

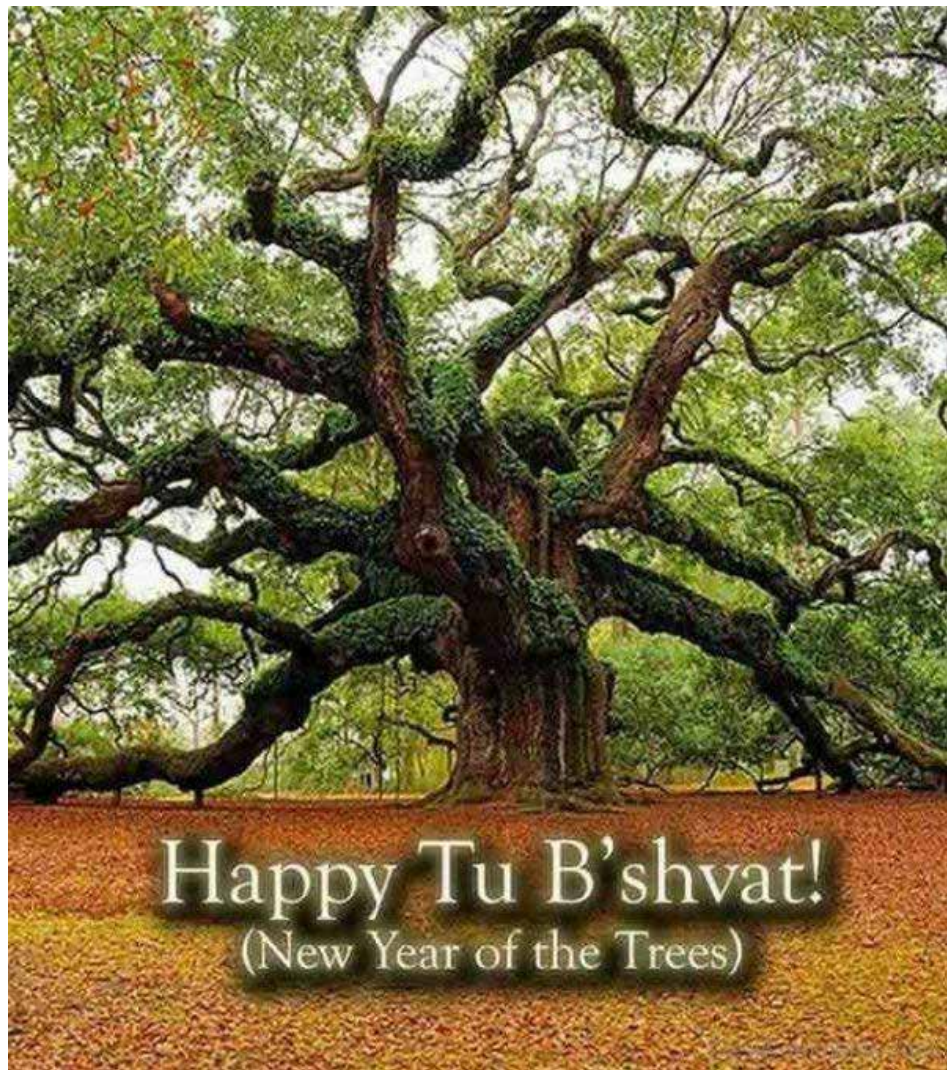


The Shofar

Jan-Feb, 2024

Congregation House of Israel

20 Tevet - 20 Adar1, 5784



Happy Tu B'shvat!
(New Year of the Trees)

January 25, 2024

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of December 20, 2023)

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The Shofar

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Sisterhood Hanukkah Party, 2023



Our Sisterhood Hanukkah party this year was great fun, well attended, with latkes and chicken for all. Our sincerest thanks to the entire Reagler family for their cooking and entertaining, which made it all possible

Hot Springs Menorah Lighting



Lacy Kleinman with the son of Rabbi Yosef Kramer at the menorah lighting

Reb Shelly's Desk



From The River To The Sea Palestine Shall Be ...Auschwitz??

By Rabbi Paul Plotkin

If you are following the world wide debate about Israel and Gaza and especially the anti-Israel protests with the unholy alliance of some Muslims, all antisemites, and some progressives and I am ashamed to say, some Jews, you have heard the chant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free".

Anyone with an elementary school education can look at a map and see that from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea there is only one country, and it is called Israel. To replace it with a free Palestine is a clear and obvious message. There will be no Israel, and the only way there will be no Israel is to wipe it off the face of the earth, because Israelis have not volunteered to give up their country. This is the obvious truth and reality not withstanding U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Talib's absurd explanation that "it is an aspirational call for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence, not death, destruction, or hate...." This is a pile of B.S.

It is like a group of protesters back in the Jim Crow era marching and chanting, "Lynch all the ni,,,"and when confronted about it saying," it was just an aspirational statement about how better to decorate the trees".

A recent study asked protesters what river and what sea are they chanting about? Almost 60% had no idea. They heard the chant somewhere, probably on social media or even better on Tik Tok and thought it was cool. Maybe they weren't the cool kids, but the ones they saw chanting were, so they hoped to improve their social standing by chanting it.

When informed that it meant the destruction of Israel many said that was not what they believed or wanted. They didn't realize that genocide of the Jews was what they were calling for.

The dumbing down of America and the leaders

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that will emerge from this age group and educational cohort, is one of America's greatest threats to our future.

We must ask ourselves what is it that these protesters want and why are they so angry at the Israelis? Do they want a ceasefire now so that down the road Hamas can retool and start all over again and the population of Gaza can be human shields again and the next Israeli attack will be even deadlier?

Are you hearing them calling for a ceasefire dependent on a Hamas surrender and maybe a one-way ticket out of Gaza and the return of all the hostages? That is after all a possible outcome that might end the suffering in Gaza.

Continued on page 4

Reb Shelly's Desk

Continued from page 3

If it is I haven't heard anyone calling for that. Just ceasefire and all will be good.

Really?

Did you know that prior to the October 7th pogrom the state between Gaza and Hamas was a ceasefire, and who broke it by attacking and killing over 1000 Israeli civilians? That is who Israel should again grant a ceasefire to? So what do the protesters calling for a ceasefire really want?

They want an end to Israel because they have been taught that Israel is a white colonial power that has stolen the land of brown and black people.

Just like the British, the French, the Spanish and the Italians sent their troops into far away "primitive" societies to save the "savages of color" by setting up colonies, and then stole their assets and made slaves or serfs of the population and converted them from their native culture and religion into "civilized" and second class citizens, so too the Jews are guilty of colonial behavior.

When the great ships sailed from Israel to capture the dark natives of..... Oops. Jews haven't had an independent country in almost 2000 years so they were not the colonists but were themselves treated as if they were the colonies if you will, living in ghettos as second class citizens, denied trades or land owning but offered exile, conversion or murder.

But Jews are white and therefore privileged, so they must be evil by definition and therefore persecuted and judged by standards that no one else is called upon. You have seen the continual world protests against the Russian invasion of the Ukraine and the obvious targeting of hospitals and schools where no soldiers are hiding?

OF COURSE NOT!

There are few protests because these are 2 white populations fighting each other so why should we care how many innocent civilians are killed? And if that hypocrisy was not enough to get your attention, the majority of the Israelis are not white Ashkenazi but Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews who have the same melanin as Hamas. Moreover, Israel saved the Ethiopian Jews who are not brown

but black. But does this matter to the "from the river to the sea" crowd?

Not a bit.

Chanting is what matters, not facts, history, or the obvious reality. Israel is also accused of being an apartheid state. "Look at how the white power class built a fence on the West Bank to separate themselves from the poor brown Palestinian population."

Did that wall get built when Israel captured the West Bank in a defensive war against the Arab states that threatened their destruction?

NO.

It was built only after Palestinian terrorists kept entering Israel from the West Bank and planted bombs and sent suicide bombers to blow up civilians in restaurants and at bus stops and in schools. When Israel totally left the Gaza strip in 2005, they did not build a fence around Gaza. They left behind a population that could have built a peaceful and prosperous country. Instead in a short period of time they started lofting missiles at their neighbors.

If my neighbors were to constantly walk across my back yard and drop their garbage on my property and after a few attempts at talking to them to no avail, I would build a fence around my property.

That is what Israel did and now they are an apartheid state? How many black doctors were there in Johannesburg during apartheid? How many black judges were there in the court system? How many black members of parliament were there?

Israel had an Israeli Arab, Khaled Kabub on the Supreme Court. Many of the doctors at its hospitals are Arab Israelis. The previous Israeli government had the head of the largest Arab Party as a minister in the cabinet. How apartheid does that sound to you?

From the River to the sea is antisemitism, it is a call for genocide, and when a Jew says it, I don't have words to express my disgust. All I can say to them is that after they come for me, they won't remember what you chanted, they will be too busy taking you away as well.

January Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited January 5

David Wigderson

Father of Sue Koppel

Sam Karnofsky

Great Uncle of David D. Reagler

Great Uncle of Rachel Schulman

Mona Goltz

Grandfather of Diane Goltz

Grandfather of Susan Siegel

Katie Fielschmidt

Aunt of Fred Korngut

Kaddish Recited January 12

Walter Kleinman

Father-in-law of Betty Kleinman

Jason Kandel

Cousin of Mary Klompus

Harry Sedler

Father of Ross Sedler

Joanne Reagler

Mother of David D. Reagler

Mother of Rachel Schulman

Martin Fleischner

Father of Mark Fleischner

Father of Stuart Fleischner

Pearcy Crem

Great Uncle of Rachel Schulman

Great Uncle of David D. Reagler

Kaddish Recited January 19

David Reagler

Father of David D. Reagler

Father of Rachel Schulman

Dorothy Savel

Grandmother of David Cohen

Eric B. Wolken

Brother of Brad Wolken

Goldie Marie Schott Ballard

Grandmother of Laura Castillo

Ida Cooper Ruskin

Mother of Phyllis Hearn

Pauline Brown

Aunt of Betty Forshberg

Ella Robins

Grandmother of Betty Feir

Lois Ginsburg

Mother of Millie Baron

Kaddish Recited January 26

Steve Katz

Brother of Sheri Cobb

Fanny Fielschmidt

Grandmother of Fred Korngut

Helene Leibowitz

Mother of Stuart Leibowitz

Willisam Holtzman

Father-in-law of Fred Korngut

Paul Forshberg

Husband of Betty Forshberg

Caroline Suhl

Grandmother of Michael Waxler

George Z. Ginsburg

Grandfather of Millie Baron

Leslie Leviton

Uncle of David D. Reagler

Uncle of Rachel Schulman

Sarah S. Levine

Grandmother of Cynthia Rephan

February Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited Februry 2

Helena Peterson
Mother of Cheryl Cohen

Ed Katz
Father of Sheri Cobb

Lewis Goltz
Father of Diane Goltz
Father of Susan Siegel

Harriett Korgut
Wife of Fred Korngut

Anni Hannah Grenman
Mother of Oded Grenman

Kaddish Recited February 9

Robert Burns
Step-father of Glenda Kirsch

Pinhas Grenman
Father of Oded Grenman

Richard Moss Haynie, Sr.
Father of Laura Castillo

Eric Ross
Father of Elaine Wolken

Julia Levine Bauman
Mother of Cynthia Rephan

Rose Ginsburg
Grandmother of Millie Baron

Kaddish Recited February 17

William Boswell
Father of Anita Williams

Kaddish Recited February 23

David Stafin
Father of Myrna Taxed

Sandy Carrington
Daughter of or Betty Forshberb

Stella Weisman
Grandmother of Larry Levi

Refuah Shelemah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers for healing. Please offer prayers that they have a full and complete recovery.:

- Sam Banks
- Mitch Boley
- Kimberly Brown
- Laura Castillo
- Camy Crank
- Oded Grenman
- Betty Forshberg
- Stephen Kirsch
- Carol Kleinman
- Carol Levi
- Randy Lewis
- Barbara Morgan
- Heather Mosher
- Pat McCarthy
- Sherrill Nicolosi
- Ellen Rephan
- Mike Richardson
- Rachel Schulman
- Misty Stricklin
- Larry Taub
- Shep Taxer
- Steven West
- James Woodfork

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

Hal and Sue Koppel	Jan 12
Lori and Randy Lewis	Feb 6

Birthdays

Carol Levi	Jan 5
Ross Sedler	Jan 8
Kay Fleischner	Jan 27
Lori Lewis	Jan 28
Ken Baim	Feb 1
Louis Reagler	Feb 2
Tillie Reagler	Feb 2
Diane Goltz	Feb 12
David D. Reagler	Feb 18

January Parshiot

Shmot

January 6

The Children of Israel multiply in Egypt. Threatened by their growing numbers, Pharaoh enslaves them and orders the Hebrew midwives, Shifrah and Puah, to kill all male babies at birth. When they do not comply, he commands his people to cast the Hebrew babies into the Nile.

A child is born to Jocheved, the daughter of Levi, and her husband, Amram, and placed in a basket on the river, while the baby's sister, Miriam, stands watch from afar. Pharaoh's daughter discovers the boy, raises him as her son, and names him Moses.

G-d appears to Moses in a burning bush at the foot of Mount Sinai and instructs him to go to Pharaoh and demand: "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me." Moses' brother, Aaron, is appointed to serve as his spokesman.

Vaera

January 13

G-d reveals Himself to Moses. He promises to take out the Children of Israel from Egypt, deliver them from their enslavement, redeem them and acquire them as His own chosen people at Mount Sinai; He will then bring them to the Land He promised to the Patriarchs as their eternal heritage.

Moses and Aaron repeatedly come before Pharaoh to demand "Let My people go." Pharaoh repeatedly refuses. G-d then sends a series of plagues upon the Egyptians.

The waters of the Nile turn to blood; swarms of frogs overrun the land; lice infest all men and beasts. Hordes of wild animals invade the cities, a pestilence kills the domestic animals, painful boils afflict the Egyptians. For the seventh plague, fire

and ice combine to descend from the skies as a devastating hail.

Bo

January 20

The last three of the Ten Plagues are visited on Egypt: a swarm of locusts devours all the crops and greenery; a thick, palpable darkness envelops the land; and all the firstborn of Egypt are killed at the stroke of midnight of the 15th of the month of Nissan. The death of the firstborn finally breaks Pharaoh's resistance and he literally

drives the Children of Israel from his land. Before they go, they ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold, silver and garments, draining Egypt of its wealth.

The Children of Israel are commanded to observe the anniversary of the Exodus each year by removing all leaven from their possession for seven days, eating matzah, and telling the story of their redemption to their children.

Beshalach

January 27

Soon after allowing the Children of Israel to depart from Egypt,

Pharaoh chases after them to force their return, and the Israelites find themselves trapped between Pharaoh's armies and the sea. G-d tells Moses to raise his staff over the water; the sea splits to allow the Israelites to pass through, and then closes over the pursuing Egyptians.

In the desert, the people suffer thirst and hunger and repeatedly complain to Moses and Aaron. G-d miraculously sweetens the bitter waters of Marah, and later has Moses bring forth water from a rock by striking it with his staff; He causes manna to rain down from the heavens before dawn each morning, and quails to appear in the Israelite camp each evening.



February Parshiot

Yitro

February 3

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, hears of the great miracles which G-d performed for the people of Israel, and comes from Midian to the Israelite camp, bringing with him Moses' wife and two sons. Jethro advises Moses to appoint a hierarchy of magistrates and judges to assist him in the task of governing and administering justice to the people.

On the sixth day of the third month (Sivan), seven weeks after the Exodus, the entire nation of Israel assembles at the foot of Mount Sinai. G-d descends on the mountain amidst thunder, lightning, billows of smoke and the blast of the shofar, and summons Moses to ascend.

G-d proclaims the Ten Commandments, commanding the people of Israel to believe in G-d, not to worship idols or take G-d's name in vain, to keep the Shabbat, honor their parents, and not to murder, not to commit adultery, not to steal, not to bear false witness or covet another's property.

The people cry out to Moses that the revelation is too intense for them to bear, begging him to receive the Torah from G-d and convey it to them.

Mishpatim

February 10

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault, and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans, and the responsibilities of the "Four Guardians"; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law.

Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains

fifty-three mitzvot -- 23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions.

G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants.

Terumah

February 17

On the summit of Mount Sinai, Moses is given detailed instructions on how to construct a dwelling for G-d so that it could be readily dismantled, transported and reassembled as the people journeyed in the desert.



In the Sanctuary's inner chamber was the Ark containing the Tablets of Testimony engraved with the Ten Commandments; on the Ark's cover stood two winged cherubim hammered out of pure gold. In the outer chamber stood the seven-branched Menorah and the Table upon which the "show-bread" was arranged.

Tetzaveh

February 24

G-d tells Moses to receive from the Children of Israel pure olive oil to feed the "everlasting flame" of the menorah, which Aaron is to kindle each day, "from evening till morning."

The priestly garments, to be worn by the Kohanim (priests) while serving in the Sanctuary are described. All Kohanim wore: 1) the ketonet -- a full length linen tunic; 2) michnasayim -- linen breeches; 3) mitznefet or migba'at -- a linen turban; 4) avnet -- a long sash wound above the waist.

Tetzaveh also includes G-d's detailed instructions for the seven-day initiation of Aaron and his four sons -- Nadav, Avihu, Elazar and Itamar -- into the priesthood, and for the making of the Golden Altar on which the ketoret ("incense") was burned.