ONE G-D. ONE FAMILY.

Yonatan Betzalel

It wasn't a struggle, succumbing to fatigue on the road after such a long journey. On the highway, unlike in the skies, I didn't wrestle to find the perfect sleeping conditions, softer seats. The subtle sway of the suspension's gentle rocking. Unsurprisingly, my eyes closed with little resistance. As the sun set, I drifted into perfect repose.

When I awoke, it was abrupt and from a brash-sweep of light, and Hebrew. And the sight of an M-16. A *chayal* (soldier) at a *machsom* (checkpoint). Night had fallen and for a brief discombobulated moment, I had forgotten that I was on my very first visit to Israel.

That evening was October 2000. The Second Intifada. My introduction to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Second Intifada opened my eyes to the brutal reality of what it means to be Jewish and Israeli in *Eretz Yisrael*. Amongst a sea of endless televised violence, I watched in horror the 2000 Ramallah lynching. Two *milu'im* (reserve duty) soldiers, Chief Sergeant Yossi Avrahami and Corporal Vadim Nurzhitz, made a wrong turn on their way to a military base. They drove into the Palestinian city of Ramallah. Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians were high, and Avrahami's and Nurzhitz's fates were sealed. Both soldiers were beaten and stabbed, and their bodies mutilated for all to see. I had never witnessed anything like this. All these years later, I cannot shake the image of Aziz Salha's blood-soaked hands waving from the window of the Ramallah police station that played over and over on the Israeli local news. That first visit, and the experience of living through the Second Intifada, sealed within me a connection with Israel that I had never felt with any other people or community.

My wife is Israeli. She made *aliyah* from the US with her family at age 6. Her brothers all served in elite combat units and continue to serve in *milu'im*. Zionism runs deep in her family. It also does in our Asian-Israeli family with our children who are all Israeli nationals. Watching the events of the October 7th attacks moved me in a way that I've never before experienced-even at the height of the Second Intifada. Grief is often described as appearing in stages, and, for the first time in my life, I've experienced just that. It comes in waves, and stages. And unexpectedly. When a thought turns to one of the countless horrific acts perpetuated by Hamas, tears and intense sadness, pain and sorrow swells. The past few weeks have left me in a mental fog, yet I still try to fulfill my obligations as



husband, father and friend of Israel.

As details emerged about the massacres at kibbutzim Kfar Aza, Be'eri, Nachal Oz and the Re'im music festival, I turned to Jewish and non-Jewish friends for comfort. One close non-Jewish friend advised me to spend less time on social media and ignore the gruesome details. I responded, that the destiny of the Jewish people binds us all, whatever our fate and wherever we may be; especially so in Israel. It is not an option to avert our eyes, mute our ears or lessen our heart to the brutal tragedies and suffering in Israel.

During these times, I am reminded of a conversation with Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, when I met him for the first time and he explained to me what it meant to be part of the Jewish people.

"Being Jewish is like being part of an international club."

We are a club. A family. We are brothers and sisters. And family will always feel the pain of family. And we cannot abandon family in its time of greatest need.

It took approximately 5 years after that first meeting with Rabbi Riskin before I would formally declare my intentions to join the Jewish people. One of the most striking commitments one makes before becoming Jewish is affirming the following (paraphrased):

"Don't you know that in the present era, the Jews are afflicted, crushed, subjugated, strained, and suffering comes upon them?"

Perhaps I understood the words at the time, but only in syntax. The reality is, it is only now, following the horrific events of October 7th, that my heart and soul truly understand this commitment in a way that it had never before.

I hope that those who have experienced the loss of those who were close and beloved, those suffering from the uncertainty of family held captive, those brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers, who are serving and protecting *Am Yisrael*, find strength and courage together through this dark and challenging time. On a personal note, it is with the greatest respect, love and gratitude that I thank NJOP's Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald for making it possible for me to be a part of such an extraordinary people--the Jewish people and our special relationship to the one G-d.

Yonatan Betzalel grew up in Northern California and moved to New York in 1997 to pursue a BFA in Television & Film at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. While working on a student film, he met his future wife. Their family has grown to include three inspiring children in addition to their extensive family living in Israel.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Malka Sima Adler and Ephraim Kroopnick
Mazal Tov to parents, Loren and Reuven Adler
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sarah Leah and Lou Vynerib
Shira Hudes and Daniel Itzhaki
Mazal Tov to parents,

Dr. Golda Hudes and the late Dana Hudes, z"l

MARRIAGES

Rebecca Feder and Kurt Moskovitz Mazal Tov to parents Valerie and Daniel Feder Shuli Lowy and Josh Redlich

Mazal Tov to parents, Ann Crane Lowy and Rudy Lowy Cheryl Shalom and Joshua Goot

Mazal Tov to parents, Jacqueline and Nathan Shalom Mazal Tov to grandparents, Freya and Richard Wigler Brynn Showalter and Gavi Spivack

Mazal Tov to parents, Sharona and Steve Spivack Brina Klein and Ross Weinstein Mazal Tov to mother. Barbara Klein

IVIAZAI

BIRTHS
Talia and Ari Amsterdam on the birth of a daughter,
Raquel Leah (Lilv)

Raquel Leah (Lily)
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Tracy and Sander Gerber
Ksenia and Eric Brief on the birth of a son, Zion Rafael
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Caryl Alterbaum Brief
Tanya Rosen and Oliver Butler on the birth of a son, Evan
Mazal Tov to great-grandparents,
Celia Paul and Dr. Stephen Rosen

Ellin and Jeremy Cooper on the birth of a daughter, Lielle Merav Mazal Tov to grandparents, Rabia and Oliver Mitchell Yehudis and Tani Einzig on the birth of a son, Avraham Yeshayahu Mazal Tov to grandparents, Loren and Reuven Adler

Mazal Tov to great-grandparents, Sarah Leah and Lou Vynerib Julia and Matthew Olstein on the birth of a son, Charles (Shachar) Lev

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Dr. Priscilla Konecky and Dr. Mark Tepper

Dr. Priscilla Konecky and Dr. Mark Tepper Lizzy and Sam Zakay on the birth of a daughter, Mae Florence (Aliza) Mazal Tov to grandparents, Ann Crane Lowy and Rudy Lowy

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Dr. Marvin Belsky, Shimon Michoel haLevi ben Sorah Risa
Dr. Leonard Davidman, Aryeh Leib haLevi ben Machliah
Peter Halasz, Yehonatan haCohen ben Ora
Geraldine Katz, Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel
Miriam bat Chana Gitl
Moshe Zvi Michoel ben Miriam
Natan ben Naomi Malka
Ruth Nelkin, Rochel bat Sarah
Dr. Nichole Pacheco, Naavah bat Emma
Louis Vynerib, Elazar HaCohen ben Malka

CONDOLENCES

Yisrael Chaim ben Etta Leah

Valerie Feder on the passing of her beloved mother, Mrs. Raymonde Schroeder, z"I Monika Gontarska on the passing of her beloved father. Lech Gontarski

CONGRATULATIONS

Scott Simcha Dunn on being elected as a New York Supreme Court Judge Ann Crane Lowy on being honored with Ateret HaTorah at Lincoln Square Synagogue

Nyla Kamlet on being honored with Ateret HaKehilla at Lincoln Square Synagogue

TODAH RABBAH

Miriam and Dr. Marvin (Shimon Michoel) Belsky and Dr. Sandra and Michael Hecht and their children.

Susan Hecht and David Cohen, for sponsoring kiddush on the High Holidays

Ellen and Mordy Lipkis, for sponsoring the Break-Fast after the Yom Kippur Services

Michael Becker, Abe De Ramos, Yedidya Flaquer, Rachel Lewis, Adrianne McMillan, Helene Miller and Kristin Sharman for helping with the Beginners High Holidays set-up

The Vynerib family for the High Holidays flowers at the Lincoln Square Synagogue Beginners Service

Thu Dec. 7, 2023 - 24th of Kislev	SCHEDULE (OF SERVICES	Sat Mar. 23, 2024 - 13th of Adar II
EREV CHANUKAH	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:30 PM		Parashat Zachor
Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM Light one candle after 5:00 PM		Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 5:14 PM	Wayikra Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Fri Dec. 8, 2023 - 25th of Kislev	Shemot	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:20 PM	Beginners Service 9:30 AM Beginners Mishnayot 5:10 PM
FIRST DAY OF CHANUKAH Morning Services 7:00 AM	Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM		Lazar Class 5:40 PM
Light two candles before/Candle Lighting 4:10 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 2:35 PM	Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Mincha
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:11 PM	Lazar Class	Beginners Service 9:30 PM Beginners Mishnayot 3:30 PM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:05 PM
Sat Dec. 9, 2023 - 26th of Kislev SECOND DAY OF CHANUKAH	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:26 PM Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 4:35 PM	Lazar Class	Beginners Purim Party 9:10 PM Megilla Reading 8:20 & 9:15 PM
Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Thu Jan. 11, 2024 - 1st of Shevat	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:16 PM	Sun Mar. 24, 2024 - 14th of Adar II
Beginners Service 9:30 PM Beginners Mishnayot 2:30 PM	ROSH CHODESH Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 5:25 PM	Morning Services 6:45 & 8:30 AM
Lazar Class	Mincha/Ma'ariv 4:35 PM	PRESIDENT'S DAY	Women's Megilla Reading 9:00 AM Additional Megilla Reading 1:00 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:11 PM	Fri Jan. 12, 2024 - 2nd of Shevat Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM	Early Mincha1:45 PM
Light three candles after 5:11 PM	Candle Lighting 4:32 PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Mincha/Ma'ariv
Sun Dec. 10, 2023 - 27th of Kislev THIRD DAY OF CHANUKAH	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:35 PM Sat Jan. 13, 2024 - 3rd of Shevat	Candle Lighting 5:22 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:25 PM	SHUSHAN PURIM
Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM Light four candles after 5:00 PM	SHABBAT MEVARCHIM	Sat Feb. 24, 2024 - 15th of Adar I	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:05 PM
Mon Dec. 11, 2023 - 28th of Kislev	Vaerah Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Tetzaveh Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Fri Mar. 29, 2024 - 19th of Adar II
FOURTH DAY OF CHANUKAH Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM	Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 7:01 PM
Light five candles after 5:00 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 2:45 PM Lazar Class 3:35 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 3:35 PM Lazar Class 4:25 PM	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:05 PM
Tue Dec. 12, 2023 - 29th of Kislev FIFTH DAY OF CHANUKAH	Mincha 4:20 PM Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:34 PM	Mincha	Sat Mar. 30, 2024 - 20th of Adar II Tsav - Parshat Parah
Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 4:40 PM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 5:30 PM	Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Light six candles after 5:00 PM Wed Dec. 13, 2023 - 1st of Tevet	Mon Jan. 15, 2024 - 5th of Shevat MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	Fri Mar. 1, 2024 - 21st of Adar I	Beginners Service 9:30 PM Beginners Mishnayot 5:15 PM
SIXTH DAY OF CHANUKAH	Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 5:30 PM	Lazar Class 6:05 PM
ROSH CHODESH Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM	Fri Jan. 19, 2024 - 9th of Shevat	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:35 PM SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA 6:45 PM	Mincha
Light seven candles after 5:01 PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 4:40 PM	Sat Mar 2 2024 - 22nd of Adar I	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:10 PM
Thu Dec. 14, 2023 - 2nd of Tevet SEVENTH DAY OF CHANUKAH	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:45 PM	Ki Tisa Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Fri Apr. 5, 2024 - 26th of Adar II Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Morning Services 7:00 AM Light eight candles after 5:01 PM	В0	Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Candle Lighting 7:08 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:10 PM
Fri Dec. 15, 2023 - 3rd of Tevet	Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Beginners Luncheon	Sat Apr. 6, 2024 - 27th of Adar II
EIGHTH DAY OF CHANUKAH Morning Services	Beginners Mishnayot 2:50 PM	Lazar Class 4:35 PM Mincha 5:20 PM	SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
Candle Lighting 4:20 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:25 PM	Lazar Class	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:32 PM	Parshat Hachodesh Shemini
Sat Dec. 16, 2023 - 4th of Tevet	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:42 PM Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 4:50 PM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 5:40 PM Fri Mar. 8, 2024 - 28th of Adar I	Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM
Miketz Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Thu Jan. 25, 2024 - 15th of Shevat	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Beginners Mishnayot 5:20 PM
Beginners Service 9:30 PM	TU B'SHEVAT Morning Services 7:00 & 7:50 AM	Candle Lighting 5:38 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:40 PM	Lazar Class 6:10 PM Mincha 6:55 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 2:25 PM Lazar Class 3:15 PM		Sat Mar. 9, 2024 - 29th of Adar I	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:10 PM Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:20 PM
Mincha	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting		Tues Apr. 9, 2024 - 1st of Nisan
Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:50 PM	Vayakhel	ROSH CHODESH Morning Services 7:10 & 7:40 AM
Fri Dec. 22, 2023 - 10th of Tevet A'SARAH B'TEVET	Sat Jan. 27, 2024 - 17th of Shevat Beshalach	Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Mincha/Ma'ariv
Fast begins at 6:05 AM	Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 3:50 PM Lazar Class 4:40 PM	Fri Apr. 12, 2024 - 4th of Nisan Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Morning Services 6:50 & 7:30 AM Candle Lighting 4:14 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 3:00 PM	Mincha5:25 PM	Candle Lighting 7:15 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:00 PM Fast ends at 5:04 AM	Lazar Class	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:40 PM Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 6:45 PM	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:20 PM
Sat Dec. 23, 2023 - 14th of Tevet	Ma'ariy/Shabbat ends 5:50 PM	Move clock forward	Sat Apr. 13, 2024 - 5th of Nisan Tazria
Vayigash Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 5:00 PM Fri Feb. 2. 2024 - 23rd of Shevat	Sun Mar. 10, 2024 - 30th of Adar I ROSH CHODESH	Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM
Beginners Service 9:30 PM Beginners Mishnayot 2:25 PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM	Beginners Mishnayot 5:25 PM
Lazar Class 3:15 PM	Candle Lighting 4:57 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:00 PM	Mon Mar. 11, 2024 - 1st Adar II ROSH CHODESH	Lazar Class 6:15 PM Mincha
Mincha4:00 PM Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends5:15 PM	Sat Feb. 3, 2024 - 24th of Shevat SHABBAT MEVARCHIM	Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:17 PM Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 7:25 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM	Yitro	Fri Mar. 15, 2024 - 2nd of Adar II Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	
Mon Dec. 25, 2023 - 13th of Tevet LEGAL HOLIDAY	Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Candle Lighting 6:46 PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM	Beginners Mishnayot 3:10 PM	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:50 PM Sat Mar. 16, 2024 - 3rd of Adar II	Candle Lighting 7:23 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:25 PM
Fri Dec, 29, 2023 - 17th of Tevet Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Lazar Class 4:00 PM Mincha	Pekudei	Sat Apr. 20, 2024 - 12th of Nisan
Candle Lighting 4:19 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:25 PM		Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Metzora - Shabbat Hagadol Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Sat Dec. 30, 2023 - 18th of Tevet	Fri Feb. 9, 2024 - 30th of Shevat	Beginners Mishnayot 5:00 PM Lazar Class 5:50 PM	Beginners Service 9:30 PM
Vayechi Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	ROSH CHODESH Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Mincha6:35 PM	Mincha6:55 PM Shabbat Hagadol Drasha7:20 PM
Beginners Service 9:30 PM	Candle Lighting 5:06 PM	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 7:47 PM Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 6:55 PM	Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 8:24 PM
Beginners Mishnayot 2:30 PM Lazar Class 3:20 PM	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:20 PM Sat Feb. 10, 2024 - 1st of Adar I	Thur Mar. 21, 2024 - 13th of Adar II	Sun Apr. 21, 2024 - 13th of Nisan Morning Services 7:10 & 8:30 AM
Mincha	ROSH CHODESH	TA'ANIT ESTHER Fast Begins5:45 AM	Bedikat Chametz after 8:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:30 PM	Mishpatim Morning Services7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Morning Services 7:10 AM Mincha/Maariv 6:45 PM	Mon Apr. 22, 2024 - 14th of Nisan EREV PESACH, TA'ANIT BECHORIM
Mon Jan. 1, 2024 - 20th of Tevet LEGAL HOLIDAY	Beginners Service 9:30 PM Beginners Mishnayot 3:30 PM	Fast Ends	Morning Services with Siyum 6:30 AM
Morning Services 8:30 AM	Lazar Class 4:15 PM	Fri Mar. 22, 2024 - 14th of Adar II	Latest time to eat Chametz
Fri Jan. 5, 2024 - 24th of Tevet Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Mincha	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 6:53 PM	Candle Lighting
Candle Lighting 4:25 PM	Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 5:15 PM	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:55 PM	Begin Seder after 8:15 PM
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