



Tefilla Notebook

27 Tishrei • Parshat Bereshit • Birkat Hachodesh

Oct 25-26, 2019

Stephen Rothman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

9261 Alden Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

310-276-7650 • office@yinh.org

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

5:49pm CANDLELIGHTING
5:50pm MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

8:15am RABBI'S GEMARA SHIUR
9:00am SHACHARIT
5:10pm PRE MINCHA SHIUR
5:45pm MINCHA
6:05pm SEUDAH SHLISHIT
6:50pm MA'ARIV
6:52pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sun. October 27 8:00am & 5:45pm
Mon. October 28 6:20am & 5:45pm
R.C. Cheshvan 6:10am & 5:45pm
R.C. Cheshvan 6:10am & 5:45pm
Thu. October 31 6:20am & 5:45pm
Fri. November 1 6:30am & 5:45pm

Thank you

To Sue & Sam Varon for sponsoring this week's Extended Kiddush in memory of Sue's father, **Bernat Fixler, Baruch ben Noach z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on 25 Tishrei.

Thank you to **Sherry Ashouri** for donating towards this week's kiddush in memory of her father, **Amir Daniel, Menashe ben Abraham z"l** whose yahrtzeit is on 27 Tishrei.

MAZEL TOV

CHATAN TORAH
RABBI DUNNER
CHATAN BEREISHIT
JACKIE WIZMAN
CHATAN KOL
HANEARIM
CHAZAN NATI
BARAM

Dearest Members and Friends,

The name Thomas Haig Palmer will mean nothing to you unless you are a keen aficionado of early- and mid-nineteenth-century United States history, and even then it is highly unlikely you will have stumbled onto him. Born in 1782 in Kelso – an obscure Scottish Borders market town most famous for its twelfth-century abbey – Palmer, together with two sisters and two brothers, immigrated to the United States in 1804, and initially settled in Philadelphia. The sisters soon got married, while the three brothers busied themselves setting up a print shop and publishing house, a business their late father had succeeded at in Scotland.



After Palmer's two brothers had moved off separately to New Orleans and Louisville to try their hand at running printing and publishing outfits elsewhere in the United States, Palmer met and married Joanne Fenton in 1822, and soon afterward moved to the tiny town of Pittsford, Vermont, where his wife's family lived. Palmer, a sophisticated urbanite, found rural life in Vermont incredibly unstimulating and backward, but instead of spending the rest of his life complaining, he decided to devote the remainder of his years to improving life in his new home state, and particularly in the realm of education.

He was appointed state superintendent of education, and used the position to ensure local children were educated to the standard he had benefitted from at his schools in Scotland, and, in particular, he strongly stressed the need to examine teachers to ensure they met basic standards, a pioneering idea at the time. Palmer also personally wrote and published educational primers, including *The Palmer Arithmetic*, and also *The Moral Instructor*, both of which became national bestsellers, used in schools across the country.

In his later years, Palmer dabbled in politics and proposed a world peace plan that mandated arbitration between warring parties, which some later argued could have prevented the Civil War. But the proposal was dismissed in Congress by Henry Stuart Foote, a senator from Mississippi who was chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Palmer died in 1861 in more-or-less complete obscurity, and was buried in Pittsford, along with his immediate family. His house, a refined revivalist architectural residence that must have stood out-of-place in its rural setting when it was built in 1832, is today run as a bed-and-breakfast inn on Route 7 in Vermont.

Now that you are better informed, you may well be wondering about my detailed interest in a footnote individual like Thomas Palmer, even bearing in mind my insatiable curiosity for historical oddities. The truth is I am consumed by the fact that Palmer has been the victim of one of the most egregious literary misattributions of modern times. In 1843 he published an educational guide for teachers, this one titled *The Teacher's Manual*, which he described as "an exposition of an efficient and economical system of education suited to the wants of a free people."

In the chapter titled "Moral Education", Palmer included a remarkable motivational poem that most modern reference works mistakenly attribute to a contemporary British educator called William Hickson. But what is most remarkable about this poem is not its misattribution, nor even the fact that no one has ever heard of the original author. It is that despite these facts, the poem's refrain has become a staple motivational mantra which continues to be widely used across the English-speaking world. Here is the poem in full:

"Tis a lesson you should heed, if at first you don't succeed – try, try again. Then your courage should appear, for if you will persevere, you will conquer, never fear – try, try again. Once or twice, though you should fail, if you would at last prevail – try, try again. If we strive, 'tis no disgrace, though we do not win the race, what should you do in the case? – Try, try again. If you find your task is hard, time will bring you your reward – try, try again. All that other folks can do, why, with patience, should not you? Only keep this rule in view: Try, try again."

This week, Palmer's timeless poem came to mind when I chanced upon a Sefat Emet interpretation of the second verse in Genesis in which he offers a stunning explanation for the way pre-creation is presented in the Torah, which also offers insight into a particularly confounding Midrash – although he makes no direct reference to this. In describing the situation before the point of creation, the Torah says (Gen. 1:2): וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תוֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ - "the earth was unformed and completely void", usually understood as meaning there was total nothingness. But Midrash Rabba (3:7) quotes Rabbi Abahu as saying that "God first created other worlds and destroyed them... deriving it from the verse, 'and God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good,' as if to say, 'this world pleases me, those others did not please me.'"

In other words, the concept of "tohu va'vohu" is not a description of pre-creation nothingness; rather it is a reference to previous abortive attempts by God to fashion a physical world – attempts that failed to satisfy Him and were therefore abandoned. The theological conundrum this presents is clear and obvious. How are we meant to understand the idea that God tried and failed, having created chaos and disorder at first, and then that He was only happy with the version of creation with which we are familiar?

The Sefat Emet cuts to the chase by contrasting the disorder and chaos of the initial attempts with the order and stability that marked the final version. Even before time had begun, God wanted to embed a crucial lesson of life into the creation narrative. Although we may be discouraged by a lack of success during the initial stages of a project, with none of the elements coming together as they should to produce a coherent whole, ultimately we need to know that success awaits those who persevere – even God! Or, to borrow a line from Palmer, "once or twice, though you should fail, if you would at last prevail – try, try again."

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

Sisterhood Corner
OCTOBER

It's that time!

Ladies, join us for Rabbi
Dunner's Parsha Shiur
Wednesday, October
30th at 9am

Be there or be SQUARE!
*See flier for details

Save the Date!

We're going to the
BOWL.....

For the July 4th Hollywood
Bowl Concert and
Fireworks Spectacular

Thursday, July 2, 2020

We know, this is early
notice.

Put it on your calendar.
It's going to be fun!

More details to follow as
we get closer to the
event.

Shabbat Shalom

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

EXPLORING HALACHA

Join Nati Baram every
Shabbat afternoon 35 minutes
before mincha as he explores
an interesting topic of Jewish
law with the aid of ancient
and contemporary texts.

PAUL FEDER Z"l GEMARA

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי

Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara
shiur on Shabbat mornings 45
minutes before Shacharit.

YAHRTZEITS

Sylvia Greenspan
Sarah bat Dov Ber a"h
Mother of
Evan Greenspan
Yahrtzeit— 28 Tishrei

Linda Komorsky Liker
Chanah bat Gittel a"h
Mother of
Sherri Fogelman
Yahrtzeit— 2 Cheshvan

Harriet Schnitzer Dorfman
Esther bat Yosef a"h
Sister of
Avrumie Schnitzer
Yahrtzeit— 3 Cheshvan

Pamela Feldberg
Perl bat Itumar a"h
Sister of
Marty Feldberg
Yahrtzeit— 3 Cheshvan

Helen Schnitzer
Chaya bat Avraham a"h
Mother of
Avrumie Schnitzer
Yahrtzeit— 3 Cheshvan



NEW MEMBERS

Avi & Shani
Elhiani

Happy Anniversary

Ed & Cecile Gromis

WEEKLY PARSHA SHIUR

Join Rabbi Dunner each Wednesday
morning at 9am for the weekly
ladies Parsha Shiur as he explores
the weekly Torah portion through
the eyes of the classic commentators.

The class will meet next on
Wednesday, October 30th 2019
at 9:00am

with a special *Shiur & Schmooze*
followed by *Breakfast*—please
RSVP to office@yinh.org.



Adam Kaufler

Ralph Gut

Ariella Morrow

Josef Kreitenberg

Bill Levin

Weston Richter

Stefanie Sandel

Sarah Chalom

Amanda Gromis

Chazzan Nati Baram

SAVE THE DATE

Oct 29th - Mommy & Me Classes start up again. First class is free.

Oct 30th - Women's Shiur & Schmooze

Dec 7th - Speaker Omar Qudrat and Kiddush-Luncheon Sponsored by Elliot & Robin Broidy

Dec 8th - Speaker Herzl Makov, CEO of the Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem discussing the upcoming film about the life and times of Menachem Begin, the creation of the State of Israel and the dedication of a true leader.

Dec 12-14 - OU Torah Weekend with speaker Moshe Bain

Dec 26th - Friday Night Family Chanukah Dinner

Esther Kandel and **Joann Hulkower** and families, would like to thank **Rabbi Dunner, Chazan Nati Baram**, the Sisterhood and the entire community of YINBH for their outpouring of support and comfort during the Shiva for the loss of their mother, grandmother and sister, **Maureen Roszler, z"l.**

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

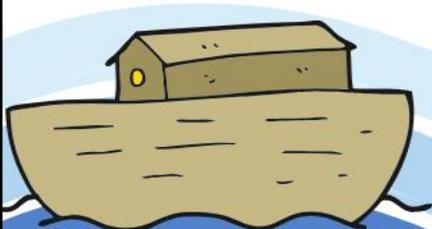
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

**WOMEN'S SHIUR & SCHMOOZE
ROSH CHODESH CHESHVAN
PARSHAT NOACH
SHIUR WITH RABBI DUNNER
FOLLOWED BY BREAKFAST**

**Wednesday, October 30th
9:00am Shiur • 10:00am Breakfast**

**Sponsored by
Cecile Gromis & Gina Raphael**

**No charge to attend but please
RSVP to office@yinbh.org**



SAVE THE DATE

*Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy
72nd Annual Scholarship Gala*

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Ernie Goldberger

TRIBUTE HONOREE

Rabbi Eli Broner

EDUCATOR HONOREE

DECEMBER 19, 2019

BEVERLY HILTON, BEVERLY HILLS

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Rabbi Y. Boruch Sufrin

PRESIDENT

Amy Kestenbaum

FOUNDING GENERATION CHAIR

Alice Schoenfeld

GALA CHAIRS

Gina Raphael

Karen Halaszi



On the passing of my mother,
Anna Nusbaum Silberspitz, Z"l.

I greatly appreciate the kind support and consolation from Rabbi Pini and Sabine Dunner, Chazzan Nati Baram and from the BHS/YINBH community who embraced me with their friendship, love and support. It was especially comforting during my time of grieving to hear from so many members, as I was not afforded the traditional shiva period of mourning.

May we know no more sorrow.

Many thanks,
Cecile Gromis and Family

ISRAEL HEADLINES

Each week, YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue produces a weekly bulletin titled "Israel Headlines." You can find them on the tables in shul every Shabbat. The idea behind this is to make us aware of current events in Israel. Sponsorship for Israel Headlines is available for \$100 per issue. If you are interested in sponsoring a weekly bulletin please email israelheadlines@gmail.com



Mommy & Me Class

Fall Session
with
Miriam Sinai

Tuesday Mornings 9:30-11am

The weekly classes include:

- Music with interactive instruments
- Non-toxic safe sensory bins
- Art Projects
- New theme each week

Full 6-week Series \$120
Nov 5, Nov 12, Nov 19, Nov 26, Dec 3 and Dec 10

Sign up at:

beverlyhillssynagogue.org
310-276-7650 | mkramer@yinh.org
9261 ALDEN DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS 90210

FREE
TRIAL CLASS
OCTOBER 29
2019

 BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS