

Tefilla Notebook

1 Adar • Mishpatim • Parshat Shekalim • Rosh Chodesh Adar

February 12-13, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan



SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

CANDLELIGHTING 5:16pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 5:20pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

PESUKEI D'ZIMRA 8:45AM

MORNING SERVICES 9:00AM

MINCHA 5:25pm

SHABBAT ENDS 6:20pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sunday 8:00am & 5:25pm
Mon- Fri 7:00am & 5:25pm

Services are also on zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/226829899>
Passcode: yinbh

**CHODESH
ADAR TOV!**

**משנכנס אדר מרבין
בשמחה!**



PURIM IS TWO WEEKS AWAY!

See page 3 for full details!

*Schedule, Mishloach Manot, trivia
night, and more!*

**THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP
FOR MISHLOACH MANOT IS
NEXT WEEK - FEBRUARY 18TH**

Message from

Barbara Bernstein

*I and my children, Daniel and
Nathalie Paluch, wish to
thank Rabbi Dunner, Chazan
Baram, and all those in the
YINBH community who
expressed condolences for the
death of my brother, Dr.
Marvin Jay Bernstein,
Menachem ben Yechiel z"l.
Your support and kindness
has helped to sustain us while
we grieve the loss of our dear
one, who was a loving
presence in our lives.*

Dear Members and Friends,

In the late 1880s, Charles "Andy" Hudspeth, a farmhand in Arkansas, made the mistake of becoming intimately involved with a married woman called Rebecca Watkins. Shortly afterwards her husband George disappeared, leading to Hudspeth's arrest and eventual conviction for his murder, despite the lack of a body or any reliable evidence – his conviction was based purely on Rebecca's erratic testimony. Eventually, on December 30, 1892, after two extremely contentious trials, Hudspeth was hanged. The following year George Watkins was found alive and well, living in Kansas. This shocking miscarriage of justice is hardly an isolated case; it is estimated that up to 5 percent of all prisoners in the United States are innocent. Just to put this into perspective: there are approximately 2.4 million men and women in U.S. prisons, which means there could be as many as 120,000 people who have been incarcerated as a result of wrongful conviction. Although, to be fair, most miscarriages of justice are not felony murder cases which result in executions, even as the alleged murder victim is living happily just a few hundred miles away.

Sometimes miscarriages of justice can be even worse than the Hudspeth case. In 1906, Ed Johnson, a black man, was convicted of raping Nevada Taylor, a white woman, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and sentenced to death. His victim had not been able to describe her attacker and wasn't even sure if he was black or white. Johnson appealed the conviction, on the basis that his constitutional rights had been violated; no blacks had been allowed on the jury, and he should have been tried in a different district. As a result of his appeal Johnson was granted a stay of execution and the right of appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court – but the Chattanooga sheriff, Joseph Shipp, was having none of it. The evening after news of the stay of execution came through, Shipp deliberately arranged for the prison where Johnson was being held to be poorly guarded. Sure enough, the prison was invaded, and Johnson was pulled from his cell by a mob of local white men and unceremoniously hanged in the courthouse square. The Supreme Court was absolutely outraged that its authority had been so shockingly undermined, resulting in the sheriff together with his various accomplices being charged with – wait for it! – "contempt of court" and later sentenced to three months in federal prison.

Perhaps the most famous miscarriage of justice in U.S. history was the case of Sam Sheppard, a successful osteopathic physician who was wrongfully convicted for the brutal 1954 murder of his pregnant wife Marilyn. A week after he was found guilty and imprisoned for life, Sheppard's mother committed suicide, and his father died a couple of weeks later. Marilyn's father also committed suicide, and following Sheppard's eventual release on bail in 1964 – in anticipation of a retrial (which he won in 1966) – he sank into alcoholism, dying of liver failure and brain damage in 1970. Meanwhile, the likely murderer, Richard Eberling, was never charged in Marilyn's murder, although he was eventually arrested for another homicide in 1984 and died in jail in 1998. Sheppard's case captivated popular imagination, and inspired the fictional character of Richard Kimble in the television and film productions of *The Fugitive*.

Parshat Mishpatim is the primary launchpad for Torah-based civil and criminal law, containing a vast range of rules and regulations governing diverse legal areas, such as murder, assault, theft, charity, sorcery, and the treatment of outsiders, widows and orphans. Right in the middle of all of this, the Torah inserts a brief interlude concerning judicial integrity, which begins with the verse (Ex. 23:1): **לֹא תִשָּׂא שְׁמֶעַת נָפֹֿךְ** - a phrase that roughly translates as "you must not bear false rumors." Curiously, there are countless other, far more eloquent ways to convey this idea in biblical Hebrew, a point to which I will return in a moment. Rashi, using Targum Onkelos as his cue, interprets this phrase to mean that "you should not accept a false report," a prohibition aimed at anyone who is the recipient of slanderous information, but particularly a judge, who must never rely on one-sided testimony or reach a verdict until they are fully informed of all the details in a case. Sefer Hachinuch offers an unequivocal explanation for this directive, informing us that "a lie is despicable and disgusting in the eyes of all; there is nothing more disgusting than a lie." The rule is that Justice must always be based on unadulterated truth. The absence of truth or the presence of lies in the adjudication of any case where justice is sought is the greatest threat to the safe functioning of human society. Indeed, one of the seven Noahide laws is the establishment of law and order among gentiles, so that justice prevails for all.

But back to the seemingly clumsy phrasing of this seminal law in Mishpatim. Robert Alter (b.1935), professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at UC Berkeley, is famous for his groundbreaking 1981 book, *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, in which he demonstrates, with his deep understanding of the Hebrew language, that the Torah cannot be seen simply as a sacred text, but must also be appreciated as a brilliant example of literary art. Common themes, repeated motifs, linguistic patterns, and a whole range of other literary devices familiar to literary critics, should be used in any examination of biblical texts to see if they have anything to teach us beyond the plain meaning of the text. Of course, this is hardly a new idea; the Midrash and Talmud are replete with literary devices used to draw lessons from the text. Alter merely wishes to broaden this approach by encouraging us all to find these connections through the subtle use of phrasing and language style in the Torah.

The third of the Ten Commandments found in Parshat Yitro is remarkably alike in its phrasing to the law in Mishpatim prohibiting judges from presiding of wrongful convictions (Ex. 20:7): **לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת שֵׁם ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוֹן־** But in this version of the verse, the actual name of God is included, and the prohibition is against blasphemy: "you shall not swear falsely using the name of Hashem, your God." With that revelation, everything falls into place. Suddenly, the wording in Mishpatim, is not clumsy at all, instead offering us a wonderful literary connection to the third commandment, which directly links judicial impropriety with one of Judaism's cardinal sins: blaspheming against God. Particularly now, at a moment when impartiality and judicial objectivity is being tested to its limits, we are dutybound to remember that justice is not purely a civil matter to be used or abused at will. Rather, it cuts to the heart of religious faith, and indeed, our spiritual wellbeing may very well depend on it.

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

Sisterhood Corner

February

When we enter Adar we increase in joy.

משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה

Only two weeks left until Purim, don't miss out on our annual Mishloach Manot!

All sign-ups must be in by February 18th.

Email office@yinh.org to register!

Mark your calendar

Trivia Night Is Back!

Sunday, February 28th at 7pm

Make sure to register at

Beverlyhillssynagogue.org/trivia

Chodesh Adar Tov

&

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS



Sumer Feldberg

Itamar ben Yosef z"l

Father of

Marty Feldberg

Yahrtzeit - 1 Adar

Mohtaram Soroudi

Mahtaram ben Haim

Yitzchak a"h

Mother of

Behrouz Soroudi

Yahrtzeit - 4 Adar

Maurice Friedman

Father of

Karen Fisher

Yahrtzeit - 4 Adar

David Cohen

David ben Chaim Menachem

HaCohen z"l

Father of

Hart Cohen

Yahrtzeit - 2 Adar

Rose Block

Shoshana bat David a"h

Mother of

Eva Feldberg

Yahrtzeit - 4 Adar

Isaac Jack Ruimy

Yitzchak ben Yaakov z"l

Father of

Franck Ruimy

Yahrtzeit - 6 Adar

Yaakov Rambod

Yaakov ben Ovadia z"l

Father of

Edmond Rambod

Yahrtzeit - 6 Adar

PURIM

TRIVIA NIGHT

Sunday

February

28th at

7PM

ONLINE
VIA ZOOM

PRIZES AWAIT
OUR WINNERS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

beverlyhillssynagogue.org/trivia



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



Jacob Sostchen

Leah Ross

Alyssa Wallack

Larry Garshofsky

Jennifer Smith

Samuel Hodara

Hart Cohen

Thursday, Feb. 25th -
Mincha 6pm Megillah 6:30pm
in-person and live streamed

Friday, Feb. 26th -
Shacharit & Megillah 7am
in person only

Friday, Feb. 26th
Megillah Only 10am
in person and live streamed

PURIM 2021

All Megilla readings will be taking place on the Nissel Tennis Court. Rsvp required.

RSVP at
beverlyhillssynagogue.org/megilla

All megillah readings will be leined by
Chazzan Nati Baram

**THANK YOU TO JOE & GALINA
SAMUEL FOR SPONSORING THE
BREAK THE FAST TO-GO BOXES
FOLLOWING MEGILLA ON
THURSDAY**

Matanot Laevyonim

Rabbi Dunner is going to be distributing Matanot La'evyonim to needy families in Los Angeles and Jerusalem. You can contribute on our website or send in a check. The online cutoff date is **February 25th**

Michael & Susan Baum
Michael & Maggie Bayer
Nati & Carmit Baram
Barbara Bernstein
Bill & June Brenner
Hart & Debbie Cohen
Steve & Vivian Dorfman
Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner
Simon & Rita Elhiani
Yeudah & Simi Feigen
Marty & Eva Feldberg
Richard & Shawney Fine
Harry Finkel & Shirley Aizenstein
George & Suzi Fischmann
John & Sherri Fogelman
Jerry & Jean Friedman
Jason Fuchs
Aaron & Lillian Fuchs
Larry & Judith Garshofsky
Ernie & Regina Goldberger
Reuven & Becky Grabel
Evan & Liz Greenspan
Susan Graysen
Daniel Gromis
Ed & Cecile Gromis
Chavi Hertz
Patrick & Ginette Hodara
Sam & Diana Hirt
Rabbi Alan & Sandy Kalinsky
Hillel & Ruthie Kellerman
Jonathan & Faye Kellerman
Ezra & Lauren Kest
Mark & Amy Kestenbaum
David & Roberta Kimmel
Hillel Laks
Bill & Linda Levin
Bill & Joan Lopatin
Vera Markowitz
Isaac & Sarah Meier
Stuart & Fran Miller
Barry Novack & Annie Baum
Michael & Ariella Novack
Mitch & Karen Parver
Howard & Judy Raykoff
Laurence & Sara Richards
Weston & Denise Richter
David & Leah Ross
Steve & Roz Rothman
Franck & Evelina Ruimy
Faramarz & Sheilagh Sadeghi
Lee Samson
Joe & Galina Samuel
Stephen & Jessica Samuel
Moshe & Helen Sassover
Stephen Schloss
Arnold & Sheri Schlesinger
Avrumie & Maryjo Schnitzer
Adam & Jesse Shaked
David & Michele Silver
Myrtle Sitowitz
Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski
Norm & Virginia Solomon
Seymour & Grace Stoll
Bart & Arleen Tanenbaum
Sam & Sue Varon
Michael & Shari Weiner
Jonathan & Dalia Wizman
Elyse Wolf
Rosalie Zalis
Bob Zeller & Nadine Gerson

YINBH SISTERHOOD

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR MISHLOACH MANOT 2021



Join our YINBH Community in celebrating Purim with another fabulous Sisterhood Mishloach Manot basket.

Let us come together to perform the joyous mitzvah of Mishloach Manot & contribute to the Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year!

**We are accepting orders from now until
February 18th.**

Cost to participate is \$275 per household.

This year a portion of the money raised will be donated to
Tomchei Shabbos & Meir Mishkoff Z'L Mishloach Manot Campaign

To order visit

www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



PASSOVER SEDERS IN BEVERLY HILLS

Passover 2021

1ST NIGHT, SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH

8:00PM

2ND NIGHT, SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH

8:00PM



IN-PERSON SEDERS (PRIVATE AND COMMUNAL)
TAKEOUT SEDERS AVAILABLE
GOURMET GLATT KOSHER
INTERNATIONAL WINE SELECTION

COMMUNAL SEDERS LED BY RABBI PINI DUNNER & CHAZZAN NATI BARAM

ADULT: \$195 (\$225 AFTER MARCH 1) CHILD: \$89 (\$99 AFTER MARCH 1)
TAKEOUT: ADULT \$150 CHILD \$89

412 BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

9261 Alden Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210

RESERVE AT:

310-276-7650 or beverlyhillssynagogue.org/seder

Kosher for Passover OU Certification
catering by:

Bel Air
CATERING BY CHEF BZ