

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by
Sponsored by **Nadine Gerson and Bob Zeller** in memory
of Nadine's father, Leon Gerson, **Yehudah Leib ben**
Abraham z"l, whose yahrtzeit is on the 22nd of Cheshvan.

2 Kislev • Parshat Toldot

November 25-26, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

4:27PM CANDLELIGHTING

4:30PM MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

NO GEMARA SHIUR

9:15am SHACHARIT

4:35pm MINCHA

5:25pm MAARIV

5:26pm SHABBAT ENDS

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sun	8:00am	4:30pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	4:30pm
Friday	7:00am	4:30pm

THANK YOU

Kiddush this week is co-sponsored by Shirley Aizenstein and Harry Finkel in memory of Shirley's sister Yehudit bat Yaakov a"h, and Shirley's mother Bracha bat Yaakov a"h;

And by Dr. Hillel Laks in memory of his mother, Celia Factor Laks, Tzila bat Hillel a"h, whose yahrtzeit is on the 8th of Kislev.

REMINDER

Statements have been emailed to everyone with an outstanding invoice. Please make sure to pay any open balances to the Synagogue. You can log-in to your account at beverlyhillssynagogue.org or call 310-276-7650

Dearest Members and Friends,

I have always been fascinated by the golf handicap concept. To those of you who regularly roam the freeways the handicap is something you are all familiar with. It allows novices to get into the game on an equal footing with more experienced golfers by establishing a numerical measurement that calculates the ability or limitations of anyone who picks up a golf club. Better golfers with a low handicap might find themselves losing a game to a beginner with a higher handicap, but it is all in the spirit of gentlemanly sportsmanship. Of course the handicap system is never used in professional golf, otherwise I would have won the U.S. Open against Tiger Woods.

While that last statement is made tongue in cheek, it brings to mind an important point regarding modern education, and a particular educational technique that has become increasingly popular over the past fifteen years, called 'Differentiated Instruction' (D.I.). Also known as Differentiated Learning, this technique requires teachers to provide different students in the same classroom with avenues to learning tailored to their individual skills or weaknesses. Taking into account diverse learning needs, an educator using this rubric personalizes classroom instruction for individuals within the group, setting different tasks and goals. Each student's results and grades reflects their own ability and effort rather than a standardized curriculum, enabling every child to be successful. Using this method, an 'A' grade for one student in a particular project or subject might be a 'C' grade for another, and vice-versa. It is the golf-handicap model, and everyone participates in the game on "equal" terms.

The logic behind D.I. sounds remarkably similar to an idea expressed by Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888) in his commentary on this week's Torah portion. No two brothers were ever more dissimilar than Jacob and Esau, the twins born to Isaac and Rebecca at the beginning of Toldot. **וַיְהִי עֵשָׂו** — "Esau grew up to be a hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, a tent dweller." Although they were treated alike and given identical educations, Jacob developed into the perfect child, while Esau went in a wayward direction, eventually becoming a completely depraved degenerate.

One might think, says Rabbi Hirsch, that Esau had no reason to rebel. After all, his parents had handled him in exactly the same way as they had his twin brother. So why did he act up? Rabbi Hirsch suggests that it was precisely the evenhandedness that caused the problem. Esau had a very different temperament to his brother. He was not studious, or eager to be educated. He was an outdoor, sporty type. But if only he had been offered the opportunity to shine in areas where he could excel, perhaps he would not have ended up the black sheep of his family.

Rabbi Hirsch's proposition is thought provoking, and very much in tune with the theory behind D.I. Nevertheless, and without wishing to sound disrespectful or dismissive, I must vehemently disagree with him. His suggestion lays the blame for Esau's adult wickedness squarely at Isaac and Rebecca's door, as if they were ultimately responsible for their son's later debauchery. That is entirely unfair. While no parent is perfect, and this even includes our biblical patriarchs and matriarchs, ultimate responsibility for an adult's actions must always lie with that adult, whose challenge it is to overcome impediments to his or her success, whether these impediments are environmental, familial, or personality based.

Lowering standards might be a gracious way to be as inclusive as possible in a game of amateur golf, but just as in professional golf no handicap concessions are made for the players, in real life there are no shortcuts when one wishes to achieve excellence. There comes a point when pretending everyone is equal is not a secret weapon to achieve world peace, but has instead become a tyranny of mediocrity.

Interestingly, in the past couple of years a range of professional educators has begun to question the efficacy of Differentiated Instruction. One highly respected educational expert, Mike Schmoker, has described D.I. as a method that was conceived based "largely on enthusiasm and a certain superficial logic", but instead of having improved overall education, it has, in his words, "corrupted both curriculum and effective instruction." In the final analysis, he says, unless you aim high, the common denominator sinks ever lower as the teacher struggles to be all things to all students.

But perhaps Rabbi Hirsch's point is slightly different. Not every child can meet the highest expectations of his parents and of society, but this doesn't mean they cannot be encouraged to excel to the maximum of their own ability. Perhaps Esau need not have developed into the antihero he became, if only his parents had not insisted that he be just like Jacob. If this were the attitude of teachers, parents, and society, we might yet succeed in limiting the number of adult miscreants from those among us who will always struggle to match up to any standard of excellence. But this approach can never be allowed to develop into an abandonment of all expectations. Surely one can let someone know that they are wrong or heading in the wrong direction without it being the cause of their lifelong downfall and failure. After all, no golfer with a hefty handicap who is told that they are not quite as good as Tiger Woods is going to give up golfing for the rest of their lives.

Wishing you Shabbat Shalom and a wonderful week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner



Sisterhood Corner

November / December

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving!
We all have so many reasons to be grateful this year.

Chanukah is coming!

Annual Chanukah toy drive benefiting Chai Lifeline.

Please help us lift the spirits of a child this Chanukah by purchasing a gift.

Visit the Chai Lifeline Amazon Wish List

Celebrate Shabbat Chanukah with your YINBH family!

Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 23rd

More details coming soon

The Cairo Geniza with Rabbi Aubrey Hersh

Learn how the discoveries found in the Cairo Geniza changed Jewish History

Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 pm

RSVP at yinbh.org/cairogeniza

Our next YINBH Book Group read!

We will be reading *And After the Fire* by Lauren Belfer

Winner of the National Jewish Book Awards

The book is available for purchase on Amazon

Tuesday, January 17th at 7:30 pm

Private home address will be provided upon RSVP

Get ready for an interesting discussion!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Elissa Slomnicki

Steven Feder

Mia Gross

Karynne Tencer

Rachel Broidy

YAHRTZEITS

Lois Hirt

Aliza bat Gershon a"h

Mother of

Kerri Suissa

Randy Hirt

Michael Hirt

Yahrtzeit - 2 Kislev

Peggy Einfeld

Pearl bat Yona a"h

Grandmother of

Carly Einfeld

Yahrtzeit - 2 Kislev

Helen Deutsch

Ruchel Leah bat

Yitzchak Isaac a"h

Mother of

Galina Samuel

Yahrtzeit - 4 Kislev

David Levy

David ben Shmuel HaLevi z"l

Father of

Wendy Wallack

Yahrtzeit - 6 Kislev

Ivan Rosenfeld

Shlomo ben Moshe a"h

Brother of

Robert Rosenfeld

Yahrtzeit - 2 Kislev

Hilda Eisen

Hinda bat Avraham a"h

Mother of

Fran Miller

Yahrtzeit - 4 Kislev

Esther Nissel

Esther Malka bat

HaRav Zeev Tzvi a"h

Mother of

Raphy Nissel

Yahrtzeit - 6 Kislev

Celia Factor Laks

Tzila bat Hillel a"h

Mother of

Hillel Laks

Yahrtzeit - 8 Kislev

Jospeh Schnitzer

Yosef ben Avraham Chaim z"l

Father of

Avrumie Schnitzer

Yahrtzeit - 8 Kislev

YINBH
SISTERHOOD

BOOK
GROUP
EVENT

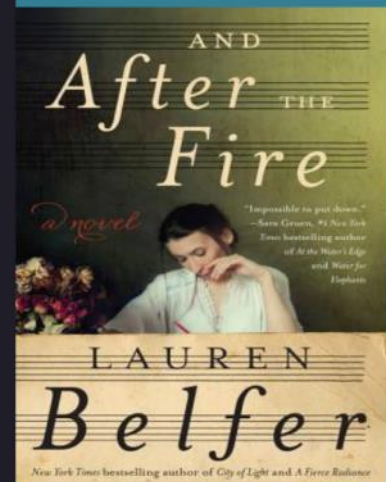
LAUREN BELFER

for
Her
Book

"And After
The Fire"

Tuesday, January 17th
at 7:30pm

RSVP at yinbh.org/bookgroup



WIZO CALIFORNIA
CHANUKAH CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Honoring
Gina Raphael
WIZO California Chair

Please Join Us As We Celebrate 75 Years of Israel and
40 Years of WIZO USA Helping Women & Children in Israel

Featuring
Dina Ben Tal Ganancia, CEO EL AL Airlines
EL AL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 11:00AM

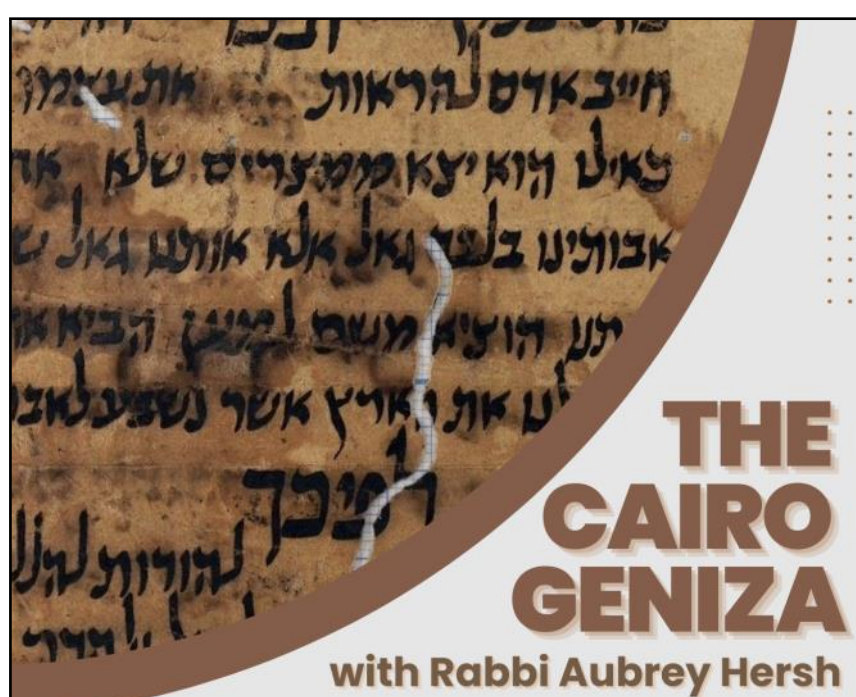
The Four Seasons Hotel
300 S. Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dietary Laws Observed

Chaired By

LILY ARTENSTEIN • KIMBERLY BROOKS • RUTH DAVIDOV • MALKA FOGEL • SHANA GLASSMAN
AGNES HARRIS • JANICE KAUFER • KARLA LARI • JUDY LEVIN • ORLY MACIBORSKI
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SHOSHI WILCHFORT • MIRIAM WIZMAN • SHIRIN YADEGAR

For questions or more information, please contact WIZO California at
(323) 206-6403 or director@wizocalifornia.org



THE CAIRO GENIZA

with Rabbi Aubrey Hersh

Thursday, January 5th, 2023 at 7pm

YINBH - 9261 Alden Drive Beverly Hills 90210

The most lucrative prize of the 19th century: 250,000 documents of antiquity. Tailed by scandals and forgeries, it took one single Hebrew fragment to change history forever.



Rabbi Hersh is the author of an extremely popular weekly podcast: **"History for the Curious"**. Having spent over 25 years as an international lecturer and educator, he is renowned for his talks on History, Halacha and Jewish Thought.

RSVP at yinbh.org/cairogeniza

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

TEEN MINYAN

2022-2023 / 5783
SCHEDULE

Dec. 10 - Vayishlach
Jan. 14 - Shemot
Feb. 11 - Yitro
Mar. 11 - Zachor | Tetzaveh
Apr. 15 - Shemini | Shabbat Mevarchim
May. 13 - Behar-Bechukotai
Jun. 10 - Beha'alotcha
Jul. 8 - Pinchas
Aug. 12- Re'eh | Shabbat Mevarchim
Sep. 9 - Nitzavim-Vayeilech
Dates are variable

**TEEN LED SERVICES
TEEN PARTICIPATION
10:00AM IN THE BEIT MIDRASH**

FOLLOWED BY A
TEEN ONLY KIDDUSH
CATERED BY JEFFS




2022 ANNUAL CHANUKAH TOY DRIVE!

BENEFITING CHAI LIFELINE

Participate by purchasing a gift from Chai's Amazon wishlist!

Please purchase your gift by December 31st, 2022

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ws8th4ws> to participate

ISRAEL

Consulate General of Israel
Los Angeles



You are cordially invited to commemorate the

75th Anniversary of

United Nations Resolution 181

which paved the way for the creation of the State of Israel in 1948

Monday, November 28th 2022

11:30am

Museum of Tolerance

9786 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035

in the presence of

Dr. Hillel Newman, Consul General of Israel
and other consular representatives

RSVP: yinhb.org/UnVoteAnniversary



יחידת YINBH
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE



You are invited to:

StandWithUs

FESTIVAL of LIGHTS

— STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST ANTISEMITISM —

Sunday, December 4, 2022

In-Person Reception

5 PM Pacific



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MATTI FRIEDMAN
JOURNALIST



EMCEE
NOA TISHBY
SPECIAL ENVOY FOR ANTISEMITISM
AND DELEGITIMIZATION



ENTERTAINMENT
ELON GOLD
COMEDIAN

Sponsored by
Ellie & Bruce Lederman • Debbie & Naty Saidoff

More info and to register www.standwithus.com/fol



SAVE A LIFE GIVE BLOOD

SUN | DEC 11

9AM - 3PM @ Shaarey Zedek
12800 Chandler Blvd.
Valley Village, CA



EZER MIZION PRESENTS

A Night of MIRACLES

DECEMBER 20, 2022
The 3rd night of Chanukah

SABAN THEATER
8440 Wilshire Blvd
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Get your tickets now:
ezermizion.org/nightofmiracles



FEATURING
JON DORENBOS
STEVEN BRUNDAGE
ELON GOLD, EMCEE

WINE SPONSOR



CHANUKAH DINNER

• LATKES
• SUFGANIOT
• DREIDELS
• MAGIC SHOW
• AND MUCH MORE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
**6TH NIGHT OF
CHANUKAH**



Planning Committee:
Jonathen & Julie Boyer
Jeff Gross & Gina Raphael