



Tefilla Notebook

6-7 Sivan • Shavuot

May 28-30, 2020

Stephen Rothman, President • Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi • Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

9261 Alden Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

310-276-7650 • office@yinbh.org

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MAY 28

**7:39pm CANDLELIGHTING

FRIDAY, MAY 29

7:40pm CANDLELIGHTING

SATURDAY, MAY 30

8:43pm YOM TOV/SHABBAT ENDS

An **Eruv Tavshilin must be made in order to eat food on Shabbat that was prepared on Yom Tov.

Weekday Mincha/Maariv 7:45pm
Via zoom

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, you should still read the torah portion and haftarah aloud, using the tunes if you know them.

Stone Chumash (Artscroll)
Shavuot First Day -- Ex. 19:1-20:23 p. 400
Haftora Shavuot First Day- Ezekiel 1:1-28; 3:12-- p. 1228
Shavuot Second Day -- Dt.14:22-16:17 p. 1012.
Haftora Shavuot Second Day-- Habakkuk 2:20-3:19 p. 1229

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

DURING THIS TIME OF MANDATED SOCIAL DISTANCING, WE ARE STILL KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION.



CONNECT WITH OUR WHATSAPP GROUPS

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- ◇ [DAILY DAF YOMI SHIUR](#)
- ◇ [PARSHA SHIURIM](#)
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HAVE A GRADUATE?

MEMBERS- If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating this year, please send their information to mkramer@yinbh.org. Please include a photo, where they are graduating from, and the degree they are receiving. We will be listing all the graduates in the June 13th Tefilla Notebook.

Dearest Members and Friends,

Socrates, the father of Greek philosophy, is reported by Plato to have declared: "If I know one thing, it is that I know nothing". This absurd statement is often referred to as the Socratic Paradox, but would more correctly be defined as an oxymoron, or a self-refuting statement.



In fact, Socrates reveled in making such confounding statements, and also enjoyed making his disciples feel uncomfortable by challenging anything and everything they ever said with clever refutations and pithy rebuffs. He single-handedly turned incisive rational thinking and logical argument into a sport – but with this most famous of his quotes he readily admitted that it was all just a front. Ultimately, he knew nothing – or as he might have put it: he was constantly at the beginning of a new learning curve.

It has always struck me that the Socratic Paradox has a parallel in Jewish tradition. The Talmud records the dramatic moment when the Jewish nation received the Torah at Mount Sinai: "Rav Simai said, when the Jewish nation declared נִשְׁמָע וְנִשְׁמָע - we shall do', before saying נִשְׁמָע וְנִשְׁמָע - we shall listen', 600,000 heavenly angels came down to every member of the Jewish nation and crowned each of them with two crowns, one of them to correspond with 'we shall do' and the other with 'we shall listen'" (Shabbat 88a).

There is no greater paradox in Jewish history than this blind acceptance of Torah whilst at the same time declaring that it needs to be understood, albeit only once the Jews had already agreed to be bound by its requirements and restrictions. After all, if they were admitting that they 'know nothing' by saying 'we shall do', why was there any need to later seek an understanding of the Torah by saying 'we shall listen'? What would be the point? Jewish tradition informs us that Torah is the ultimate expression of God's will on Earth. In reality, as Maimonides makes clear, God and His will are entirely inseparable, which means that if God is infinite, the Torah must also be infinite. A human being possesses limited intellect; consequently, had the nation initially said 'we shall listen' before saying 'we shall do', this would have indicated that they wanted to make a decision about their commitment to Torah based on what would have been by definition limited comprehension – as if it was possible for them to cogently opine on God's infinite wisdom, and only then to accept it. But by saying 'we shall do' before saying 'we shall listen', they indicated their unconditional acceptance of God's Torah, acknowledging their own inability to ever truly comprehend it fully. The question this forces us to ponder is where exactly the Jewish nation had acquired their ability to do this?

Rabbi Meir Shapiro (1887-1933), legendary founder of the Chachmei Lublin yeshiva, suggests that this incredible national characteristic originated with our patriarch Abraham. When God assured Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, He told him to go outside and "look toward the heavens and count the stars." Without thinking twice, Abraham went out and began counting the stars. The verse continues with God asking Abraham: "Are you able to count them? So shall be your offspring." (Gen. 15:5)

What was going through Abraham's mind as he attempted to count the stars? It is totally impossible for a human being to count all the stars in the sky. The answer would appear to be – that is just who Abraham was. If God asks you to do something, you do it – because God is God, and if He asks you to do something, you do it. Similarly, when the Jewish nation was told that they were about to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai, they immediately indicated that they were ready to receive it without going through a prolonged process of consideration and reflection to see if it all made sense. That is what the verse means when it says: "so shall be your offspring" – God was telling Abraham: your descendants will also possess this trait of devoted loyalty to Me, so that when they are about to receive the Torah they will declare 'we shall do' before saying 'we shall listen'.

The sheer magnitude of the Torah at every level means that if we are only willing to accept it if we grasp it intellectually, our intellectual limitations will prevent us from ever understanding it. It is only by knowing that we know nothing that we can ever begin to know anything at all. In other words, 'we shall do' has to come before 'we shall listen'.

Meanwhile, the even greater paradox is this: if we are willing and ready to accept God's Torah without first understanding everything, then we just might merit to understand it. I think that is a paradox worthy of Socrates himself, or, as he might have said, "Naaseh Venishma!"

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

Pini Dunner

Sisterhood Corner May

Happy Shavuot!

May this holiday bring warmth, comradery, and cheesecake to you and your family!

Although the past few months have been difficult it's been a call to creativity and demonstrated the resilience of our community.

We are looking forward to resuming our wonderful Shul gatherings.

Chag Sameach & Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS

Latsi Fischmann
Chaim Yehuda ben Yaakov z"l
Father of
George Fischmann
Yahrtzeit— 12 Sivan

Zelda Kaplan
Zelda bat Yaakov z"l
Mother of
Jay Kaplan
Yahrtzeit— 12 Sivan

Robert Rosenberg
Israel ben Reuvan z"l
Father of
Alicia G. Rosenberg
Yahrtzeit— 13 Sivan



Katie Kest

Sabine

Jonathan

Dunner

Gromis

Rebecca

Nathaniel

Grabel

Roden

Sam Varon

Marty

Stephen Zeller

Feldberg

Rachelle

Sidney Stoll

Aronowitz

Happy Anniversary

Stephen & Jessica Samuel

Mark & Amy Kestenbaum

MAZAL TOV

Rabbi Alan & Mrs.

Sandy Kalinsky on their

son-in-law, Rabbi Eli

Slomnicki, being elected

to serve as the new

principal/Head of School

of HANC High School of

Nassau County NY. It is a

notable distinction that

he was an Alumnus of

Class of '97.

יזכור



LIVE YIZKOR SERVICE

Thursday, May 28th

Erev Shavuot

11:00am via Zoom

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

MISSED A CLASS? Visit Our YouTube Channel



youtube.com/beverlyhillssynagogue

SPONSOR A CLASS



Honor the memory of a loved one, or celebrate a simcha by sponsoring one of our zoom classes. We will mention the sponsorship beforehand and in any class materials.

If interested, email mkramer@yinh.org

CLASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF MAY 31 - June 6
THE ZOOM CODE FOR ALL CLASSES ARE 310 276 7650

The log-in link is <https://zoom.us/j/3102767650>

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	CATEGORY
Sunday May 31	11:00am	Treasures from the Rabbi's Library	History
Sunday May 31	1:00pm	Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Pini Dunner	Class
Sunday May 31	8:20pm	Tzurva MeRabanan with Chazzan Nati Baram	Class
Monday June 1	12:00pm	Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram	Class
Tuesday June 2	12:00pm	Tanach Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram	Class
Wednesday June 3	10:00am	Rabbi Dunner in conversation with Rabbi Riskin	Class
Wednesday June 3	11:00am	Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Dunner	Class
Thursday June 4	12:00am	Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram	Class
Friday June 5	6:30pm	Mincha/Kabbalat Yom Tov	Tefilla
Saturday June 6	8:50pm	Havdalah	Tefilla

This coming week is the final class is the **Treasures from the Rabbi's Library** Series.
 The series will resume in the fall.

ישיב BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
 YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS



**RABBI PINI DUNNER
 IN CONVERSATION
 WITH
 RABBI SHLOMO RISKIN**



ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

JUDAISM, A LOVE STORY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD 2020

• 10AM LA • 1PM NY • 6PM LONDON • 8PM ISRAEL

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin was the founding rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York City, which he led for 20 years. In 1983 he went on aliyah with many members of his community to become chief rabbi of Efrat, a city he founded in the heart of Gush Etzion. In Israel he founded the Ohr Torah Stone Institutions, a network of high schools and colleges that trains rabbis and has produced countless Jewish leaders on every continent. A close friend of YINBH and of Rabbi Dunner, Rabbi Riskin has just celebrated his eightieth birthday and is publishing his latest book. In his conversation with Rabbi Dunner he will reflect on his many decades of active communal life, and discuss the manifold challenges facing Jewish communities of the twenty-first century as well as the State of Israel.

Email office@yinh.org to recieve the zoom link

Reopening of the Synagogue

The Synagogue Reopening Committee recently sent out an email to our members regarding the process of reopening our Synagogue for both weekday and Shabbat Services. The letter can be viewed on our shul website at beverlyhillssynagogue.org.

The committee is trying to get an idea of counts of people who will be joining us once we reopen based on the new procedures. They ask that you please email office@yinh.org to let us know the names and if they will be joining for weekday and/or Shabbat Services.

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Shacharit

**Sunday at 8am
 Monday-Friday at 7:30am
 via zoom**

MEETING ID 226-829-899

#PRAYTOGETHER