

Tefilla Notebook

29 Adar • Vayakhel-Pekudei • Parshat HaChodesh

March 12-13, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MARCH 12TH

CANDLELIGHTING 5:40pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 5:45pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

PESUKEI D'ZIMRA 9:15AM

MORNING SERVICES 9:30AM

MINCHA 5:50pm

SHABBAT ENDS 6:44pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sunday 8:00am & 5:50pm

Mon- Fri 7:00am & 5:50pm

Services are also on zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/226829899>

Passcode: yinbh

*Rosh Chodesh
Nissan is on
Sunday*



Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead 1 hour on
Saturday night

MAZAL TOV

Dr. Stephen & Roz Rothman

on the birth of a new
granddaughter,

**Brianna Elle,
Chana Bracha**

born to

Auralee & David Ring.

Mazal Tov to big brothers

Leo and Dylan.



Dear Members and Friends,

I became an American citizen this week. Over the past nine and a half years, first there were visas, then there were green cards, and finally, this week, we were upgraded to citizenship.

I told a few people about it on the day it happened, and they all wished me "Mazel tov!" What struck me is that there doesn't seem to be a formal congratulatory greeting for citizenship. And I couldn't help thinking: why not? After all, becoming a citizen of the United States is hardly an easy process, and getting to the finish line is surely worthy of its own formal phrase of acknowledgement.

We spent the last few evenings before the immigration interview intensely studying and reviewing our civics general knowledge, until we felt confident that our knowledge of U.S. constitutional history and related information was robust enough to face the grilling we expected. Well, it didn't turn out to be the interrogation online guide sites suggested it might be. The immigration officer assigned to me (all of us were separated for individual interviews) asked me who the first U.S. president was and what the 'rule of law' means, and another couple of questions that were easy to answer, and then seemed more interested in how it has been for me as a rabbi ministering to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I told him that I wake up every morning feeling incredibly lucky, and that the first thing I say each day is "thank you Hashem" for everything I have. "Who is Hashem?" he wanted to know. I smiled, and told him that us Jews don't say God's name in Hebrew unless we are engaged in formal prayer; instead we say "Hashem" – which in Hebrew means "the name". He found this fascinating, and made a point of writing "Hashem" in his notepad. "From now on, I'm going to wake up every morning and say 'thank you Hashem,'" he told me; "you taught me something very important – however hard we have it, here in the United States we are so very lucky, and we definitely need to thank Hashem every day, even several times a day." I nodded in agreement, as he printed off my citizenship approval and told me that the swearing-in ceremony was the next day at 3pm.

We arrived the following afternoon with just minutes to spare. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the mass two-hour swearing-in ceremonies have currently been abandoned in favor of mini ceremonies of about a dozen people which last only a few minutes. After picking up our citizenship certificates we were all asked to raise our right hands together, and swear an oath of allegiance to the United States.

"I hereby declare on oath that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen..." – no small statement for a subject of Her Majesty the Queen, although perhaps made somewhat easier in a week when the royal brand took quite a beating, after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex gave their rather shocking interview to Oprah Winfrey.

"... that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic..." – well that's hardly a problem; as a strong believer in the carefully calibrated republican democracy of the United States, I felt very good bellowing out those words at the top of my voice. "... that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law..." – truthfully, I'm not sure what use I could ever be to the United States military, unless they need a Daf Yomi shiur or some rousing words of religious encouragement. Bearing arms seemed to me like a bit of a stretch. But hey, I'm totally ready if they really need me.

"... that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law..." Okay, now we're talking. That sounded more like me.

"... and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God." As I said those words, I was thinking of the immigration officer I'd inspired the day before, and I wanted to change the word 'God' to 'Hashem' – although I didn't. But to top it all off I did add "Amen" at the end of the oath, and started clapping. Everyone clapped along, and we all smiled, delighted. The deed was done. What a moment. Off we all went separately to celebrate, and now we're all Americans, able to lead our lives in this wonderful country.

I was very taken by the necessity of swearing allegiance together with a group of people I've never met, and in a way I was sorry that COVID-19 had prevented me from doing it alongside hundreds of new citizens in a mass ceremony, an idea I drew from this week's parsha. The opening verses of Vayakhel seem quite awkward. The portion is predominantly occupied with the instructions for building a temporary sanctuary for God's presence known as the Mishkan, but the opening verses deal with the restrictions of Shabbat. And yet, despite dealing with restrictions, the verse uses the phrase la'asot otam – "to do them."

There is no other place in the Torah where the nation is referred to as kahal – a "community". In which case, why is it specifically the instructions regarding Shabbat restrictions which uses this collective noun? The Midrash informs us that it was at this particular moment that Moses instituted a requirement for communal study every Shabbat – and it is this requirement for a shared learning experience which contains a powerful lesson that explains the use of both la'asot otam and kahal.

Continued on page 2





Sisterhood Corner March

Ladies, we will survive!

Mark Tanenbaum's healthy Passover Continues!

Check out his second Passover workshop

Life Beyond Matzah Meal

Sunday, March 14th at 3:00pm

Sign up at OU.ORG/WOMEN/PESACH

To attend the final two Pesach Ideas and Inspirations

Online events featuring live Zoom presenting

See the flyer in this week's Notebook for registration details

Mazel Tov to Rabbi on the launch of his new book

Hearts & Minds

Tune in on Tuesday, March 16th at 11am

Via Zoom to see him interviewed about it!

Chodesh Nisan Tov!

&

Shabbat Shalom

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

The effect of any mitzva is primarily on the individual who does it, and the mitzva has a negligible impact on the community-at-large. For example, if one person keeps a kosher home, this won't impact the community's observance of the dietary laws. The reverse is also true – namely, if a community observes kosher laws this won't necessarily affect what an individual within that community does at home.

Shabbat is the exception to this rule. If an individual observes Shabbat surrounded by others who don't observe Shabbat, their experience will be very different than the experience of someone who observes Shabbat amidst a community that also does Shabbat. And there's more – it is through each individual's Shabbat observance that an environment of Shabbat is created which enhances the community's Shabbat experience. And that is why the verse refers to kahal – a community, and why it states la'asot otam – because by observing the restrictions of Shabbat, each individual is coming together as a community to 'do' and 'create' a collective Shabbat experience.

American citizenship is not a selfish, individual experience, in which individuals express individual beliefs and hope that others will do so as well. Only if every American citizen pulls together to become part of a wider American 'community' will the dreams of America's founding fathers properly come to fruition. Recently, and most sadly, we have seen these ideals put severely to the test – and the challenges we face on this front are far from over.

The experience of raising my hand alongside others this week in a collective declaration of fealty to the American system is exactly what makes this country so great. Those who undermine that collective consciousness – even if they are doing so for the most principled of reasons – might potentially cause repercussions which will destroy everything that has been built up over the past almost 250 years. Let us pray that it never happens. And to that I think we can all add "Amen".

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner



YAHRTZEITS

Irving Silberspitz

Yitzchak ben Avraham Aba z"l

Father of

Cecile Gromis

Yahrtzeit - 5 Nissan

Johanna Klein

Yona bat Yaakov Mordechai
a"h

Mother of

Debbie Cohen

Yahrtzeit - 6 Nissan



Mahnaz Levin

Lauren Broidy

Josh Flaum

Jacqueline Cohenca

July Hodara

Jesse Shaked

Ariel Richter

HEALTHY PASSOVER FOOD HACKS WORKSHOP by Michael Tanenbaum

Brought to you by



Consciously Kosher

Date: **Sunday March 14th at 3pm PST** Cost **\$10**

TOPICS:

- Healthy foods that do not require Passover certification
- Overly-processed foods to avoid
- Certain holiday food staples that you can easily make yourself (and avoid all the chemicals and preservatives)

SIGN UP AT: <https://www.consciouslykosher.com/online-workshops/passover-2021-workshop-march-14>

Michael Tanenbaum is the founder and editor-in-chief of Consciously Kosher, an online resource dedicated to educating both the Jewish community and the general public on the overall health benefits of eating a kosher diet rich in nutritious, predominantly unprocessed whole foods.

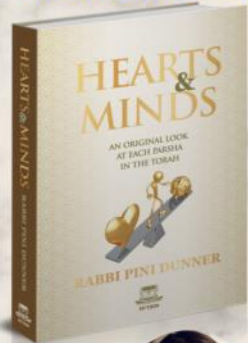
**Happy
Anniversary**

**Simon & Susy
Rubinstein**

BOOK LAUNCH

HEARTS & MINDS

AN ORIGINAL LOOK AT EACH PARSHA IN THE TORAH



Rabbi Dunner addresses an array of topics, ranging from psychology to contemporary scientific discoveries, Donald Trump, Jeremy Corbyn, the United Nations, the Iran Nuclear Deal, psychology, sociology, the significance of Israel, philosophy, politics, and of course a range of off-the-beaten-track historical vignettes, connecting them all to the foundational text of Judaism, the Torah.



Special Guest: Avital Chizhik Goldschmidt
Journalist

TUESDAY, MARCH 16TH 2021
11AM PST • 2PM EST
6PM LONDON • 8PM JERUSALEM

VISIT WWW.OTZROTBOOKS.COM/EVENTS FOR MORE DETAILS

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



YINBH
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE

Siyum Bechorim

The siyum will take place
in-person at shul and via zoom
Siyum by Rabbi Pini Dunner

Thursday, March 25th at 7:40am

<https://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom>

Meeting ID: 310 276 7650

Password: yinbh

FAST OF THE FIRST BORN SONS:

The custom on Erev Pesach is for firstborn sons, or fathers of pre-barmitzva firstborn sons, to fast, as a way of commemorating the lifesaving exclusion of Jewish firstborns on the fateful night of the tenth plague, when all the Egyptian first-born sons died at the hand of God. However, another tradition offers respite from this fast through the celebration of a "siyum" – the completion of a Talmudic tractate – which, if accompanied by a "meal", is counted as a festive occasion that exonerates one from having to fast. *This year the fast is brought forward to Thursday March 25th, as Erev Pesach falls on Shabbat.*

THANK YOU

Evan & Liz Greenspan for sponsoring the siyum in memory of Evan's father, Robert Greenspan, Reuven Feivel ben Chaim z"l, whose yahrtzeit is on 13 Nissan; and in memory of Liz's father, Nathan Sweetbaum, Natan ben Yitzchok z"l, whose yahrtzeit is on 14 Nissan.

Also cosponsored by: Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner in memory of Rabbi Pini's grandfather, HaRav Yosef Tzvi HaLevi Dunner z"l whose yahrtzeit is on the 14 of Nissan



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

RABBI DUNNER'S SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

DAYENU

דינו



When is it ever enough?
Unraveling the Dayenu song

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021 6:30PM PST
DELIVERED VIA ZOOM
MEETING ID: 310 276 7650
PASSWORD: YINBH

PASSOVER SEDERS IN BEVERLY HILLS

Passover 2021

1ST NIGHT, SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH
2ND NIGHT, SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH

8:00PM
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

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

Chametz Sale Form

Chametz Sale Forms can be completed online or you can download the pdf. The forms can be found on our website at beverlyhillssynagogue.org

All forms must be returned to the office by Wednesday, March 24th at 8pm. If you download the pdf, please scan it and email it to office@yinh.org or fax it to us at 310-276-7018



OU Passover Guide

The 2021 OU Passover guide is available for pick up in the shul.

Includes: Shopping Guide, Kashering Guide, Davar Torahs, and recipes

You can also download it directly at

<https://oukosher.org/passover/passover-guide/>



Maot Chitim

Donate money to help cover the cost of Matzah and a Seder for those who cannot afford it. You can donate at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/donate

and select "Maot Chitim" from the drop down. Alternatively, you can send your checks made out to 'YINBH' to the office.

Please make sure that you write "Maot Chitim" on the memo so we apply it correctly.



When Erev Pesach Fall on Shabbat - A Guide

Rabbi Dunner put together a wonderful booklet which guides us through all the halachot and proper times that are specific to this year - *When Erev Pesach falls out on Shabbat*.

You can also see the summary below, which included helpful details:

When Erev Pesach Fall on Shabbat - A Guide - Summary

THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH - FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN SONS

- Siyum in Synagogue after morning services
- Make arrangements with your Rabbi for sale of chametz
- Kosher inside oven
- Obtain supply of paper plates and cups, and plastic cutlery
- Search for chametz in the evening

FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH - "PSEUDO" EREV PESACH

- Prepare kitchen for Pesach. Kosher top of cooker - cover surfaces
- Store away chametz utensils
- Put aside remaining chametz utensils and food still required
- Put aside challot for Friday night and Shabbat morning
- Burn chametz by 11:45am PST, omitting Kol Chamira
- Prepare Seder and lay table, ensuring no chametz is brought near
- Prepare Shabbat meals in Pesach utensils
- After kiddush on Friday night and Shabbat morning, say blessing over challot at side table
- Finish all bread, brush off crumbs and continue with meal on another table
- Use paper plates, plastic cups and plastic cutlery
- Light a 24-hour candle before shabbat begins.
- Light Shabbat Candles at 6:51pm PST.

SHABBAT MARCH 27TH - EREV PESACH

- Morning service held early
- Dairy breakfast with challot
- Finish breakfast by 10:31am PST at the very latest
- After breakfast, clear away any remaining chametz
- Throw away paper plates etc.
- Shake out and store away tablecloth
- Recite Kol Chamira declaration before 11:45am PST
- Shabbat lunch - no challot
- No matzo may be eaten
- Yom Tov candles should be lit after Shabbat terminates at 7:49pm PST
- Light should be taken from an existing flame

See the full booklet at rabbidunner.com or pick it up in the Synagogue