sharply worded resignation letter she had written to the newspaper's proprietor, A. G. Sulzberger.

"A new consensus has emerged in the press," she wrote, "... truth isn't a process of collective discovery, but an orthodoxy already known to an enlightened few whose job is to inform everyone else." But truthfully, if all we had to tolerate was a bunch of self-righteous wokes forcing us to hear them out, it wouldn't be that much of a big deal – after all, we've all been forced to listen to the vehemently delivered opinions of those we disagree with at one time or another. And once we've heard them out, and politely (or impolitely) offered our own alternative viewpoint, the conversation ends there and life goes on.

Well, that's not the case anymore. The difference today, as Weiss's own experience highlights with bells ringing and red lights flashing, is that "wokeism" – which is ostensibly there to offer safe haven for those who are vulnerable to abuse and prejudice – has now evolved into what is known as "cancel culture". If you have the temerity to disagree with the most up-to-date acceptable opinion on anything from politics to sexuality, or the environment – then you will likely be subjected to a "cancel" campaign on social media, namely a concerted effort by a mob of saboteurs to delegitimize you, shame you, and even get you fired from your job.

Just listen to what Bari Weiss had to say in her letter to Sulzberger: "My own forays into Wrongthink have made me the subject of constant bullying by colleagues who disagree with my views. They have called me a Nazi and a racist... Several colleagues perceived to be friendly with me were badgered by coworkers. My work and my character are openly demeaned on company-wide Slack channels where masthead editors regularly weigh in. There, some coworkers insist I need to be rooted out if [the newspaper] is to be a truly "inclusive" one, while others post ax emojis next to my name. Still other New York Times employees publicly smear me as a liar and a bigot on Twitter with no fear that harassing me will be met with appropriate action. They never are."

A few months ago, the British TV presenter Piers Morgan was subjected to a determined online campaign to get him fired for his non-woke views on gender identity. Having panned a BBC film which suggested that there are 100 different genders, he bickered with a LBGTO studio guest who later launched a cancel campaign on social media, including a petition to get Morgan fired. At a follow-up studio debate with the same activist, Morgan let the guy have it, telling him there is nothing more narrow-minded than not being open to debating those who disagree with you, and that the campaign to get him sacked was much more intolerant than anything Morgan was being accused of. "The problem with liberal people today is they are so illiberal, they are only interested in making people think like them and agree with them," Morgan said.

Another celebrity who has come under fire for what she regards as her feminist-influenced skeptical views on transgender and binary gender is Harry Potter author JK Rowling. Not a week goes past without multiple new condemnations and intensified online bullying, particularly after the publication of her thoughtful if controversial blog-piece last month, in the wake of a saga that began after she tweeted her support for Maya Forstater last December. Forstater, a tax advisor who lost her job for 'transphobic' tweets, had taken her employers to an employment tribunal in an attempt to get a judge to rule on whether her philosophical belief that a person's sex is determined by biology is protected by the law. Remarkably, the judge ruled that it wasn't. In the meantime, Rowling's support for Forstater was apparently a trigger for transgender activists, and they have made her life miserable ever since.

The tyranny of wokeism and online harassment has infiltrated itself so deeply into modern life that we barely notice it until it affects us, and while A-list celebrities may be able to withstand the effects of torrents of abuse they must endure for their 'controversial' views, lesser mortals subjected to "cancelling" – people like Bari Weiss, for example – can lose their jobs, their livelihoods, their reputations, and occasionally their mental stability or even their lives, as a direct result of insidious campaigns to destroy them.

How ironic, that those who purport to stand against the underdog's mistreatment by society have turned into a mob of self-righteous bigots, with no concern for the suffering they are causing to millions of ordinary people by their actions and behavior. This mob has resorted to nothing less than the methods of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, who is purported to have said "you cannot make a revolution with silk gloves," and in the late 1920s personally authorized the death by starvation of approximately 600,000 kulaks, middle-class peasants whose "sin" was that they owned land and made money by selling their produce.

In fact, the Kulaks eked out a meager existence from the small parcels of land they owned, exploited no one, and certainly bore no responsibility for the excesses of the Tsarist regime. But none of this mattered as far as Stalin was concerned. To him achieving the result was far more important than any methods employed to get there. And so, if the success of the communist revolution required innocent victims – firstly they weren't so innocent (after all, who is?); and secondly, it was a price worth paying.

There is a verse in Mattot that exemplifies Judaism's abhorrence of such an ideology. After the tribes of Reuben and Gad requested permission to settle in the plains of Moab, they offered to be at the vanguard of the conquest of Canaan, so that no one would say they had opted out of being part of the task that lay ahead for the nation as a whole. Moses accepted their offer, and concluded his response by saying (Num. 32:22): – וְאַחַר תִּשְׁבוּ וְהִיתֶם נְקִיִּים מִ'וְיִשְׂרָאֵל' and afterward you shall return—you shall be clear before God and before Israel." The plain understanding is that once these tribes had honored their military obligations, they could return to the plains of Moab in the knowledge that they were free and clear going forward.

But the Talmud reinterprets the word "nekiyim" – ordinarily translated as "clean" or "clear" – to mean "guiltless" or "faultless" (Shekalim 3:2). Even when fighting for something you believe in, every precaution must be taken to ensure there is no possibility of impropriety, or even the suggestion of it. Judaism is very clear that the ends never justify the means if those means are destructive and hurtful. Moses wanted to stress the fact that if after the conquest of Canaan the behavior of Reuben and Gad indicated they had been less than forthright about their true intentions, it would call into question everything they had done, even the good stuff. No campaign that is underpinned by skullduggery can ever be held up as a paradigm of virtue.

With the resignation of Bari Weiss from the New York Times, and her accompanying letter, those on the left who suffered the indignity of guilt by association may finally wake up to the fact that their cause has been devastatingly hijacked and damaged by wokeism and the cancel culture. Let us hope that with a little wind in its sails, the deteriorated political climate of the western world can now begin to come to its senses, and reject the bullying and extremism that has dominated the atmosphere for far too long. It is time for all of us to be "faultless in the eyes of Israel and God."

Praying for your safety and health, and for only good news, with God's help. and Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Pini Dunner

Sisterhood Corner

July

As we approach Tisha B'av, we look to the community, Rabbi Dunner, and Cantor Nati Baram for comfort and inspiration.

With the help of Hashem let us remain connected and optimistic as we navigate the Three Weeks.

Chodesh Tov
&
Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS

Sara Fuchs
Chaya Surah bat Gittel a"h
Mother of
Aaron Fuchs
Grandmother of
Jason Fuchs
Yahrtzeit— 26 Tammuz

Max Solomon Brozin
Father of
Esther Feder
Yahrtzeit— 26 Tammuz

David Meyer
Aronowitz
Brother of
Joel Aronowitz
Yahrtzeit— 26 Tammuz

CLASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JULY 12-18

THE ZOOM CODE FOR ALL CLASSES IS 310 276 7650

The log-in link is <https://zoom.us/j/3102767650>

DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Sunday July 19	8:30pm	Tzurva MeRabanam with Chazzan Nati Baram
Monday July 20	12:00pm	Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Tuesday July 21	12:00pm	Tanach Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Wednesday July 22	11:00am	Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Dunner
Wednesday July 22	1:00pm	Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Pini Dunner
Thursday July 23	12:00pm	Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Friday July 24	6:30pm	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday July 25	9:15pm	Havdalah

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

During this time of social distancing, we are keeping our community connection alive.

Connect with our Whatsapp Groups

- ◇ [YINBH Community](#)
- ◇ [Daily Daf Yomi Shiur](#)
- ◇ [Parsha Shiurim](#)
- ◇ [YINBH Videos](#)



Julia Baum
Elliott Broidy
Gae Kam
Lily Kramer
Joan Lopatin
Gina Raphael
Arnold Schlesinger
Bruce Schloss
Ilana Stoll
Jaron Wallack

MAZEL TOV

 It is a double Mazel Tov to

Dr. Stephen Schloss

Mazel Tov on the birth of a **great granddaughter**, to grandparents **Judy and Aaron Lampert** and to parents **Noa and Amichai Lampert** and on the birth of a **great grandson** **Roi Binyamin**, to grandparents **Michael and Elise Schloss**, and to parents **Lara and Chayim Ehrman**.



We have moved weekday minyan to the Nissel tennis court due to the new Los Angeles rulings of indoor House of Worship closings.



A THREE WEEKS ISRAEL JOURNEY



DAILY THOUGHTS

INSPIRING ONLINE CONTENT FOR SHIVA ASAR B'TAMMUZ, THE THREE WEEKS AND TISHA B'AV



ON LOCATION AND IN OUR HEARTS

DAILY THOUGHTS DURING THE THREE WEEKS FILMED AT KEY SITES ACROSS ISRAEL

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY		
THE CAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION							
WEEK 1	20 Tammuz July 12 Hebron Hills Vineyard <i>The Sin of the Spies</i> RABBI DOV LIPMAN EVE HAROW	21 Tammuz July 13 Nebi Samuel <i>Bloodshed</i> RABBI MENACHEM LEIBTAG EVE HAROW	22 Tammuz July 14 Hinom Valley <i>Idol-Worship</i> RABBI DAVID AARON RABBI BARNEA SELAVAN	23 Tammuz July 15 Herodian Quarter <i>Baseless Hatred</i> RABBI BINNY FREEDMAN RABBI BARNEA SELAVAN	24 Tammuz July 16 City of David: Area G <i>Rejecting Rebuke</i> RABBI MOSHE TARAGIN RABBI KEN SPIRO		
	WHAT WE NEED TO FIX						
	WEEK 2	27 Tammuz July 19 Yavneh <i>Torah from the Depths</i> DR. Yael ZIEGLER RABBI BARNEA SELAVAN	28 Tammuz July 20 Har Grizim and Har Eival <i>Jewish Responsibility</i> RABBI YISHAI FLEISHER EVE HAROW	29 Tammuz July 21 The Ophel and Shiloh <i>Relationships</i> RABBI YOSEF ZVI RIMON EVE HAROW RABBI KEN SPIRO	1 Av July 22 Ketef Hinom Graves <i>Unrequited Love</i> RABBI DORON PEREZ RABBI BARNEA SELAVAN	2 Av July 23 Kever Rachel <i>Never Giving Up</i> RABBI JEREMY GIMPEL EVE HAROW	
		WHAT WE YEARN FOR					
		WEEK 3	5 Av July 26 Jerusalem Archeology <i>Appreciating What We Lost</i> RABBANIT RACHELLE FRAENKEL RABBI KEN SPIRO	6 Av July 27 Madaba Map and Sussya <i>The Centrality of Jerusalem</i> RABBI SHALOM ROSNER EVE HAROW RABBI KEN SPIRO	7 Av July 28 Batei Machse Square <i>Bringing The Redemption</i> RABBI YEHOShUA FASS RABBI KEN SPIRO	8 Av July 29 Temple Mount Lookout Point <i>The Legacy of Rabbi Akiva</i> RABBANIT SHANI TARAGIN RABBI BARNEA SELAVAN	9 Av July 30 Full Tisha B'Av Program

VIEW ON DEMAND OR REGISTER TO RECEIVE THESE TO YOUR EMAIL OR WHATSAPP AT WWW.MIZRACHI.ORG/THREEWEEKS

