

Tefilla Notebook

5 Kislev • Toldot

November 20-21 2020

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH

4:28pm CANDLELIGHTING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

4:25pm MINCHA

5:31pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sunday 8:00am & 4:25pm
 Mon, Tues, Wed 7:00am & 4:25pm
 Thurs & Fri 8:00am & 4:25pm
(Thanksgiving and Black Friday)

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

MAZAL TOV



Mazal Tov to grandparents **Larry and Judith Garshofsky** on the birth

of a baby boy, born to **Jonathan and Avital.**

Mazal Tov to grandparents **Masimo and Teri Szulc.** Mazal Tov to Great-grandmother **Shirley Sweetbaum.**

THANK YOU

This week's Parsha Shiur is sponsored by **Aaron, Lillian, and Jason Fuchs** in memory of Lillian's brother and Jason's uncle, **Jack Julius Glatter, Yaakov Yehudah ben Yitzchak z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on 14 Kislev.

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI PINI DUNNER:

Dearest Friends,

Once again we find ourselves facing renewed restrictions and further difficulties in the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic. And while we still do not know when the end will be, although we can now thankfully see some light at the end of this tunnel, our community continues to suffer, with our shul unable to function as a place of gathering. Being apart from each other is very hard, and I particularly regret not being able to see you and speak to you regularly as was possible before March. I would also like to apologize if I have not been as in touch with you as often as you would like. Hopefully, over the next few weeks I will be in touch with you by phone, if I have not called you already, and you will also be called by a board member — just so that we can be in touch and stay connected. I would also like to encourage you to call me or Nati, or the shul office, if there is anything at all that you need, or wish to discuss, and we are here for you, to be of any assistance that we can.

I have every confidence that we will get through this situation, and bounce back better than before. We look forward to good times ahead, with events and services that will be stronger and more enlivening than anything we have had at the shul previous to the pandemic. Our spirit remains strong, and we must be upbeat and optimistic about our future. In this week's portion we read Isaac's blessings to Jacob, in which he promises a glorious future of agricultural abundance, military dominance and national pride — all to a son not yet married or successful. It is easy in hindsight to say that Isaac's blessings were spot-on, but at the time they must have seemed like fantasy. The lesson may be that we need to put on 'hindsight' glasses, and see things positively for the future even though they seem bleak in the present.

Once again, as your rabbi and spiritual leader, I will be there alongside you and at the helm, to ensure that we get through this difficult period, and I am and remain available for you as and when I am needed. Looking forward to speaking to you soon, and to getting to see you in person as soon as we can get together again.

With warmest wishes,

LITTLE MISTAKES CAN REALLY MATTER

I love this quote from Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821): "Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake." Although, I expect he wasn't too happy that no one interrupted him when he embarked on his ill-fated Russian campaign of 1812.



We all make mistakes – but truthfully, most of our mistakes are inconsequential and are easily learned from and corrected. In which case, why do we work so hard to avoid making mistakes? The answer is really simple. There are some mistakes – like Napoleon's Russian campaign – which have such far reaching consequences, that being sanguine about any kind of mistake-making is absolute folly.

Truthfully, some of those mistakes seem utterly trivial as they happen. Take the story of Fred Fleet (1887–1965). Fleet was a British sailor who was engaged as a lookout for the maiden voyage of the ship RMS Titanic. On the fateful night of 14th April 1912, he was on duty when the ship fatefully struck an iceberg, a maritime tragedy that resulted in more than 1,500 deaths. It was Fleet who first spotted the iceberg, and he immediately alerted the bridge with the infamous message: "iceberg, right ahead!" But it was too late. If only he had seen the iceberg earlier, perhaps disaster could have been averted.

When Fleet testified at the various Titanic inquiries, he told the authorities that had he been issued with binoculars: "we could have seen [the iceberg] a bit sooner – enough to get out of the way." Not surprisingly, Fleet suffered severe depression in later life and eventually committed suicide by hanging at the age of 78. Most painfully of all, there were binoculars on board Titanic – but Fleet didn't have access to them, as they were locked up and the key never made it on board. Tragically, the Titanic's shipping company White Star Line had decided to swap the ship's second officer David Blair with someone else. Blair had the key to the binocular locker, but he forgot to hand it over to his replacement. No doubt he thought that the mistake was entirely innocuous – but 1,500 lives later it turned out to be one of maritime history's most tragic errors ever.

Sisterhood Corner

November

Save the date!

Our Next Ladies Night In
Monday, November 23rd
At 7:30pm via Zoom

Let's Celebrate...Covid Style!

Our **Annual Chanukah Toy Drive**
No store trip or drop off necessary
Please help Chai Lifeline children
by Donating via their **Amazon
Wishlist!!**

See Flyer for details

CHANUKAH TRIVIA NIGHT

Winner receives a
complimentary dinner at Pat's!

December 14th at 7:00pm
Make sure to register at
Beverlyhillssynagogue.org/trivia

Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

**Happy
Anniversary**

Elliot & Robin Broidy



(Continued) Not every mistake with far-reaching consequences has results we would consider negative. In early June 1944, the Nazi regime and military hierarchy were fully prepared for an Allied invasion of Europe via the northern French coast. But German field commander, Marshall Erwin Rommel (1891-1944), believing that the Allied invasion was weeks away because of persistent bad weather, decided to fly home to celebrate his wife's birthday. Following his lead, other Nazi officers left the frontline to participate in training exercises further inland. Then, on June 6th, 1944 – the same day as Rommel's wife's birthday – Allied forces invaded Normandy, and by the time Rommel returned from the ill-fated birthday celebrations all five beaches had been captured by Allied forces. One can almost hear Napoleon chuckling knowingly.

Napoleon would certainly have chuckled at the first narrative that records an interaction between the twins, Jacob and Esau, in Parshat Toldot. Esau arrives home, drained after a day of hunting. Unaware that his grandfather Abraham had died, and that the soup on the stove was for the mourners meal, he demanded a bowl from his canny brother Jacob. "No problem," Jacob said, "but in exchange let me have your rights as the firstborn son." If only Esau had paused for a moment, or if only someone had warned him that firstborn status was crucial for his future – but it was not to be. No one interrupted him as he made his lifechanging mistake, and exchanged his future for a mere bowl of lentil soup.

All the bible commentaries wonder about the inclusion of certain narratives in the Torah. After all, the vast majority of biographical details for our earliest forebears and their relatives are absent – so why tell a particular story instead of the many others one could have told? In each case there has to be a good reason to recall a specific incident, as opposed to so many other details of their lives that we know nothing about. It would therefore make sense that this story of Jacob and Esau has an important lesson to teach us. And while it is certainly true that we need to know about Jacob being Isaac's rightful heir, the details of the story of him obtaining those rights are so vivid and evocative, there is clearly another important message here.

I would therefore suggest that the takeaway relates to Esau's impulsive disposal of his firstborn status for the sake of some soup. Only the foolhardy regard the mundane matters of their day-to-day lives as insignificant, and choose to ignore seemingly innocent events as life unfolds as being immaterial to their futures. Responsible people watch their p's and q's and walk around with their eyes wide open, always hyperconscious of the fact that each and every act can have the kinds of consequences one might later regret.

In our own lives, as well as in the lives of those we know or whose progress we see reported in the media, we can often see how these little aspects of life can magnify so that they ultimately cause endless grief and discomfort. Esau's callous ambivalence is a warning to us from the dawn of our history, a warning as relevant today as when it was first recorded.

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

YAHRTZEITS



Celia Factor Laks
Tzila bat Hillel a"h
Mother of
Hillel Laks
Yahrtzeit— 8 Kislev

Esther Nissel
Esther Malka bat HaRav Zeev a"h
Mother of
Raphy Nissel
Yahrtzeit— 6 Kislev

Elyette Lévy-Bensoussan
Simha bat David a"h
Mother of
Ginette Hodara
Yahrtzeit— 10 Kislev

David Levy
David ben Shmuel HaLevi z"l
Father of
Wendy Wallack
Yahrtzeit— 7 Kislev

Jack Finkelstein
Abraham Yaakov z"l
Father of
Shari Weiner
Yahrtzeit— 11 Kislev

Joseph Schnitzer
Yosef ben Avraham Chaim z"l
Father of
Avrumie Schnitzer
Yahrtzeit— 8 Kislev

Max Novack
Menachem Mendel ben
Yaakov z"l
Father of
Barry Novack
Yahrtzeit— 11 Kislev

Baruch Dayan HaEmet - Lois Hirt, Aliza bat Gershon a"h

Thoughts from Rivka Nissel:

To our fellow members of our beloved shul.
Lois Hirt has left this world to the calling of another.
She will leave a void in our midst.
Lois, together with her beloved husband Joe לייז were among the original group of founders of our shul, in days when we congregated in rented space on Civic Center Drive and then in the Beverly Hills Library.

Lois always graced the shul on Shabbatot with her elegance, I for certain loved her small colorful hats.

Many times we sat next to each other, when I felt a slight chill on my shoulders and I mentioned it to Lois, she produced an extra shawl out of her canvas bag. When I had a bit of hunger pain, she pulled a small bag of mixed nuts out of her magic bag, and when I coughed she was ready with good tasting lozenges in her hand. A modern Mary Poppins. In the hallway or after shul we discussed books, she was an avid reader.

Lois was one of our first Sisterhood Chairladies who presented our Bar and Bat Mizvah youth with a gift of a treasured Judaica book.

She worked on behalf of our shul with outmost dedication and love, never complaining about any tasks to be done for the benefit of our members. She did it quietly, without fanfare, without honors and without expecting any recognition.

She fought her final deadly disease for years, but after a long struggle she has sadly left our community to join her husband Joe ז"ל, but will be sorely missed and remembered by all.

May the Neshama of Aliza bat Gershon a"h have an Aliyah



THANK YOU

The production equipment used in making of the virtual classes, musical performances, and religious events has been donated by friends in memory of
Lois Hirt a"h



Sarah-Leah Thompson
Keanu Javaherian
Tyler Fialkov
Brian Lovi
Bart Tanenbaum
Susan Cohen
Shoshana Giahn
Faramarz Sadeghi
Steven Feder

CLASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF November 23- 29th

THE ZOOM CODE FOR ALL CLASSES IS 310 276 7650 Passcode: yinbh

The log-in link is <https://zoom.us/j/3102767650>



DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Monday November 23	8:00pm	Hebrew reading course with Chazzan Nati Baram
Tuesday November 24	11:00am	Tanach Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Wednesday November 25	11:00am	Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Dunner
Wednesday November 25	1:00pm	**Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Pini Dunner
Sunday, November 29th	11:00am	Treasures from the Rabbi's Library

****Next week's Pirkei Avot shiur is sponsored by Myrtle Sitowitz**



hebrew reading course



with Chazzan Nati Baram

Mondays at 8pm

In this class, we will be reading and translating famous Hebrew speeches and other Inspirational texts, not biblical Hebrew.

The goal is to improve vocabulary and help develop a faster and easier approach to reading Hebrew articles and literature.

The class is for those who already have a beginners knowledge of Hebrew and can read, but are looking to enhance their skills.

 BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



CHANUKAH CONCERT

להודות ולהלל

THE BEAUTY OF HALLEL - TO
THANK AND TO PRAISE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th
THIRD DAY OF CHANUKAH
10:30am LA TIME
LIVE VIRTUAL CONCERT



Guest Cantor Chaim David Berson

Live on Zoom  and Youtube



RSVP and more details at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/chanukahconcert

The Eighth Night of Chanukah

Tue Dec 15 5:30pm

Together with our
community



Menorah Lighting

Chanukah Songs

Sharing in family
Traditions

Also featuring:
THE GREAT
SUGGANIOT
TASTE OFF

Zoom
ID: 310 276 7650
Password: yinbh



LET'S TALK TURKEY!

YINBH Ladies Night In

Bring your best turkey tips & tricks

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020
7:30PM
VIA ZOOM
HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/3128382298



Share what this year's Thanksgiving will look like at your table!



Please
purchase
gifts by
December 7th



Happy
Chanukah!

Link to Amazon Wishlist

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2J7A6ZFUTZ4IH?ref_=wl_share

YINBH SISTERHOOD
**ANNUAL CHANUKAH
TOY DRIVE**
BENEFITING CHAI LIFELINE
**PARTICIPATE BY PURCHASING A
GIFT FROM CHAI'S AMAZON
WISHLIST!**



The YINBH Sisterhood present

CHANUKAH

Trivia Night

Monday
December
14th at
7PM

ONLINE
VIA ZOOM

PRIZES AWAIT
OUR WINNERS

ALL YINBH MEMBERS WELCOME
AN \$18.00 CONTRIBUTION TO THE SISTERHOOD IS APPRECIATED

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
beverlyhillssynagogue.org/trivia