

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by
Brigitte Silkin & Alan Schwartz in memory of Brigitte's
brother, **Philippe Anzel, Chaim ben Charles z"l** whose
yahrtzeit is on the 28th of Adar.

25 Adar 1 • Parshat Vayakhel • Birkat HaChodesh

February 25-26, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

CANDLELIGHTING 5:27pm

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT 5:30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

NO GEMARA SHIUR

SHACHARIT 9:15AM

MINCHA 5:40PM

MAARIV: 6:30PM

SHABBAT ENDS: 6:32PM

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sunday	8:00am	5:35pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	5:35pm
Friday	7:00am	5:40pm

Rosh Chodesh Adar II is on
Thursday and Friday
משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה

MAZAL TOV

Simon and Rita Elhiani on the
birth of a grandson, born to
Avi & Shani Elhiani!

Mazal Tov

Drs. Patrick and Ginette Hodara
on the engagement of their son,
Samuel to Hilla Rosenberg,
daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ayal and
Ariella Rosenberg from
Johannesburg.

Matanot La'evyonim

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 March 16th. If
you would like to donate online, go
to beverlyhillssynagogue.org/donate.
If you would like to mail a check,
please make it out to "YINBH" and
write "Matanot La'evyonim" on the
memo so it is applied correctly.

This article was originally published on March 7th, 2019:

Dear Members & Friends,

On April 12, 1945, the Russian-born American artist, Elizabeth Shoumatoff, began work on a portrait painting at a sleepy private vacation retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia, known as the "Little White House".

It was noon, and her subject was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, recently elected for his fourth term as president of the United States. An hour later, over lunch, the president complained of a severe headache, and slumped over, unconscious. The attending physician confirmed the president had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, and by 3:35pm Roosevelt was dead.

Understandably, Shoumatoff's portrait was never completed. It remained a partial depiction, becoming known as the Unfinished Portrait, and today it hangs on the wall at the Little White House, now a President Roosevelt memorial museum. Curiously, it joins numerous other unfinished works of art, music and literature considered by scholars to be an intriguing but important marginal element of the creative world.

Perhaps the most famous example of this phenomenon is Franz Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony", while the most jarring is undoubtedly the bizarre portrait by Benjamin West of the delegates at the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which, as a result of the British delegates refusing to pose with their American counterparts, is a painting with half the canvas totally bare.

Interest in this unfinished phenomenon has gained quite a bit of traction over the past few years, and was the subject of a major art exhibition at the Met Breuer in New York, in 2016.

The exhibition included over 190 artworks, many of them left incomplete by their makers for reasons unrelated to the art itself, but in that state offering insights into the creative process along with other aspects of the artist.

Also featured as part of the exhibition were works considered non finito—intentionally unfinished. This branch of art actually dates back to the Renaissance period—it was originally pioneered by Donatello, and particularly typical of Michelangelo in his later years.

But Renaissance-era non finito art – usually sculpture – was deliberately left incomplete by the artists to convey the Platonic philosophical point that no art can ever truly resemble its perfect heavenly equivalent. In the modern period, however, this genre has taken on a whole new meaning; the artist conveys a sense of temporariness, or even decay.

One such piece presented at the exhibition – Lick and Lather by Janine Antoni – is a series of self-portrait busts, half of which are made of chocolate and the other half from soap, "fragile materials that tend to age quickly."

After completing the busts using a rough mold, Antoni "unfinished" them by licking the ones that were made of chocolate and using the soap ones when she washed, "stopping once she had arrived at her distinctive physiognomy." As with much of this kind of modern art, I am not quite sure what to make of it, but I am definitely very taken with this idea of non finito.

Kelly Baum, one of the curators of the Met exhibition, suggested that "an unfinished picture is almost like an X-ray, [allowing] you to see beyond the surface of the painting to what lies behind ... [it] demands your creative and imaginative investment in a picture, because you have literally to fill in the blanks."

It is exactly this that makes the unfinished art so compelling, and it is also this that offers a wonderful insight into the temporary nature of the Mishkan, and particularly to explain a strange contradiction in the Torah regarding the final sum collected by Moses in his fundraising campaign for the Mishkan building project, described as both "enough" and "too much" (Ex. 36:7).

Rabbi Chaim ibn Attar, author of the Ohr Hachaim commentary, asks the obvious question: surely if what was collected is described as being just enough, what could there have been that was extra? The Midrash teaches that the Mishkan needs to be seen as a microcosm of the world, and the process of constructing the Mishkan is compared to the creation of the world.

The Mishna in Avot (5:6) declares that "mazikim" (destructive spirits) were created at dusk on the Friday of creation week. By the time God created these spirits, it was Shabbat, and it was too late to create bodies for them, so they were left as creatures without bodies.

The idea that God ran out of time as Shabbat approached is patently ridiculous, as noted by Maharal, who proposes that the statement in Avot is only there to teach us that the world is incomplete – not because God was unable to complete it, but because God wanted it that way.

Just like the modern version of non finito art, our world is deliberately unfinished to convey an important point, and the negative connotation of mazikim, along with the fact that it is they who are only half-created, is just a way of delivering this message that our world is missing something, and that incompleteness is not a good thing.

We must constantly be aware that our world – as beautiful as it may be as a piece of art, and even if we feel utterly filled with faith in God – is missing some element, however tiny, that we just cannot quite get to no matter how hard we try.

The Mishkan reflects this reality – it is beautiful and has everything it needs, but it is still temporary and incomplete. Even though the nation brought everything that the Mishkan needed, and completed the construction of every element, there was still more that it could contain. What they brought was enough, and at the same time it was too much.

Our lives are also like the Mishkan: non finito – fully rounded and complete, but nonetheless always remaining a work in progress. It is a powerful message that resonates down the millennia, as relevant today as it was when the Mishkan was first erected.

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

[SEE THE IMAGES REFERENCED IN THIS ARTICLE ON PAGE 2]





Unfinished painting: *Treaty of Paris* by Benjamin West, 1783



Unfinished Portrait by Elizabeth Shoumatoff, 1945

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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



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Sisterhood Corner

February

Purim is coming! Purim is coming!

If you have not yet done so, please participate in Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year and sign up now!

See the flyer in this week's notebook for full details OR email office@yinh.org to sign up!

Fill your life with beautiful art on
Sunday, February 27th

11:00am-1:00pm

Luxe Sunset Blvd Hotel

Join artists Sonia Levitin, Karen Lee Fisher, & Jack King for an afternoon of stimulating art and pleasant company!

A portion of sales will be donated to Chai Lifeline!

Please see this week's Tefilla Notebook for full details.

Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS



Benjamin Varon
Benzion ben Shmuel z"l
Father of
Samuel Varon
Yahrtzeit - 25 Adar

Raymond Mann Fine
Rachmiel ben Shmuel z"l
Father of
Richard Fine
Yahrtzeit - 26 Adar

Katarina de Widder
Chaia Pearl Esther bat
Menachem Mendel a"h
Mother of
George Fischmann
Yahrtzeit - 27 Adar

Philippe Anzel
Chaim ben Charles z"l
Brother of
Brigitte Silkin
Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

Samuel Hodara
Shmuel ben Baruch z"l
Father of
Patrick Hodara
Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

Eva Singer
Bluma bat Chaim a"h
Sister of
George Fischmann
Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

Avraham Elhiani
Avraham ben Masoud z"l
Father of
Simon Elhiani
Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar



Adam Fenner
Adina Sadeghi
Adiela Sadeghi
Samantha Weiner
Bob Zeller

Happy Anniversary

Aaron & Lillian
Fuchs



MISHLOACH MANOT

2022/5782

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

This year, more than ever, we want to reach out
and connect with everyone in our community.

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



A portion of the money raised will be donated for The Young Family Initiative
and to Mishloach Manot baskets for IDF soldiers

Place your order at

www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/purim

Limited number of baskets are available this year due to supply constraints. Please order early.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
WHO ALREADY PURCHASED
MISHLOACH MANOT

Michael & Susan Baum

Michael & Margaret Bayer

William & June Brenner

Hart & Debbie Cohen

Steven & Vivian Dorfman

Rabbi Pinchas & Sabine Dunner

Marty & Eva Feldberg

Shawney & Richard Fine

Harry Finkel & Shirley Aizenstein

David & Gloria Frankel

Larry & Judith Garshofsky

Susan Graysen

Evan & Liz Greenspan

Edwin & Cecile Gromis

Patrick & Ginette Hodara

Philip & Janice Kaufler

Hillel & Ruth Kellerman

Jonathan & Faye Kellerman

Mark & Amy Kestenbaum

David & Roberta Kimmel

Hillel Laks

William Levin

William & Joan Lopatin

Vera Markowitz

Howard & Judy Raykoff

Faramarz & Sheilagh Sadeghi

Lee Samson

Moshe & Helen Sassover

George & Irina Schaeffer

Avrumie & Maryjo Schnitzer

Adam & Jesse Shaked

David & Michele Silver

Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski

Seymour & Grace Stoll

Barton & Arleen Tanenbaum

Michael & Sharon Weiner

Robert Zeller & Nadine Gerson

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

Shacharit:

Sunday 8am,

Monday-Fri - 7am

Mincha/Maariv:

5:35pm 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!

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE

9261 ALDEN DRIVE BEVERLY HILLS 90210 | 310-976-7650 | OFFICE@YINBH.ORG

PASSOVER SEDER IN BEVERLY HILLS

PASSOVER 2022

GOURMET GLATT KOSHER
INTERNATIONAL WINE SELECTION

1st NIGHT ONLY

COMMUNAL SEDERS LED
BY
RABBI PINI DUNNER
& CHAZZAN NATI BARAM



MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

Questions call (310) 276-7650 or email office@yinhb.org

"Beautiful Life"

Art Exhibition

February 27, 2022

Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel

11461 Sunset Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA

11:00am - 1:00pm



Sonia Levitin, novelist,
painter, and educator



Karen Lee Fisher,
painter and art educator
at Gindi Maimonides Academy



Jack King, artist,
lecturer, and educator

A portion of sales will be donated to Chai Lifeline
in memory of our beloved student Rachel Yafa Tabibi (z"l)

PUPPETS • PIZZA • PURIM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH, 2022

Puppet Show at 6:30pm

\$10/child

Includes pizza, popcorn, and prizes

RSVP at beverlyhillssynagogue.org



Megilla Reading at 7:45pm by
Chazzan Nati Baram

Followed by a Break-The-Fast sponsored by
Joe & Galina Samuel in memory of Joe's
brother, Victor Samuel, Yitzchak ben Yaakov z"l,
whose yahrtzeit is on the 18th of Adar.

YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue
9261 Alden Drive • Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Beverlyhillssynagogue.org • 310-276-7650

JOIN THE NEW LA JEWISH BOYS CHOIR

with Musical Director
Chazzan Netanel Baram

SUNDAYS

1:30PM - 3 PM

YINBH
9261 Alden Dr
Beverly Hills 90210

For more info and
to signup
Shelley Schwartz
Snsmd@ucla.edu

