

**The Synagogue remains closed for both
 weekday davening and Shabbat services**

Tefilla Notebook

3 Nissan • Parshat Vayikra

Mar 27-28, 2020

Stephen Rothman, President • Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi • Nati Bar-Am, Chazan
 9261 Alden Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-276-7650 • office@yinh.org

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27
 6:53pm CANDLELIGHTING

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
 7:50pm SHABBAT ENDS

Guidelines for Praying at home:

When davening at home, it is best to daven at the same time that you would have davened when in shul. Although you cannot *hear* the krias Hatorah, one should still read the torah and haftorah to themselves.

Stone(Artsroll)

Vayikra pg. 144
 Haftorah pg 1165

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



During this time of mandated social distancing, we are still keeping our community connection.

Connect with our Whatsapp Groups

- ◇ [YINBH Community](#)
- ◇ [Pesach 2020](#)
- ◇ [Daily 5-minute parsha thought](#)
- ◇ [Daily Daf Yomi Shiur](#)
- ◇ [Parsha Shiurim](#)
- ◇ [Pesach Shiurim](#)
- ◇ [YINBH Videos](#)

Check your email for live interactive ZOOM classes with both **Rabbi Pini Dunner** and **Chazzan Nati Baram**.

Visit Our **YouTube** Channel

[youtube.com/beverlyhillssynagogue](https://www.youtube.com/beverlyhillssynagogue)

Just this week you'll find...
 "Pesach Shur & Q&A"
 "Treasures from The Rabbi's Library"
 "What's the Hurry" Shiur
 More videos added every day!

Check out our facebook page for all upcoming events, photos, updates, and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/YoungIsraelOfNorthBeverlyHills>

Dearest Members and Friends,

Last Saturday night, we turned on our phones after Shabbat and were absolutely horrified to discover that Willie Stern, my sister-in-law's father and a communal institution in London and across the Jewish world for decades, had passed away from coronavirus just a few hours earlier. On Friday we heard he had been experiencing breathing difficulties and was admitted to hospital for oxygen assistance. Apparently, he walked from his house to the ambulance unaided; within less than 24-hours, he was gone.



There is nothing that can bring home the horror of this dreadful pandemic with greater clarity than a personal loss. And losing Willie Stern is deeply, deeply personal. He was family to the Danners long before my late brother Benzi married his daughter Esti in 1986. For us, my brothers and sister, he had already been "Uncle" Willie for many years. My father worked for him, first as his "gabbai tzedakah" and then as part of the executive team in his thriving property empire, starting in the early 1970s. In fact, I cannot recall a family event without him there.

Willie Stern was a bright and insightful man, full of youthful energy even in his later years, and bountifully generous. Together with his dear wife Shoshana, he hosted sheva brochos for me and Sabine the first night after our wedding. It was like a second wedding. We saw him regularly while we lived in London, although far more infrequently after we moved to Los Angeles in 2011. But just over two years ago we attended my nephew's barmitzva in London – Daniel Leblanc, my sister's son. We had Friday night dinner together with family and close friends, and, of course, Uncle Willie was there.

"When are you speaking?" he kept asking me. I shrugged. "I don't know, it's not really up to me," I replied, "I'm not the host." Undeterred, he strode up to my brother-in-law: "When is Rabbi Pini going to speak?" It was impossible to say no to him, and very soon afterward I gave my speech. He immediately came up to me to say how fantastic I was, and added how much I reminded him of his dear friend, my late father. He put his hands on my cheeks – "Pini, you make us all very proud. Keep up your wonderful work." And that was the last time I saw him.

He was born Ze'ev HaKohen Stern, the youngest of three children, in Budapest, Hungary. It was July 1935, and the Jewish community of Budapest was affluent and thriving. Willie's father Chaim was a well-known Jewish community activist, a textile manufacturer who owned a factory that supplied textile goods to the Hungarian government. This turned out to be a blessing, as it enabled the Stern family to remain outside the ghetto after the Nazis occupied Budapest in March 1944. As he had done throughout the war, Chaim continued to offer assistance to unregistered refugees as the situation rapidly deteriorated over the next couple of months.

But as it became ever clearer that Hungarian Jewry was doomed, Chaim secured 32 places for his immediate and extended family on the controversial Kastner train that departed Budapest on June 30, 1944 – a "Noah's Ark" transporting 1684 passengers representing a cross-section of Hungary's Jews to safety, while the remainder tragically headed for extermination in Auschwitz. Passage on the train was only possible via heavy bribes, and even so, there were those who abandoned it fearing the entire scheme was a trick and that they were actually also headed to Auschwitz.

As it turned out, the 35 cattle trucks took them to Bergen Belsen concentration camp, where the passengers languished in rudimentary barracks – the Stern family included – in uncertainty and dread for half a year. The Orthodox contingent included the cream of the Hungarian Orthodox community. As Willie recalled just last November, in a video recorded for YouTube, "in our barrack, [there were] four [rabbis who] would become world-famous rabbanim: the Satmar Rebbe, Rabbi Yoel Teitelbaum; the Rav of Debrecen, Rabbi [Shlomo Tzvi] Strasser; Rabbi [Avraham] Jungreis, the father of the famous now-late Rebbetzin [Esther] Jungreis...; and Rabbi Yonason Steif, who was a Dayan in Budapest and subsequently became a Dayan in Williamsburg, New York."

All in all, there were forty rabbis among the Kastner train passengers, along with "artists, housewives, peasants, farmers, industrialists and bankers, journalists, teachers and nurses," as recorded by Ladislaus Löb, Professor Emeritus of German at the University of Sussex – an 11-year-old passenger who later wrote an account of their journey.

In December 1944 the Kastner train Jews were finally taken to Switzerland, and the Sterns settled in Geneva. Later they moved to New York, where Willie enrolled at Yeshiva University.

But it was at Harvard Law School that Willie really came into his own, after being exposed to fellow Jewish students wantonly abandoning their tradition. Rather than caving in to peer pressure, Willie resolved to remain true to his Orthodox background without any compromises, as recalled to me by fellow student, Nat Lewin, later one of America's most prominent lawyers: "Willie was the only one of our Orthodox contingent at Harvard Law School to wear a yarmulke at all times and was unashamedly frum. I give him much credit for that."

For the remainder of his life, Willie devoted enormous amounts of time and money helping Jewish students remain within the fold; from 1971 he underwrote a kosher canteen for the Jewish students of Imperial College in Kensington, London.

In 1958, Willie married the very regal Shoshana Stempel (Freshwater) of London, niece of the illustrious Bobover Rebbe, Rabbi Shloime Halberstam, of New York. For the rest of his life, Willie was intimately involved in every aspect of this Hasidic group, which the charismatic rebbe had rescued from the ashes of the Holocaust, and which his nephew-in-law was determined would return to its full prewar glory.

Continued on page 2...

Message continued...

After their move to London in 1960, the Stern home became a hub of charity and hospitality within the strictly-Orthodox community – the Sterns were the power couple, mentors and trailblazers in every respect. Despite the awful difficulties and challenges resulting from the collapse of his property empire in 1973, Willie never wavered from his charitable commitments, nor from his own personal goals in Torah study and communal activism.

Even in recent years, when his business affairs had moved to Eastern Europe, Willie threw his full weight and energy behind the nascent Jewish Center in Kaunas, Lithuania, determined to see it succeed like so many other previous pet charitable projects. He also set up a student center to provide kosher meals for Israeli students enrolled at the local medical school – students who lacked any connection to Judaism – and he brought in a Rabbi to run learning programs for them.

It is completely incomprehensible that this extraordinary man, a Holocaust survivor whose life story reads like a Hollywood script, is gone – taken from us before his time, despite being 84 years old. Almost harder to bear is the pain of a tiny funeral, no visitors at the shiva, and no proper chance for Willie's family to grieve, as his son Moshe lies in an induced coma, hooked up to a respirator, infected with coronavirus and hovering on the edge.

Coronavirus has robbed us of a titan, but even as we mourn Willie's loss, and fervently pray for the recovery of his son and for the health of his family, I am absolutely certain that Willie Stern's name will endure long after this pandemic crisis is over – a beacon of light to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and to all those, like me, who admired him from near and far. Yehi Zichro Baruch.

Praying for your safety and health, and for only good news, with God's help. Shabbat Shalom!

Pini Dunner

Sisterhood Corner March

This is a challenging and isolating time

we hope that you are staying safe and connected.

If you need any additional resources

Please don't hesitate to reach out.

We wish you calm, health, and safety.

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

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

Abraham J Kaufler
Avraham Yosef ben Chaim z"l
Father of
Philip Kaufler
Yahrtzeit— 7 Nissan

Margarita Socolosky
Malka bat Peter a"h
Mother of
Rose Kempis
Yahrtzeit— 8 Nissan



David Kimmel

Avital Szulc

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Vivian

Dorfman

PASSOVER 2020

The below information can be found at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/passover



CHAMETZ SALE FORM

The online Chametz Sale form is now available. All forms must be submitted by **Tuesday, April 7th at 10:00am**

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

Our Synagogue remains closed for all services due to the mandated Social distancing. However, we have put together a schedule of all the halachic zmanin including candle lighting, bedikah chametz, biyur chametz, and more (**See page 3 for full schedule**)

ZOOM Siyum Behchorim

The custom on Erev Pesach is for the first-born sons, or fathers of Pre-Bar Mitzvah first sons to fast as a way of commemorating the life saving exclusion of Jewish first-borns as the 10th plaque in Egypt. It is a custom to make a 'siyum' so that one can exonerate the fast. The Siyum this year will be done via ZOOM meeting **CLICK HERE TO JOIN: <https://zoom.us/j/754159666>**
Meeting ID: 754-159-666
Siyum--Wed, April 8th at 8:00am

MAOT CHITIM

It is customary to give to the Passover Fund/Maot Chitim to help struggling families celebrate Pesach. Checks can be out to YINBH, and we will distribute the funds before Pesach here in Los Angeles and also in Jerusalem. Donate at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/donate

This is an extremely tough time for many, and although we know many of our members are aware of resources and organizations, we nevertheless put together a list of organizations available and other community resources during this time, for your convenience.

Visit the community page at Beverlyhillssynagogue.org/community



LIVE YIZKOR SERVICE

Tuesday, April 14th
6th day of Pesach

11:00am
via ZOOM

 **BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE**
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



PESACH SHIUR & Q&A

Part 2

WITH RABBI PINI DUNNER

Sunday, March 29th at 11am

ZOOM Meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3102767650Meeting>

ID: 310-276-7650

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

2020/5780

TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH

7:57pm Bedikat Chametz

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH

8:00am Siyum by ZOOM for ta'anit bechorim

LINK TO JOIN: <https://zoom.us/j/754159666>

10:22am Latest time for eating chometz

11:38 am Latest time to nullify the Chometz

An Eruv Tavshilin Must be made BEFORE CANDLE LIGHTING in order to eat food on Shabbat

To learn how to do an eruv tavshilin, use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/rj9f7vz>

7:01 pm Candle Lighting "Le'hadlik ner shel "Yom Tov" and "Shehecheyanu"

7:59pm Earliest time to start Seder
EAT AFIKOMAN BEFORE 12:54 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH - FIRST DAY OF YOMTOV

7:59 pm Candle lighting / Sefirat Ha'omer/Second Night Seder begins "L'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov" and "Shehecheyanu"
EAT AFIKOMAN BEFORE 12:54 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH - SECOND DAY OF YOMTOV

When davening maariv, regular Shabbat Amida, just add Ya'aleh v'yavo

7:03pm candle lighting "L'hadlik ner shel Shabbat"

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH - SHABBAT/ FIRST DAY CHOL HAMOED

When davening shacharit and mincha, regular Shabbat Amida, just add ya'aleh v' yavo.

8:07pm Shabbat Ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH - SECOND DAY CHOL HAMOED

For all days of Chol Hamoed, say the regular Amida, just add ya'aleh v'yavo, and in barech aleynu, change to v'ten beracha. Also, add hallel to Shacharit, followed by Musaf for Pesach.

MONDAY, APRIL 13TH – THIRD DAY OF CHOL HAMOED PESACH

TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH – LAST DAY OF CHOL HAMOED PESACH

11:00am Virtual Yizkor Service via ZOOM

7:06 pm Candle Lighting - "Le'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov" - NO "SHEHECHEYANU"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH – SHEVT'I SHEL PESACH

8:10pm Candle Lighting

Bracha: "Le'hadlik ner shel YOM Tov" - NO "SHEHECHEYANU"

24 Hour YIZKOR Candles should also be lit before

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH– ACHARON SHEL PESACH / YIZKOR

8:11pm Yom Tov ends

8:30pm - Chametz sold by Rabbi Dunner will be available to eat