

# Tefilla Notebook

4 Adar • Parshat Terumah

February 24-25, 2023

**Steven Dorfman, President**

• **Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi**

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Dear Members and Friends,

In October 2010, the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology published a fascinating article about the remarkable linguistic synergy that exists between couples who are in a long-term relationship.

Authored by two academics, Molly Ireland and James Pennebaker, from the University of Texas at Austin,

the article proposed that people who fall and remain in love will mimic and repeat the words and phrases each of them uses, and will end up sounding very much like each other.

If the relationship breaks down, the common language breaks down with it, and the couple's speaking and writing styles will drift apart.

The genesis of the article arose out of a study in which the authors looked at the language used by 2,000 college students responding to class assignments.

Evidence showed that when an essay question was written using "a dry, confusing tone, students responded with dry, confusing answers," but if the assignment question used informal language, students responded using colloquial expressions and slang words.

Spurred on by this discovery, the researchers began to look at historical figures to see what "Language Style Matching", or LSM, could reveal about the relationships between famous personalities.

For example, pioneer psychologists Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, corresponded frequently for over seven years. With the help of "style-matching statistics", the researchers charted the two men's stormy relationship from initial joint admiration to later mutual contempt, by focusing on pronouns, prepositions and other words that don't have much meaning outside the context of the sentence.

But all of this research paled into insignificance when they began to look at the poetry of the celebrated Victorian poet couple, Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning, and their twentieth-century counterparts, Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. They discovered that similarities in the language used by the famous couples became more intense as their relationships intensified. In the case of Hughes and Plath, whose relationship was far more volatile than Barrett and Browning, and eventually ended in Plath's tragic suicide, the commonalities dramatically reached a zenith and then foundered as their marriage disintegrated.

In an interview about their findings, Pennebaker and Ireland explained that talking alike is so instinctive that it is almost imperceptible.

When two people start a conversation, they usually begin talking alike within a matter of seconds, [and] because style matching is automatic it serves as an unobtrusive window into people's close relationships with others.

Language Style Matching is considered a major factor in assessing the success or breakdown of a relationship, and analyzing LSM is regularly used by marriage therapists as a barometer for the state of a relationship when couples come for help.

A 1993 study also found that couples in happier marriages often use private languages that only they understand, peppering their everyday conversations with nicknames, codewords, and in-jokes. In fact, when people are very close, they may not need to say anything

at all—a look, a nod, or just a twinkle in their eye, will be enough to tell their spouse everything they are trying to convey.

Meanwhile, the more distant people are from each other, the harder it will be for them to communicate and to relate to each other through words, or indeed by any other means.

This insight into the nature of communication helps to explain a problem that has bothered countless Torah commentaries. The laborious details of the Mishkan's construction take up no less than four Torah portions – Terumah, Tetzaveh, Vayakhel and Pekudei, amounting to hundreds of verses.

And yet, axiomatic to our faith is the idea that the Torah is a concentrated source book, concisely written for the Oral Torah to elaborate upon. Why does this paradigm change so dramatically when the Torah addresses the construction of the Mishkan, a temporary Temple sanctuary, the details of which were to become irrelevant as soon as the permanent Temple was erected in Jerusalem?

One famous suggestion is that this anomaly demonstrates God's devoted love for the Jewish people. Although the nation had sinned against God in the episode of the Golden Calf, God granted them this special gift of a Mishkan to show his enduring affection for His chosen people.

When it comes to love, no amount of words is ever truly adequate, and in describing the construction of this love-shrine, the inflated number of words are a reflection of God's superlative love for the Jewish nation.

But while this idea is heartwarming and wonderful, surely it would be more appropriate for God's love to be reflected in the form of a hyperbolic poem, not in the mundane, tedious details of a construction project?

Perhaps for this reason, the Kotzker Rebbe takes a rather more prosaic approach. When the Jewish nation is close to God, the LSM-rating is fantastic. The Talmudic sage, Rabbi Akiva, used the individual decorative crowns on each Hebrew letter of the Torah to derive important messages from God.

The Talmud in Nedarim (22b) declares that had the Jewish nation not sinned, they would only have required the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua. The addition of so many other works in the Hebrew Scriptures was a reflection of how their relationship with God had been affected and diminished.

The more distant one is from another party, the more words it takes to convey even the simplest ideas. The sin of the Golden Calf profoundly distanced the nation from God, and it is exactly this idea that is reflected in the verbose portions dealing with the construction project whose primary aim was fixing that broken relationship, enabling God to reside in our midst.

Those who struggle with prayer, or who find it difficult to relate to, or conform with, the requirements of the Jewish faith, should consider the possibility that their God-relationship LSM-rating is far lower than it should be. Having come to that realization, they should carefully consider how the relationship can be fixed, so that even the crowns on each letter cascade them with information..

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



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
5:27pm CANDLELIGHTING  
5:30pm SERVICES

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
8:30am GEMARA SHIUR  
9:15 am SHACHARIT  
5:30 pm MINCHA  
6:20 pm MAARIV  
6:24 pm SHABBAT ENDS

## WEEKDAY DAVENING

Sun	8:00am	5:30pm
Mon-Thu	7:00am	5:30pm
Fri	7:00am	5:35pm

## MAZEL TOV

**Bella & Daniel Strum** on the birth of their son, **Ephraim Chaviv Strum**. Mazel to the grandparents and the extended family.

# Sisterhood Corner

February / March

**Tick... tock.... tick.... tock...**

You're in luck! We saved a basket for you!

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!

Visit [www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim](http://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim) to sign up!

**Be there or be square!**

**Get your costumes ready!**

**Wild West Purim Seudah**

Tuesday, March 7th at 5:00 pm

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

Lots of fun for adults and kids!

**Our next YINBH Book Group read!**

We will be reading The Periodic Table

by Primo Levi

Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30 pm

Private home address will be provided upon RSVP

RSVP at [yinbh.org/bookgroup](http://yinbh.org/bookgroup)

Get ready for an interesting discussion!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



We were proud to welcome Gideon Falter, CEO of Campaign Against Antisemitism, last Shabbat who spoke to the community about

the recent events in LA and his organization's plans to set up an office here. Anyone wishing to be in contact should email

[gideon@antisemitism.org](mailto:gideon@antisemitism.org)



## YAHRTZEITS



**Rose Block**

Shoshana bat David a"h

Mother of

**Eva Feldberg**

Yahrtzeit - 4 Adar

**Mohtaram Soroudi**

Mahtaram bat Haim

Yitzhak a"h

Mother of

**Behrouz Soroudi**

Yahrtzeit - 4 Adar

**Maurice Friedman z"l**

Father of

**Karen Fisher**

Yahrtzeit - 4 Adar

**Adolph Friedman**

Chaim Amram ben Peretz z"l

Father of

**Jerry Friedman**

Yahrtzeit - 7 Adar

**Isaac Jack Ruimy**

Yitzhak ben Yaacov z"l

Father of

**Franck Ruimy**

Yahrtzeit - 6 Adar

## 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 tovelling Keilim. You can give a donation directly to the keilim mikvah by visiting [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Robert Tanenbaum*

*Adam Fenner*

*Adina Sadeghi*

*Adiela Sadeghi*

*Bob Zeller*

*Samantha Weiner*

### A MESSAGE FROM RABBI DUNNER

**Matanot La'Evyonim** is one of the four designated mitzvot on Purim, along with hearing the **Megilla**, **Mishloach Manot** and **Seudat Purim**.

As part of the unifying theme of the Purim festival, it is a mitzvah to give money to needy families in the community, so that they too can afford to celebrate this festival properly, and have some welcome respite from their difficult financial circumstances, both on Purim, and after Purim.

This year, as in past years, I will be distributing the money raised from our membership for **Matanot La'Evyonim** to needy families here in Los Angeles and in Israel.

Checks can be made payable to "YINBH" (please write on the memo of the checks "Purim Appeal").

I will also take donations on Purim Day.

*Happy Anniversary*

**Aaron & Lillian Fuchs**

*Mazel Tov*

**Joe & Galina Samuel on 50 years of marriage!**

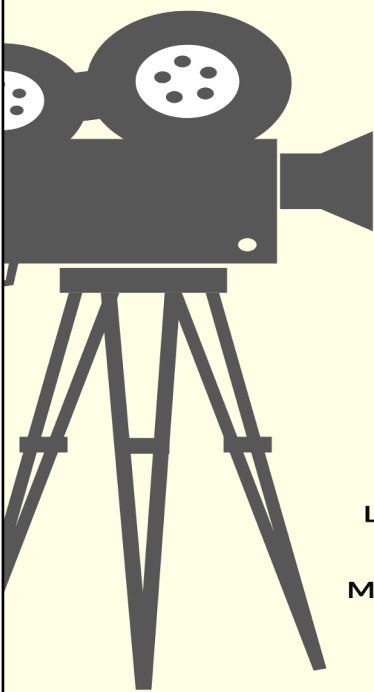
**Paul Feder z"l**

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי

**Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara Shiur on Shabbat 45 minutes**



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

**A FEW BASKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE**

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

Victor & Jacqueline Cohenca

Steven & Vivian Dorfman

Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner

Marty & Eva Feldberg

Adam & Debby Fenner

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

Susan Graysen

Evan & Liz Greenspan

Edwin & Cecile Gromis

Mark & Janette Herskovitz

Chavi Hertz

Diana Hirt

Patrick & Ginette Hodara

Eva Hogan

Elliott & Ruth Kahn

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

Isaac & Sarah Meier

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

Joanne Sacks & Tuvia Ganz

Faramarz & Sheilagh Sadeghi

Lee Samson

Joseph & Galina Samuel

Stephen & Jessica Samuel

Moshe & Helen Sassover

George & Irina Schaeffer

Arnold & Sheri Schlesinger

Stephen Schloss

Anrumie & Maryjo Schnitzer

Jesse & Adam Shaked

David & Michele Silver

Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski

Norman & Virginia Solomon

Seymour & Grace Stoll

Bella & Daniel Strum

Barton & Arleen Tanenbaum

Karynne Tencer & Robert Tencer

JJ & Wendy Wallace

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

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

## Book Group

The  
Periodic  
Table  
PRIMO LEVI

MARCH 14TH, 2023  
7:30PM

ORDER  
NOW  
amazon

Primo Levi

The  
Periodic Table

The Periodic Table is largely a memoir of the years before and after Primo Levi's transportation from his native Italy to Auschwitz as an anti-Facist partisan and a Jew.

RSVP at  
[yinbh.org/bookgroup](http://yinbh.org/bookgroup)  
LOCATION GIVEN UPON RSVP

## 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](http://www.yinbh.org/mikvah)



APPT. APP MikvahCloud



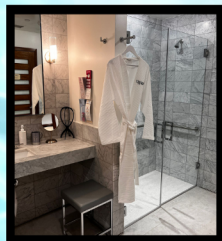
PHONE 310-278-7485



TEXT ONLY 310-299-1792



ADDRESS 9261 Alden Dr. BH



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.