

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **Vivian & Steve Dorfman** in memory of Vivian's father, **Sam Weiss, Mordechai Shimon ben Yitzchak Yehudah z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on 9 Tammuz

9 Tammuz • Parshat Chukat

June 18-19, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

310-276-7650 • office@yinh.org

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JUNE 18TH

CANDLELIGHTING 7:49pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 6:30pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

SHACHARIT 9:15AM

MINCHA 8:00PM

MAARIV 8:50pm

SHABBAT ENDS 8:52pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

SUN 8:00AM & 8:00PM

MON - THURS 7:00AM & 8:00PM

FRI 7:00AM & 6:30PM

THANK YOU

Rivka and Raphy Nissel for sponsoring the extended kiddush in memory of Rivka's father, **Nosson Lieberman, Natan Alter ben Shraga Zvi HaCohen z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on 13 Tammuz.

MAZAL TOV

Adam & Jesse Shaked on the birth of a baby boy! Mazal Tov to Grandparents **Bill & Joan Lopatin** and **Avi & Roberta Shaked**. Mazal Tov to big brother, **Sammy**. Mazal Tov to Great Grandparents **Rosalie Lopatin** and **Leonard Lopatin z"l** and **Alan Abelson** and **Estelle Abelson a"n**



Dear Members & Friends,

Jason Tan is Professor of Policy, Curriculum and Leadership at The National Institute of Education in Singapore. He is also an acknowledged expert on what has become known as "lifelong learning". Singapore is a world leader in this field and the Singaporean government has pioneered a lifelong learning program for the entire population; its SkillsFuture platform is available to every citizen.

In an interview earlier this week, Tan noted that the major motivation behind SkillsFuture is the "increasing challenge posed by technological disruption to workplaces... around the world." Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a threat to lower-skilled jobs, it even threatens white-collar workers. For example, computers are able to read and interpret radiograms, surpassing radiologists in their understanding of the data. Another example is computer programs that write press releases and compose company blurb by extrapolating information from balance sheets. Entire areas of expertise and skill that were previously unassailably human are in danger of obsolescence.

And as this tsunami gathers pace, the only way for workers to stay ahead of the game is to continue learning throughout their lives, constantly gaining new skills, training and retraining as technology advances and circumstances change.

But what really stuck out in Tan's description of SkillsFuture was when he said that the Singaporean government's "conception of lifelong learning is much broader than just narrow employability concerns." In other words, lifelong learning is not just about putting proverbial bread on the table, it is about constantly expanding your knowledge. And, most importantly, it is about accepting as fact that no matter how much you know, and how much you have studied in the past, there is always more to learn.

Our Talmudic sources are replete with references to this kind of lifelong scholarly humility, even among the most illustrious of the sages. In Avot (4:1), the last of the great Talmudic darshanim ("scriptural interpreters"), Simeon Ben Zoma, declares that a wise person is someone who learns something from everyone they come into contact with, based on the verse in Psalms (119:99): "From all who taught me have I gained understanding." The implication is clear: learning is not limited to your years at school, and you can gain knowledge throughout your life, and, indeed, that's what you should do if you want to be wise.

Both Rabbi Judah, editor of the Mishnah, and his devoted disciple Rabbi Hanina, are quoted as having said (Makkot 10a; Taanit 7a): "I have learned much from my teachers and even more from my friends, but more than from all of them I have learned from my students." Strikingly, these outstanding scholars acutely understood that in order to learn, and gain knowledge, you must be willing to humble yourself – even to the extent that your students become your teachers.

I can clearly remember from my own years in yeshiva that the rabbis who taught us how to study Talmud – and we were self-evidently inexperienced novices by comparison – eagerly sought our interpretations of the passages we were studying together, and willingly conceded to our analyses if they felt our version was more accurate than theirs. This lifelong learning model has stuck with me – the total negation of ego when it comes to learning something new, or even relearning material. As far as I can tell, it is exactly this that is the root of the wisdom defined by Simeon Ben Zoma in Avot.

Remarkably, this concept of self-negation in the pursuit of knowledge, and specifically Torah knowledge, is explicitly stated by Reish Lakish, the third-century giant of Talmudic literature. In Parshat Chukat (Num. 19:14), the Torah records the laws of ritual impurity, beginning the section which deals with the impurity of corpses with the words: זאת התורה אדם כי ימות באהל - "This is the law, if a person dies in a tent." But rather than seeing this opener as merely introductory words to the arcane laws that follow, Reish Lakish suggests a novel, parallel interpretation. "From where do we derive that Torah knowledge is only retained by someone who kills himself over it?" he asks – and then cites this verse.

Clearly, Reish Lakish would never suggest that we engage in behavior which might endanger our lives just so that we can study Torah, nor is he stating that the study of Torah will result in life-threatening health problems. After all, we are expected to "live" a Torah life, and if the observance of any aspect of Torah could result in death, preserving our life overrides it. And on a more practical level, being at death's door is hardly the route to academic success.

Rather, Reish Lakish is making a more prosaic pronouncement. A person who wishes to learn must be willing to "kill" his ego, and the learning will inevitably be exponentially better. In Reish Lakish's creative interpretation, the verse is telling us that if you want 'this Torah', then always be ready to 'kill' your ego in the 'tent' of learning.

Or, as Albert Einstein put it, "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it."

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lloyd & Sonia Levitin

Sisterhood Corner

June

Coming Soon!

Treasure's from the Rabbi's Library
The next Episode will air on June 21st at 5pm!

Email office@yinh.org for more information

Keep Calm and Read On!

Rabbi Dunner will be in conversation with
Author Gil Troy

Tuesday, July 13th at 7:30pm

Email office@yinh.org for registration and full details!

Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

THANK YOU

Next Week's Parsha Shiur will be sponsored by **Aaron & Lillian and Jason Fuchs** memory of Aaron's father, and Jason's grandfather, **Heinrich Fuchs, Chaim Shaul ben Yitzchak z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on 12 Tammuz

Join the weekly Parsha shiur on Wednesdays at 11am via zoom - beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom

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 NEXT WEEK'S TEFILLA NOTEBOOK. PLEASE SEND NAMES BY JUNE 23RD

YAHRTZEITS

Sol Kest

Shlomo Baruch ben Yitzchak
Elimelech z"l
Father of
Ezra Kest
Yahrtzeit - 9 Tammuz

Ester Feldberg

Ester Devorah bat Yitzchak
Meyer Wasserman a"h
Mother of
Marty Feldberg
Yahrtzeit - 10 Tammuz

Nossen Lieberman

Natan Alter ben Shraga Zvi
HaCohen z"l
Father of
Rivka Nissel
Yahrtzeit - 13 Tammuz

Sam Weiss

Mordechai Shimon ben
Yitzchak Yehudah z"l
Father of
Vivian Dorfman
Yahrtzeit - 9 Tammuz

Heinrich Fuchs

Chaim Shaul ben Yitzchak z"l
Father of
Aaron Fuchs
Yahrtzeit - 12 Tammuz

Aba Dunner

Rav Avraham Moshe ben Harav
Yosef Tzvi Halevi z"l
Father of
Rabbi Pini Dunner
Yahrtzeit - 15 Tammuz



*Ezra Kest
Allison Sostchen
Danielle Gross
Alan Fogelman
Darsie Ross
Isabelle Azouz
Allison Zucker
Sam Varon
Tahli Cohenca
Meir Dunner*

Happy Anniversary

*Jonathan & Julie Boyer
Ezra & Lauren Kest
Sam & Diba Mostadim*



SAVE THE DATE!

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CO-AUTHOR AND DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN
Gil Troy

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BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

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BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
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Last night was our Gala Banquet 2021!

We had a lovely evening surrounded by all our friends in the YINBH Community. The delicious food and drinks, the good company, the beautiful garden, the uplifting music, the hilarious host, the sentimental tributes, and so much more! It was a perfect mix that made the night truly unforgettable.

We Did It!

Thank you to everyone who joined us last night, in person or virtually. Thank you for everyone who donated towards the Gala and to everyone who submitted a journal ad. Rabbi Dunner and Chazzan Nati received a hardcopy and they very much appreciate all the kind words.

Thank you to all the staff and vendors who worked together to bring the event to fruition. Thank you to the Gala Committee for working tirelessly to put all the details together in order to make last night such a great success.

And lastly, Mazal Tov to Chazan Nati Baram and Rabbi Pini Dunner on being honored at last night's Gala Banquet. Our Shul would not have made it through the last year without you and all that you did to ensure we pushed through.

See the pictures on page 4. *We will be posting more pictures as soon as we get them. We will also send out a video and the journal.*

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

YINBH GALA BANQUET





Photos by Barry Novack