

# Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by  
**Nadine Gerson & Bob Zeller** in memory of Nadine's  
mother, **Rita Gerson, Rachel Leah bat Yishayahu a"h**,  
whose yahrzeit is on the 25th of Kislev.

23 Kislev • Parshat Veyeshev • Birkat Hachodesh

November 26-27, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan



## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

CANDLELIGHTING 4:26pm

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT 4:30pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

GEMARA SHIUR 8:30AM

SHACHARIT 9:15AM

MINCHA 4:35PM

MAARIV: 5:25PM

SHABBAT ENDS: 5:29PM

## WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sunday	8:00am	4:25pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	4:25pm
Friday	7:00am	4:25pm

## THANK YOU

*This Week's Extended  
Kiddush is Co-Sponsored by:*

*Shawney & Dr. Richard  
Fine and Rachel & Hirsch  
Taylor in memory of their  
son and brother,  
Jeffrey Lawrence Gilson,  
for his unveiling;*

*And Dr. Seymour & Grace  
Stoll in honor of his aufruf  
and upcoming marriage of  
their son, Dr. Sidney Stoll to  
Shoshana Schwartz*

## Mazal Tov

**Dr. Sidney Stoll**  
on his aufruf and upcoming  
marriage to  
**Shoshana Schwartz**

## Mazal Tov

**Sarah & Alex Masket**  
on the birth of a daughter!  
Mazal Tov to  
grandparents  
**Janice & Philip Kaufler and  
Joyce & Paul Kirsch**

Dear Members & Friends,

One of humanity's most ancient tensions is the choice between our duty to God and ensuring that our behavior towards others is the paradigm of perfection. Historically, morality and religion were portrayed as synonymous – because if God wants it, it must be moral – but there are numerous instances where the gulf between one's duty to God and to fellow man is so wide that trying to reconcile the two is, for all intents and purposes, impossible. Frequently, those who consider themselves religious allow their God-devotion to overshadow human compassion, believing that faith justifies oppressing the unfaithful.

Examples of murder and cruelty perpetrated in God's name are ubiquitous. The medieval Crusades and 9/11 are just two well-known examples, but there are countless others. As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks put it in his 2015 book, *Not in God's Name*: "Too often in the history of religion, people have killed in the name of the God of life, waged war in the name of the God of peace, hated in the name of the God of love and practiced cruelty in the name of the God of compassion." Clearly, when faced with the choice of ritual obligations and violence against fellow humans, many God-believers have opted for the latter.

Judaism is no stranger to this tension – and on the face of it, God comes first. For example, if a kohen walks past a cemetery and spots an item lost by its owner, he cannot forsake his state of ritual purity to observe the mitzva of *hashavat aveida*, although returning lost property is a Torah mandated law, and crucial for the functioning of a just and civil society. God, it would appear, takes precedence over man. Nonetheless, there are laws that defy this pecking order. Most famously, saving a life takes precedence over any Shabbat prohibitions. One might think that this is only because loss of life is involved, but even seemingly less consequential considerations can get in the way of observing a ritual law. For example, although the Torah-mandates using four species on Sukkot, we are not permitted to utilize a stolen lulav. According to most Talmud commentators, this is because it is inconceivable for a mitzva to be carried out at someone else's expense. Apparently, in this instance, and others like it, man comes before God.

Interestingly, Joseph makes a statement in Parshat Vayeishev which reflects this theological conundrum, and the way he expresses himself helps explain how man comes before God. After Potiphar's wife had arranged for them to be alone together, he refused to succumb to her advances, spelling out his reasoning as follows (Gen. 39:9): "There is no one greater in this house than I, and [your husband, my master] has denied me nothing but you, since you are his wife. How then can I perpetrate this great evil? I will have sinned against God!" At first glance, Joseph's rebuff of Potiphar's wife is a little confusing. Is he concerned with betraying his master, or is he worried about sinning against God? And if it is both, why does God come second? Surely, God should come first!

In the foreword to *Even Sheleima*, the Gaon of Vilna presents a very powerful idea about our obligation to observe mitzvot: the foundation of every mitzva, whether it is a ritual mitzva or a human-relations mitzva, must always be ethics and morality. In fact, if a mitzva has not improved your character, it cannot have been executed properly. In Joseph's situation, adultery with his master's wife was certainly an affront to God, but first and foremost it was a betrayal of his master. Joseph was saying something very simple: if the only reason you abstain from immoral behavior is religious, you've missed the point entirely. And if it's all about God and not about ethical behavior, you might end up stealing a lulav, or even murdering another human being, to ingratiate yourself with God. But human suffering can never be justified by citing God as an excuse. Or, as Abraham Joshua Heschel once put it so well: "if I hurt a human being, I injure God."

Rabbi Yonason Eybeschütz (1690-1764) is best remembered for the period towards the end of his life when he was the foremost rabbinic leader and scholar of European Jewry. Earlier on he was not so well known, and it was during this period of youthful obscurity that he once found himself unable to get back home for Yom Kippur. Instead, he had to stay in a small town some distance from where he lived. Concerned that his prayers would suffer in this unfamiliar environment, he looked for a seat at the local synagogue where he would be able to pray properly. At mincha on Erev Yom Kippur afternoon he looked around the shul and noticed a man who was deeply engrossed in his prayers – a true paragon of devotion. Rabbi Yonason arrived early for Kol Nidre and sat himself as close to the devout man as he could. Sure enough, this man's prayers were filled with emotion and piety. "I am but dust in my lifetime," he sobbed, his body shaking with emotion, "and even more so in my death!" Rabbi Yonason was inspired, and the following morning he returned to the same seat near the man, thankful to have found such a saintly prayer partner. As the morning unfolded, the man continued to pray with utter dedication and concentration, particularly for parts of the prayer which focused on his insignificance.

After shacharit was over, the Torah reading began. All went smoothly – until the third *aliyah*. The *gabbai* didn't call the man next to Rabbi Yonason to say a blessing over the Torah, instead giving the *aliyah* to someone else. The man went red in the face, and without warning stood up and yelled: "Him? You're giving him the third *aliyah*?" The shul went dead quiet. "Why is he better than me?" the man continued shouting, "I am a greater scholar than he is! I give more charity than he does! Why are you putting him before me?" No one said a word. But Rabbi Yonason, never one to hold back, was undaunted. "I don't understand you," he said to the man, "last night and the whole of this morning you've been declaring in your prayers how insignificant you are, and now you are demanding an *aliyah* before this other guy because you're more significant than him? I'm sorry, but you're not making any sense. Are you insignificant? Or are you significant? It can't be both!" The man looked at Rabbi Yonason Eybeschütz as if he had just dropped from the moon. "Don't you understand," he said, "when it comes to God, I am like the dust of the earth... but compared to this guy – are you crazy?"

This story should remind us how all too often we lose sight of the fact that the only route to a relationship with God is via our relationship with those around us: our family, our friends, our community, those we interact with at stores, banks, airports – and in every given situation. If we are only focused on God to the exclusion of our fellow man – always putting God before man instead of man before God – nothing we do for God will ever amount to anything.

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

## Sisterhood Corner

November/December

LAST CHANCE - ONE WEEK LEFT!

Thank you to those who have already donated to our

Annual Toy Drive benefiting  
**CHAI LIFELINE.**

If you have not yet done so, please help us lift the spirits of a child this Chanukah by purchasing a gift from Chai's Amazon Wish list!

Visit [Beverlyhillssynagogue.org/toydrive](http://Beverlyhillssynagogue.org/toydrive) to see the full wish lists!

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH  
YOUR YINBH FAMILY!

Chanukah Shabbat Family Luncheon  
will be held on Shabbat Chanukah

December 4th, 2021!

Please RSVP to  
[beverlyhillssynagogue.org/Chanukah](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/Chanukah)

KEEP CALM AND READ ON!

Our next YINBH Sisterhood Book  
Group +3

meeting will take place on

Tuesday, January 11th at 7:30pm

We will be reading *The Bridal Chair*

By Gloria Goldreich

Location Provided upon RSVP

Wishing you a wonderful thanksgiving!

We all have so many reasons to be  
grateful

And wishing you a Chanukah Sameach!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

## YAHRTZEITS

**Rita Gerson**

Rachel Leah bat Yishayahu a"h

Mother of

**Nadine Gerson**

Yahrtzeit - 25 Kislev

**Leonard Melvin Rosenthal**

Father of

**Karen Fisher**

Yahrtzeit - 26 Kislev

**Bernard Finkel**

Baruch ben Oizer HaLevi z"l

Brother of

**Harry Finkel**

Yahrtzeit - 27 Kislev



*Steven Feder*

*Mia Gross*

*Rachel Broidy*

*Isaac Meier*

*Happy Anniversary*

*Ernie & Regina Goldberger*

CHANUKAH  
BEGINS  
THE  
EVENING  
OF  
SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER  
28TH  
THROUGH  
MONDAY,  
DECEMBER  
6TH

SUNDAY,  
NOV 28



MONDAY,  
NOV 29



TUESDAY,  
NOV 30



WEDNESDAY,  
DEC 1



THURSDAY,  
DEC 2



FRIDAY,  
DEC 3



SATURDAY,  
DEC 4



SUNDAY,  
DEC 5



EARLIEST  
TIME TO  
LIGHT THE  
MENORAH  
IS 5:24PM

You can find the amazon wishlists at [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/toydrive](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/toydrive)





*You're Invited*



YINBH BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE  
9261 Alden Drive Beverly Hills, CA  
310-276-7650 | office@yinnbh.org

# CHANUKAH SHABBAT FAMILY LUNCH

LATKES • DONUTS • GAMES  
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JOIN THE YINBH COMMUNITY FOR  
A FUN AND FESTIVE CHANUKAH  
THEMED SHABBAT LUNCH!  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SHABBAT CHANUKAH  
DECEMBER 4, 2021  
FOLLOWING MORNING  
SERVICES

SHABBAT SERVICES AT 9:15AM  
MUSICAL HALLEL  
FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON AT  
APPROXIMATELY 12NOON

*For YINBH Members  
and guests of sponsors*

*Free for YINBH members  
Non-Member Adults \$50  
Non-Member Children \$25*

RSVP is required at:  
[beverlyhillssynagogue.org/chanukah](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/chanukah)

Sponsors:  
Gina Raphael & Jeff Gross  
Amy & Mark Kestenbaum  
Galina & Joe Samuel  
Sheilagh & Faramarz Sadeghi

Sponsorship begins at \$360



Gindi Maimonides Academy Middle School &  
YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue invite the  
community to

# Chanukah

MUSICAL TEFILLAH & BREAKFAST

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST  
3RD DAY OF CHANUKAH  
8:00AM

9261 ALDEN DRIVE BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210



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

## Guess the Menorah

Email a photo of your family's  
menorah by Thursday, December  
2nd if you would like to be included  
in the YINBH Menorah Guessing  
game that will be in the Shabbat  
Chanukah Tefilla Notebook.  
Make sure that the pictures don't  
have any people in them.  
Email [mkramer@yinnbh.org](mailto:mkramer@yinnbh.org)



# TREASURES FROM THE RABBI'S LIBRARY



FINAL  
EPISODE  
MONDAY  
DECEMBER  
6TH  
5:30pm PST

Join the zoom at  
[beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom)

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



**JOIN US!**

**StandWithUs**

# FESTIVAL of LIGHTS INTERNATIONAL GALA

HINENI: A NIGHT TO HONOR HEROES  
STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

IN PERSON IN LOS ANGELES AND ALSO  
STREAMING LIVE VIRTUALLY AROUND THE GLOBE!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

IN-PERSON RECEPTION 5 PM • PROGRAM STREAMED VIRTUALLY:  
7 PM PACIFIC • 8 PM MOUNTAIN • 9 PM CENTRAL • 10 PM EASTERN

HONORING



KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**GIL TROY**  
PROFESSOR, AUTHOR,  
ZIONIST THINKER



EMCEE  
**ELON GOLD**  
COMEDIAN



**GOLAN VACH**  
IDF COLONEL  
—AIDED FLORIDA  
CONDO RESCUE  
OPERATION



**REBECCA KATZMAN**  
DIRECTOR,  
STANDWITHUS CANADA  
CAMPUS DEPT.



**ETHAN GEITMAN**  
STANDWITHUS  
KENNETH  
LEVERHULME HIGH  
SCHOOL INTERN



REMARKS  
**GILAD ERDAN**  
AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL  
TO THE U.S. AND THE U.N.



REMARKS  
**REP. RITCHIE  
TORRES**  
NEW YORK'S  
15TH DISTRICT



REMARKS  
**EMMANUELLE  
CHRIQUI**  
ACTRESS



REMARKS  
**MAYOR GABRIEL  
GROISMAN**  
MAYOR OF  
BAL HARBOUR, FL

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and to register:  
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SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY  
THE SPIRIT OF DAVID CHOIR  
FROM THE CITY OF REFUGE CHURCH



SUPPORTING ISRAEL AND FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AROUND THE WORLD

# YINBH DUBAI MISSION UPDATED DATES MARCH 3-13, 2022



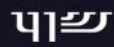
Optional extension to  
Jerusalem for Shabbat  
at the King David Hotel

- 5-STAR GOURMET CUISINE
- LUXURY ROOM & SUITE  
OPTIONS
- FANTASTIC PROGRAM
- HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

**SPACE IS LIMITED - RESERVE NOW**

FOR MORE INFO GOTO

[www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/dubai](http://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/dubai)



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE  
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

**JOIN US  
FOR THE INAUGURATION OF**



מוזיאון הטבע התנ"כי

The BIBLICAL MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY  
THE SAMSON FAMILY CENTER

**HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF  
LEE SAMSON IN ESTABLISHING ONE  
OF THE ONLY TORAH-BASED  
MUSEUMS IN THE WORLD.**

ISRAEL EVENT  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021  
HAR TUV, ISRAEL

VIRTUAL EVENT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021  
LINK TO BE EMAILED

[inauguration.biblicalnaturalhistory.org](http://inauguration.biblicalnaturalhistory.org)

For more information or to make a dedication, visit  
us online or contact Tobey at:  
[advancement@biblicalnaturalhistory.org](mailto:advancement@biblicalnaturalhistory.org)



**LEE SAMSON**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Tuesday,  
January 11th  
7:30pm



**YINBH SISTERHOOD  
BOOK GROUP**

**THIS MONTH WE WILL BE READING  
THE BRIDAL CHAIR  
WRITTEN BY: GLORIA GOLDBREICH**

*Books can be purchased on Amazon*



Location provided upon RSVP