Dearest Members and Friends,

One of the seventeenth century’s greatest intellectual celebrities was Sir Isaac Newton, a central figure of what we now refer to as the Scientific Revolution, and whose legendary encounter with an apple ultimately resulted in the law of universal gravitation. Along with many other scientific discoveries and innovations, Newton famously formulated the Three Laws of Motion, the third of which is that “for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” For all non-physicists this is best explained to mean that forces always come in pairs, and that it is important to take this into account when making any calculation regarding the effect of motion or force. This principle is by no means limited to pure science. We know only too well that every “action” that occurs in the world, and during the course of our lives, has, in some definable way, an equal and opposite reaction. And closely associated with this application of Newton’s law is the rather more recent idea, suggested by the twentieth-century American sociologist Robert K. Merton — a concept often referred to as “the law of unintended consequences,” in which doing one thing will result in an outcome that is both unanticipated and undesirable. It is called the opposite reaction, as opposed to the originally intended result.

What both these ideas share in common is the tradeoff generated by any force – Newton’s equal and opposite reaction, which in a non-scientific setting will frequently be unintended, but nonetheless inevitable. Over the past few years all of us have had to adopt a new way of life, and we have seen this phenomenon unfold in front of us, as the entire world has shut down in the face of coronavirus, with equal and opposite reactions that have confounded us and astounded us in equal measure.

In very direct terms, we have seen those regions, towns, neighborhoods and communities that locked down and socially isolated immediately, or more quickly than others, being spared from the worst of the coronavirus consequences, while those that opted for a looser approach have seen greater devastation. That, of course, is more Newtonian than Mertonian. Meanwhile, in the eagerness to reopen the economy and live again, there is a discussion about the tradeoff between sickness and severity on the one hand, and economic resuscitation on the other, and suddenly we are engaged in a moral discussion about how much death we can “tolerate” so that the current snap recession does not evolve into a full-blown depression.

But there are many Mertonian “equal and opposite” unexpected consequences to the COVID-19 pandemic, not least of which has been the rapid adoption of Zoom technology as a means of multi-person communication and group meetings for non-professional gatherings, such as family get-togethers and community events. For many technophobes this period has involved a rapid learning curve, and particularly for those eager to stay in touch with their children and grandchildren.

More impressively, however, has been the incredible kindnesses and countless selfless acts that have resulted from this situation, perfectly summed up in the LA Times headline a couple of weeks ago: “Charity is off the charts amid the coronavirus.” The article charts the incredible surge in charitable giving and the seemingly insatiable desire to help others that has come about in the wake of all the hardships faced by those affected as a result of the current challenges. Alongside this has been the willingness of first responders and medical professionals to put themselves at mortal risk by being in close proximity to those who are suffering from the virus, a phenomenon that has been nothing short of spectacular. Who could have predicted that in such a short time, and in such a very short period, there is suddenly such an increase in concern for others, and a growth in generosity and spontaneous benevolence? I think it speaks volumes about the non-Darwinian underpinnings of the human spirit, and the essential spirituality of humanity, in that we are able to rise above mundane survival concerns and take care of others. What might Newton or Merton have had to say about that?

The late Rabbi Meir Chodosh, mashgiach ruchani (moral tutor) of Hebron yeshiva, was puzzled by the fact that the period between Pesach and Shavuot, during which we count the daily “omer”, is treated as a period of mourning in the Jewish calendar. Surely this period should be one of elation and joy, as we anticipate the anniversary of the revelation at Mount Sinai? The rather obscure origin for the mourning custom is found in the Midrash (Yevamot 62b), which records that 24,000 students of the great rabbinic luminary Rabbi Akiva died during this period, and we must therefore mourn for them. But surely there have been plenty of other tragedies in Jewish history. Why, then, do we need to particularly mourn for these students?

The Midrash teaches us that when the Israelites left Egypt, at first they were not ready to receive the Torah because they were still concerned with survival, and were self-absorbed and selfish. But by the time they reached Mount Sinai, they were united “as one person, with one heart.” It was exactly during this period of time, after the Exodus and before the Torah was given, that the Jewish people learned to be selfless and giving, and not to focus purely on their own problems, so that by Shavuot they were “as one person, with one heart.” This was the prerequisite for receiving the Torah, and they passed the test with flying colors. Rabbi Akiva’s students are reported to have died because they did not treat each other with proper respect, and because they were not at all concerned for each other’s welfare. It would therefore seem that their deaths during this period was not a mere coincidence. Precisely during a time when one is expected to epitomize goodness towards others, these students, who had behaved in an opposite fashion, were penalized for their failure to emulate their elevates status as students of the Torah. And to perpetuate this lesson for all time, our rabbinic forebears singled out this particular historic event to teach us the importance of kindness and compassion as the ultimate Characteristic of God’s Torah, and to show us what it is that God wants from us.

Even as we continue to endure the difficulties of the current crisis, let us take this lesson to heart, to see what it is that we can do to support others who are worse off than us. Let this be a demonstration that the lesson of Rabbi Akiva’s students has penetrated our hearts and truly affected the way we behave – an unintended consequence that has its roots at the dawn of Jewish history.

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

Pini Dunner
While this Stay at Home order has brought challenges to every family we hope it has also offered quality time with loved ones.

If you’re looking for new activities Out Foxed, Animal Upon Animal, and My First Castle Panic are games that will create fun for the whole family!

Please share & pass along you and your family’s favorite games and puzzles! After all, we can all use some extra inspiration right now.

Happy Mother’s Day!
&
Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Emil Kestenbaum
Menachem Mendel ben Mordechai Gimpel z”l
Father of
Mark Kestenbaum
Yahrtzeit— 15 Iyyar

Laszlo Weiss
Shmuel ben Yosef Ha Levi a”h
Father of
Suzi Weiss
Yahrtzeit— 17 Iyyar

Avraham ben Yitzchak
z”l
Father of
Toni Rochelle
Yahrtzeit— 18 Iyyar

Barbara Doppelt
B’er Shifra bat Moshe a”h
Mother of
Julie Boyer
Yahrtzeit— 21 Iyyar

Karen Parver
Behrouz Soroudi
Sonya Kest
Ava Brenner

Joseph Baum
Stephen Samuel
David Shlomi
Daniel Soroudi

Mincha/Maariv including sefirat haomer
Praying Together
Weekdays at 7:30pm via Zoom

This does not count as a minyan

Meeting ID
226-829-899

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@yinbh.org

youtube.com/beverlyhillssynagogue
Let’s Pray Together

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat on ZOOM

Friday, May 8th at 6:30pm

Join in with the community for Erev Shabbos prayers led by Chazzan Nati Baram. Shabbat message from Rabbi Pini Dunner

Join us again Motzei Shabbos for Havdalah at 8:45pm

---

Beverly Hills Synagogue
Young Israel of North Beverly Hills

RABBI PINI DUNNER
IN CONVERSATION WITH ISAAC HERZOG

"RAV SHMUEL YITZCHOK HILLMAN
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY RABBINIC GIANT
YOU’VE NEVER HEARD OF"

Timed to coincide with the publication of a new edition of Derashot Ohr Hayashar, Rabbi Hillman’s addresses and sermons, rearranged, reformatted, annotated and with the addition of a new detailed biography written by Rabbi Pini Dunner in conjunction with Rabbi Yechiel Goldhaber of Jerusalem

Wednesday May 13th 2020
- 10AM PST • 1PM EST • 6PM LONDON • 8PM ISRAEL
EMAIL OFFICE@YINBH.ORG TO RECIEVE THE ZOOM LINK

Yachad & NCSY present
A community wide night of inclusion
Lag Baomer
Kumzitz
Monday May 11th 8:15PM
with Rabbi Shua Rose,
Rabbi David Block,
& surprise guest performers

https://zoom.us/j/99160993388
Zoom Meeting ID: 991-6099-3388
CLASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF MAY 10-16

THE ZOOM CODE FOR ALL CLASSES ARE 310 276 7650

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 10</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Treasures from the Rabbi’s Library**</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 10</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Pini Dunner</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 10</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Tzurva MeRaban with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 11</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Class with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday May 12</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Tanach Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 13</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Conversation with Isaac Herzog (see flyer on page 3)</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 13</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea with Rabbi Pini Dunner</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday May 14</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Class with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday May 15</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>Tefilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday May 16</td>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>Havdalah</td>
<td>Tefilla</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Treasures from the Rabbi’s Library Video is sponsored by George & Suzi Fischmann in memory or Suzi’s father, Laszlo Weiss, Shmuel ben Yosef Ha Levi z’l, whose yahrtzeit is on 17 Iyyar

### CALENDAR FOR COUNTING THE OMER
COUNT IN THE EVENING AT OR AFTER MAARIV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 12</td>
<td>APRIL 13</td>
<td>APRIL 14</td>
<td>APRIL 15</td>
<td>APRIL 16</td>
<td>APRIL 17</td>
<td>APRIL 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 4</td>
<td>COUNT 5</td>
<td>COUNT 6</td>
<td>COUNT 7</td>
<td>COUNT 8</td>
<td>COUNT 9</td>
<td>COUNT 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 19</td>
<td>APRIL 20</td>
<td>APRIL 21</td>
<td>APRIL 22</td>
<td>APRIL 23</td>
<td>APRIL 24</td>
<td>APRIL 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 11</td>
<td>COUNT 12</td>
<td>COUNT 13</td>
<td>COUNT 14</td>
<td>COUNT 15</td>
<td>COUNT 16</td>
<td>COUNT 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 26</td>
<td>APRIL 27</td>
<td>APRIL 28</td>
<td>APRIL 29</td>
<td>APRIL 30</td>
<td>MAY 1</td>
<td>MAY 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 18</td>
<td>COUNT 19</td>
<td>COUNT 20</td>
<td>COUNT 21</td>
<td>COUNT 22</td>
<td>COUNT 23</td>
<td>MAY 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 3</td>
<td>MAY 4</td>
<td>MAY 5</td>
<td>MAY 6</td>
<td>MAY 7</td>
<td>MAY 8</td>
<td>MAY 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 25</td>
<td>COUNT 26</td>
<td>COUNT 27</td>
<td>COUNT 28</td>
<td>COUNT 29</td>
<td>COUNT 30</td>
<td>COUNT 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 10</td>
<td>MAY 11</td>
<td>MAY 12</td>
<td>MAY 13</td>
<td>MAY 14</td>
<td>MAY 15</td>
<td>MAY 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 32</td>
<td>COUNT 33</td>
<td>COUNT 34</td>
<td>COUNT 35</td>
<td>COUNT 36</td>
<td>COUNT 37</td>
<td>COUNT 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 17</td>
<td>MAY 18</td>
<td>MAY 19</td>
<td>MAY 20</td>
<td>MAY 21</td>
<td>MAY 22</td>
<td>MAY 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 39</td>
<td>COUNT 40</td>
<td>COUNT 41</td>
<td>COUNT 42</td>
<td>COUNT 43</td>
<td>COUNT 44</td>
<td>COUNT 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 24</td>
<td>MAY 25</td>
<td>MAY 26</td>
<td>MAY 27</td>
<td>MAY 27</td>
<td>COUNT 49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNT 46</td>
<td>COUNT 47</td>
<td>COUNT 48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>