

# Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by  
**Brigitte Silkin & Alan Schwartz** in memory of  
Brigitte's brother, **Philippe Anzel, Chaim ben  
Charles z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 28th of Adar.

25 Adar • Parshiot Vayakhel-Pekudei • Birkat HaChodesh • Parshat HaChodesh

March 17-18, 2023

**Steven Dorfman, President**

**Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi**

**www.yinbh.org**

310-276-7650 • office@yinbh.org



Dear Members and Friends,

One of the most cataclysmic periods in modern history was the French Revolution, which started in the late 1780s and continued until the mid-1790s. What began as a popular revolution against royal sovereignty, and against the power of the aristocracy and the church, eventually descended into a frenzy of violence and bloodshed. The heavily orchestrated anarchy of the "Reign of Terror", as it became known, was promoted by the revolution's enthusiasts as a necessary instrument to ensure a proper break with the ancien regime that had dominated France for centuries.

The prime mover behind the more extreme elements of the revolution, and ultimately the leader of its most violent phase, was Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794), a small-town lawyer from humble origins who used his rhetorical skills and single-minded dedication to the revolutionary cause to propel himself to the top. Robespierre was heavily influenced by the purist political philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), and frequently cited Rousseau's ideas in his speeches and writings. Robespierre admired Rousseau's emphasis on popular sovereignty, the general will, and civic virtue, and he saw these ideas as crucial to the success of the French Revolution.

Rousseau's abhorrence for the existing order fed heavily into Robespierre's vehement opposition to the monarchy and aristocracy – which exceeded the attitude of the moderate revolutionaries who aimed for a constitutional monarchy – and consequently Robespierre played a key role in the execution of the French king, Louis XVI, and his wife, Queen Marie Antoinette. Eventually, however, as the Reign of Terror became ever more unendurable even for his fellow revolutionaries, and after having several of his former fellow-travelers guillotined based on paranoid accusations of disloyalty to the revolution, Robespierre's popularity waned, and he was arrested and then executed by guillotine on July 28, 1794.

One of the most astounding aspects of Robespierre's brief stint at the top is that he was universally known – if somewhat begrudgingly by his enemies – as "the incorruptible", a title he earned because of his solid reputation for honesty and integrity, and his utter dedication to the principles of the revolution. He was recognized as a man of unwavering principles who could not be bribed or influenced by personal gain or political favors.

Robespierre never married and was notorious for his austere, ascetic lifestyle, focusing all his energy on his political career rather than pursuing romantic relationships or personal interests. This contrasted with his predecessor as head of the revolution, Honoré Gabriel Riqueti de Mirabeau (1749-1791), who played a key role in drafting the Declaration of the Rights of Man, but whose reputation was later tarnished by allegations of corruption, after it was discovered that he accepted money and gifts from King Louis.

What is astounding about Robespierre being known as "the incorruptible" is that he is simultaneously acknowledged as a murderous monster of a man, who was personally responsible for the summary execution of thousands of innocent people – some

estimates suggest that as many as 40,000 people were executed during the Reign of Terror, which lasted for a year – while he also presided over the arrest of hundreds of thousands of others, and the misery of millions. How exactly can his raw use of power and flagrant facilitation of violence have ever been correlated with incorruptibility?

I think the answer lies in a distortion of the meaning of corrupt, which, beginning in the Age of Enlightenment, and sadly ever since, has become associated with integrity that is purely material, unassociated with anything metaphysical or God-related. As long as someone's amorality and wickedness are tied to a "just" cause, and not to personal gain, they cannot be considered corrupt – or so the argument goes. Robespierre was very forthright about this idea, openly declaring that "virtue without terror is impotent." To him virtue and terror were interlinked, and if the objective of terror was a "just" cause, the end always justified the means.

It goes without saying that Judaism utterly rejects this warped ideal. Evidence can be found throughout the Hebrew scriptures and Talmud that any result achieved via insufferable acts is considered abhorrent, even if that result is desirable. Proverbs declares that it is "better to be hapless and blameless, than to be successful and crooked." (Prov. 28:6). The Talmud informs us that Joab, King David's nephew and military chief-of-staff, was ultimately executed as much for his underhanded tactics and personal-agenda driven extra-judicial killings as he was for his treachery (San. 49a).

And there is also a wonderful Midrash on Parshat Pekudei which perfectly encapsulates this ideal. According to R. Tanhuma bar Abba, the verse in Proverbs (28:20), **אִישׁ אֱמוּנוֹת רַב בְּרִכּוֹת** – "a trustworthy man will receive many blessings," is talking about to Moses. Although Moses is not mentioned by name, he is hinted at via word association, based on the biblical verse (Num. 12:7):

**בְּכָל בֵּיתִי נֶאֱמָן הוּא** – "[Moses] is trusted throughout My household."

In his Mikdash HaLevi commentary on the parsha, my grandfather, Rav Yosef Tzvi Dunner (1913-2007), notes that Proverbs uses the plural "emunot" to describe trustworthiness, as opposed to "emunah," in the singular. His explanation for this anomaly is nothing short of inspirational. Integrity and trustworthiness have no value, he says, if they are entirely temporal, namely: based on a human being's limited ability to determine right from wrong. Consequently, we must always be aware that there is a parallel, divine strand of "ne'emanut" – trustworthiness – that runs alongside its worldly counterpart, without which integrity and trustworthiness have no intrinsic value.

If it is just emunah, and not emunot, in the plural, even "the incorruptible" can become a mass murderer of epic proportions. But Moshe was an "ish emunot" – he possessed integrity that was both of this world and of the spiritual realm – which was why he was beloved by God, and why his example as a beacon of true incorruptibility has endured for all time.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 17	SATURDAY, MARCH 18
6:44pm CANDLELIGHTING	8:30am GEMARA SHIUR
6:30pm KABBALAT SHABBAT	9:15 am SHACHARIT
	6:50 pm MINCHA
	7:40 pm MAARIV
	7:41 pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING		
Sun	8:00am	6:50pm
Mon-Thu	7:00am	6:50pm
Fri	7:00am	6:30pm
ROSH CHODESH IS THURSDAY		

**YINBH WELCOMES**  
**Rabbi Joseph Dweck**  
Who will speak at  
approximately 11 am.

See details on page 3

# Sisterhood Corner

March/ April

**Our next YINBH Book Group read!**

*The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi

Rescheduled to Thursday, April 20th  
at 7:30 pm

Address will be provided upon RSVP

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

Get ready for an insightful discussion!

## First Night Seder

Wednesday, April 5th 7:30 pm

Seder led by Rabbi Pini Dunner

Accompanied by gourmet glatt kosher  
international wine

**We see a paint night with wine and  
cheese coming...**

Stay tuned after Pesach!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Mehdi &  
Khroshid Eshaghian

and

Michael Lavaee &  
Korinna Kaplani

## Thank You

This weeks Parsha Shiur is  
sponsored by **Cecile and Ed  
Gromis** in memory of Cecile's  
father, **Irving Silberspitz,  
Yitzchak ben Avraham Aba z"l**,  
whose yahrtzeit is on the  
5th of Nissan

# YAHRTZEITS



## Philippe Anzel

Chaim ben Charles z"l

Brother of

## Brigitte Silkin

Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

## Katarina de Widder

Chaia Pearl Esther bat  
Menachem Mendel a"h

Mother of

## George Fischmann

Yahrtzeit - 27 Adar

## Avraham Elhiani

Avraham ben Masoud z"l

Father of

## Simon Elhiani

Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

## Raymond Mann Fine

Rachmiel ben Shmuel z"l

Father of

## Richard Fine

Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

## Samuel Hodara

Shmuel ben Baruch z"l

Father of

## Patrick Hodara

Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

## Joan Joseph

Yehudis bat Yitzchak a"h

Mother of

## Emma Almond

Yahrtzeit - 26 Adar

## Eva Singer

Bluma bat Chaim Yehuda a"h

Sister of

## George Fischmann

Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July Hodara

Andre Rosenblatt

Jesse Shaked

Ariel Richter

Edward Tanenbaum

Benjamin Imanuel

Cecile Gromis

Emma Almond

Vera Markowitz

Vivian Novack

Rina Lauchmeimer

Isabella Kest

Elliot Sassover

## 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

## Passover 2023

April 5th- 13th, 2023

We have a limited quantity of hand-  
baked shmura matzah available to our  
members. We will be selling them for  
\$38/1lb box. First come, first served.  
To order, visit [www.yinbh.org/shmura](http://www.yinbh.org/shmura)



Chametz Sale Form is available to  
download at [yinbh.org/chametz](http://yinbh.org/chametz). Copies  
of the Chametz Sale Form are available in  
at the Synagogue. Please fill it in, scan it,  
and email it to [office@yinbh.org](mailto:office@yinbh.org) by  
Tuesday, April 4th at 10am.



Passover Seder on the first night of  
Passover - Wednesday, April 5th.  
Gourmet Glatt Kosher, Private Chef.  
See Flyer and RSVP at [yinbh.org/seder](http://yinbh.org/seder)



The OU Guide to Passover is available  
for Pickup in the lobby. You can also  
find the guide online at  
[www.oukosher.org/passover](http://www.oukosher.org/passover)



Join the Pesach 2023 WhatsApp Group.  
Rabbi Dunner will be answering any  
questions you have and posting Pesach  
related updates.  
To join goto [www.yinbh.org/whatsapp](http://www.yinbh.org/whatsapp)



# THANK YOU

Kiddush is sponsored by **Barry Novack & Annie Baum** in honor of their new granddaughter, **Madeline Heidi Boiarsky, Miriam Emunah**. Mazal Tov to parents **Danielle Novack & Jonathan Boiarsky**.

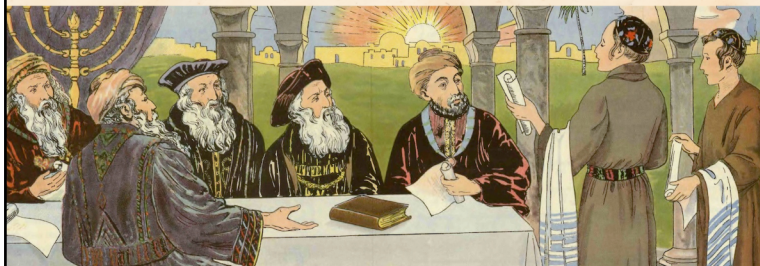
Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by **Emma & Paul Almond** in memory of Emma's mother, **Joan Joseph, Yehudis bat Yitzchak a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 26th of Adar.

## Our Guest Speaker



**Rabbi Joseph Dweck** studied in Jerusalem at Yeshiva Hazon Ovadia under the tutelage of former Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, has a Master of Arts Degree in Jewish Education, and is currently working toward a Masters in Psychotherapy. In his capacity as Senior Rabbi, he also oversees the Sephardi Beth Din and the Sephardi Kashrut Authority. He is the Deputy President of the London School of Jewish Studies; a President of The Council of Christians and Jews, and an Ecclesiastical Authority to the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Rabbi Dweck also serves as a member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of European Rabbis.

**BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE**  
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



## SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

# All Night Long

## THE INSIDE STORY OF JEWISH HISTORY'S MOST FAMOUS SEDER

with **Rabbi Pini Dunner**

The Haggadah recalls the story of five Talmudic sages who spent the entire night regaling each other with details of the Exodus story, so much so that their students had to remind them it was morning, and that they had to say Shema! What is the backstory to this remarkable Seder? What lesson is the Haggadah trying to teach us by including it? And what have the commentaries over the ages had to say about this marathon historical Pesach experience? Rabbi Dunner will regale you with insights and nuggets that illuminate and unpack this curious episode as never before.

**SHABBOS, APRIL 1ST, 2023 6:15PM**

**THE RABBI WILL RECORD THE DRASHA AFTER SHABBOS  
AND THE LINK WILL BE SENT OUT ON SUNDAY**

# PASSOVER SCHEDULE 5783/2023

## Tuesday, April 4th

7:00am Shacharit  
10:00am Deadline for selling chometz  
7:05pm Mincha/Maariv  
7:31 pm **BEDIKAT CHAMETZ**

## EREV PESACH/TAANIT BECHORIM

## Wednesday, April 5th

7:00am Shacharit  
7:30am Siyum for Firstborns  
**SIYUM SPONSORED BY RABBI PINI & SABINE  
DUNNER IN MEMORY OF RABBI J. H. DUNNER Z"l**  
10:49am Latest time for eating chometz  
11:53am Latest time for burning chometz  
6:59pm Candle Lighting\*\*  
7:10pm Mincha/Kabbalat Yom Tov/Maariv  
7:30pm YINBH SEDER LED BY RABBI PINI DUNNER  
7:55pm Earliest time for Kiddush

## \*EAT AFIKOMAN BEFORE 12:55AM\*

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

\*\*A 24hr candle should also be lit before 6:59pm

\*\*Do "Eruv Tavshilin" BEFORE CANDLELIGHTING so that you can eat food on Shabbat that was prepared on Yomtov.

## FIRST DAY OF YOMTOV

## Thursday, April 6th

## NO GEMARA SHIUR

9:00am Shacharit  
11:00am Mussaf with *Tefillat Tal*  
7:10pm Mincha  
7:25pm Maariv/Sefirat Ha'omer  
7:56pm Candlelighting\*\*  
7:56pm Earliest time for Kiddush  
**\*EAT AFIKOMAN BEFORE 12:55AM\***

\*\*Light should be taken from an existing flame

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

## SECOND DAY OF YOMTOV

## Friday, April 7th

8:15am Rabbi's Gemara Shiur  
9:00am Shacharit  
6:30pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat  
**\*CANDLELIGHTING NO LATER THAN 7:01PM\***

**See Sperate Schedule Card for Chol Hamoed and  
Last Days of Passover.**



# First Night SEDER

Wednesday, April 5th 2023

*Gourmet glatt kosher  
International wine  
selection*

**SEDER LED BY  
RABBI  
PINI  
DUNNER**

**EARLY BIRD  
BEFORE MARCH 20TH  
ADULT \$195 • CHILD \$110**

**AFTER MARCH 20TH - ADULT \$210 • CHILD \$125**

**[www.yinbh.org/seder](http://www.yinbh.org/seder)**

**ישיבת ינב"ה**  
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE

