

Tefilla Notebook

21 Tevet • Parshat Shemot

December 24-25, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by
David & Caroline Azouz in memory of David's mother,
Muriel Azouz, Hanna bat Shulman Dellal a"h, whose
yahrtzeit is on the 27th of Tevet.



SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

CANDLELIGHTING 4:31pm

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT 4:35pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

GEMARA SHIUR 8:30AM

SHACHARIT 9:15AM

MINCHA 4:40PM

MAARIV: 5:30PM

SHABBAT ENDS: 5:35PM

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sunday	8:00am	4:40pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	4:40pm
Friday	7:00am	4:40pm

Thank You

Next Week's Parsha Shiur is
sponsored by **Maggie & Michael
Bayer** in memory of Maggie's
mother, **Bella Magenheimer, Bayla
bat Shmuel a"h**, whose yahrtzeit
is on the 22nd of Tevet.

Mazal Tov

Daniel and Nathalie Paluch
on the birth of a baby girl,
Rafaella Aliyah!

Mazal Tov to Grandmother
Barbara Bernstein!



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.

Dear Members & Friends,

Let me begin by sharing a question from the acclaimed author and lecturer, Alison Armstrong: "What if greatness is as simple as reliably being that quality day in and day out, even under stress?" For James Clear, author of No. 1 New York Times bestseller *Atomic Habits*, the answer is clear – true greatness is always measured in consistency: "Meditating once is common; meditating daily is rare. Exercising today is simple; training every week is simply remarkable. Writing one essay doesn't mean much; writing every day makes you a hero."

But truthfully, this is a confounding idea. After all, when it comes to measuring greatness, what about talent? What about charisma? What about brilliance? What about wisdom? Surely these attributes are the foundation of true greatness?

One of the greatest rabbis of all time was Rabbi Moses Maimonides ("Rambam"; 1132-1204). He was the author of numerous rabbinic works; a superlative scholar of Torah, philosophy and science; leader of the Egyptian Jewish community; court physician to Sultan Saladin; and mentor and counselor to countless rabbis and communities across the Jewish world.

Maimonides regularly corresponded with his colleagues and students, often sharing intimate thoughts and personal experiences. His letters offer a revealing glimpse into the life of this extraordinary individual, but there is one letter that stands out. In 1199, Rambam wrote to Samuel ibn Tibbon (c. 1150-c. 1230), his dear friend from Marseilles, France. Ibn Tibbon had expressed an interest in visiting him, but Rambam discouraged him from embarking on the trip, and explained that it would be impossible for them to spend any time together, as his overstretched daily schedule simply would not permit it.

"This is what I do each day" he wrote to Ibn Tibbon. "I live in Fustat, and the Sultan resides in Cairo – about 4 miles distance from each other. My duties to the Sultan are very heavy. I need to visit him each weekday, early in the morning. And when he or any of his children, or any of his wives, are unwell, I cannot leave Cairo as I need to stay in the palace for most of the day. Often, one or two royal officers are also sick, and I have to look after them. For this reason, as a rule, I go to Cairo very early, and even if nothing unusual happens I don't return to Fustat until the afternoon. By then I am almost dying with hunger, but my office is already full of people – Jews and Gentiles, nobles and commoners, judges and bailiffs, friends and enemies: a real mixed multitude – all of them waiting for me to return."

"I dismount my horse, wash my hands, and ask my patients to bear with me as I eat a little – often this will be the only meal I have all day. After that I attend to my patients and write prescriptions for their various ailments. Patients come and go until evening, and sometimes for another two hours into the night. I talk to them all and prescribe medication, even as I'm lying down from sheer fatigue. By nightfall I am so exhausted I can hardly speak. As a result, no Jewish person can meet me privately, except on Shabbat, when the whole congregation, or most of them, come to me after morning services, and I tell them what needs to be done in the coming week. We study together until noon, and then they leave. Some of them come back and learn with me following afternoon services until evening prayers. That's how I spend every Shabbat. And, just to be clear, what I have told you is only a part of what you would see if you came to visit."

The most striking aspect of the letter is how this distinguished author of the most seminal rabbinic works on Jewish law and philosophy, a man who literally shone with intellect and wisdom, spent his day, from early morning until late at night, following a schedule that would have been tough enough had it been just one day each week. But it was every day. While Rambam's greatness was undoubtedly enhanced by his talents, charisma brilliance, and wisdom, the foundation of his greatness was doggedness – his relentless dedication to a daily schedule that was as rigorous as it was predictable.

The Midrash Yalkut Shimoni (169:7) picks up on the rather curious description of Moses as a shepherd (Ex. 3:1): ומִשֶּׁה הָיָה רֹעֶה אֶת צֹאן יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵנו - "Moses pastured the flocks of Jethro, his father in law." The Midrash uses this verse as the trigger for a question: how does God test the righteous to see if they are great? God judges them by seeing how they do as shepherds, says the Midrash. The idea seems to be, if you can take good care of a flock of sheep, you must be a great person. Bottom line: Moses was very great, because he was a good shepherd.

That's the kind of statement which sounds cute, but doesn't stand up to closer scrutiny. Think about it – who was Moses? He was a prince in Egypt who abandoned his privilege to save a Jewish slave being beaten. He later intervened after seeing two Jews fighting and got himself into trouble. Forced to flee Egypt, he arrived in Midian and saw Jethro's daughters being unfairly treated. Again, he intervened to sort things out when no one else would. Each of these events portray Moses as a great man, standing up for the underdog even though he had nothing to gain and everything to lose. So why does the Midrash propose the idea that his greatness was derived from the fact that he was a good shepherd?

The point, I think, is simple. What makes someone great is not some one-off act of heroism, however remarkable that act may be. Rather it is a daily commitment to caring for and tending to one's flock, come rain or shine. For forty years, every day – from early morning to late night – Moses was always there for his flock: dependable, reliable, responsible and consistent. And so, in answer to Alison Armstrong's question: yes, it's true – "greatness is as simple as reliably being that quality day in and day out, even under stress."

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

Rabbi Pini Dunner

Sisterhood Corner

December

Bring your questions and comments!

Our next YINBH Sisterhood Book Group

Will take place on

Tuesday, January 11th at 7:30pm

We will be discussing

The Bridal Chair

by Gloria Goldreich.

Location Provided upon RSVP!

Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Samuel Schlesinger

Dalia Wizman

Edward Czuker

Ethan Ruimy

Helen Sassover

Daniel Varon

Happy Anniversary

Michael & Jennifer Halimi

Lloyd & Sonia Levitin

YAHRTZEITS

Harold Markowitz
Benjamin Tvi ben Yitzhak z"l
Husband of
Vera Markowitz
Yahrtzeit - 22 Tevet

Isadore Bernstein
Yecheil ben Yitzhak z"l
Father of
Barbara Bernstein
Yahrtzeit - 25 Tevet

Bella Magenheimer
Bayla bat Shmuel a"h
Mother of
Maggie Bayer
Yahrtzeit - 22 Tevet

Muriel Azouz
Hanna bat Sulman Dellal a"h
Mother of
David Azouz
Yahrtzeit - 27 Tevet

Joseph Wagner
HaRavYosef Chaim ben Eliyahu z"l
Father of
Shawney Fine
Yahrtzeit - 22 Tevet

Florence Presser
Feige Neshe bat Binyomin HaCohen a"h
Mother of
Marilyn Sohacheski
Yahrtzeit - 27 Tevet

IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATES *Letter sent on December 21, 2021*

As you are probably aware, the new Omicron variant of Covid-19 is now accelerating globally, and has reached Los Angeles. This variant is particularly infectious, and we want to ensure maximum protection for our members who attend shul. As a result, this is an update based on recommendations from the YINBH Covid Response Committee as to how we are going to proceed going forward. We will be instituting the following updated protocols for all people coming in to the YINBH building, effective this coming **Shabbat, December 25th**:

- Masks *must* be worn at all times while in the building. This includes all services, shabbat and weekday.
- Note: The Chazzan will not be wearing a mask while leading services, as he will have tested negative for COVID within the previous 24-hours.
- Proof of your Covid Vaccination (**INCLUDING A BOOSTER**) must be shown before coming to the shul. If your second shot was less than 6 months for Pfizer or Moderna or 2 months for Johnson & Johnson, you don't need to have a third booster yet.
- Please send in a scan or picture of your vaccination card, which includes the booster by visiting beverlyhillssynagogue.org/covid. Alternatively, you can also email the proof of vaccination to covid@yinbh.org. We will have a list of everyone who is fully vaccinated at the door for the guards to check against.
- If you don't wish to send your vaccination proof in prior, you can bring your vaccine card along with a photo ID to show to the guards before you enter the building.

As data comes in over the next few weeks, our covid guidelines will be revised as needed to maintain the safest environment for our congregants.

Warm Regards,

Steve Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner

December 22, 2021

Young Israel of North Beverly Hills
9261 Alden Dr
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Young Israel of North Beverly Hills:

On behalf of our children and families, thank you for your participation in the Chanukah Toy Drive for Chai Lifeline. The quantity of toys we received from the YINBH community through our Amazon Toy Drive was unbelievable!

We were grateful to have received such a large and varied assortment of toys and gifts appropriate for all ages. Our staff and volunteers took great delight in distributing your gifts to our Chai Lifeline families during Chanukah. Your kindness not only brought excitement and joy into their homes but let them know they are not alone in their difficult journeys.

I am so excited to share that because of your generous participation in the toy drive, we have a large supply of toys remaining that we will use for birthday and hospital pick-me-up gifts throughout the year.

We are deeply touched by your outpouring of love and support for our Chai Lifeline's kids. Thank you again for partnering with us and bringing so much happiness to our children.

With much appreciation,


Randi Grossman, MPH
West Coast Regional Director

Randi Grossman, MPH, Regional Director • Rabbi Nachum Sauer, Rabbinical Advisor

Rabbi Simcha Schaller, Executive Vice President • Rabbi Avraham Cohen, Executive Director • Rabbi Mordechai Gebioli, Director of Client Services
International Office 151 W 30th Street NY, NY 10001 • 212-445-1300 • 877-CHAI-LIFE • fax 212-445-0949

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



**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!

 **BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE**
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS
9261 ALDEN DRIVE BEVERLY HILLS 90210 | 310-976-7650 | OFFICE@YINBH.ORG

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

Shacharit:

Sunday 8am,

Monday-Fri - 7am

Mincha/Maariv:

4:40pm next week

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

**Keep up to date on
what's happening at our
Synagogue in real time!**



YINBH DUBAI MISSION

UPDATED DATES
MARCH 3-9, 2022



Leading the mission
Rabbi Pini Durrner

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

SPACE IS LIMITED - RESERVE NOW

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YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS