

Tefilla Notebook



30 Kislev • Parshat Miketz • Rosh Chodesh Tevet • Chanukah

December 3-4, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan



SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

CANDLELIGHTING 4:25pm

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT 4:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

GEMARA SHIUR 8:15AM

SHACHARIT 9:00AM

MINCHA 4:35PM

MAARIV: 5:25PM

SHABBAT ENDS: 5:28PM

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

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

WELCOME

To all those are joining us for the Chanukah Luncheon for Members.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Gina Raphael & Jeff Gross

Amy & Mark Kestenbaum



Ruth Brandt

Galina & Joe Samuel

Sheilagh & Faramarz Sadeghi

WELCOME

Gill Troy, who will be speaking following services.

Gil Troy is an American presidential historian and a popular commentator on politics and other issues. He is a Professor of History at McGill University. Troy is the author of nine books, and the editor of two.



THANK YOU

David & Gloria Frankel for sponsoring Seudah Shlishit in memory of David's mother, Chaya Gitel Shprintza bat Dovid a"h, whose yahrtzeit is on the 4th of Tevet.

Dear Members & Friends,

There's a famous quote from the 1988 movie, *Beaches*; it's one of my favorite movie quotes of all time. It's Bette Midler who says it – without a hint of irony – in her starring role as the self-centered singer "C.C." Bloom: "But enough about me, let's talk about you...what do YOU think of me?"

The truth is, it's not an original line – a variation first appeared in *The Evening Tribune* in 1928, and the line has been reused countless times since – but Midler is the one who made it famous. The reason I like it so much is that this pithy aphorism perfectly captures the way a narcissist sees the world: everyone and everything in their orbit is simply supporting actors in an ongoing story of their superlative importance. Or, as that old joke put it so well: How many narcissists does it take to change a lightbulb. Just one. All he has to do is to hold it in place while the world revolves around him.

Recent research has revealed that narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) not only impacts your ability to think straight, but it also affects your memory. According to an article in the *Daily Mail* article this week, a scientific study tested 1,435 participants for 'grandiose narcissism' – a "personality trait which involves pronounced self-focus, egotism, vanity, a sense of entitlement and a tendency to disregard the needs of others" – and then conducted a number of experiments to see how grandiose narcissism affects mental acuity. In one experiment, all the participants were shown photos of 40 men and then told to complete some unrelated tasks, after which they were shown the photos again along with another 40 photos. As they were shown each photo each participant was asked if they had seen the face before. Predictably, the narcissists were unable to recall as many faces as those on the study unaffected by self-obsession.

But while these findings are hardly surprising, it is the hypnotic effect of narcissists that is perhaps the most alarming aspect of this dreadful blight – one person's narcissism can lead to a contagion of mental dysfunction among those who fall under their spell, with devastating consequences. In their 1983 book *Hitler's Psychopathology*, authors Norbert Bromberg (d.1988), a psychologist, and Verna Volz Small (1916-2008), offered a compelling psychobiography of Adolf Hitler which suggested that all his actions were underpinned by acute NPD. Hitler's absurd self-belief amounted to an overriding obsession that drew in ever-widening concentric circles of German society, in the end resulting in death and destruction on an unprecedented scale.

And it is this phenomenon of group hero-worship of a chronic narcissist that can help explain one of the puzzles at the heart of Parshat Miketz. Why did Pharaoh need Joseph to figure out the meaning of his dreams? Why were his own advisors – all of them expert dream interpreters – unable to figure out the symbolism of Pharaoh's dreams for themselves? After all, Joseph's interpretation seems rather obvious – even to us non-experts.

The Midrash notes that in ancient Egypt, all the gods were subservient to the reigning Pharaoh. This was the paradigm propagated by the elite and it was blindly accepted by the populace. But while this may have worked in terms of keeping society in check, with everyone bowing to the supreme leadership of one narcissistic individual, the downside of this approach was that they were unable to yield to reality when it differed from their worldview.

Pharaoh's advisors had clearly drunk the Kool-Aid, and were utterly convinced of the fact that anything which was important to Egypt's destiny had to revolve around Pharaoh. Pharaoh felt the same way. As far as he was concerned, it was always "all about me". And it was this handicap that hindered the outlook of Pharaoh's coterie of counselors as they attempted to interpret his dreams. Unsurprisingly, he had to be at the center of every interpretation: one advisor told him he would have seven daughters who would all die; another advisor proposed that Pharaoh would conquer seven countries that would later rebel against him. But none of the advisors thought to suggest that the central character of the dream was not in fact Pharaoh, the individual, but rather it was Egypt, the country.

Joseph was released from prison and Pharaoh told him his dreams, but in his repetition of the dreams he was no longer עומד על הניאָר (Gen. 41:1) – standing over the River Nile, the all-powerful body of water symbolic of all the gods considered subservient to him. Instead, he was now עומד על שפת הניאָר (Gen. 41:17) – standing next to the river. It was a subtle change, but it marked a remarkable moment of clarity for someone whose entire existence was contingent on collective psychosis – a psychosis presumably projected by him, and which had seen his subjects buying into the ridiculous narrative of his omnipotent superiority. Joseph was sharp, and immediately leaped onto Pharaoh's acknowledgment of his vulnerability, telling him that God wished him to know via the dreams that everyone was going to be affected, not just Pharaoh. It wasn't "all about me."

Joseph presents us with the perfect example of humility in a person of greatness. His challenging experiences didn't cause him to retreat into self-obsession; instead they gave him a clarity of vision which enabled him to see things as they were, without his own ego ever getting in the way. This was why he was able to care so much about others – even those who had harmed him – and to care for them to such an extent. And this was why Joseph saved a country and strengthened an empire, while he simultaneously set his family on the path towards nationhood and a spiritual legacy that has been maintained to this day. Simply put: for Joseph, it was never "all about me."

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

Sisterhood Corner

DECEMBER

Wishing you peace, love, and latkes this Chanukah!

Thanks to our many members who donated generously to this year's

Annual Toy Drive benefiting Chai Lifeline making it a huge success!

THIS SHABBAT!!

Welcome to everyone who is joining us for this week's Chanukah Lunch!

Join us for the virtual inauguration of
The Biblical Museum of Natural History!

For those who were unable to attend in person the virtual event will be held on

Sunday, December 12th

Link to be emailed!

Tune in to the FINAL EPISODE of
Treasures from the Rabbi's library
Monday, December 13th at 5:30pm

Join the Zoom at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom

Mark your calendars!

Our next YINBH Sisterhood Book Group
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

Chanukah Sameach!

&

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS

Sheldon Robert Raphael

Solomon z"l

Father of

Gina Raphael

Yahrtzeit - 2 Tevet

Joel Bernstein

Yosef Yitzhak ben Yechiel z"l

Brother of

Barbara Bernstein

Yahrtzeit - 3 Tevet

Leonard Stoll

Chaim Aryeh ben Moshe z"l

Father of

Seymour Stoll

Yahrtzeit - 4 Tevet

Chaya Gitel Shprintza

Chaya Gitel Shprintz bat Dovid
a"h

Mother of

David Frankel

Yahrtzeit - 4 Tevet

Mazal Tov to Daniel Gromis on his
engagement to Tanner Strommen!

Mazal Tov to Ed & Cecile Gromis

And Lisa and Dellon Strommen



*Mazal Tov to Grandparents
Joanne Sacks and Tuvia Ganz on
the birth of a new granddaughter,
Noa Nechama,
born to Shaina and Oren Debbi.*

Tefilla, Musical Hallel & Breakfast with Gindi Maimonides Academy Middle School



Michael Baum

Judith Lampert

Moshe Sassover

Norm Solomon

Joseph Czuiker

Joseph Wizman



Message from Steven Dorfman

Today we mourn the loss of Dr. Stephen Rothman. Past President and Gabbai of our Shul, and a friend to all. Steve was not just a leader of our Shul, but of our entire community. As President, he governed his board with poise, dignity and shalom, which resonated with the entire membership of the Shul. When Steve approached me at the end of his tenure to take over the position of

President of our Shul, I asked him how many people he asked before me? He just smiled, not wanting to hurt my feelings. I will miss his friendship, his guidance and just seeing him sitting in his aisle seat in the last row. Vivian and I send our heartfelt condolences to Roz, his children Eric,

Elisha and Aura lee, their spouses and children. May the neshama of Shlomo Leib Gavriel ben Yosef have an aliyah.

Message from Hillel and Ruthie Kellerman

Our close-knit shul and the community-at-large has suffered an incalculable loss. Steve Rothman, a brilliant radiologist and spine specialist was a doctor's doctor. He generously gave of his time to consult with other physicians and review the MRIs and CAT Scans of friends and acquaintances, saving innumerable people from unnecessary surgeries. He was also a family man who adored his wife, children and grandchildren.

A polymath and a renaissance man, he loved life and had infectious joie-de-vivre, immersing himself wholeheartedly in a wide variety of activities and subjects. He was an oenophile who enjoyed and was both knowledgeable and passionate about kosher wine. He was a philatelist who amassed an important collection of Israeli stamps. He was a member of his college fencing team and continued in that sport for many years. He ran and completed the Los Angeles Marathon. He was a scholar and dutifully studied Daf Yomi; after completing the entire Talmud Bavli, he went on to study the Talmud Yerushalmi.

But the enthusiasm that we most associate with Steve was his enjoyment in serving as a Chazan for our community. He loved leading us in davening and his fondness of music and ritual benefited us all. He was a gabbai extraordinaire – always considerate, helpful, cheerful and solicitous. And when he served as president of our synagogue, he sowed peace, not dissent. Steve was a man of true stature, both in the physical and intellectual sense.

We will always remember Steve's love of life, optimism, his willingness to share his joy with others, and his kind smile and contagious laugh.

May his memory be a blessing to his family, our community and Klal Yisrael.

Hillel & Ruthie Kellerman

A Message from Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

My good friend , שלמה לייב גבריאל passed away this morning in Los Angeles surrounded by his loving family members. My friendship with Steve goes back 35 years ago, when I led the Rosh Hashana Davening at Beth Jacob in Bayer Hall, and he was the Chazzan .

He was truly a Renaissance Man !

Physician, a prominent Radiologist, Gabbai Rishon at BJBH and YINBH , Talmud Chacham always learning and giving Shiurim, wine expert, and a most ardent Stamp collector. Honored by the OU in 2007 with the Community Leadership Award . He recently completed a 3 year term as president of YINBH .

In 2013 he attended the YU graduation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his graduation from YC. He urged me to join him as it was my 40th year since graduating YC .

Unfortunately I could not join him to celebrate with him.

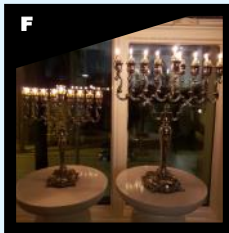
However he said in 2023 - I will personally escort you to graduation to celebrate your 50th and my 60th I too was very much looking forward to this event, but alas my friend, my mentor will not be there. It is well known to many members of YINBH of our special relationship. In fact it was obvious when you enter the sanctuary as my seat is directly next to his!

His passing will leave a tremendous void in his beloved family's life , and in the lives of all those who were touched by his gentleness and Menschlekeit .

G-d willing when I attend the 2023 Graduation ceremony celebrating my 50th anniversary.... I will be sharing this moment with my dear friend שלמה לייב גבריאל

תהיה נשמתו צרורה בצרור החיים

Guess the Menorah



Answer: A) Hodara, B) Kellerman, C) Novack, D) Nissel, E) Feigen, F) Dorfman, G) Gromis, H) Einfeld, I) Kramer

TREASURES FROM THE RABBI'S LIBRARY



**FINAL
EPISODE
MONDAY
DECEMBER
13TH
5:30pm PST**

Join the zoom at
beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

**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

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**



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS