

# Tefilla Notebook

3 Tammuz • Korach

July 1-2, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, JULY 1

CANDLELIGHTING: 7:50PM

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT: 6:30PM

### SATURDAY, JULY 2

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

SHACHARIT: 9:15AM

PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR: 7:30PM

MINCHA: 8:00pm

MAARIV: 8:50pm

SHABBAT ENDS: 8:53pm

## WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
**Wed- Thurs	7:00am	8:00pm
Friday	7:00am	6:30pm

\*\*No Shacharit and Mincha/Maariv services on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday due to regulars being away

## MAZAL

## TOV

*Darsie*

*Ross*

*on your*

*Bar*

*Mitzvah!*



## THANK YOU

*David & Leah Ross for  
sponsoring the kiddush  
luncheon following  
services.*



Welcome New Members

**Laurette Ben-Nathan**

**Stuart & Fran Miller**

**Richard Shamos**

**Parvin Soofer**

Dear Members & Friends,

"Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit," said Oscar Wilde, "but it is the highest form of intelligence."

Truthfully, categorizing sarcasm as the lowest form of wit is a dubious proposition – after all, surely "dad jokes" are a more suitable candidate for that particular definition. And it is certainly a fact that dad jokes could never be mistaken as the highest form of intelligence! Although, the groan-punctuated laughs that dad jokes always seem to elicit can be a positive, even bonding, experience – and are certainly far more satisfying than the sneer generated by scathing sarcasm.

Readers Digest recently published a collection of the "100 funniest jokes from the last 100 years" – all of them drawn from the pages of their issues. Here's one from 1981: At a party, a young wife admonished her husband, "That's the fourth time you've gone back for ice cream and cake – doesn't it embarrass you?" "Why should it?" answered her spouse, "I keep telling them it's for you." Or how about this one, from 1951: "I wish I had enough money to buy an elephant." "What on earth do you need an elephant for?" "I don't. I just need the money." And just one more, this one an anecdote sent to Readers Digest by pastor Rev. Eric Davis in 1979: "While I was making farewell visits before moving to a new parish, an elderly member of the congregation paid me the compliment of suggesting that my successor would not be as good as I had been. 'Nonsense,' I replied, flattered. 'No, really,' she insisted. 'I've lived here under five different ministers, and each new one has been worse than the last.'"

While the obvious purpose of jokes is to put us in good spirits, jokes can also be used as a weapon – as they frequently are, with the target suffering distress as the butt of someone else's humor. "Oh, but I was only kidding!" is the standard defense. But it's a defense that doesn't really hold water. As author Eileen Cook put it, in her 2017 novel, *The Hanging Girl*: "Ah, the joking defense. The tried-and-true excuse for bullies everywhere."

In 2017, 12-year-old Mallory Grossman of New Jersey committed suicide after being relentlessly cyberbullied by her school peers. Immediately after the tragedy, her mother, Dianne, told NBC News that she had spoken to one of the other school parents the night before Mallory committed suicide, "and I can tell you that the mother dismissed [the cyberbullying and] said it was just a big joke, and that I really shouldn't worry about it." A 2020 study published by the University of Nottingham in the U.K. titled "Adolescents' perceptions and awareness of the association between humour, banter, and cyberbullying," discovered that "misinterpreting online banter can be a common experience for young people," often leading to lines being crossed by those posting "banter" online, and those at the receiving end of the online "banter" feeling humiliated and bullied.

Humor used as a weapon can be very effective and even dangerous, and it has been used throughout history as a revolutionary tool, psychologically reducing an admired and venerated leader to an object of ridicule and undermining their leadership legitimacy – which explains why the Nazi regime banned the publication of anti-Nazi jokes in Germany within a year of coming into power. In 2008, sociologist Majken Jul Sorenson published an academic article titled "Humor as a Serious Strategy of Nonviolent Resistance to Oppression." The article explores how humor can be used as a strategy of nonviolent resistance to oppression and dictatorship, and it focuses in particular on the Serbian Otpor movement, which successfully used a countrywide satirical campaign to topple Slobodan Milošević from power.

The Midrash reveals that Korach used exactly this strategy in his attempt to unseat Moses from the leadership of the Jewish people, and Aaron from his position as high priest. The Midrash implies that it was Korach's jokes at Moses' expense which enabled him to gain the support of 250 senior leaders, by turning Moses into an object of fun. "If a mezuzah, which is a tiny scroll with just two Torah paragraphs, is enough to put on the door of a house – what if the house is full of Torah scrolls, does it still need a mezuzah?" Korach asked, no doubt in an exaggerated mocking tone. Moses replied that the house would need a Mezuzah on the doorpost, notwithstanding all the Torah scrolls inside – and the gathered crowd immediately burst into fits of laughter.

"How about this one," continued Korach, nodding at the crowd with a raised eyebrow and a wink – "If one blue string on tzitzit fringes is sufficient to make the 4-cornered tzitzit garment kosher to wear, what if the whole garment is fabricated out of blue cloth, does it still need tzitzit?" Once again Moses nodded – "yes, it most certainly does," he replied. And once again the crowd laughed at the incongruity of having to affix a blue tzitzit threads onto the corner of a fully blue garment. Clearly, Korach's facetious banter was not just aimed at unseating Moses and Aaron, it was also calibrated to undermine the very fundamental core of Judaism – our faith in the halakhic system, and in those who preside over it.

"Before beginning to teach his students," the Talmud tells us, "Rabbah would say a little joke, and the students were amused. After that, he became serious – and then he would begin the lesson." (Shabbat 30b) Humor and laughter have their place. They create bonds between people and can charge batteries that have been deadened by humdrum day-to-day life. But when humor crosses the line into the merciless lampooning of everything we hold to be important and sacred – with the deliberate intent of tearing our foundations apart – that's not funny, instead it is a road to oblivion. And even though in the heat of the moment, a destructive joke can be hilarious, momentary joy should never be mistaken for long-term happiness.

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



## Sisterhood Corner

July

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Wishing you a joyful celebration!

**Exploring Jewish History  
with Rabbi Pini Dunner**  
Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Premiering on YouTube!

More info at  
[beverlyhillssynagogue.org/  
jewishhistory](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory)

Shabbat Shalom,  
Cecile & Ruthie  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

### PAUL FEDER Z"l GEMARA SHIUR

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון ה"ו

Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara shiur  
on Shabbat and Yom Tov 45 minutes  
before Shacharit.

### Happy Anniversary

*Mitch & Karen Parver*

*Seymour & Grace Stoll*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Joe Samuel*

*Aliza Rosenstein*

*Robert Varon*

*Ed Gromis*

*Alexandra Hailey Smith*

*Grace Stoll*

*Ariel Schnitzer*

*Shirin Azzizadeh*

*Payam Eliahoo*

*Patrick Hodara*

## YAHRTZEITS



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

**Lawrence Gittler**  
Lavi ben Yosef z"l  
Father of  
**Gregg Gittler**  
Yahrtzeit - 7 Tammuz

**Joan Ben-Nathan**  
Hannah a"h  
Mother of  
**Laurette Ben-Nathan**  
Yahrtzeit - 6 Tammuz

**Klary Fischmann**  
Rivka bat Chaim Yehuda a"h  
Sister of  
**George Fischmann**  
Yahrtzeit - 7 Tammuz

**Rose Garshofsky**  
Bayla Raiza bat Moshe Eliezer  
HaKohen a"h  
Mother of  
**Larry Garshofsky**  
Yahrtzeit - 6 Tammuz

**Sam Weiss**  
Mordechai Shimon ben Yitzchak  
Yehuda z"l  
Father of  
**Vivian Dorfman**  
Yahrtzeit - 9 Tammuz

**Karen Banker**  
Chaya Mindel bat Gershon a"h  
Sister of  
**Janice Kaufler**  
Yahrtzeit - 6 Tammuz

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

## MAZAL TOV

**Dr. Ed & Cecile Gromis** on the  
engagement of their son, **Dr.  
Jonathan Gromis** to **Daniella  
Hekmati**, daughter of **Kamran  
Hekmati** and **Betty Hekmati**  
from Great Neck.



## MAZAL TOV

**Chaim and Shira Feigen** of  
Lawrence, NY on the birth of a  
baby girl, **Penina Pessel**, born  
last Erev Shabbos. Mazal Tov to  
Grandparents **Rabbi Yehuda  
and Simi Feigen**.





## STEVEN & VIVIAN DORFMAN KEILIM MIKVAH



The Keilim Mikvah is now open for use. You can buzz-in for access via the intercom at the entrance to the garage, during weekday office hours.

It is customary to give tzedakah before doing to mitzvah of *toveling* Keilim. You can give a donation directly to the keilim mikvah by visiting [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim).



On the back walls of our Sanctuary, we have two gorgeous displays of marble yahrtzeit plaques. This is a beautiful way of visibly showing the names and dates of our dearly departed loved ones. All members can add names to this yahrtzeit wall as a way to embed a lasting memory.

**Yahrtzeit plaques cost \$1,800.**

If you would like to add a yahrtzeit plaque to our memorial wall, please contact Madeline at [mkramer@yinbh.org](mailto:mkramer@yinbh.org)

**aish**

Sunday July 24th

## The DISCOVERY Seminar

Featuring

**RABBI YITZ JACOBS**

Hear startling evidence for belief in God, explore hidden codes in the Torah, reveal amazing prophecies, & more.

Sunday | 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Morry's Fireplace | 9118 W Pico Blvd

FREE FOR YINBH MEMBERS THANKS TO A SPONSORSHIP BY A GENEROUS MEMBER OF OUR SYNAGOGUE. EMAIL [RSVP@YINBH.ORG](mailto:RSVP@YINBH.ORG) TO RSVP OR CALL 310-276-7650

## JOIN THE NEW LA JEWISH BOYS CHOIR

with Musical Director  
Chazzan Netanel Baram

**SUNDAYS**

**1:30PM - 3 PM**

YINBH

9261 Alden Dr

Beverly Hills 90210

For more info and  
to signup  
Shelley Schwartz  
[Snsmd@ucla.edu](mailto:Snsmd@ucla.edu)





# Exploring Jewish History WITH RABBI PINI DUNNER \*NEW SERIES\*



**July 11th 7pm**

**Premiering on YouTube**

## **Rogues, Rascals & Rapsallions**

**Incidents & Vignettes from the Margins of Jewish History**

**August 1st 7pm**

**Premiering on YouTube**

## **Treasures from the Rabbi's Library**

**Curiosities from the shelves of Rabbi Dunner's Study**

**August 22nd 8pm**

**LIVE IN-PERSON LECTURE at YINBH**

## **Rabbi Shlomo Goren and the Langer Controversy**

**[www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory](http://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory)**

**This series is sponsored by George & Suzi Fischmann**