

Tefilla Notebook

This Week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **Joanne Sacks & Tuvia Ganz** in memory of Joanne's mother, **Sarah Chaya bat Aryeh HaCohen a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 28th of Iyyar.

22 Iyyar • Behar - Bechukotai

May 12-13, 2023

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

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Dear Members and Friends,

Last month, a CNBC article revealed a new TikTok trend – popular TikTokers are urging their young followers to spend as much money as possible, and specifically on travel, so that they create life-changing experiences they may later regret not having had. Unlike previous generations, whose money-spending habits were influenced by

TV, print media, and their peers, millennials and Gen Z'ers are much more likely to spend money as a result of the ubiquitous influence of social media personalities and YouTubers.

The CNBC article fleshed out the new craze in vivid detail: "the popular 'I'll make the money back, but I'll never be in my 20s traveling to [insert exotic location]' trend features videos of young people embarking on grand adventures around the world – swimming in the Mediterranean, scootering through the streets of Paris, hiking up volcanoes in Guatemala and running through fields of flowers in Iceland."

Understandably, older generations are shocked. They can understand the allure of lavish and memorable travel experiences, and they can even comprehend the attraction of wanting to get those experiences in while still young. Still, the cost of it all seems to defy responsible financial conduct – and especially in the current economic climate. After all, there's record student loan debt, interest rates are constantly going up, rent prices are rising and rising, and inflation is at the highest it's been for forty years. Is it really such a good idea for the younger generation to prioritize spending on fancy vacations over saving or investing their money for the future?

Truthfully, it's an age-old dilemma. Should we hoard and stockpile what we have for the proverbial "rainy day" – or should we use what we have right now, and hope that the future will provide what we need when we need it? The American essayist, poet, and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), once proclaimed that "money often costs too much." He was referring to people who become so focused on accumulating wealth for the future that oftentimes they forget to live in the present and enjoy life.

And there is a price to pay when you hold on to what you have and are overly parsimonious – and that price is not just that you are living a miserable life. The long-term impact of not spending money is actually bad for the economy. Economists refer to the effects of healthy spending habits as the "multiplier effect." This means that when people spend money, that money creates income for others, who now also have more money, leading to further rounds of spending, thereby creating a positive ripple effect throughout the economy.

Meanwhile, when people stop spending, the exact opposite happens. Any decrease in spending reduces demand for goods and services, which can lead to a decrease in production and ultimately, job losses. Consumer spending is an important driver of economic growth and job creation, which is why policymakers often try to stimulate consumer spending during economic downturns. All of which seems to vindicate the seemingly profligate TikTok influencers – as it turns out, they are the ones on the right track, and the fiscally

conservative older generations are just a bunch of party-poopers.

There is a curious verse that relates to this phenomenon in Parshat Behar, in the passage about shemitta – the seventh year of the agricultural cycle, during which farmers are not permitted to do any work in their fields. Instead, they must leave their fields fallow, and can only recommence cultivating the land in the eighth year.

In an agrarian economy entirely reliant on crops, the idea that every farmer desists from any agricultural activity for an entire year must have been a very frightening prospect. Unusually, God responds to the anticipated resistance – and this is long before anyone had ever observed shemitta, or even set foot in the Promised Land (Lev. 25:20):

וְכִי תֹאמְרוּ מַה נֹּאכֵל בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִית הֵן לֹא נִזְרַע וְלֹא נִאֶסַף אֶת תְּבוּאָתֵינוּ וְצִוִּיתִי אֶת בְּרַכְתִּי לָכֶם בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁשִׁית וְעָשִׂיתִי אֶת הַתְּבוּאָה לְשָׁלֹשֶׁת הַשָּׁנִים – "I will ensure My blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it shall yield a crop sufficient for three years."

So there you have it: a firm commitment from God that the crop in the sixth year – by which time the land should have been at its very weakest – will be miraculously bountiful and plentiful, enough for 3 years: the sixth, the seventh, and the eighth. But although this sounds wonderful, many of the commentaries are confounded by the logical flaw at the heart of this projected exchange between God and the doubters. In the projected scenario, before God's promise, if the yield in the sixth year is normal, as expected, why would anyone be concerned about food in the seventh year? Their storehouses will surely be full of everything they had gathered during the previous year's harvest. And why the promise of a harvest in the sixth year that will last through the end of the eighth year? Won't things be back to normal in the eighth year, with the farmers hard at work and the land producing crops as normal?

Rabbi Shimon Sofer (1820-1883), chief rabbi of Cracow in the latter half of the nineteenth century, offers a compelling interpretation that reveals his acumen as an expert on human nature. Yes, the storehouses will be full in the seventh year, but with no harvest that year, people will want to hoard as much of it as they can to use the following year – which is why they will ask "What are we to eat in the seventh year?" To which God will respond, "Don't worry, there will be enough of a harvest in the sixth year that it will last you for that year, and two more years – your reward for observing shemitta." So no need to hoard, and no need to worry. As long as you continue to work the land as God instructed, your material needs will always be met.

The message yielded by this curious aside is how important it is for us to remember that our material well-being is not solely reliant on meticulous financial planning. Of course, it is always wise to save and prepare for the future, but we must never forget to enjoy and appreciate the present. What's more, sacrificing our current quality of life for the sake of future financial security will inevitably cause us to lose sight of the fact that our ultimate provider is always God.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 12

7:28pm CANDLELIGHTING
6:30pm KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, MAY 13

8:30 am GEMARA SHIUR
9:15 am SHACHARIT
7:10 pm PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR
7:35 pm MINCHA
8:25 pm MAARIV
8:29pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING

Sun 8:00am 7:35pm
Mon-Thu 7:00am 7:35pm
Fri 7:00am 6:30pm

MAZAL TOV

Michael Podolny and Lauren Korbato on their upcoming wedding. Mazal Tov to parents **Igor and Lisa Korbato** and **Irene and Eugene Podolny**.

THANK YOU

Irene and Eugene Podolny for sponsoring the kiddush in honor of Michael's aufrit this Shabbat.

Sisterhood Corner

For Shavuot, Thursday May 25th, YINBH will once again offer a catered dairy dinner and an evening of learning. We hope everyone will come together to celebrate the holiday. Sign up at yinhb.org/shavuot.

On June 10th, YINBH will welcome Melanie Phillips as we celebrate a Shabbos of Womens' leadership, welcoming a dynamic voice of Modern Orthodoxy and as we recognize our women leaders at home. We hope each of you will join us to make the Shabbos beyond special.

HAVE A GRADUATE?

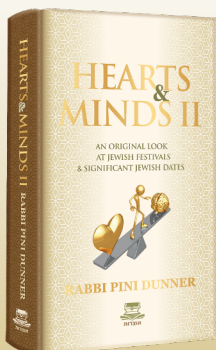
MEMBERS - If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating this year, please send their information to office@yinhb.org. Please include a photo, where they are graduating from, and the degree they are receiving.

We will be listing all the graduates in the June 22nd Tefilla Notebook.



Mazel Tov to **Arleen & Bart Tanenbaum** on the birth of a grandson, **Eyal Yaron**, born to **Asher & Jordana Tanenbaum** of Englewood, NJ.

COMING SOON



Hearts & Minds II

An Original Look at Jewish Festivals & Significant Jewish Dates

By Rabbi Pini Dunner

YAHRTZEITS



Sarah Chaya bat Aryeh HaCohen a"h

Mother of
Joanne Sacks
Yahrtzeit - 28 Iyyar

Sam Hawkins

Shmuel ben Shimon z"l
Father of
Susy Rubinstein
Yahrtzeit - 24 Iyyar

Sylvia Samson

Shayna bat Aryeh Leib a"h
Mother of
Lee Samson
Yahrtzeit - 26 Iyyar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joseph Baum

Stephen Samuel

Daniel Soroudi

AnnaBella Nutovic

Tova Sofer

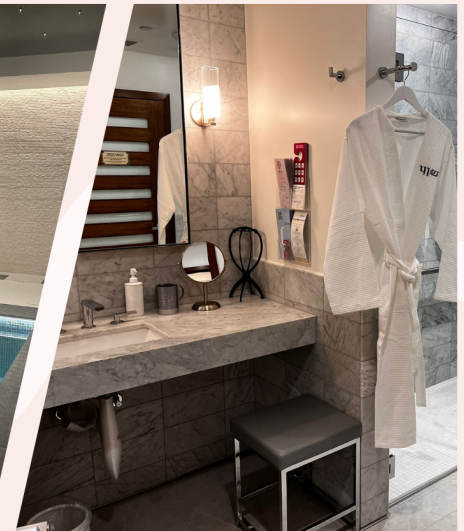
Flora Yamin

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

Yinhb 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.yinhb.org/mikvah or Download the MikvahCloud app



SHAVUOT DINNER

And Learnathon

THURSDAY, MAY 25TH 2023

Dinner Catered by
Trattoria Natalie

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| 7:30pm | | MINCHA | 9:30-9:45pm | | DESSERT BREAK |
| 7:37pm | | CANDLE LIGHTING | 9:45-10:30pm | | CLASS 2 |
| 7:40pm | | MAARIV | 10:30-10:45pm | | DESSERT BREAK |
| 8:00pm | | DINNER | 10:45-11:30pm | | CLASS 3 |
| 8:45-9:30pm | | CLASS 1 | 11:30-11:45pm | | ICE CREAM WRAP UP |

Featuring
Cheesecakes from
Magnolia Bakery



THREE CLASSES BY RABBI PINI DUNNER

MEGILLAT RUTH
MORE THAN JUST A STORY

1

**SECRETS OF THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS**
THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED

2

DNA IDENTITY
CAN SCIENCE PROVE I'M JEWISH?

3

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\$80 FOR ADULTS, \$60 FOR CHILDREN
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9261 Alden Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

LIVE VIRTUAL YIZKOR SERVICE

יזכור



Thursday May 25, 2023
11:00am PST via zoom

Zoom Code: 310 276 7650
Password: yinbh



We have two gorgeous displays of marble yahrtzeit plaques on the back walls of our sanctuary. This is a beautiful way of memorializing the names of departed loved ones. Yahrtzeit plaques cost \$1,800.

To order a plaque or for more information contact Madeline Kramer at
mkramer@yinbh.org

Yinbh Gala Banquet Committee

Chairs

Lee Samson • George & Irina Schaeffer

Committee

Michael & Susan Baum • Barry Novack & Annie Baum • Jonathan & Julie Boyer • William & June Brenner • Elliott & Robin Broidy • Hart & Debbie Cohen • Steven & Vivian Dorfman • Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner • Marty & Eva Feldberg • Howie & Shirin Fialkov • Richard & Shawney Fine • David & Gloria Frankel • Jerry & Jean Friedman • Larry & Judith Garshofsky • Bob Zeller & Nadine Gerson • Ernie & Regina Goldberger • Ed & Cecile Gromis • Phillip & Janice Kaufler • Jonathan & Faye Kellerman • Hillel & Ruthie Kellerman • Hillel Laks • Simon Elihani & Rita Lewkowicz • Marvin & Rachel Mandelbaum • Vera Markowitz • Stuart & Fran Miller • Raphy & Rivka Nissel • Michael & Ariella Novack • Jeff Gross & Gina Raphael • Howard & Judy Raykoff • Weston & Denise Richter • David & Auralee Ring • Eric & Hilary Rothman • Rosalyn Rothman • Elisha & Kellie Rothman • Simon & Susy Rubinstein • Franck & Evelina Ruimy • Tuvia Ganz & Joanne Sacks • Joe & Galina Samuel • Stephen & Jessica Samuel • Sunny & Debbie Sassoon • Moshe & Helen Sassover • Adam & Jesse Shaked • Aubrey & Jill Sharfman • Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski • Seymour & Grace Stoll • Bart & Arleen Tanenbaum • Sam & Sue Varon • JJ & Wendy Wallack • Jacques & Natalie Wizman • Rosalie Zalis

 BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

ANNUAL BANQUET

Honoring
BILL LOPATIN
WITH A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO
STEPHEN ROTHMAN Z"L



Sunday, May 21st, 2023

FEATURING THE FAB FOUR
AT JIM HENSON STUDIOS
1416 N La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90028

5:30pm
Cocktails

6:30pm
Dinner

8:00pm
Concert

RSVP at WWW.BHSBANQUET.COM