

Tefilla Notebook

2 Av • Matot-Masei

July 29-30, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 29

CANDLELIGHTING: 7:38PM

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT: 6:30PM

SATURDAY, JULY 30

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

SHACHARIT: 9:15AM

PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR: 7:15PM

MINCHA: 7:45pm

MAARIV: 8:35pm

SHABBAT ENDS: 8:41pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sun	8:00am	7:45pm
Mon-Thurs	7:00am	7:45pm
Friday	7:00am	6:30pm

Thank you Rabbi Dunner, and the YINBH staff and membership for the outpouring of support you extended to us on the recent loss of Jonas Herskovitz z"l. We are grateful that the shul made sure that there were minyanim for all of the davening during shiva.

Mark & Janey Herskovitz

Notice of YINBH General Membership Meeting and Elections

Our next General YINBH Membership Meeting and Elections will be held on **Tuesday, September 13th at 7:15pm** in the shul.

The meeting and voting will take place *in-person* only. The new slate will be sent to all members at least 2 weeks before the meeting. In order to guarantee a quorum for the election, please RSVP at yinbh.org/meeting. Only full members in good standing are permitted to vote.

Dear Members & Friends,

Last month, I traveled to Mexico City to attend a wedding. It was my first time in this sprawling capital city that nestles 7,350 feet above sea level (roughly a mile-and-a-half up in the sky) in a valley that was formerly a lake, surrounded by mountains and hemmed in by two volcanoes. Home to over 21 million people, Mexico City is one of the most populous cities in the world. It also boasts the most museums of any city in the world – more than 150 at the last count.

The Jewish population of Mexico City is a rather modest 40,000, with another 10,000 Jews living scattered elsewhere across the country. But what surprised me more than the low Jewish population count was this: even though Jewish community activity in Mexico is deep and rich, the history of Jews in Mexico is unexpectedly modern.

We engaged a guide to show us around the city, and our first stop was the “oldest synagogue in Mexico City.” As a seasoned Jewish traveler, I had expected a center of worship dating back centuries. After all, Mexico – as New Spain from the 1500s to the early 1800s – was a thriving, bustling country, and this was long before the United States came into its own. There should have been thousands of Jews. But apparently, Jewish life was not possible in Mexico. Conversos (Jews who converted to Christianity but secretly practiced Judaism) settled in New Spain very early on, but they were intermittently persecuted by the catholic church and officers of the Inquisition, while openly practicing Jews were forbidden residence in any Spanish colonial territory. Which is why the “oldest synagogue in Mexico City” was built in 1923.

Curiously, Mount Sinai Congregation was not founded by European immigrants, but by immigrants from Damascus, whose journey from Syria to Mexico is fascinating – unique and unexceptional at the same time, about which more in a moment. Located at Calle Justo Sierra 83, the unassuming Mount Sinai synagogue building is just one unit in a terraced parade that abuts a public square, at the opposite end of which stands the rather more imposing Nuestra Señora de Loreto Church – the last major church constructed during the colonial period, completed just over a century before Mount Sinai.

Much changed during that century – Mexican independence; war with Spain; war with the United States; civil war; the strange interregnum of a royal ruler – Austrian-born king Maximilian I; and, between 1910 and 1920, a violent revolution. The upshot of this endless turbulence was that it drastically decreased the stifling control of the catholic church, best symbolized by the “La Reforma” liberal reform laws passed in 1850, which created an opportunity for Jewish immigration that had never previously existed.

And, as the Ottoman Empire crumbled, the Jews of Syria – in spite of 2,000 years of history in the Levant – began to look for new opportunities. Many came to the United States, but a few ended up in Veracruz, the venerable port city on Mexico’s east coast. They all spoke the Sephardic dialect Ladino – a mixture of mainly Old Spanish and some Hebrew, with the odd Arabic and Aramaic words thrown in – as their first language.

For Ladino speakers, learning Spanish was easy, certainly far easier than English, and many of the immigrants – including our guide’s great-grandfather – sent for relatives who were struggling to make a living in New York, and before long Syrian Jews thrived in multiple businesses across Mexico. After a few years, with the community growing and Mexico relatively tranquil, the Mount Sinai synagogue was built – followed a few years later by Congregation Nidje Israel for Lithuanian Ashkenazim just up the block.

We hovered outside Mount Sinai for a few minutes. An unyielding security guard informed our guide that the synagogue was not open for tourists. “But he’s a rabbi from California, he’s here to pray,” she told him. He glowered across at me menacingly, and then consulted a young man in a baseball cap who was entering the building. The man glanced at us and smiled – “sure, come on in, we are about to daven mincha.” A small group had gathered, perhaps a dozen altogether. None of them live locally, and weekday afternoon services are now the only regular prayers at the recently renovated synagogue. Fortunately, we had arrived at exactly the right time.

“Baseball-cap man” rattled through the Amidah repetition on the quaint bimah structure at the center of the attractive Middle-Eastern-styled sanctuary, and we all responded Amen to each blessing. Suddenly I was struck by an incredible thought: the story of Jewish immigration and settlement may be different in each place, but the end result is always the same. Wherever Jewish immigrants arrived, they built synagogues and schools, and they set up social welfare organizations to look after the needy. And every day they davened mincha together.

Mexico’s Jewish immigration story is undoubtedly unique, and yet it is also unexceptional. Any place Jews go, and every place they end up, the furniture of their lives remains familiar – they faithfully retain the traditions of their origins even as they adopt some of the idiosyncrasies and quirks of their newfound home.

In Parshat Massei, we read about the forty-two stops on the winding journey across the Sinai wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land. For some of the stops the Torah includes minor details of what was done there before moving on, or what happened to the nation in that particular location, while for many of the other stops there is no associated narrative. However, all the stops begin with the Hebrew word “vayis’u” – “they traveled,” and conclude with the word “vayachanu” – “they encamped.” The need for “vayis’u” is obvious, but why the need for “vayachanu”? Surely the name of the destination would be sufficient without the additional word?

Evidently, whether or not something of significance happened when they arrived at their destination, each move was traumatic, having required “vayis’u” – being uprooted from somewhere comfortable and familiar. And yet, each “vayis’u” was followed by “vayachanu” – a total focus on enabling continuity and a connection with where they had come from, even if they were now in unfamiliar territory. And whether it is with reference to some anonymous spot in the Sinai desert, or Mexico City, or Ellis Island, or London’s East End, or indeed Eretz Yisrael – throughout Jewish history the hallowed traditions of our origins have kept us firmly rooted in the past. So much so, that even when we have had to leave our comfort zones, we have somehow found the energy to remain true to who we are, wherever we are. Which, of course, is why we are all still here.

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



Sisterhood Corner

August/September

We hope you are summering well!

Who is to blame? Men or God?

Tisha B'Av Film Screening "God On Trial"

Sunday, August 7th at 5:30pm

Come expand your mind this summer!

**Exploring Jewish History
with Rabbi Pini Dunner**

Wednesday, August 10th at 7:00pm

Premiering on YouTube!

Tuesday, August 23rd at 8pm

In person at YINBH

More info at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory

Calling all music lovers!

Do good while enjoying Tikvah Slifkin's
amazing musical performance

along with Chazzan Nati Baram and Colin
Schachat

Shaare Zedek Medical Center Benefit Concert

Monday, August 22nd at 7:30 pm

Get your tickets at beverlyhillssynagogue.org/concert

Coming up soon!

Our next book group read is

"Let My People Know"

The incredible story of Middle East peace and
what lies ahead by Aryeh Lightstone

We invite you behind the scenes of Abraham
Accords

More details to follow...

Annual Pre-Rosh Hashana shiur in memory of
Anne Samson A"H

"My Light and My Salvation" – What's Psalm 27
All About?

By Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom

Tuesday, September 20th at 7:30pm

RSVP: beverlyhillssynagogue.org

Chodesh Tov & Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS



Avraham Feigen

Avrohom Menachem Mendel ben
Reb Alter Yosef z"l

Brother of

Rabbi Yehuda Feigen

Yahrtzeit - 7 Av

Jean Novack

Sheindel bat Menachem Mendel a"H

Mother of

Barry Novack

Yahrtzeit - 5 Av

Julius Samson

Yehonatan Ben Eliyahu

Menachem z"l

Father of

Lee Samson

Yahrtzeit - 6 Av

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jeff Gross

Chloe Hannah Halimi

Theodore Fogelman

Faye Kellerman

Victor Cohenca

Elliott Kahn

Ethan Fialkov

Amy Kestenbaum

Roberta Kimmel

Simon Rubinstein

Happy Anniversary

Michael & Ariella Novack

Membership Renewal 5783

All current members are invited
to renew your membership for
the upcoming year 5783. Please
visit yinbh.org/renewal

You can also call the office at
310-276-7650 or email
office@yinbh.org.

THANK YOU

To everyone who has already
renewed their membership.

Once you log-in to our website, you can...



Reserve your High Holiday
Seats! Once you renew your
membership, please reserve
your seats for the High Holidays.



Order your Arba Minim
directly from the shul.
Order by October 3rd



Place Names in the Yizkor
Booklet. *Submit by
September 19th*



Sign up your children or
grandchildren for youth
groups during High Holiday
Services

Beverlyhillssynagogue.org

SUMMER CAMP AT YINBH



TISHA B'AV

SCHEDULE -- AUGUST 6-7, 2022

SHABBAT, AUGUST 6TH

6:00pm Shabbat Mincha

THERE IS NO COMMUNAL SEUDAT SHLISHIT

7:49pm One must stop eating

8:31pm Shabbat Ends

Reminders: Bathing is not permitted, switch to non-leather shoes before returning back to shul

8:45pm Maariv, followed by Megillat Eicha

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH

8:00am Shacharit/Kinnot

Tallis and Tefillin are not worn

12:59pm Chatzot

5:30pm Film Screening : God On Trial
Awaiting their inevitable deaths at one of the worst concentration camps, a group of Jews make a rabbinical court to decide whether God has gone against the Holy Covenant and if He is the one guilty for their suffering.

7:40pm Mincha with tefillin & leining

8:25pm Maariv followed by Havdalla

8:30pm Fast Ends

"...a gripping exploration of faith and reason...Remarkable."
- TIME OUT (LONDON)

GOD ON TRIAL



TO RSVP FOR THE FILM SCREENING AND TO VIEW HALACHOT ON TISHA B'AV AND HALACHOT WHEN TISHA B'AV FALLS ON SHABBAT, VISIT [BEVERLYHILLSSYNAGOGUE.ORG/TISHABAV](https://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/tishabav)

NEW SERIES

Exploring Jewish History

WITH RABBI PINI DUNNER



Rogues, Rascals, and Rascallions

Part 3

Wednesday, August 10th at 7pm

Premiering on YouTube

Rabbi Shlomo Goren and the Langer Controversy

Tuesday, August 23rd 8pm

Live in-person lecture at YINBH

RSVP at

beverlyhillssynagogue.org/jewishhistory

You can also use the above link to view past episodes

This series is sponsored by George & Suzi Fischmann

YINBH SISTERHOOD

You're invited to join us to hear
Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom
deliver a meaningful and
inspiring Pre-Rosh Hashana Shiur



"My Light and My Salvation" - What's Psalm 27 All About?

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

7:30PM

LOCATION TBD

Sponsored by **Lee Samson**
in loving memory of our beloved
Anne Samson A"H



RSVP: Beverlyhillssynagogue.org
email office@yinhb.org/call 310-276-7650

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 tovelling Keilim. You can give a donation directly to the keilim mikvah by visiting 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@yinhb.org



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SHAARE ZEDEK
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Invite you to a special concert featuring



**COLIN
SCHACHAT**

**TIKVAH
SLIFKIN**

**CHAZZAN
NATI BARAM**

Accompanied by a Chamber Orchestra
Conducted by Professor Mark Kligman

Monday, August 22, 2022

6:30pm – VIP and Sponsor's Dairy Reception
7:30pm – Concert

\$36 – General Admission – Open Seating

\$100 – Reserved Seating

\$1000 – VIP (2 Reserved Seats,
Dairy Pre-Concert Reception, Hosted Valet)

\$1,800 – Sponsor (4 Reserved Seats,
Dairy Pre-Concert Reception, Post-Concert
Reception, Hosted Valet)

RSVP by August 15, 2022

yinbh.org/concert

310-276-7650