

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **George and Irina Schaeffer** in memory of George's father, **Imre Schaeffer, Noach ben Moshe z"l**, whose yahrtzeit was on the 8th of Tevet.

14 Tevet • Parshat Vayechi

December 17-18, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan



SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

CANDLELIGHTING 4:28pm

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT 4:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

GEMARA SHIUR 8:30AM

SHACHARIT 9:15AM

MINCHA 4:40PM

MAARIV: 5:30PM

SHABBAT ENDS: 5:31PM

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sunday	8:00am	4:35pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	4:35pm
Friday	7:00am	4:35pm

MAZAL TOV

Andrew and Bobby Perl on their Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat!



THANK YOU

Mark and Marlene Perl for sponsoring the kiddush luncheon in honor of the Bar Mitzvah.

Thank You

Next Week's Parsha Shiur is sponsored by **Shawney and Richard Fine** in memory of Shawney's father, **Rabbi Joseph Wagner, HaRav Yosef Chaim ben Eliyahu z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 22nd of Tevet.

Thank you message from the IDF



On behalf of the Tsevet Hod of the Chetz Paratrooper IDF Unit, we would like to thank YINBH for your generous donation of 5,000 shekels. This donation will be a great help, enabling us to buy warm clothes and equipment for our winter training session that we have already begun. We are very thankful so thankful to your community, and we hope that we will be able to thank you and everyone who helped us in person at some point in the very near future.

Dear Members & Friends,

There are countless quotes on great leadership, far too many to share. But it's worth considering at least a couple. Here's one from John F. Kennedy: "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." And here is another, from Winston Churchill; typically laconic, he noted that people "will find it very hard to look up to the leaders who are keeping their ears to the ground." And I particularly like this quote from John Maxwell, bestselling author of *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*: "The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. But the leader adjusts the sails."

Not a week goes by without some new study or article appearing with fresh data and updated recommendations regarding leadership. For example, in the past week the US Air Force announced that officers and enlisted airmen "will soon be judged on a slate of 10 leadership traits the Air Force wants to foster in its ranks." These traits include initiative, adaptability, emotional intelligence, communication, accountability, and innovation. Meanwhile, the World Economic Forum recently has issued its recommendations for "leadership books that taught, challenged and inspired minds at Bank of America, IBM, Unilever and more" just in time for "holiday gift shopping."

And this week, former US president, Bill Clinton, announced his leadership "MasterClass" that will offer 14 lessons, in which he will share his "action-oriented and people-centered approach to leadership through powerful stories from his political career." The promotional video has him sitting in a comfy-looking home-study setting, looking directly at the camera. "If you want to lead something," he begins, "start by saying: this is what I care about, this is what I want to do, and why I think you should care about it and you should want to help." And he adds another crucial point: "Hardly anything worth doing can be done alone." He's not wrong. Indeed, Clinton's whole style seems to be centered on the idea that one needs to inspire others to be their best and do their best so that the group as a whole can excel.

Time and again, those who opine on leadership skills in an effort to define the quintessential leader come back to this idea of inspirational leadership. Unless a leader can enthuse others, all their supplementary qualities will likely remain untapped, or at best insufficiently exploited. In an incisive Forbes article on inspirational leadership, executive coach Heidi Lynn Kurter explains that "the ability to inspire is one of the single most important leadership skills that separates great leaders from average ones [because] while there are plenty of admirable bosses, there are only a handful of leaders who are able to infuse energy, passion and connection into their actions and behaviors."

In Parshat Vayechi, the topic of leadership raises its head, although in a rather unexpected way. While blessing his eldest son Reuben, Jacob informs him that as a result of his impetuosity and impulsiveness he would not have a leadership role in the family going forward, despite being the firstborn son. The sages of the Talmud and Midrash add further context – Jacob informed Reuben that the priesthood would be the domain of Levi, while Judah would take on royal duties for the Jewish nation. Although we are left with the puzzle of Levi's elevation, it is not as if we can come up with a more suitable candidate from among the other brothers. The rather more puzzling revelation is the promotion of Judah to the monarchy, as when it comes to kingship there was another far more competent candidate: Joseph.

Joseph was, for all intents and purposes, the king of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, and he was far more involved in the governance of the country than his boss – and successfully so. Within his own family he had emerged as the clear leader; his seemingly ridiculous dreams which had envisaged his brothers paying homage to him had turned out to be entirely true. Why was he overlooked in favor of Judah?

Rabbi Chaim ibn Attar (1696-1743), author of the seminal Ohr HaChaim commentary, has a stunning insight into Reuben's disqualification for leadership, the flip side of a coin which underscores Judah's superlative qualification for that position within the family. Reuben was hotheaded and brash, acting quickly and thoughtlessly in the pursuit of what he thought was right. And yet, when it came to admitting fault, it was only when Judah had publicly acknowledged his failings when confronted by Tamar that Reuben publicly confessed to his own wrongdoings. Reflecting on this, Jacob instinctively understood two things. In the first instance, it was clear that Reuben's most outstanding characteristic – his spontaneity – would never come into play when it came to self-reflection and self-improvement, which meant that he was not suited to leadership. Meanwhile, and more importantly, Judah was not only able to admit fault and make amends when he got things wrong, he was also able to inspire others to do the same thing – as he did for his older brother, Reuben.

And while Joseph might have been an extraordinary leader in every other respect – including initiative, adaptability, emotional intelligence, and all the rest – when it came to inspiring others, he didn't have what it took, and Judah was streets ahead of him. Which was why, when Jacob looked ahead at what would be best for the nation that was to emerge from his family, it was Judah's inspirational leadership he focused on as the great hope for Jewish endurance in the face of every challenge they would face.

As the sixth US president, John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), put it so well: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more – you are a leader."

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom, and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner

Sisterhood Corner

December

Keep Calm and Read On!

Join our next YINBH Sisterhood Book Group

where we will be discussing

The Bridal Chair

by Gloria Goldreich.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:30pm

Location Provided upon RSVP!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS

Hedy Orden

Chana bat Chaim a"h

Mother of

Helen Sassover

Yahrtzeit - 17 Tevet

Helen Baum

Miriam Henia bat Yechezkel

Yaakov HaLevi a"h

Mother of

Michael Baum

Annie Baum

Roberta Kimmel

Yahrtzeit - 19 Tevet

Jacobo Cohenca

Yaakov ben Shabatai z"l

Father of

Victor Cohenca

Yahrtzeit - 19 Tevet

Donna Michelle Gross

Rachel Daniella bat Moshe a"h

Sister of

Jeff Gross

Yahrtzeit - 19 Tevet

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jeremy Wizman

Ariella Sassover

Jonathan

Garshofsky

Evyatar Evron

Benjamin Samuel

Liam Mostadim

Ryan Cohen

Eliezer Zucker

Shlomo Dunner

Sarah Meier

Daniel Kramer

Happy Anniversary

Evan & Liz Greenspan

David & Allison Sostchen

Sam & Sue Varon

Steven & Esther Feder

Bob & Nadine Zeller

John & Sherri Fogelman

**NEW! Bagel
Breakfast with lox,
cream cheese,
whitefish, and coffee
on Monday and
Thursday
Mornings!**

Shacharit:

Sunday 8am,

Monday-Fri - 7am

Mincha/Maariv:

4:35pm next week

Please join us for
weekday Tefilla
Services and pray
alongside your YINBH
friends.

**WE NEED YOU
FOR WEEKDAY MINYAN**

Our community needs a daily weekday minyan. It's time to do your part. You could be #10. Help keep our weekday minyan thriving every morning and evening. Join our YINBH MINYAN WhatsApp group. Text your number to 310-499-3407 today.

We need YOU!

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END OF YEAR REMINDER

As the year is coming to a close, please make sure to pay any outstanding pledges. You can pay online by logging into your shulcloud account at beverlyhillssynagogue.org or call the office at 310-276-7650.



Dvar Torah from Chazzan Nati Baram - Parshat Vayechi

שִׁמְעוֹן וְלֵוִי אֲחִים כְּלִי חַמָּס מְכַרְתִּיהֶם:

"Simeon and Levi are a pair; Their weapons are tools of lawlessness"

בְּסֹדֶם אֶל-תִּבְא נַפְשִׁי בְּקֹהֶלֶם אֶל-תִּתְּד כְּבֹדִי כִּי בְּאֶפֶס הָרְגוּ אִישׁ וּבְרָצֹנָם עָקְרוּ-שׁוֹר:

"Let not my person be included in their council, Let not my being be counted in their assembly For when angry they slay men, and when pleased they maim oxen."

אָרוּר אַפִּם כִּי עָז וְעִבְרָתָם כִּי קָשָׁתָה אַחֲלֶקֶם בְּיַעֲקֹב וְאַפִּצָּם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: {פ}

"Cursed be their anger so fierce, And their wrath so relentless, I will divide them in Yaacov. Scatter them in Israel."

Yaacov Avinu, on his deathbed, expressed rage and anger of his sons, Shimon and Levi. He starts his sharp criticism on them by pointing to the story of the rape of Dina and the result of that, the relentless killing of all the inhabitants of Shechem, by Shimon and Levi. The expression of "Klei Chamas" is clearly a condemnation against Shimon and Levi's revenge that took place as a result of Shechem kidnapping Dina and raping her. This point of criticism by Yaacov triggers a gushing volcano of anger from Yaacov continuing targeting his own sons and reaching the peak by cursing their anger.

אַחֲלֶקֶם בְּיַעֲקֹב וְאַפִּצָּם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

"I will divide them in Yaacov, Scatter them in Israel."

In the early 2000s, at the time of the "intifada", Israeli citizens were attacked by terrorists that used suicide bombs almost on a daily basis. At that time, prime minister Sharon, in response to the attacks, ordered targeted killing by the IDF against members of the terror organization. Any terrorist personnel that was described as a ticking bomb was deliberately killed by the Shin Beit and the IDF. Sharon's action was condemned by the international press and also some segments of the Israeli society.

I remember vividly the Friday night of Shabbat "Vayishlach", when I went to daven in my neighborhood Shul, the "Ramban" Synagogue, and as usual, I quickly scanned in my eyes and read the message on the Shabbat pamphlet (Tefillah notebook) that was written by Rabbi Channan Porat (an educator, soldier during the Six Day War who was among the troops that captured Temple Mount, an inspirational leader, and a builder of Gush Etzion).

He enlightened me with a Jewish clear response of how we, as Jews, can take our own destiny and defend ourselves. Rabbi Porat quoted the Ramban that asks the following: "in Parashat 'Vayishlach', while Dina was kidnapped by Shechem, the Torah described a negotiation that took place between Chamor, the father of Shechem, the ruler of the city and Yaacov's sons. The question is - how did Yaacov allow this negotiation to happen? How is it that he partly agreed that his daughter would marry a Canaanite rapist?"

The answer of the Ramban is that yes, the negotiation did happen, but it was a cover story, a fraudulent exercise, that was planned by Yaacov and his sons to plan a rescue operation and save Dina from her capture. During these negotiations, Shimon and Levi acted without the permission of their father and acted without authority on the operation to rescue their sisters and killed all the people of Shechem. Yaacov, as we know, was against this operation as he reacted to Shimon and Levi.

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-שִׁמְעוֹן וְאֶל-לֵוִי עֲכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי לְהַבְאִישְׁנִי בְיָשֵׁב - הָאָרֶץ בְּכֹנְעֵנִי וּבִפְרִי וְאֲנִי מִתִּי מְסֹר וְנֶאֱסָפוּ עָלַי וְהָלוּנִי וְנִשְׁמַדְתִּי אֲנִי וּבֵיתִי:

"Yaacov said to Simeon and Levi, 'You have brought trouble on me, making me odious among the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites; my men are few in number, so that if they unite against me and attack me, I and my house will be destroyed.'"

The Ramban explains that the original plan of Yaacov was to pinpoint and target a killing of Shechem, the rapist and his father, the ruler who took him under his wing and support where this atrocity happened - the rape and the kidnapping. Shimon and Levi decided among themselves that without any support of Yaacov or the rest of their brothers, to kill the whole city, and with an objection of revenge and deterrence, which indeed was achieved.

וַיֵּצְאוּ וַיְהִי אִתָּהֶם אֱלֹהִים עַל-הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבוֹתֵיהֶם וְלֹא רָדְפוּ אַחֲרֵי בְנֵי יַעֲקֹב:

"As they set out, a terror from God fell on the cities round about, so that they did not pursue the sons of Yaacov."

In our Parasha, said the Ramban, Yaacov Avinu is condemning the method of collective punishment. This is wrong from a moral perspective. This is against Avraham Avinu's argument in the story of Sedom.

וַיָּגֶשׁ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲאֵף תִּסְפָּה צַדִּיק עִם-רָשָׁע:

"Abraham came forward and said, Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?"

Pinpoint punishment and targeted killing are justified from a moral perspective, but collective punishment is defined by Yaacov as immoral, savage behavior. This is what Yaacov is teaching us on his death bed, in the very special moment of connection to the Holy Spirit, and Rabbi Chanan Porat ends his article with warm words of support to the sons of Yaacov that are fighting on the hills of Judea, and executing targeted killing of terrorists, knowing how to differentiate between an enemy and the innocent.

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



TIKVAH
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

TIKVAH SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT YALE UNIVERSITY

— Join Us at Our Virtual Open House —

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 5 PM PST
[TIKVAHSCHOLARS.ORG/OPENHOUSE](https://tikvahscholars.org/openhouse)



Learn more about the Tikvah Scholars Program, an 11-day residential summer institute for current 10th and 11th graders at Yale University, at their virtual Open House on Tuesday, December 21, at 5 PM PST. Hear from Rabbi Mark Gottlieb, Senior Director at the Tikvah Fund & Dean of the Tikvah Scholars Program, as well as faculty and alumni, who will share more details about this one-of-a-kind summer experience. Learn more and register at tikvahscholars.org

YINBH DUBAI MISSION

UPDATED DATES

MARCH 3-9, 2021

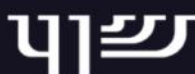
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