

FW: Vacation Notes and Asks from Rabbi Baum - Kashrut, Israel and Tzedaka on our Minds

From Menachem Penner <mpenner@rabbis.org>

Date Wed 1/15/2025 2:01 PM

To Adam Dubin <adubin@rabbis.org>

Hold on to this for mailing

From: shalom baum <shalombaum@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:28 PM

To: Menachem Penner <mpenner@rabbis.org>

Subject: Fwd: Vacation Notes and Asks from Rabbi Baum - Kashrut, Israel and Tzedaka on our Minds

Fyi. Not sure why but getting a lot of feedback on this from members and strangers. If appropriate feel free to share and anyone can copy with no need to attribute to me. It may be a bit obnoxious but my membership knows i mean well and want to push their avodas hashem and wallets.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Keter Torah <aliza@keter Torah.org>

Date: January 14, 2025 at 11:53:29 AM EST

To: rabbibaum@keter Torah.org

Subject: Vacation Notes and Asks from Rabbi Baum - Kashrut, Israel and Tzedaka on our Minds

Reply-To: aliza@keter Torah.org

Vacation Notes and Asks from Rabbi Baum - Kashrut, Israel and Tzedaka on our Minds

From the many halachic questions that I have received and the letters that I have been requested to write to give security clearance for our members, I am aware that Yeshiva Week is quickly approaching and that many of our members will be away for Yeshiva Week. Vacation time is an excellent opportunity to relax, recharge and reinforce and model our religious commitments, whether we go away or stay home.

TWO ASKS for ISRAEL

1. Since 10/7 we have maintained TTT at Keter Torah. Currently at 8:30pm every Monday - Thursday we say 10 minutes of Tehillim followed by Ma'ariv. We are finished before 8:50pm. We are determined to continue this momentum while Israel is still at war and the hostages are in such a precarious situation. If you are in town, please make an extra effort to join us for the next two weeks. If you would like to commit in general or to specific nights, please email me at rabbibaum@keter Torah.org.
2. Baruch Hashem many people can afford to go away, spending hard earned money for the benefit of their families. At the same time, our Charity Fund is currently at a low level as we continue to respond to local needs and to help support unique needs in Israel, such as mental health concerns of soldiers and the many other projects that we as Jews of the Diaspora must support. Please consider either matching the amount of money that you are spending on your Yeshiva Week vacation with a donation to our Charity Fund or at least by giving 10% of that amount. It will make your trip more meaningful, and you will be able to explain to your families how we never forget to share the burden with others and Israel. Of course, any donation is appreciated, click [here](#) to donate.



Soldiers killed in the northern Gaza Strip on January 13, 2025: (L-R) Staff Sgt. Yahav Hadar, Staff Sgt. Yoav Feffer, Staff Sgt. Guy Karmiel, Staff Sgt. Aviel Wiseman, and Cpt. Yair Yakov Shushan. (Courtesy)

General Notes

- Please keep in mind that not every restaurant that EET (Everyone Eats There) has standards of kashrut that are acceptable by our community. While there is sometimes more flexibility when one is on a business trip in a foreign country with limited food options, this would not apply in a place like Mexico or on a cruise. If you do not see the kashrut agency on this list, it may still be acceptable, but I suggest that you ask me for direction. <https://consumer.crckosher.org/acceptable-kashrus-agencies/>
- Especially this year, as many of our members have relatives and friends fighting in the IDF, or know hostage families, it is important to be thoughtful before posting pictures on Facebook or other social media outlets. Keep in mind that while it is fine to take a break, our nation is in crisis. Additionally, not everyone in the community can take vacation, and we are mandated to be modest, not only in our dress, but in how we publicize our lifestyles.
- For those of us staying in town, most of the regular schedule of minyanim and many shiurim will be available. This includes Motzei Shabbat learning this week with great prizes and great youth groups on Shabbat.
- There are minyanim available throughout the world: <http://www.godaven.com>.
- For listings and maps of mikvaot throughout the world, visit <https://www.mikvah.org/directory>. Every year I receive questions regarding how to satisfy the mitzvah of mikvah in different locations that may not have a mikvah. Feel free to contact me.
- Please remember that one cannot carry outside in a location that does not have an eruv and most places surrounded by water do not qualify as being exempt from requiring an eruv. Building your own eruv is complicated and should be done with onsite Rabbinic direction and

supervision.

- Please be aware that unless you are on a kosher only program, many kashrut issues come up on cruises and at resorts. For example, having a resort cook and prepare fish for you, without supervision, is not allowed. There are also many non-kashrut issues when many foods are prepared by non-Jews.
- Popcorn or cotton candy purchased at a theater or amusement park requires kosher supervision. This includes all local movie theaters. There are currently no local theaters that are acceptable. Frozen yogurt and ice cream stores also require hashgacha for most products. Please follow-up with any questions.

Rabbi Baum

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