

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **Lee Samson** in memory of his mother, **Sylvia Samson, Shaindel bat Aryeh Leib a"h**, whose yahrtzeit was on 26 Iyyar.

4 Sivan • Bamidbar • 48th Day of the Omer

May 14-15, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MAY 14TH

CANDLELIGHTING 7:29pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 6:30pm

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:15AM

SHACHARIT 9:00AM

MINCHA 7:40pm

MAARIV 8:30pm

SHABBAT ENDS 8:33pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Wed- Fri 7:00am & 7:40pm

SHAYOUT SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 16th

Shacharit 8:00am

Virtual Yizkor 10:00am

Mincha/Maariv 7:00pm

Candle Lighting 7:30pm

Classes begin at 9:30pm

see page 2 for class schedule

Monday, May 17th

No Gemara Shiur

Shacharit 9:00am

Mincha/Maariv 7:30pm

Candle Lighting: 8:34pm

Tuesday, May 18th

Gemara Shiur 8:15am

Shacharit 9:00am

Yizkor 10:30am

(approximately)

Mincha 7:40pm

Maariv 8:30pm

Shavuot Ends 8:35pm

MAZEL TOV



Mazel Tov to Mia Gross on her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to parents Gina Raphael & Jeff Gross

Thank you to Gina & Jeff for sponsoring the Shavuot flowers.

Dear Members & Friends,

Once again, we are faced with the ugly spectacle of a terrorist-generated war in the Middle East. Disturbances on Temple Mount in Jerusalem that coincided with the end of Ramadan and Yom Yerushalayim inexplicably prompted the Hamas leadership in Gaza to launch over 1,000 rockets into Israel, all of them targeting civilian neighborhoods. Although the vast majority of these deadly projectiles have been intercepted by the technologically advanced Iron Dome missile defense system, some of them found their mark, and there have been a number of casualties even as hundreds of thousands of Israelis cower in bomb shelters.

There seems to be no end in sight. The terrorists are eager to rain more death onto Israel, despite the fact that their hostile attacks have resulted in devastating Israeli defensive countermeasures. But they don't care. "We have much more to give," Hamas spokesman Abu Ubaida proclaimed on TV. "The decision to hit Tel Aviv, Dimona and Jerusalem is easier for us than drinking water – [Israel's] technology and assassinations don't scare us."

As I write these words, three rockets have been fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, presumably by Hezbollah, although at this stage no sirens have been activated and residents in the north of Israel have been told to go on as normal. And we also hear that Israeli soldiers have entered Gaza, presumably to launch a ground offensive. May God keep them all safe.

There is another new development, not previously seen during the periodic flare-ups between Israel and the Palestinians: Israeli Arabs rioting in various cities across Israel where they live intermingled with the local Jewish population. In Lod, not far from Ben Gurion Airport, three synagogues and dozens of shops were set on fire, as well as scores of cars. Authorities have declared a state of emergency and dispatched Border Police to restore order.

Yesterday, Arab Knesset member Esawi Frej of the Meretz Party issued a desperate tweet urging his fellow Israeli Arabs to stop the rampage. "I cannot remain silent," he said, "anarchy on the streets of Ramle, Lod and elsewhere threatens our existence as a society. Right now, we [need] to calm emotions and to understand that Arabs and Jews are neighbors, not enemies. Please, go back home, stop the violence – don't destroy the house from within."

It is unclear if his voice is being heard. Truthfully, he has never been known as a voice of peace and reconciliation. Only two weeks ago, he condemned Israeli police for holding up buses carrying Arab Israelis to Temple Mount – which he characterized as "preventing thousands of Israeli civilians from marking the holiest night in Islam, Laylat al-Qadr" – instead of supporting police efforts to minimize the potential for violent unrest.

Where does all of this leave the Jews of Israel? Sadly, Israel is a country deeply divided between a variety of different Jewish subsets – secular left, secular right, religious nationalists, ultraorthodox, Ashkenazi, Sephardic – and each subset is itself divided into further multiple subsets, all of whom cannot seem to find any common ground. Astonishingly, after four national elections over two years, elected lawmakers have still not managed to form a government, and the country is in total turmoil. Perhaps this latest outbreak of terrorist violence is simply Hamas taking advantage of Israel's internal chaos.

Although it is a tired cliché, my proposal is that the different factions within Israel's vibrant population find shared values and interests, and focus on these in order to ensure a secure future for the world's solitary Jewish state. Infighting and factional disputes achieve nothing in the long run, and it is imperative that all of Israel's inhabitants – and actually, this must also include Muslims and Christians – pull together and become a nation, instead of evolving into an ever more disparate collection of special interest groups.

Parshat Bamidbar contains an interesting passage that discusses the flags associated with each of the twelve tribes. Flags and tribal identity were an important component of ancient Israel's culture, and the passage carefully describes the official placement of each tribal encampment in the wilderness, a formation that came together whenever the nation stopped during their forty-year journey through the desert (Num. 2:2): **אִישׁ עַל דִּגְלוֹ בְּאֶתֶר לְבֵית אָבִיתָם יִחַנּוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן־קֵדְם׃** - "The Children of Israel shall camp, each with his flag, as a sign of their father's house; they shall camp around the Tent of Meeting at a distance."

The Midrash goes into great detail about the flags, describing their color and design. Clearly, promoting their ancestral identity meant a great deal to each tribe, and it was important for them to retain that identity even though they were now part of a united nation. But that very same Midrash contains an interesting vignette, a counterpoint to the enthusiasm for the flag phenomenon. The vignette reveals a conversation between Moses and God in which Moses expresses his concerns about the multiple identities that make up the nation, as reflected in the flags:

Moses began to feel distressed. He said, "Surely this will only result in future conflicts between the tribes. For example, if I say to the tribe of Judah to camp on the east side, they will say they can only camp in the north, and the same with Reuben, and with Ephraim, and with every single tribe. What shall I do?"

As usual, Moses was displaying his keen understanding of human nature, his intuition that strong self-identity leads to jingoism, selfishness, and prejudice. But the Midrash continues with God's answer, offering another, far more powerful perspective:

God said, "What does it matter to you? They won't need you. They know their own dwelling-places. They have a diagram passed down from their father Jacob telling them exactly how to dwell under their flags, and I am not changing that. Just as they arranged themselves when they surrounded him on his deathbed, that's how they will surround the Temple."

As far as God was concerned, a strong self-identity, if correctly channeled and wisely directed, would allow each tribe to locate themselves appropriately, even in a barren desert. A strong identity doesn't divide you from others; on the contrary, it enables you to live peacefully with others, and to benefit from each other's strengths.

In the current situation, whatever our affiliations may be, and whatever flag we may fly, the most important thing we can do is to pull together, as together we are far stronger than when we are apart. And if united we stand, then united we will prevail.

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



Sisterhood Corner

May

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Shavuot full of Torah learning and delicious cheesecake!

Shavuot 2021!

Sunday, May 16th classes beginning at 9:30pm

A Dessert Bar offering Magnolia's cheesecake will be available between classes!

A Community Celebration

Annual YINBH Gala

This year's annual Gala will mark the full reopening of our synagogue!

Thursday, June 17th

Visit www.bhsbanquet.com

Chag Shavuot Sameach

&

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

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יִזְכּוֹר

Sunday, May 16, 2021
10:00am PST via Zoom
Zoom code: 310 276 7650
Password: yinbh



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG TREES OF WORLD PEACE SOCIETY

YAHRTZEITS

Mary Friedman
Mother of
Karen Fisher
Yahrtzeit - 4 Sivan

Baruch Goldberger
Baruch ben Yosef z"l
Brother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit - 6 Sivan

Yosef Goldberger
Yosef ben Yishayahu z"l
Father of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit - 6 Sivan

Jozef Goldberger
Jozef ben Yosef z"l
Brother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit - 6 Sivan

Adina Goldberger
Adina bat Asher z"l
Mother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit - 6 Sivan

Shmuel Goldberger
Shmuel ben Yosef z"l
Brother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit - 6 Sivan

SHAVUOT CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1: 9:30pm-10:15pm: "JERUSALEM SYNDROME: A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE HOLINESS OF JERUSALEM" with Chazzan Nati Baram

Break and Dessert table: 10:15pm-10:30pm

Class 2: 10:30pm-11:15pm "INTRODUCING SHEMITA: WHAT ARE OUR OBLIGATIONS?" with Rabbi Pini Dunner

Break and Dessert Table: 11:15am -11:30pm

Class 3: 11:30pm-12:15pm "THE SECRET LIFE OF NAMES: WHY EVERY NAME HAS A MEANING" with Rabbi Pini Dunner

Ice cream & snacks: 12:15am-12:30am



Stephen Samuel
Daniel Soroudi
Mark Kestenbaum
Karen Fisher

Mazel Tov to

Mickey Fine Pharmacy

for launching a vaccination site for 12-15 year olds at the The Annenberg Foundation.

Uri Dunner was one of the first to be vaccinated out of 200 12-15-year-olds vaccinated on the first day. The launch event was held in honor of **Eli Beer of Hatzalah** in recognition of the important work of Hatzalah



PAUL FEDER Z"l GEMARA

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי

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

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YINBH BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
PRESENTS

YINBH GALA BANQUET

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

marking the full re-opening of our
synagogue and the resilience of our
community over the past year

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

HONORING



Rabbi
Pini Dunner



Chazzan
Nati Baram

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL

PRIVATE HOME IN BEVERLY HILLS
ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON RSVP

www.bhsbanquet.com