

# Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **Ruth Brandt**, in memory of her mother, **Judith Brandt - Goldsher, Irika bat Baruch a"h**, whose Yahrzeit is on the 20th Shevat

20 Shevat • Parshat Yitro

February 10-11, 2023

**Steven Dorfman, President**

• **Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi**

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Dear Members and Friends,

Earlier this week I flew to London for a very special reunion. The genesis of this event began in 1998, when I was approached by my friend Michael Sinclair, a mover-and-shaker in London's Jewish community. We first met during my stint as rabbi of Notting Hill Synagogue. I knew him as an innovative, original thinker who was ahead of the curve on every issue and challenge facing Jewish continuity. In 1993 Michael had partnered with Chief Rabbi Sacks to create an organization called "Jewish Continuity," with the aim of transforming Jewish life in the UK and halting the slow but seemingly inexorable decline into oblivion.

By 1998, Jewish Continuity had merged with another major Jewish organization, and Michael was looking to initiate new projects – in particular a project that would address the growing problem of Jews marrying out of the faith, or not marrying at all. Concerned by the escalating disaffiliation of British Jews in their 20s and 30s from organized Jewish life – which Michael felt was to blame for this phenomenon – he proposed launching a "hip" shul that would specifically target this demographic.

The location we chose was the "Saatchi Synagogue" – recently dedicated by the celebrated Saatchi advertising brothers in honor of their elderly parents, Nathan and Daisy. This newly built sanctuary wasn't actually a synagogue; it was part of a Jewish day school complex, used by the school for prayers and assemblies on weekdays, but conveniently empty on weekends. The Saatchi name was a perfect brand, particularly as the synagogue was a five-minute walk from the Saatchi Gallery, a hub of modern art that was then located in the trendy St. John's Wood area.

The period before we opened was a frenzy of activity. Night after night I met with a range of potential members and participants – some enthusiastic, others lukewarm. We launched an eye-grabbing advertising campaign that included billboards in London Underground stations. It was picked up by the national media – who loved it – but derided by Jewish critics as offensive. "Welcome to the unorthodox synagogue" read one advert, with the blurb asking: "Where does it say that an Orthodox service has to be boring, formal and uninspiring?" Another advert had a speed sign with the number "45". The blurb was blunt: "The Saatchi Synagogue will have tremendous energy, dynamism and vitality. One reason is that people who go there will be under 45."

The main program feature was weekly Friday night dinners with celebrity speakers. The first dinner, and at least a dozen after that, was sold out in less than 3 days. Speakers included actor/playwright Steven Berkoff, celebrity chef Claudia Roden, as well as Bibi Netanyahu and Shimon Peres. The first London mayoral campaign debate between Jeffrey Archer and Ken Livingstone was at the Saatchi Synagogue, moderated by BBC news presenter Martyn Lewis (Archer later withdrew his candidacy after he was charged with perjury, and Livingstone won the election). Within a matter of weeks, the synagogue's social events were resulting in engagements and weddings, and so it went on for several years.

This week's reunion was at the home of a couple who met at the Saatchi Synagogue. We had not kept in touch over the years, but it was heartwarming for me and Sabine to reconnect with them, and to realize

how we had positively impacted their lives, and the lives of so many others. The friendships and connections between the people who met at Saatchi have persisted throughout, and seeing them again brought back floods of wonderful memories.

As we chatted and reminisced, I recalled my first address at a Saatchi Synagogue gathering, during the initial Friday night dinner 25 years ago. I had begun by asking where everyone had been for dinner the previous Friday night. Some said they had been with parents and family, but others admitted they were out with friends, or at home not having Shabbat dinner. I smiled. In December 1894, I continued, the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi demonstrated for the first time how radio waves could be used to transmit signals – "telegraphy without wires," as he called it. One thing led to another, and eventually, radio waves became the medium for the transmission of talk shows and music. Today there are thousands of radio stations that use "telegraphy without wires" so that we can tune in and hear news broadcasts and our favorite songs.

But radio waves were there long before Marconi revealed their existence – it's just that no one had ever utilized them. And even after Marconi's innovation and the subsequent creation of ubiquitous radio programming – unless you tune in to a program, you'd never know it was there. Shabbat is no different, I explained. There it is, every Friday night, since the beginning of time – but unless you know it's there, and you tune in, you could go through your entire life and never experience its sublime beauty or its incredible power to spiritually rejuvenate the soul. Judaism, our ancient faith, is just the same. It is a gift from God, but it is all too easy to go through life without it, never tuning in, or trying to find the particular program to give you what you need so that you can connect with God.

Remarkably, this idea is embedded at the heart of the Ten Commandments in Parshat Yitro. The Jews who gathered at Mount Sinai were told (Ex. 20:8) **זָכוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ** – "Remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it." The commentaries puzzle over the fact that when the decalogue was repeated in Parshat Va'etchanan (Deut. 5:12), the wording was changed: **שְׁמוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ** – "Observe the Sabbath day to sanctify it." There are countless explanations – some practical, others metaphorical. But the simplest explanation is this one: unless you "remember" it is Shabbat, you'll never tune in to sanctify it, and you will certainly never observe its precepts. Jewish identity is no different – unless you belong to a community, and connect to your Jewish heritage, simply being born Jewish is never going to be enough.

This past Sunday, as I looked around the room at the reunion, I was moved by the continued dedication of my Saatchi Synagogue friends to their Jewish identity a quarter of a century after they "tuned in." And there are many others who didn't make it to the reunion, but for whom making the step to "remember" 25 years ago made all the difference to their lives, and to the life of the UK's Jewish community. Very occasionally, you encounter a divine presence in a seemingly mundane gathering. That was my experience this week. I came face to face with the crystallization of one of the Ten Commandments, and it was an experience I will never forget.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
5:14pm CANDLELIGHTING	NO GEMARA SHIUR
5:15pm SERVICES	9:15 am SHACHARIT
	5:20 pm MINCHA
	6:10 pm MAARIV
	6:12 pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING		
Sun	8:00am	5:20pm
Mon-Thu	7:00am	5:20pm
Fri	7:00am	5:25pm

Thank you to those who joined us for the Shiur with Rabbi Ari Kahn. We have an exciting few months coming up and we hope you will join us for some fabulous events.

# Sisterhood Corner

February / March

**We are saving a Mishloach Manot basket for you!**

If you have not yet done so, please join us in the Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year and sign up now for a mishloach manot basket!

Our goal this year is 100% participation!

See the flyer OR visit  
[www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim](http://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim)  
 to sign up!

**Be there or be square!**

**Get your costumes ready!**

Annual YINBH Purim Seuda

Tuesday, March 7th at 4:00 pm

Buffet, Games, Arts & Crafts and more...

Lots of fun for adults and kids!

Next Book Group is scheduled for  
 March 14th - More details coming soon!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Tammy Weisman*

*Zachary Sudar*

*Jacob Sostchen*

*Parvin Sofer*

*Leah Ross*

*Alyssa Wallack*

*Gabrielle Paluch*

*Stuart Miller*

*Larry Garshofsky*

## YAHRTZEITS

**Judith Brandt - Goldsher**

Irika bat Baruch a"h

Mother of

**Ruth Brandt**

Yahrtzeit - 20 Shevat

**Dorothy Broidy**

Devorah a"h

Mother of

**Elliott Broidy**

Yahrtzeit - 21 Shevat

**Judah Hertz**

Yehuda ben Yisroel Chaim z"l

Father of

**Zevi Hertz Yitzi Hertz**

**Sandy Gordon**

Yahrtzeit - 22 Shevat

**Eva Schlesinger**

Hinkel bat Pesach a"h

Mother of

**Judy Raykoff**

Yahrtzeit - 22 Shevat

**Raquel Monlack  
 Sochaczewski**

Rachel bat Shlomo a"h

Mother of

**Jaime Sohacheski**

Yahrtzeit - 25 Shevat

**Rose B. Raphael a"h**

Mother of

**Gina Raphael**

Yahrtzeit - 25 Shevat

**Sarah Finkel**

Sarah bat Shmuel a"h

Mother of

**Harry Finkel**

Yahrtzeit - 26 Shevat



WIZO CALIFORNIA INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

## International Women's Day

WITH ESTHER MOR, WIZO WORLD PRESIDENT

PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING:



Dr. Hindi Posy,  
OB/GYN & Attorney



Smadar Shechter,  
EL AL Captain 787 Fleet



Suzi Weiss-Fischmann,  
Co-Founder OPI Cosmetics

*Moderated By:*

Melissa Lewkowicz,  
Criminal Defense Attorney,  
TV & Radio Host



WEDNESDAY

MARCH 8TH

11:00AM- 1:00PM

THE LUXE SUNSET BOULEVARD HOTEL

*Chaired By:*

Adeena Bleich, Lani Kreshek, Kathy Moray, Jan Perry, Silvia Testa, Shirin Yadegar

*In Partnership With:*

**EL VAL**

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
 WIZO CALIFORNIA AT 323.266.6493 OR DIRECTOR@WIZOCALIFORNIA.ORG

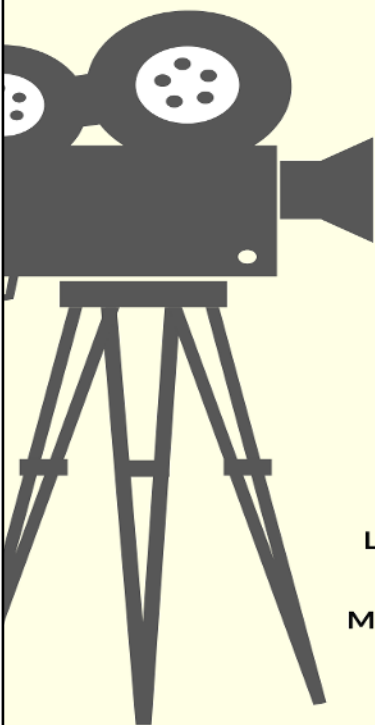
## STEVEN & VIVIAN DORFMAN KEILIM MIKVAH



The Keilim Mikvah is now open for use. You can buzz-in for access via the intercom at the entrance to the garage, during weekday office hours. It is customary to give tzedakah before doing to mitzvah of travelling Keilim. You can give a donation directly to the keilim mikvah by visiting [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim)



Join our YINBH Community  
in celebrating Purim with  
another fabulous  
Sisterhood Mishloach  
Manot basket.



**PRESENTING**

# MISHLOACH MANOT 2023

Let us come together to  
perform the joyous  
mitzvah of Mishloach  
Manot & contribute to the  
Sisterhood's biggest  
fundraiser of the year!

**\$275**  
ORDERS  
ACCEPTED UP  
UNTIL FEB 22ND

**ORDER AT**

**[WWW.BEVERLYHILLSSYNAGOGUE.ORG/PURIM](http://WWW.BEVERLYHILLSSYNAGOGUE.ORG/PURIM)**

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO ORDERED MISHLOACH MANOT

Harry Finkel & Shirley Aizenstein

Susan & Michael Baum

Michael & Margaret Bayer

Barbara Bernstein

Jonathan & Julie Boyer

William & June Brenner

Robin & Elliott Broidy

Hart & Debbie Cohen

Steven & Vivian Dorfman

Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner

Marty & Eva Feldberg

Shawney & Richard Fine

George & Suzi Fischmann

Karen Fisher

David & Gloria Frankel

Jerry & Jean Friedman

Aaron & Lillian Fuchs

Jason Fuchs

Larry & Judith Garshofsky

Ernie & Regina Goldberger

Evan & Liz Greenspan

Edwin & Cecile Gromis

Mark & Janette Herskovitz

Diana Hirt

Patrick & Ginette Hodara

Eva Hogan

Philip & Janice Kaufler

Hillel & Ruth Kellerman

Jonathan & Faye Kellerman

Mark & Amy Kestenbaum

Jeffrey Golden & Allyson Kimmel

David & Roberta Kimmel

Igor & Lisa Korbatov

Hillel Laks

William Levin

Simon Elhiani & Rita Lewkowicz

William & Joan Lopatin

Vera Markowitz

Stuart & Fran Miller

Raphy & Rivka Nissel

Annie Baum & Barry Novack

Michael & Ariella Novack

Mark & Marlene Perl

Jeff Gross & Gina Raphael

Howard & Judy Raykoff

Denise & Weston Richter

Rosalyn Rothman

Simon & Susy Rubinstein

Franck & Evelina Ruimy

Faramarz & Sheilagh Sadeghi

Lee Samson

Joseph & Galina Samuel

Stephen & Jessica Samuel

Moshe & Helen Sassover

George & Irina Schaeffer

Arnold & Sheri Schlesinger

Stephen Schloss

Avrumie & Maryjo Schnitzer

Jesse & Adam Shaked

David & Michele Silver

Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski

Norman & Virginia Solomon

Seymour & Grace Stoll

Barton & Arleen Tanenbaum

JJ & Wendy Wallack

Michael & Sharon Weiner

Jacques & Natalie Wizman

Nadine Gerson & Bob Zeller



Beverly Hills Synagogue invites you to a

# WILD WEST PURIM SEUDAH

TUESDAY MARCH 7 4PM-8PM

featuring

BEATBUDS FOR KIDS	SOFT PLAY	BUFFET DINNER
GAMES TRUCK	ARTS & CRAFTS	WINE BAR
RAFFLES	MEGILLAH READING	COSTUME CONTEST

\$60 PER ADULT / \$50 PER YOUNG ADULT (40 AND UNDER)  
\$15 PER CHILD OVER 5  
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP:  
WWW.YINBH.ORG/SEUDAH

## THE YINBH MIKVAH IS OPEN!

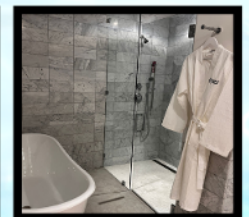
All appointments must be made at least 24 hours in advance except for Motzai Shabbat appointments, which must be made 48 hours in advance.

We will not be taking Friday appointments at this time. Please continue to check our website for updates as we hope to open up same day appointments and Friday hours in the near future.

Should you encounter any problems or have any questions while booking your appointment, please don't hesitate to contact us.



WEBSITE	www.yinbh.org/mikvah
APPT. APP	MikvahCloud
PHONE	310-278-7485
TEXT ONLY	310-299-1792
ADDRESS	9261 Alden Dr. BH



## Exploring Jewish History WITH RABBI PINI DUNNER

### NEW EPISODE

### THE CURIOUS TALE OF THE KOZHNITZ-CHERNOBYL REBBE OF NEW YORK

Premiering on YouTube  
Monday, February 20th at 7pm



ב"ה... סידר וייעצן פארוועס צו אלע וויליאמסבורגער אידען בכלל  
און צו אלע לאנדסלייטע, חסידים און גוטע פריינד בפרט.  
אז דינען שבת פ' שמיני (פרק), וועט דער  
קאזניצער שערנאבילער רבי  
שריט"א  
אדמו"ר דער ישראל טווערסקי, זצ"ל 1898 פראטשעט פלייס, ברוקלין  
וועט א נאכט ביי אונז, וואו ער וועט דאווענען און שיינליך יאמלען און שוועלן  
די גאנצע שבת.

Watch at [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory)

This series is sponsored by George & Suzi Fischmann



WELCOMES



## Yaakov Katz

Editor in Chief,  
Jerusalem Post

Shabbat 11th March 2023

Yaakov will address the community at 11:00am

Services will be followed by a Kiddush Luncheon

Yaakov Katz is Editor-in-Chief of The Jerusalem Post and author of "Shadow Strike - Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power", which tells the inside story behind Israel's bombing of a nuclear reactor in Syria in 2007. Katz is also the co-author of "Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower" and "Israel vs. Iran: The Shadow War". "Weapon Wizards" has been published in English, Hebrew, Czech, Polish and Chinese.

Katz served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst and was a faculty member and lecturer at Harvard University where he taught an advanced course in journalism. He also served as correspondent for Jane's Defence Weekly in Israel for five years.

Prior to taking up the role of Editor-in-Chief, Katz served for two years as a senior policy adviser to Israel's Minister of Economy and Minister of Diaspora Affairs.