Dearest Members and Friends,

In his quirky book series _Anecdotes of Painting in England_, the flamboyant eighteenth-century artist historian and littérateur, Horace Walpole, recalls the story of Oliver Cromwell’s first encounter with the artist Sir Peter Lely, who had been engaged to paint Cromwell’s portrait after he became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, after having deposed King Charles I and authorizing his execution.

Convention demanded that portrait painters improve the appearance of their subject, so that the less attractive aspects of their features would not be recorded for posterity. In particular, monarchs and political leaders expected to appear younger and better looking in any portrait commissioned for public display. But after Jethro is reunited with Moses, we are informed that “Moses told his father-in-law all that God had done for Moses and the Israelites, namely how He had brought them out from Egypt. A few verses later, after Jethro is reunited with Moses, we are informed that “Moses told his father-in-law everything that God had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, and all the hardships that had befallen them on the way.”

And it’s not just looks. The demand for perfection has also invaded the world of politics and business. Oliver Cromwell shrewdly understood that the British monarchy’s downfall was in part because of the false image of flawlessness it had projected, an image that was shattered when it became clear that King Charles was far from perfect. By allowing Lely to paint him exactly as he was, Cromwell subtly conveyed the idea that he was just an ordinary guy, with warts, scars and bad hair, and could therefore make mistakes just like any other ordinary guy who might find themselves appointed Lord Protector of England. If only our contemporary media could take a leaf out of Cromwell’s book, and not use warts as the only defining characteristic of the people they cover.

Our culture demands that all heroes have to be paradigms of perfection, while anyone who is not perfect is by definition a villain – so much so, that any good they do is totally negated by the fact that they are evil. This view of the world is a ‘tale as old as time’, originating in ancient pagan culture that built up heroic gods by definition a villain people they cover.

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This is puzzling. Why did Moses give his father-in-law information he had already heard? Surely it was precisely the story of all that had happened which motivated Jethro to abandon Midian in the first place? The first rebe of the nineteenth-century Radomsker Hasidic dynasty, Rabbi Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz, picks up on the differences between the description of what Jethro had heard and what Moses later told him. Jethro heard about all the glory – the airbrushed version of the story with the happy ending. And while he may have heard about some suffering, once everything was over it was only the victory that mattered – at least in Jethro’s pagan version.

But when Moses related his version of the story, it wasn’t just about the happy ending – the Jewish version also included the suffering of the Egyptians, and the hardships the Israelites had to endure to get to where they were now. In other words, it is not only the end that counts, because that goal will never be reached without all the warts along the way. Indeed, the struggles involved in grappling with and ultimately overcoming evil is an integral part of God’s plan from the beginning, and in the Exodus story was predicted in the Jewish version – “Jethro rejoiced over all the kindness that God had shown Israel.” The Radomsker Rebbe notes that the word “vayichad” – an unusual word to use for ‘rejoice’ – can also mean ‘unify’. The idea this conveys is that Jethro had a eureka moment after hearing Moses’ version, and he understood that the correct approach is to see the whole picture – warts and all – as the ultimate truth. No personal journey is ever perfect, and paradoxically, it is this imperfection that is the ultimate form of perfection.

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

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**SHABBAT SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14**
- 5:17pm - CANDLELIGHTING
- 5:20pm - MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15**
- 8:15AM - GEMARA SHIUR
- 9:00AM - SHACHARIT
- 4:40PM - PRE MINCHA SHIUR
- 5:15PM - MINCHA
- 5:35PM - SEUDAH SHISHIT
- 6:20PM - MA’ARIV
- 5:17PM - CANDLELIGHTING
- 5:20PM - MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT
- 5:15PM - MA’ARIV
- 6:21PM - SHABBAT ENDS

**WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sun. February 16</th>
<th>Mon. February 17</th>
<th>Tue. February 18</th>
<th>Wed. February 19</th>
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**THANK YOU TO OUR LUNCHEON SPONSORS**

Hart & Debbie Cohen
Kfir Gavrieli
Mordechai Getz of New Eichlers, NY
Jacques Wizman in honor of his son Jeremy Wizman, who was just inducted into Sayeret Golani special forces

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**Professor Alan Dershowitz and his wife Carolyn.**
Prof. Dershowitz will be speaking during the prepaid private lunch.
**Sisterhood Corner**

**February**

Order our annual Mishloach Manot basket by **February 28th**

Why should you Participate?  
- It fulfills your mitzvah of Mishloach Manot  
- Portrays your dedication to our community  
- Sends a message of friendship to your YINBH/ BHS family

**March**

Our next Shiur & Schmooze  
**On Wed March 25, at 9am**  
Rosh Chodesh Nissan Parshat Vayikra

Breakfast will be sponsored by Cecile Gromis & Roz Rothman.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Cecile & Ruthie  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

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**Happy Anniversary**

**Shervin & Yasmine Louie**

---

**Mazel Tov**

Mazel Tov to Esther Kandel on the birth of a grandson. Mazel Tov to parents Jessie and Arik Gordon.

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**ISRAEL HEADLINES**

Each week, YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue produces a weekly bulletin titled "Israel Headlines." You can find them on the tables in shul every Shabbat. The idea behind this is to make us aware of current events in Israel. Sponsorship for Israel Headlines is available for $100 per issue. If you are interested in sponsoring a weekly bulletin please email israelheadlines@gmail.com

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**NEW! MISHNA SHIUR**

WITH RABBI PINI DUNNER

10 MINUTES BEFORE MINCHA. WE ARE LEARNING MAASECHET SHABBAT

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**EXPLORING HALACHA**

Join Nati Baram every Shabbat afternoon 35 minutes before mincha as he explores an interesting topic of Jewish law with the aid of ancient and contemporary texts.

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**PAUL FEDER Z"L GEMARA**

ל"ת פדר א"ל בגו שמשון הלוי

Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara shiur on Shabbat mornings 45 minutes before Shacharit.

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**Weekly Parsha Shiur**

Join Rabbi Dunner each Wednesday morning at 9am for the weekly ladies Parsha Shiur as he explores the weekly Torah portion through the eyes of the classic commentators. The next class will meet on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 9:00am

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**Raquel Monlack Sochaczewski**

Rachel bat Shlomo a"h  
Mother of Jaime Sohacheski  
Yahrtzeit— 25 Shevat

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**Rose B. Raphael**

Mother of Gina Raphael  
Yahrtzeit— 25 Shevat

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**Sarah Finkel**

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MISHLOACH MANOT 2020

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 28th.

Cost to participate is $275 per household.

A portion of the money raised will be donated towards the ongoing security costs of the Shul.

To order visit www.beverhillssynagogue.org/purim

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JUNGLE SAFARI PURIM CARNIVAL

Monday, March 9th

Purim Carnival 6pm
Maariv & Megilla Reading 7:30pm Followed by more Jungle Fun
Safari Snacks: Pizza, Popcorn, candy! | Jungle Juice
Free admission with advance RSVP or $15 at the door.
Advance RSVP closes on March 2nd.
Pizza will be $2/slice and you can buy it at the event or pre-pay when you RSVP.

9661 Alden Drive Beverly Hills 90210 | 310-276-7650 | OFFICE@YINBH.ORG

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YIDDISHE BEATS

THE BEAUTY OF KLEZMER, YIDDISH, AND CANTORIAL MUSIC

Sunday, March 15th | 12pm

Thank you to our sponsors:
Attorney Andrew & Chanie Friedman
Ira & Cohava Frankel

Welcoming Back to Our Shul
Featuring:
Cantor Ben Zion Miller
Cantor Netanel Baram
Rina Shlomo Choir
Conducted by Professor Mark Klugman, Professor of Ethnomusicology & Musicology, UCLA

Tickets: $18 Premier Seats: $25 VIP: $100

9661 Alden Drive Beverly Hills 90210

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SHIUR & SCHMOOZE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25TH, 2020

ROSH CHODESH NISSAN
PARSHAT VAYIKRA

9AM SHIUR
10AM BREAKFAST

Free to attend
Please RSVP to Office@YINBH.org

Sponsored by Cecile Gromis & Roz Rothman
EVENTS, ANECDOTES & PEOPLE
THE HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS OF JEWISH HISTORY

with
Rabbi Pini Dunner

The Vilna Gaon & The Battle Against Hasidism
February 3rd | 7:30pm

The Rise & Fall of Volozhin Yeshiva
February 25th | 7:30pm

Rabbi Shlomo Goren and the Langer Controversy
May 26th | 7:30pm

Rogues, Rascals & Rapscallions:
More Case Files from the Margins of Jewish History
June 22nd | 7:30pm

Sponsor a class for $500. Contact the office for details.
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