

# Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by  
**Cecile & Ed Gromis** in memory of Cecile's mother,  
**Anna Silberspitz, Chana bat Shimon a"h**, whose  
yahrtzeit is on the 13th of Tishrei.

8-10 Tishrei • Shabbat Shuva • Ha'Azinu • Yom Kippur

September 22-25, 2023

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

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Dear Members and Friends,

One of the most fundamental questions we need to ask ourselves on Yom Kippur – and, indeed, answer! – is: “Who am I”? The trouble is, most of us don’t bother asking that question because it seems pointless. We assume we know the answer without much introspection, so why bother asking it? We know who

our parents are or were; we know which community we belong to; we know which country we live in; we know what our daily schedule is – and so it goes on. If we were compelled to compose a tidy list of bullet points describing who we are, it would surely prove to be one of the easiest tasks we’ve ever been given. But would that list, that summary of affiliations and roles, genuinely represent who we are? Or is there a deeper layer, often overlooked, that defines our true essence?

Masters of the nineteenth-century Mussar movement – which focused heavily on Jewish ethical teachings and on striving to live a moral life – were determined to propel the question of “Who am I?” to the forefront of our minds. And although they differed in approach, all agreed that self-awareness is the only route to self-improvement. Superficial knowledge of the facts of our lives is merely a smokescreen that masks the truth of who we really are. Meanwhile, diving into the depths of our souls or inner selves and trying to get to the bottom of our individualities might just reveal surprising, and sometimes unsettling truths about what makes us tick.

This idea was vividly brought home to me in a recent article I read about two 67-year-old Canadians: Richard Beauvais and Eddy Ambrose. Richard Beauvais grew up believing himself to be part of the Métis people, a distinct Indigenous nation from the Canadian Prairies, with a unique history, culture, language, and way of life. Simultaneously, Eddy Ambrose was raised in a Ukrainian catholic community in Manitoba. He was deeply immersed in Ukrainian traditions and had a particular fondness for pierogies.

Then, two years ago, Richard Beauvais’s daughter became interested in her family ancestry and did a DNA test. Surprisingly, the results revealed no Indigenous roots whatsoever. Instead, she discovered that her father came from Ashkenazi Jewish, Ukrainian, and Polish stock. Richard, who had always identified as Métis, brushed off the results and tried to get on with his life in British Columbia. But, as luck would have it, Eddy Ambrose simultaneously faced a similar revelation. Despite having grown up as a Ukrainian catholic, his DNA test indicated he was actually Métis.

After finding each other via the DNA testing website and enduring a tortuous journey through official records, the two men eventually concluded that they had been accidentally switched at birth after being born hours apart at a rural Canadian hospital. For 65 years, each had lived out the other one’s life. Mr. Beauvais suffered a challenging childhood, exacerbated by Canada’s harsh treatment of Indigenous communities which eventually saw him end up in foster

care, while Mr. Ambrose relished a joyful upbringing surrounded by the warm Ukrainian traditions of his family, although he was utterly disconnected from his actual roots. The discovery of who they really were compelled both men to reevaluate their identities, with each of them striving to reconstruct a potential past and grasp its implications.

This story reminded me of another extraordinary story that occurred almost twenty years ago. In 2005, Jeremy Paxman – at the time one of the UK’s best-known political interviewers – agreed to participate in a TV program called “Who Do You Think You Are?”, in which “celebrities study their lineages and family trees, usually learning surprising secrets they never knew about their families.” Although Paxman told a reporter that “most television” is “rubbish”, he said he had agreed to do the program because he thought that the chance to explore some “social history” might be a worthwhile exercise.

But despite his initial cynicism about the program, and his general attitude of skepticism, the normally tough and impassive Paxman was unexpectedly reduced to tears on camera after discovering that his great, great, great grandmother had been a domestic servant in Scotland who died in her thirties of tuberculosis and exhaustion. “Hundreds of thousands of people must have lived like this and died like this,” he noted. “I don’t know these people, I wouldn’t recognize them if I fell on them, but I’m connected to them.”

Most of us don’t have such dramatic secrets in our own past, or in our family’s past, but at the same time, most of us also have no real sense of who we are beyond some superficial family narratives that are conveniently airbrushed so that they align with the way we live our lives in the present. But the truth is: knowing who we are as people is not just about us knowing what we like having for breakfast, or what our favorite color is. While such trivial information may help us get through our day, it will never enable us to become the best version of ourselves that we can be.

When we sit in shul on Yom Kippur, reflecting on the past year and looking ahead to the next, we need to do more than just cherry-pick those pieces of information that keep us in safe and comfortable territory. We must be acutely aware of our parents and ancestors, the sacrifices they made so that they could be true to their heritage, and the importance they placed on ensuring that their children could have the best possible lives. Most importantly, we need to delve deeply into who we are as people, and leave no stone unturned in the quest to discover our true selves and the essence of who we really are. We don’t need a DNA test to do that, and we don’t need to comb through ancient archives. We can simply be open with ourselves and be ready to admit that life is more than a list of bullet points. And if we do it properly, that is what will turn Yom Kippur from just another day into a truly life-changing experience.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom, G’mar Chatimah Tova and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:32 PM CANDLELIGHTING

6:30PM MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT

## SATURDAY, SEPT 23

8:30AM GEMARA SHIUR

9:15AMSHACHARIT

1:00PM SHABBAT SHUVA DRASHA

6:35PM MINCHA

6:55PM SEUDAH SHLISHIT

7:25PM MAARIV

7:27 PM SHABBAT ENDS

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

EREV YOM KIPPUR

7:45AM SELICHOT

8:30AM SHACHARIT

*Followed by Kapparot with coins*

2:00PM MINCHA

6:29 PM CANDLELIGHTING

6:30PM KOL NIDREI

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

YOM KIPPUR

7:45AM GEMARA SHIUR

8:30AM PESUKEI DEZIMRA

10:20AM TORAH SERVICE

11:00AM SERMON

11:20AM YIZKOR

11:40AM MUSAF

2-4:30PM BREAK

4:30PM MINCHA

5:45PM PRE-NEILA SERMON

6:00PM NEILA

7:24PM SHOFAR/MAARIV/FAST ENDS

## WEEKDAY DAVENING

Tu- Thurs 7:00am 6:25pm

Fri 7:00am 6:25pm

# Let's Talk Sisterhood

with Gina Raphael & Maryjo Schnitzer

We hope everyone had an inspiring and joyful celebration with family & friends this Rosh Hashana.

We have a lot to look forward to this year 5784. Please continue to join and support our events!

Wishing all an easy and meaningful fast. G'mar chatima tova.



## Thank You

Larry & Judith Garshofsky, Bill & Joan Lopatin, and Joe & Galina Samuel for sponsoring the flowers in the Synagogue for Yom Kippur.

## LIVE VIRTUAL YIZKOR SERVICE

### יזכור



SUNDAY  
September 24th,  
11:00am PST via zoom

Zoom Code: 310 276 7650  
Password: yinbh

## Paul Feder z"l Gemara Shiur

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי

Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara Shiur on Shabbat  
45 minutes before Shacharit

## Yahrtzeits



### Rose Schaeffer

Reizel bat Yaakov a"h

Mother of

### George Schaeffer

Yahrtzeit - 12 Tishrei

### Anna Silberspitz

Chana bat Shimon a"h

Mother of

### Cecile Gromis

Yahrtzeit - 13 Tishrei

### Estelle Abelson

Eshka Leba bat Yitzchak

v'Yental a"h

Mother of

### Joan Lopatin

Yahrtzeit - 14 Tishrei

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SHANI ELHANI

SARA SILKIN

SIMON ELHANI

SCOTT SILVER

DYLAN KESTENBAUM

RABBI PINI DUNNER

LIEF ROSENBLATT

JANETTE HERSKOVITZ

LILA PERL

## Happy Anniversary

Jacques & Natalie  
Wizman

Thank you to everyone who purchased Arba Minim Sets through the Synagogue

Your sets can be picked up in the Synagogue on

- Thursday, September 28th from 9am - 5:30pm
- Erev Sukkot Friday, September 29th from 9am-1pm
- or we can leave your set(s) for you in the shul for you to pick up on the second day of Sukkot.



Thank you to  
**Raphy & Rivka Nissel** for  
sponsoring Kiddush Luncheon in  
memory of Rivka's  
mother **Ildiko Liebermann, Pessl**  
**bat Yoel A"H**  
whose Yahrtzeit is  
on 5th Tishrei

### Men's Mikvah Hours for Erev Yom Kippur, 8am - 10am ONLY

Please press the buzzer or use your fob to be let into the garage. Once in the garage, go straight to the Mikvah entrance in the garage to dunk.

### PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL.

We ask for a \$18 donation for those utilizing the YINBH Mikvah. You can pay online at [yinbh.org/donate](http://yinbh.org/donate), Select "Mikvah" from the donation dropdown.

If you prefer to pay via check or cash, please put them in the pushka in the Mikvah waiting area. Checks can be made payable to "YINBH Mikvah".



# Yinbh Mikvah



## HOURS

The Mikvah is open every evening including Shabbat, Yom Tov and Motzei Shabbat.  
Kallah appointments also available.  
All appointments must be made in advance.

## TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

[www.yinbh.org/mikvah](http://www.yinbh.org/mikvah) or Download the MikvahCloud app



## OUR LOCATION

9261 Alden Drive  
Beverly Hills

## CONTACT US

310-299-1792 (Text Only)  
[www.yinbh.org/mikvah](http://www.yinbh.org/mikvah)

# Coming Up

The 5784 Season of

## the Real Housewives OF THE TORAH

CAN'T HAVE A CHILD  
AT MY AGE? LOOK  
WHO'S LAUGHING NOW

TRUST ME. I KNOW  
HOW TO GET AHEAD IN  
LIFE.

NOVEMBER 13TH DECEMBER 11TH

SARAH

JUDITH

5:30-6pm Light Dinner  
6-6:45pm Lecture

\$54/event; \$72/both  
[YINBH.ORG/HOUSEWIVES](http://YINBH.ORG/HOUSEWIVES)

YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue  
9261 Alden Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE  
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

## Rabbi Dunner's Shabbat Shuva Drasha

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD  
AFTER LUNCH

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN SHUL

Is It Appropriate  
To Have Live  
Music To  
Accompany  
Tefillot?



## FRIDAY NIGHT Dinner

CELEBRATING RABBI DUNNER'S  
10TH ANNIVERSARY AT YINBH  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

\$125 PER PERSON

RSVP AT  
[YINBH.ORG/DINNER](http://YINBH.ORG/DINNER)

9261 ALDEN DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS 90210 • 310-276-7650 • [OFFICE@YINBH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@YINBH.ORG)

YOM  
KIPPUR  
EVE



## Toddlers

## Preschoolers

## School-Aged

6:30 PM

Soft Play

Beit Medrash

Free Play/Game Room

Patio

9 AM

Soft Play

Beit Medrash

Free Play/Game Room

Patio

10:00 AM

High Holiday Circle Time With Rebbetzin Mushky

Beit Medrash



"Mini-Yan" With Rabbi Aryeh

Social Hall

10:45 AM



Bubblemania Show & Play

Beit Medrash

Kiddush Club/Garden



SportBall

Patio

11:45 AM



Lunch

Social Hall

12:00 PM

Soft Play

Beit Medrash



Sportball Coach

Patio



Master Cesar Karate

Youth Room

1:00 PM



Master Cesar Karate

Beit Medrash



Lego Party With Amazing Kids Co.

Youth Room

4:40 PM

Soft Play

Beit Medrash

Free Play/Game Room

Patio

5:30 PM

Dinner

Social Hall

6:00 PM



Billy Bonkers Comedy Magic Show

Beit Medrash

YOM  
KIPPUR  
DAY

