

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by
Brigitte Silkin in memory of her brother,
Philippe Anzel, Chaim ben Charles z'l, whose
yahrtzeit is on 28 Adar.

Tefilla Notebook

22 Adar • Ki Tisa • Parshat Para

March 5-6, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

CANDLELIGHTING 5:34pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 5:40pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

PESUKEI D'ZIMRA 9:15AM

MORNING SERVICES 9:30AM

MINCHA 5:45pm

SHABBAT ENDS 6:39pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sunday 8:00am & 5:45pm

Mon- Fri 7:00am & 5:45pm

Services are also on zoom

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

Passcode: yinbh

THANK YOU

George & Suzi Fischmann for
sponsoring next week's Parsha
Shiur in memory of George's
mother, **Katarina de Widder, Chala**
Pearl Esther bat Menachem
Mendel a"h, whose yahrtzeit is on
27 Adar.

And for sponsoring next week's
Pirkei Avot shiur in memory of
George's sister, **Eva Singer, Bluma**
bat Chaim Yehuda a"h, whose
yahrtzeit is on 28 Adar.

MAZAL TOV

Jason Fuchs & Alixandra von Renner
on their engagement. Mazal Tov to
parents **Aaron & Lillian Fuchs** and
Barry & Linda Berg



Dear Members and Friends,

Earlier this week we moved back into our synagogue after a full calendar year of being unable to gather for services in our beautiful building. Truthfully, it is hard to believe that it's been a whole year, but it has. Immediately after Purim last year the penny dropped, and we realized that a deadly virus epidemic had made it into the United States and that our lives were in danger.

Together with a number of my Los Angeles rabbinic colleagues, I sent a letter to our synagogue membership, as startling now as it was when we dispatched it. The letter was blunt and direct: "After lengthy conversations with many medical advisers locally and nationally, as well as with the directors of local hospitals, we have decided that ... the most prudent approach for us to take to help stem the tide of the Coronavirus in our community is to take the drastic action of closing our Shuls."

Oddly enough, at that stage the planned closure was scheduled to last for the weekend only, to be reassessed on the following Monday. But even at that early stage I knew we were unlikely to reopen the following weekend, or even the one after that. As the next paragraph of our letter made clear, we all instinctively understood that this unexpected bombshell was not a superficial health scare: "this new virus is both highly contagious and it spreads rapidly via social interaction ... we are recommending in the strongest possible terms that you and your families refrain from being part of any public gathering, and that you limit your social interactions to only the most essential situations like grocery shopping."

So much has happened during the intervening months, that it is impossible for me to cover all the bases in just a couple of sentences. But purely from the community's point-of-view, much of the past year has centered on two unexpected phenomena: the centrality of electronic means such as WhatsApp and Zoom to keep us all together, and secondly, the use of the Nissel's tennis court as an open-air "synagogue" for roughly the past ten months. And it is this latter aspect that I want to focus on, as I think it has delivered a whole new dimension to our community life that will live on with us long after COVID is a distant memory.

Raphy and Rivka Nissel are a wonderful couple, whose lives are totally intertwined with the life our synagogue community – in innumerable ways. Over the years we have held countless events, small and large, both in their home and in their beautiful garden. But when I approached them last spring to ask if we could use their tennis court for an open-air, socially distanced Shabbat and weekday minyan for our members, I knew – as they did – that this would not be a one-off event, but an ongoing occurrence that would undoubtedly infringe on their privacy and convenience. Their unhesitating embrace of our twice daily visits could not have been more generous.

But there is more to it than that. Although California is famous for its gentle, dependable weather, and despite being protected by a tent, over the many months of prayer at the Nissel tennis court we experienced everything from unbearable heat to frigid cold, pelting rain and even harsh winds – most notably a couple of weeks ago, when our tent literally took off in the middle of Shabbat services, saved only by some halfhearted looking rope attachments meant to secure the tent to permanent fixtures, and the impossibly fast reflexes of a few of our members.

Excuse me for getting rabbinic just for a moment, and a little spiritual, but I could not help thinking as the tent lifted off the ground and headed heavenward that God was sending us a message. By then we all knew that we were moving back to the shul very shortly, and I think God wanted us to know and remember that our experience coming together as a community through thick and thin, on weekdays, shabbatot, yomtovs and fast-days, for yahrtzeits and celebrations, always limited by the annoying restrictions imposed on us by COVID, and yet together for prayer, or at least as together as we could be, even if for some of us it was only on Zoom – all of that had elevated us, like the wind elevated that tent off the ground after almost a year of being firmly in place. Yes, between the incredible generosity of our hosts, and the dedication of those who kept the flame burning, our community not only remained alive and vibrant, but it was elevated onto a new level that we had never previously reached.

So, God – the message was received loud and clear. And may I note that this message is already embedded in Parshat Ki Tisa, which begins with the census of the nascent Jewish nation that was conducted in the wilderness. It is strictly prohibited by Jewish law to conduct a census using numbers, so each person was asked to contribute a half-shekel, all of which were subsequently counted, making it possible to come up with a final tally and at the same time to stay on the right side of Jewish law. But curiously, the words used by the Torah to describe this census is *Ki Tissa* (hence the name of the portion), which literally means "when you elevate". What is so uplifting and elevating about being counted that prompts the Torah to use this phrase?

The answer has always been staring at us in the face, but even more so over these past few months, as each and every member of the community who has chosen to be counted as part of a greater whole in the midst of overwhelming challenges has not only made a difference to their own lives, but also enabled so many others to have their lives enhanced by a community spirit that is never just about individual numbers, but actually amounts to so much more. What can possibly be more elevating than that?

Our challenge going forward, as restrictions are lifted and life gets back to normal – and perhaps this was God's message to us all when He lifted our tent off the ground – is to constantly remind ourselves how belonging to a community is not merely something social, rather it is an elevating experience, a message already intimated at the dawn of Jewish history, when the Torah describes counting each member of the community with the phrase *Ki Tissa*.

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





Sisterhood Corner

March

Hello Spring!

Passover can't be far behind!

Are you looking for healthy Passover inspiration?

Join Michael Tanenbaum of Consciously Kosher

Sunday, March 7th at 3:00pm

Via Zoom

If you're unable to tune in to the live workshop make sure to register and you will receive a live recording of the full workshop!

See the bottom right box

Prepare now and avoid the extra Passover 15lbs!

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Sean Cohen

Jamie Spencer

Raphy Nissel

Rena Perl

Howie Fialkov

Janice Levy

Leah Rebecca Bookstaber

YAHRTZEITS



Yaghoub Soroudi

Yaakov ben Mari z"l

Father of

Behrouz Soroudi

Yahrtzeit - 23 Adar

Benjamin Varon

Benzion ben Shemuel 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

Mara Kochba

Nechama Tziporah bat Chana a"h

Yahrtzeit - 25 Adar

Eva Singer

Bluma bat Chaim Yehuda a"h

Sister of

George Fischmann

Yahrtzeit - 28 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

Avraham Elhiani

Avraham ben Masoud z"l

Father of

Simon Elhiani

Yahrtzeit - 28 Adar

PASSOVER SEDERS IN BEVERLY HILLS

Passover 2021



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



View the menus, prices, more info and rsvp at
beverlyhillssynagogue.org/seder

Early bird rate extended until March 15th

Mazal Tov to **Meir Dunner** on being sworn in to the *tzanhanim* unit of the IDF!



HEALTHY PASSOVER FOOD HACKS WORKSHOP by Michael Tanenbaum
Brought to you by Consciously Kosher

Date: **Sunday March 7th 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>

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.



Consciously Kosher



Rabbi Pini Dunner
Young Israel of North Beverly Hills
9261 Alden Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Rabbi Dunner & Congregants,

I would like to express a heartfelt *"yiyasher kochachem"* to all of you for enabling us to bring *simcha* to the hearts and faces of Nahal Haredi soldiers serving in the Chetz Company of the Paratrooper's Brigade. Just knowing that others were thinking about them and made the effort to send Mishloach Manot - made their day. You are a very special congregation with a very big heart, and you can really feel great about what you accomplished this Purim. In past years, the soldiers spent their Purim bringing joy to the elderly in old age homes and to those unfortunately in the hospital. Due to Covid restrictions they were not able to perform that Kiddush HaShem. Hence the support that they received from you took on an additional level of significance. One Nation, One People and One Heart – *ashreichem Yisroel!*

Kol Toov,
Rabbi Tzvi Klebanow, President & Co-Founder
Amutat Netzah Yehuda – Nahal Haredi

Photos Below: The card that was included with the Mishloach Manot & Nahal Haredi IDF Soldiers receiving their Mishloach Manot from our Synagogue



