



Tefilla Notebook

28 Sivan • Parshat Shelach • Birkat Hachodesh

June 19-20, 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

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

7:49pm CANDLELIGHTING

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

8:52pm 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 kriat Hatorah, you should still read the torah portion and haftorah aloud, using the tunes if you know them.

Stone Chumash (Artscroll) Shelach-- p. 798
Haftora Shelach- p. 1184

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Sun 8:00am & 7:50pm

Mon - Friday 7:00am & 7:50pm

Mon & Tues are Rosh Chodesh

We are continuing to stream our services on zoom for those who cannot attend in person

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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

Connect with our Whatsapp Groups

◇ [YINBH Community](#)

◇ [Daily Daf Yomi Shiur](#)

◇ [Parsha Shiurim](#)

◇ [YINBH Videos](#)



Those who are going to be attending our in-person minyanim **must pre-register**. Services are open to MEMBERS ONLY at this time. Space is limited. We will continue to have our services via zoom for those who cannot yet attend in person.

Shabbat morning services are being held at a private residence tennis court in Beverly Hills.

Dearest Members and Friends,

Those familiar with the history of British cinema will certainly have heard of a genre of films known as the Ealing Comedies, a series of comedy films produced by Ealing Studios in London between 1947 and 1957. Among the light-touch dry comedic Ealing masterpieces were movies such as Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949), The Lavender Hill Mob (1951), and The Ladykillers (1955), starring, among others, Sir Alec Guinness, Alastair Sim, Margaret Rutherford and Stanley Holloway. But although all of these movies were groundbreaking, as well as hugely entertaining, there is one that sticks out in particular in terms of its originality – and its prescience. That movie is Passport to Pimlico (1949).



Pimlico is an upscale residential neighborhood in central London, just south of Belgravia, best known for its imposing Regency townhouses and famous residents, which in the past have included Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Laurence Olivier. The rather far-fetched premise of Passport to Pimlico hinges on the discovery of a buried treasure in Pimlico after an unexploded wartime bomb is triggered by accident. Alongside the treasure is an ancient document which reveals that the area now known as Pimlico was originally gifted to the Duke of Burgundy in 1477, and is in fact its own legal entity, and crucially, it is not governed by British law.

Overwhelmed by the opportunity this presents in the rather grim postwar climate, Pimlico residents decide to declare their independence from the United Kingdom. But although this leads to a short-term economic boom, very soon the area descends into complete chaos. With its tongue firmly in its cheek, the movie explores the tension between the human desire to be free of any external control versus the benefits and safety that such control brings to society.

Although Passport to Pimlico principally reflects the irrepressible spirit of Londoners in the wake of the devastating war years and the difficult period of postwar austerity, in an uncanny way the film foreshadows many aspects of the political climate of today, with ordinary people banding together and resisting the ruling classes who they see as oppressive and retrograde. But be that as it may, I never imagined in my wildest dreams that the movie's central premise would one day become a reality. How wrong I was.

Approximately two weeks ago, six blocks in Seattle, Washington, "ceded" from the United States after the Seattle Police Department (SPD) vacated its East Precinct building. This area is now a self-declared autonomous zone known as the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ). On June 9, the activists behind CHAZ listed thirty of their demands online, which, among other things, included the abolition of SPD and the Seattle court system; defunding SPD and reallocating those funds to health costs; banning police use of firearms, batons, riot shields, and chemical agents; the release of prisoners serving time for marijuana-related offenses or resisting arrest; mandatory retrials for people of color who are serving sentences for violent crimes; and prison abolition.

I have puzzled over why this group of urban anarchists think the US authorities should take any notice of the demands of self-declared foreign nationals, but I am guessing the irony of that particular observation would be lost on them. It is also unclear to me what exactly the United States would get in return for agreeing to the demands, and it's not as if CHAZ has either military or diplomatic leverage. But most intriguing of all – I am really struggling to work out on what basis a bunch of street activists can decide to seize sovereign territory. At least the silver-screen Pimlico group had an ancient manuscript to underscore their claim. These guys have nothing.

John Lennon, a great songwriter who was simultaneously an insidious nihilist, released a song in 1971 titled Power to the People. The song utilized a slogan that had gained traction through the 1960s among antiwar protestors and radical elements of the civil rights movement whose aim was to foment rebellion against the establishment. But like so many other slogans concocted and popularized by champagne revolutionaries, the reality of 'people power' has always proven to be more suffering, not less. Abuses of power are the tragic consequence of power, and every system needs checks and balances to mitigate and reduce the ill effects of corruption. But to abandon the system altogether and put the lives of ordinary citizens in the hands of people driven by slogans is unquestionably a far greater threat than anything a faulty system is guilty of.

The Book of Bamidbar contains a number of narratives featuring 'people power' as their central theme. The most prominent of these narratives are the story of the spies in Shelach, and the story of Korach's rebellion in Korach. In both of them the driving force was ostensibly a popular revolt against top-down authority, but that was not the case at all. In reality sinister forces were at work, manipulating the masses into believing they would be better off, when actually it was not true, and nor was this the aim of those behind the insurgency. The spies were all princes of their tribes, and their motivation was a desire to retain power over the people, who they feared would depose them if they moved into the Land of Israel. Meanwhile, Korach presented his revolt as a 'people power' revolution, but he was really just a power-hungry plutocrat using popular discontent to propel him into a leadership position.

There is something strangely alluring about 'people power', a kind of idealism that seizes and dazzles us. Somehow we think, not unreasonably, that those in authority could be doing a better job, and that if we clipped their wings and devolved power to the people, the world would be a better place. But history has proven time and time again that the very opposite is true. Most 'people power' revolutions have resulted in nothing but suffering and misery, even as a handful of devious insurrectionists have taken advantage of our idealistic naiveté and seized control in the power vacuum the revolution has created.

In Passport to Pimlico, Pimlico ultimately returns to the fold, abandoning its independence aspirations and reuniting with Britain while life returns to 'normal'. The message seems to be that despite all the sacrifices and enthusiastic optimism, when push comes to shove, anarchy serves nothing but itself, and all efforts to completely rewrite the human rulebook are doomed to failure.

Before it is too late, we need to realize that those behind CHAZ are not just a bunch of cheeky chaps thumbing their nose at the system; rather they represent a real threat to our hard-earned democracy and freedoms, and the sooner they are shut down for good, the better.

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

Pini Dunner

Sisterhood Corner

June

Many thanks to those who joined our Ladies Night In. We are thankful for the opportunity to maintain our meaningful intracommunity connection.

As expected our Sisterhood Event Calendar is undergoing changes due to Covid-19. This year's July 2nd Hollywood Bowl Extravaganza has been cancelled. We have postponed our Annual Sisterhood Tea but look forward to setting a new date as soon as it is safe to do so.

Chodesh Tov!
Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Thank you

George & Suzi Fischmann for sponsoring next week's Daf Yomi Series and the Rabbi's Parsha Shiur in memory of George's sister, **Klury Fischman, Rivka bat Chaim Yehuda a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on 8 Tammuz.

YAHRTZEITS

Parviz Louie
Yechezkel ben Asher z"l
Father of
Shervin Louie
Yahrtzeit— 29 Sivan

Leonard Lopatin
Eliezer Zvi ben Ephraim z"l
Father of
Bill Lopatin
Yahrtzeit— 30 Sivan

Phyllis Herskovitz
Tziporah bat Yehoshua a"h
Husband of
Mr. Jonas Herskovitz
Yahrtzeit— 30 Sivan

Gail Kestenbaum
Gittel bat Zev Velvel a"h
Mother of
Mark Kestenbaum
Yahrtzeit— 2 Tammuz

Reba Zeller
Rivka bat Max a"h
Mother of
Robert Zeller
Yahrtzeit— 3 Tammuz

Happy Anniversary

Ezra & Lauren
Kest
Sam & Diba
Mostadim



Isabelle Azouz
Tahli Cohenca
Meir Dunner
Alan Fogelman
Danielle Gross
Rachel Kessler
Noah Kest
Darsie Ross
Irina Schaeffer
Mark Smith
Daniel Teboul
Susan Varon
Allison Zucker

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK OF JUNE 21 - 28

THE ZOOM CODE FOR ALL CLASSES ARE **310 276 7650**

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

DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Sunday June 21	8:30pm	Tzurva MeRabanan with Chazzan Nati Baram
Monday June 22	12:00pm	Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Tuesday June 23	12:00pm	Tanach Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Wednesday June 24	11:00am	Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Dunner
Wednesday June 25	1:00pm	Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Pini Dunner
Thursday June 26	12:00am	Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram
Friday June 27	6:30pm	Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday June 28	9:15pm	Havdalah



AVI ELHIANI

Congratulations to Avi Elhiani for graduating his 3 year residency at Cedars in Podiatric surgical medicine. He will be going into private practice here in Los Angeles. Proud parents Rita Lewkowitz and Simon Elhiani.