

Tefilla Notebook

10 Shevat • Bo

January 22-23, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JANUARY 22ND

CANDLELIGHTING 4:55pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 5:00pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD

PESUKEI D'ZIMRA 8:45AM

MORNING SERVICES 9:00AM

MINCHA 5:10pm

SHABBAT ENDS 6:00pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sunday 8:00am & 5:10pm
Mon- Fri 7:00am & 5:10pm

Services are also on zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/226829899>
Passcode: yinbh

THANK YOU

This week's Parsha Shiur is sponsored by **Aaron & Lillian Fuchs** and **Jason Fuchs** in memory of Aaron's sister and **Jason's Aunt, Shaindle Gutman, Shaindle Gittle bat Chaim Shaum a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on 11 Shevet

MISHLOACH MANOT PARTICIPANTS SO FAR:

Michael & Susan Baum
Michael & Maggie Bayer
Bill & June Brenner
Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner
Richard & Shawney Fine
Jason Fuchs
Aaron & Lillian Fuchs
Ernie & Regina Goldberger
Reuben & Becky Grabel
Daniel Gromis
Ed & Cecile Gromis
Chavi Hertz
Hillel & Ruthie Kellerman
Jonathan & Faye Kellerman
Ezra & Lauren Kest
Bill & Joan Lopatin
Vera Markowitz
Steve & Roz Rothman
Faramarz & Sheilagh Sadeghi
Lee Samson
Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski
Seymour & Grace Stoll
Nadine Gerson & Bob Zeller

Dear Members and Friends,

Have you ever heard of Riceman? Probably not. He's a YouTuber who will turn 28-years-old this Saturday. Born in Shanghai, China, his real name is actually Victor Li. Truthfully, though, his personal information has no bearing on what he is best known for.

Riceman is a self-declared 'social-experiment videographer', which is just another way of saying that he is an inveterate prankster who posts videos of his pranks to entertain his 1.7 million YouTube subscribers, so that they can see how his subjects react to pranks such as chair-pulling, changing the gender signs on public toilets, never-ending shampoo (don't ask!), and pretending to cut their hair. All of it appears to be nothing more than an excuse for unscripted Benny Hill Show type slapstick humor, and Riceman spends most of the time running away from his infuriated victims, or chortling to himself as they get evermore nonplussed by the situations they find themselves in.

Occasionally, however, Riceman stumbles onto a side of human nature that even he, in his rather childish clickbait reality TV filming, never expected to confront. In one of his so-called 'social experiments', he decided to inform random strangers that he was looking for his brother who had been missing for two months, and hand them a flyer with a photo of his 'missing' brother in an attempt to enlist their help.

One of the people he approached was a homeless man standing on the corner of a busy street who was holding up a sign that said: "U.S. Vet in need, please help." Riceman gave the man a bit of loose change, and then told him that his brother was missing and to let him know if he saw him. He gave him the flyer with the photo and a phone number to call if he spotted his brother. As soon as Riceman walked away, instead of holding up his own sign soliciting money to the passing cars, the homeless man held up Riceman's flyer. Despite his own desperate circumstances, and despite the fact that he didn't know Riceman or his 'brother', the man decided to stop seeking money for himself so that he could help find the missing man.

The video shows Riceman returning to the homeless guy to explain that it was all an experiment/prank, and to ask him why he had decided to hold up the missing person sign rather than his own sign asking for help. The man looked at Riceman with utmost surprise: "What kind of a person would I be if I didn't help someone else?" Riceman immediately gave him some more cash and they hugged. It's an unbelievable moment, a demonstration of human nature at its best. And since being uploaded in 2015, the video has been viewed almost 3 million times, hopefully inspiring viewers to rise above the selfish needs of their own lives, however pressing they may be, in order to help others in need.

One of the most famous of all the many questions arising out of Parshat Bo is rooted in the following verse (Ex. 11:2): "דַּבֵּר נָא בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם וְיִשְׁאָלוּ אִישׁ מֵאֵת רֵעֵהוּ וְאִשָּׁה מֵאֵת רֵעוּתָהּ כָּל יוֹמָהּ וְכָל יוֹמָהּ" - Please speak to the nation and each man should ask from his neighbor and woman from her neighbor silver vessels and gold vessels." Almost all the commentaries understand this as God's instruction for the Israelites to obtain valuables from their Egyptian neighbors to take with them when they left Egypt, as God had promised Abraham that they would emerge from servitude with great wealth. The problem is that it seems odd to use the Hebrew word rey'eyhu - "neighbor" - with reference to the Egyptian oppressors, and the word na - "please" - also seems quite out of place in this context.

Rabbi Eliyahu, the Gaon of Vilna (1720-1797), breaks ranks with the other commentaries to offer a remarkable explanation of his own - so contemporary in its understanding of human nature that it might have been written yesterday. The word rey'eyhu is not referring to the Egyptians, he says, but to fellow Israelites. Each person was told to go to his or her neighbor and to ask them if they could please borrow some valuable item. At this crucial moment before Divine redemption, every Jew had to be engaged in performing an act of kindness - small but meaningful - lending a precious possession to his or her fellow Jew.

The oppressive slavery had happened as a result of the bitter fight between Joseph and his brothers. By sharing with each other - and by caring for each other, even in the midst of their own misfortune - the Israelites became brothers and sisters in exile so that they would become brothers and sisters in redemption. The physical freedom from Egypt would happen no matter what, but the release from a captivity of the spirit, from the type of mean-spiritedness that means we can never be free, was in their hands. The small act of kindness that every Jew performed for their neighbor undid the animosity that had existed between Joseph and his brothers - and in that merit their redemption could be complete.

We often think that we need to run around showing kindness to others outside of our own community just so that we can show how wonderful we are, but in the meantime we are fighting with and hateful toward each other. This mind-blowing lesson from the Vilna Gaon teaches us that borrowing valuables from each other was the transformative moment not just for us as a people, but also in the eyes of the Egyptians. Seeing our acts of kindness to each other convinced them that we were not slaves, but an exceptional people, whose acts of benevolence transcended petty differences and disagreements.

It is undoubtedly important to feed the homeless or to send an earthquake relief team to some overseas disaster zone, but if we want to truly convince ourselves and others that we are the Chosen People - what we need to do is show love for each other. When they see the incredible care and devotion we have for each other that will be the catalyst for kindness well beyond our Jewish communities, creating a tidal wave of chessed that will in turn release God's kindness on all of us.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner



Sisterhood Corner

January

Thank you to those who have already completed the survey, if you have not already done so, please take a few minutes

to return the survey regarding our Book Group!

Links to the survey have been sent out via email.

Fulfill a mitzvah!

Bring joy to family and friends by signing up for Mishloach Manot.

Email office@yinh.org to sign up!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents



David Sostchen
Marilyn Sohacheski
Daniel Gromis
June Brenner
Avrumie Schnitzer
Sylvia Kellerman
Ilan Teboul
Esther Feder
Naomi Prero
Georgette Dunst
Sarah Soroudi
Mary Gut

YAHRTZEITS



Magda Weiss
Shayndal bat Moshe a"h
Mother of
Suzi Weiss
Yahrtzeit— 10 Shevat

Shaindle Gutman
Shaindle Gittle bat Chaim Shaul a"h
Sister of
Aaron Fuchs
Yahrtzeit— 11 Shevat

Moshe Samuel
Moshe ben Yaakov z"l
Brother of
Joseph Samuel
Yahrtzeit— 12 Shevat

Allen Smith
Alter Aryeh ben Dovid z"l
Father of
Mark Smith
Yahrtzeit— 16 Shevat



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

MISHLOACH MANOT 2021

Join our YINBH Community in celebrating Purim with another fabulous Sisterhood Mishloach Manot basket.

Let us come together to perform the joyous mitzvah of Mishloach Manot & contribute to the Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year!

**We are accepting orders from now until
February 18th.**

Cost to participate is \$275 per household.

This year a portion of the money raised will be donated to Tomchei Shabbos & Meir Mishkoff Z'L Mishloach Manot Campaign

To order visit
www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim





CELEBRATE PESACH SEDERS AT YINBH IN 2021



Details to be announced in February
Register for more info by
emailing office@yinhb.org
or
calling (310) 276 7650

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

PURIM



Sunday
February
28th at
7PM

ONLINE
VIA ZOOM
PRIZES AWAIT
OUR WINNERS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

beverlyhillssynagogue.org/trivia

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

NEW YINBH BOOK GROUP



The YINBH Sisterhood and Rabbi Dunner are happy to introduce a new program: **The YINBH Book Group**. The YINBH Book Group will be open to both men and women members! Fiction and non-fiction books of the Jewish genre will be chosen; discussion will be moderated by Rabbi Dunner. We look forward to hosting authors for Q&A about their books for our book group events.

Fill out the survey at:

beverlyhillssynagogue.org/bookgroup

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

Missed a class?

We have multiple ways of accessing our past classes

[RABBI PINI DUNNER'S CHANNEL](#)

[YINBH BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE CHANNEL](#)



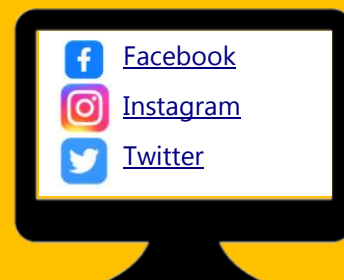
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RABBI PINI DUNNER
רבי פינחס אליעזר דונר

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

CHSYINBH
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TU BISHVAT WINE TASTING

February 3rd - 7pm

JOIN US FOR AN ENJOYABLE EVENING OF
WINE TASTING AND HEAR HOW THE ISRAELI
WINE INDUSTRY IS DEALING WITH THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Cost: \$105

You will receive 4 full bottles
of wine we will be tasting
during the event

beverlyhillssynagogue.org/wine

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You're invited to our Tu BiShvat Seder!

Join Rabbi Doron Perez and family for a Seder Tu BiShvat, exploring the deeper meaning of the mystical Seder and the seven species of Eretz Yisrael and gaining a greater appreciation for the produce of Israel.



Food for Thought

Celebrity Chef Jamie Geller welcomes World Mizrahi's Rabbanit Shani Taragin into her kitchen to prepare Tu BiShvat dishes for the body and the soul.



A Taste of Israel

Wine connoisseur David M. Weinberg shares his tasting notes with you from several boutique Israeli wineries, recommending the best wines to drink this Tu BiShvat.

**JANUARY 27-28, 2021
WATCH AT MIZRACHI.TV**