



# Tefilla Notebook

12 Nissan • Mezorah • Shabbat Hagadol • Pesach

April 19-25, 2024

**Steven Dorfman, President • Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi • Rabbi Aryeh Perlstein, Assistant Rabbi**



Dearest Members & Friends,

Henry Kissinger once famously said, "Whenever you have two alternatives, the first thing you have to do is to look for the third that you didn't think about, that doesn't exist." With Kissinger's recent passing at the advanced age of 100, much has been written about the legacy of the twentieth century's greatest statesman,

and particularly how he mastered the art of thinking outside the box, while respecting the box itself as the foundational framework of diplomacy.

In the early 1970s, amid a sharply divided Cold War world, Kissinger – then National Security Advisor in President Nixon's administration – orchestrated a groundbreaking diplomatic maneuver that would reshape global politics: the opening of relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Kissinger's approach was innovative yet deeply grounded in existing diplomatic structures. His secret 1971 trip to Beijing, facilitated through discreet communications and intermediaries, exemplified his belief in the power of traditional diplomacy, creatively applied. By leveraging established channels in unconventional ways, Kissinger not only bridged a vast ideological divide but also set the stage for a new era in international relations.

This bold initiative showed that although the "box" – namely: the existing structures of international diplomacy – provides necessary stability and continuity, stepping just beyond its traditional bounds can lead to transformative outcomes. Kissinger's diplomatic accomplishment showed the value of maintaining a delicate balance between innovation and tradition, a lesson that remains pertinent as we navigate today's complex global landscape. And considering Kissinger's Orthodox Jewish roots, perhaps it is not such a surprise that he intuitively understood this concept – after all, he grew up with Pesach (Passover) and Seder night. The idea of thinking outside the box while respecting the box itself was deeply embedded in his Jewish DNA.

Just as Kissinger navigated the complexities of international diplomacy, so too does the Pesach Seder navigate the balance between rigid structure and the necessity for creative engagement. Each year, as families worldwide prepare for Pesach, they revisit the ancient traditions and rituals that define this pivotal Jewish holiday. Central to the festival's observance is the Seder, a ceremonial dinner on the first night of the festival, and outside Israel on the second night as well. The theme of the Seder is retelling the story of the Exodus from Egypt. However, despite the ritual's deeply structured nature, the Seder is ripe for incorporating spontaneity and creativity.

A 2017 study from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management highlights a paradox that transcends cultural and religious boundaries: structure, while simplifying comprehension and organization of our surroundings, can significantly stifle creativity. The research, which was led by doctoral candidate Yeun Joon Kim and Professor Chen-Bo Zhong, drew on several experiments, including one involving LEGO bricks. It turned out that participants asked to assemble a model from LEGO bricks sorted by color and shape exhibited noticeably less creativity than those who were given a box of randomly assorted bricks. The findings, published in the journal

Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, suggest that over-structuring and over-planning can dampen the innovative spirit.

The Seder is intricately designed with a series of rituals and readings from the Haggadah – the text that guides the evening's proceedings. Steeped in structure—indeed, the Hebrew word "Seder" means "order—at first glance it would appear that this deliberate organization is critical, ensuring that the multifaceted story of the Exodus is presented in a comprehensive and accurate manner, allowing each participant to follow the chronological progression from slavery to freedom in a well-honed and immutable framework.

But this first impression is wrong. Despite its structure, the Seder is uniquely conducive to creativity and personal expression. The readings from the Haggadah, while fixed, are not just about droning on a passive version of ancient events. Instead, the Haggadah's readings serve as a springboard for discussion, questioning, and exploration. The narrative is crafted not just to be told, but to be engaged with; it calls for each participant to delve into the meanings, themes, and moral questions inherent in the ancient story. This engagement is vital to the educational mission of the Seder, which aims not only to transmit historical knowledge but to instill a deeper understanding and personal connection to the events of the Exodus.

Besides, although the Haggadah provides a set script, it is replete with obvious cues for personal input and interpretive freedom. It incorporates various symbols and rituals—like the eating of bitter herbs or the spilling of wine—which are designed to evoke sensory responses and emotional reactions that transcend mere verbal storytelling. These elements are invitations for participants to reflect on the harshness of slavery and the sweetness of liberation, integrating their own narratives with the ancient text.

The Seder's structure also includes several built-in moments specifically intended to provoke discussion and participation, such as the asking of the Four Questions. Traditionally posed by the youngest at the table, these questions about why this night differs from all other nights shouldn't just prompt answers, but a lively exchange of ideas and interpretations – and, more importantly: even more questions. The Seder is not a monolith; it values the insights and curiosities of all its participants, regardless of age or scholarly background.

In essence, the Seder exemplifies a dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation, much like Henry Kissinger's approach to diplomacy. While it adheres to a predetermined order that ensures the story of the Exodus is told with fidelity and depth, it simultaneously encourages a creative engagement that makes each Seder a unique and deeply personal experience. This blend of structure and spontaneity not only enriches the ritual itself but also reinforces its enduring relevance, inviting each generation to find its own meaning and message in the ancient tale of liberation. In remembering Kissinger's legacy, we are reminded of the power of balancing respect for tradition with the courage to innovate—a principle that continues to resonate both at the Seder table and, hopefully, in the broader world. This principle reminds us that in the interstices of rigid structures lie the opportunities for transformative creativity and enduring change.

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

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH

7:10PM CANDLELIGHTING

6:30 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

8:30 AM GEMARA SHIUR

9:15 AM SHACHARIT

6:25 PM SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

7:15 PM MINCHA

8:05 PM MAARIV

8:09 PM SHABBAT ENDS

## CHOL HAMOEAD

Thurs 8:00am 7:20pm

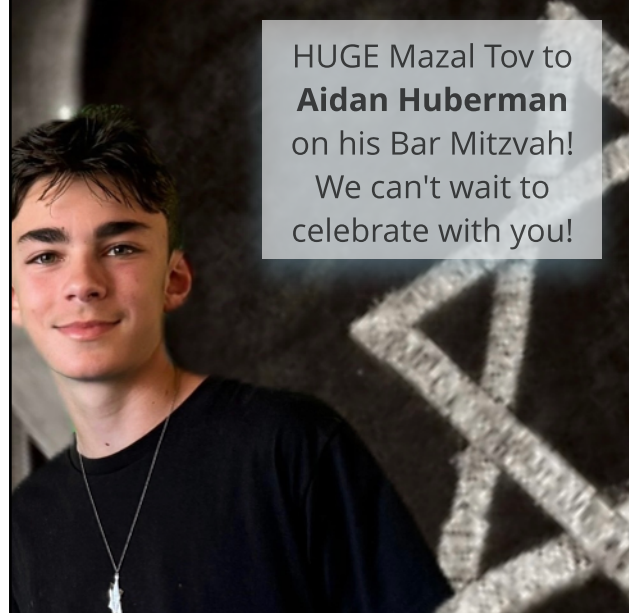
Fri 8:00am 6:30pm

See First Days Schedule on Page 3

**BRING THEM HOME NOW**

Chag  
Kasheer  
V'Sameach





HUGE Mazal Tov to  
**Aidan Huberman**  
on his Bar Mitzvah!  
We can't wait to  
celebrate with you!

## Happy Anniversary

*Raphy & Rivka  
Nissel  
Shaked & Andrea  
Berenson*

## Yahrtzeits

**Robert Greenspan**  
Ruben Feivel ben Chaim z"l  
Father of  
**Evan Greenspan**  
Yahrtzeit - 13 Nissan

### Reminder

Start counting the Omer  
in the evening after  
Maariv, starting the  
Second Night of  
Passover, April 23rd.

**Dora Ross**  
Devorah bat David a"h  
Mother of  
**David Ross**  
Yahrtzeit - 13 Nissan



## Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to **Winnie  
& Richard Shamos**  
on the birth of a baby boy!

## Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to **David &  
Wendy Meller**  
on the birth of a  
granddaughter

**Sam Praw**  
Shalom ben Hanoch Eliezer z"l  
Father of  
**Ruthie Kellerman**  
Yahrtzeit - 13 Nissan

## Thank you to Seder Sponsors

**Jon & Lili Bosse; Regina Goldberger** in  
memory of Ernie, who was at last year's  
Seder; **Raphy & Rivka Nissel; Nathaniel  
Roden; Naty & Debbie Saidoff;**  
and an anonymous donor.

## Passover Resources

### [CHAMETZ SALE FORM](#)

Please return completed  
Chametz Sale forms by  
Sunday, April 21st at  
10:00am.

[yinbh.org/chametz](http://yinbh.org/chametz)

### [MAOT CHITIM/ PASSOVER FUND](#)

Rabbi Dunner will  
distribute the funds  
locally and in Israel.  
Donate online at  
[yinbh.org/donate](http://yinbh.org/donate) and  
select "maot  
chitim/passover fund"  
from the donation type  
dropdown.

### [PRINTABLE PASSOVER SCHEDULE](#)

[yinbh.org/schedule](http://yinbh.org/schedule)

**Nathan Sweetbaum**  
Natan ben Yitzchak z"l  
Father of  
**Judith Garshofsky  
Liz Greenspan**  
Husband of  
**Shirley Sweetbaum**  
Yahrtzeit - 14 Nissan

**Relaxed parking for Passover** will  
be in effect Monday, 4/22/2024 from  
6PM until Wednesday, 4/24/2024 at  
9:30PM and then again starting on  
Sunday, 4/28/2024 at 6PM until  
Tuesday, 4/30/2024 at 9:30PM.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to **Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner** for  
Sponsoring the Siyyum Bechorim on Erev  
Pesach in memory of Rabbi Dunner's late  
Grandfather, **Rav Yosef Tzvi HaLevi Dunner  
z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on Erev Pesach. Pesach  
cookies and soft drinks will be provided.

Thank you to **George Fischmann** and **Moshe  
Sassover** who will be completing the last few  
lines of Masechet Bava Kama for the Siyyum  
Bechorim.

Thank you to **Evan & Liz Greenspan** for  
sponsoring the kiddushes following services on  
the first two days of Yom Tov in memory of  
Evan's father **Robert Greenspan, Reuven  
Feivel ben Chaim z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on the  
13th of Nissan; and in memory of Liz's father,  
**Nathan Sweetbaum, Natan ben Yitzchak z"l**,  
whose yahrtzeit is on the 14th of Nissan.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mojie Neydavood  
Jessica Akhavan  
Jaime Sohacheski  
George Schaeffer  
Andrea Feldberg  
Marian Merritt  
Sepideh Eliahoo  
Richard Shamos  
Uri Dunner



# SOLIDARITY TRIP TO ISRAEL

## FRIDAY JUNE 21 - WEDNESDAY JUNE 26

Trip includes accommodations at the Inbal Hotel, airport transfers, transportation within Israel, security, site visits, support staff & all meals. PARTICIPANTS WILL ARRANGE THEIR OWN TRAVEL TO ISRAEL, & TRAVEL INSURANCE.

Cost: \$3100 per person with double occupancy • Single Supplement \$500

Contact Carly for sponsorship opportunities

## SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

Shabbat, April 20th

Drasha 6:25pm • Mincha 7:15pm

**OPENING  
DOORS,  
POURING  
OUT WRATH**

Elijah's Promise and  
Our Quest for  
Justice on Seder  
Night

Sponsored by  
**George & Suzi Fischmann**  
in memory of Suzi's father,  
**Laszlo Weiss,**  
**Shmuel ben Yosef ha Levi z"l,**  
whose yahrtzeit is on  
the 17th of Iyyar



**Rabbi Pini  
Dunner**

Rabbi Dunner takes us to the heart of a cherished Passover tradition: opening our doors for Elijah the Prophet towards the end of the Seder, as we solemnly declare 'Shefoch Chamatcha El Hagoyim Asher Lo Yeda'ucha' - 'Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You.' What is the origin of this strange custom? Why does Elijah the Prophet appear at our Seder? How does the harsh sentiments of 'Shefoch Chamatcha' fit in with the Seder night theme? Rabbi Dunner examines the origins and significance of inviting Elijah into our homes juxtaposed with the powerful plea to God to pour out His divine wrath upon oppressors, uncovering the layers of meaning behind these rituals and how they challenge us to reflect on what celebrating the Exodus from Egypt is all about.

## BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

### PASSOVER SCHEDULE 5784/2024

#### Sunday, April 21st

8:00am..... Shacharit  
7:15pm..... Mincha/Maariv  
8:09pm..... Bedikat Chometz  
**Chametz must be sold by 8:09pm**

#### EREV PESACH/TAANIT BECHORIM

#### Monday, April 22nd

7:00am..... Shacharit  
7:40am..... Siyum Bechorim  
**SIYUM SPONSORED BY RABBI PINI & SABINE**  
**DINNER IN MEMORY OF RABBI J. H. DUNNER Z"l**  
10:15am..... Latest time for eating chometz  
11:33am..... Latest time for burning chometz

7:13pm..... Candle Lighting\*\*  
7:10pm..... Mincha/Kabbalat Yom Tov/Maariv  
7:30pm..... YINBH SEDER

#### \*EAT AFIKOMAN BEFORE 12:51AM\*

\*\*Brachot: *Le'hadlik Ner Shel YomTov* and *Shehecheyanu*

\*\*A 24hr candle should also be lit before 7:13pm

#### FIRST DAY OF YOMTOV

#### Tuesday, April 23rd

#### NO GEMARA SHIUR

9:00am..... Shacharit  
11:00am..... Mussaf with *Tefillat Tal*  
7:00pm..... Mincha  
7:15pm..... Maariv/Sefirat Ha'omer  
8:00pm..... Candlelighting\*\*/  
Sefirat Ha'omer / Second Night Seder begins  
**\*EAT AFIKOMAN BEFORE 12:51AM\***  
\*\*Light should be taken from an existing flame  
\*\*Brachot: *Le'hadlik Ner Shel YomTov* and *Shehecheyanu*

#### SECOND DAY OF YOMTOV

#### Wednesday, April 24th

8:15am..... Gemara Shiur with Rabbi Dunner  
9:00am..... Shacharit  
7:20pm..... Mincha  
7:30pm..... Shiur  
8:09pm..... Maariv / Havdalah

**For Chol Hamoed & last days see insert**

LIVE MUSIC  
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT  
GOURMET BARBECUE  
GIANT LAWN GAMES



TUESDAY MAY 14 • 4:30 PM  
RSVP: [YINBH.ORG/BBQ](http://YINBH.ORG/BBQ)  
PRIVATE ESTATE, BEVERLY HILLS

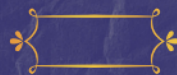
JOIN US IN CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 76TH BIRTHDAY WITH COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS!

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL GALA BANQUET  
SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2024

HONORING TWO GENERATIONS OF SERVICE TO YINBH

JOSEPH & GALINA  
SAMUEL



STEPHEN & JESSICA  
SAMUEL