

Tefilla Notebook

29 Av • Parshat Re'eh • Shabbat Mevarchim

AUGUST 6-7, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

310-276-7650 • office@yinh.org

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

CANDLELIGHTING 7:31pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 6:30pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

GEMARA SHIUR 8:30AM

SHACHARIT 9:15AM

MINCHA 7:35PM

MAARIV: 8:30PM

HAVDALAH: 8:33PM

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

SUN 8:00AM & 7:30PM

MON – THUR 7:00AM & 7:30PM

FRI 7:00AM & 6:30PM

ROSH CHODESH ELUL IS
ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY

Welcome

Rabbi Dr. Natan Slifkin



Director of the Biblical Museum
of Natural History in Beit
Shemesh, Israel. Rabbi Slifkin
will speak before mussaf.

Mazal Tov

Dani & Rivkie Samson on the
engagement of their daughter,
Tamar to Hillel Jacobson,
son of Ephraim & Adeena
Jacobson. Mazal Tov to all
the grandparents–
Lee & Anne a”h Samson,
Shea a”h & Harriet Berger, and
David & Nina Mermelstein

Dear Members & Friends,

Over the past year-and-a-half, as the COVID-19 pandemic has relentlessly unfolded, we have all faced countless ups-and-downs – hopeful glimpses of sunlight that are soon dashed by a new dose of darkness. It is hard to keep up with the constantly changing rules, and with information that even experts have difficulty understanding.

Many news stories have focused on the failure of leadership during this international health crisis. World leaders and local leaders have been revealed as either utterly incompetent or barely competent, thrown off their game by the unpredictable nature of the virus itself, as well as by the social and economic impact of a full-blown epidemic. But there is also an untold story, a story which may not be heard for years, as it will only emerge when its protagonists are revealed as great heroes who have been transformed from ordinary individuals into extraordinary people as a result of the great tests of this pandemic.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said “we must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.” He could not have been more correct, and it is this exact ideal which characterizes the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, widely regarded as one the most successful U.S. presidents of all time. During his twelve years in office, FDR propelled his beleaguered country out of the Great Depression, and then turned it into an economic and military superpower. Although in some respects history has not judged FDR kindly – most notably for his refusal to formally acknowledge the horrors of the Holocaust as it was happening, and to do anything that might have saved its victims – he is nonetheless credited for ensuring U.S. support for military efforts against the Axis powers, support that resulted in a resounding victory for the Allies in the Second World War.

Many books have been written about FDR trying to figure out his astonishing success as president. He certainly had a winning personality as well as a sharp intellect, but it was his incredible capacity for rising above adversity that gave him his edge, putting him head-and-shoulders above any of the many great leaders that have led countries and nations throughout history.

And while this attribute was most apparent in his refusal to be cowed by crippling polio after he was diagnosed with the disease in 1921, his first real brush with adversity, while far more prosaic, seems to have been the incident that shaped him into the leader he became – long before he was considered a contender. While at Harvard University, in 1902, FDR applied to join The Porcellian – an exclusive student club dating back to 1791, to which both his father, and cousin President Teddy Roosevelt, had belonged. But much to FDR’s dismay, he was blackballed, and it was a slight he never forgot. Years later he told his relative, W. Sheffield Cowles, that his rejection by Porcellian had been “the greatest disappointment in my life.”

FDR’s wife Eleanor, never sparing with her candid views, believed that her husband’s rejection by Porcellian had given him an “inferiority complex,” but she also thought that it was precisely this failure – and his rejection generally by the cliquey Bostonians who dominated Harvard – that had strengthened his character and turned him into the incredibly resilient politician and statesman he later became. It is even possible that being blackballed by the Porcellian hierarchy, all of whom were Republicans, was the key factor that drove FDR into the arms of the Democratic Party (his cousin Teddy was a Republican, and the entire Roosevelt family was staunchly Republican) – and his thirst for success was almost certainly motivated by a desire to prove those who had disdained him wrong.

And yet, if someone had told FDR on the day he was turned down for membership of Porcellian, that one day he would be America’s most successful and revered president, admired by friend and foe alike, and that this adulation and his attainments would be a direct result of the rejection he had just been handed – he would have thought it utterly crazy. But this was precisely Eleanor’s verdict, and it is also the verdict of numerous historians and biographers. This pampered child of a privileged family took a thorn and turned it into a rose, rising above every challenge he would ever face in the future by never forgetting the disappointment of that day.

Parshat Re’eh begins with a confounding verse (Deut. 11:26): רְאֵה אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְפָנֶיךָ הַיּוֹם בְּרָכָה וּקְלָלָה - “See, I give before you today a blessing and a curse.” It is a confounding verse, because the blessings and curses do not in fact appear until many chapters later, and also because it would be more accurately phrased if it said “a blessing or a curse” – the word ‘and’ seems wrong.

The Midrashic sages offer a parable to illustrate how no life is devoid of tragedy and challenge, just as no life is without its blessings and high points. Indeed, life is a complex pastiche – a timeline of experiences of every definition. It is this reality that we must face when considering our lives as we look ahead, and it was this message that Moses wished to convey – in the starkest possible terms! – as he prepared the Jewish nation for a life without him at the helm.

Rabbi Mordechai Yosef Leiner (the “Izhbitzer”; 1801-1854) takes this idea a step further. Moses’ statement was not about him informing the nation of the blessings that would result from serving God, or the curses that might follow those who don’t; those details would follow in a later address and can be found in Parshat Ki Tavo. What Moses was saying at the beginning of Parshat Re’eh was that whenever God gives you something good – an event we refer to as a blessing – it often comes wrapped up in something that looks very much like a curse. Truthfully, no aspect of your life is ever a stark choice of blessing or curse, rather it’s both together in one package. Because without the pain, there’s never a gain. Each of the two is simply the flip side of the same coin.

Everything that happens to us, and whatever God gives us, is always for our benefit. Greatness is forged in the kiln of immeasurable difficulty. Our only task is to recognize that no curse is without a blessing, however difficult it may be to endure. That is why the portion begins with the word Re’eh – “see”. We need to take a hard look, so that we see the silver lining in the cloud that may have enveloped and even blinded us. It is a powerful lesson for all of us during this rollercoaster pandemic – and reassuring to know that even as we experience the curse, there are great blessings which lie ahead.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner





Sisterhood Corner

August

Save the date!

Our annual Pre-Rosh Hashana Shiur in memory of Anne Samson A"H will be held on Wednesday, September 1st at 8:00pm

Please register to rsvp@yinhb.org

The location will be provided upon registration.

Stay tuned for details on our next YINBH Book Group meeting which will be held in October!

Chodesh Tov!

&

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS



Teddy Fialkov
Yona Tovah Bat Sarah a"H
Mother of
Howie Fialkov
Yahrtzeit - 1 Elul

Philip Raykoff
Feivel Ben Chuna z"l
Father of
Howard Raykoff
Yahrtzeit - 1 Elul

Maureen Murad
Miriam bat Yonatan a"H
Mother of
Caroline Azouz
Yahrtzeit - 30 Av

Earl Katz
Yehuda Matyas ben Yosef
HaCohen z"l
Father of
Susan Baum
Yahrtzeit - 1 Elul

Myron Bayer
Yitzhak ben Eliezer z"l
Father of
Michael Bayer
Yahrtzeit - 4 Elul

Membership Renewal 5782

All current members are invited to renew your membership for the upcoming year 5782. This year, to make it easier, you can log-in to your account to view your invoice and you can pay online or send a check. You can also call the office at 310-276-7650 or email mkramer@yinhb.org

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If you are not yet a member and would like to join, you can fill out a membership application (on the table in the lobby) or you can find it on our website.



*Eleanor Hakakian*

*Reuben Grabel*

*David Silver*

*Chavi Hertz*

*Jonathan Kellerman*

*Leehe Hakakian*

*John Fogelman*

*Carmit Baram*

*Janice Kaufler*

*Sam Richter*

*Ruthie Kellerman*

*Harold Schloss*

*Happy Anniversary*  
*Isaac & Sarah Meier*



Reserve your High Holiday Seats!  
Once you renew your membership, please reserve your seats for the High Holidays. You can reserve at [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/seats](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/seats)

## TEEN MINYAN

WITH CHAZZAN NATI BARAM

SHABBAT DAY

AUGUST 21ST AT 10AM

TEEN MINYAN IS BACK!

Teen led services and participation  
*in the shul patio*

Followed by a *teen only* kiddush  
catered by Jeff's Gourmet

Sponsorship welcome

RSVP to [office@yinhb.org](mailto:office@yinhb.org)  
to attend

**YINBH**  
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE



# High Holy Days Discovery Concert

Sunday, August 22nd at 11:00am

SELECTION OF SPECIAL MUSIC TO PREPARE FOR YAMIM  
NORAIM WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE LITURGICAL MUSIC  
OF LOUIS LEWANDOWSKI, THE FORMOST COMPOSER OF  
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FEATURING:

CHAZZAN NATI BARAM  
PROFESSOR MARK KLIGMAN  
RINAT SHLOMO CHOIR  
AND CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

PRE RSVP REQUESTED

CALL: 310-276-7650

EMAIL: [CONCERT@YINBH.ORG](mailto:CONCERT@YINBH.ORG)

[BEVERLYHILLSSYNAGOGUE.ORG/CONCERT](http://BEVERLYHILLSSYNAGOGUE.ORG/CONCERT)

TICKETS: \$20

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

9261 ALDEN DRIVE

BEVERLY HILLS 90210

# Selichot Service

Motzei Shabbat

August 28th

9:45pm

Selichot Message by



**Rabbi  
Pini Dunner**

Followed by a

Selichot Service Led By



**Chazzan  
Nati Baram**

9261 Alden Drive, Beverly Hills, 90210

For more details email [office@yinbh.org](mailto:office@yinbh.org) or call 310-276-7650

# Rosh Hashanah Luncheon

TUESDAY | SEPT 7TH 2021 | 1:00PM  
FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

CHAZZAN  
NATI BARAM



RABBI  
PINI DUNNER



*Catered by*

**PAT'S**  
RESTAURANT AND CATERING

ADULTS \$150

CHILDREN \$85

RSVP at

[beverlyhillssynagogue.org](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org)

AT YINBH BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE

9261 Alden Drive,

Beverly Hills, 90210

310-276-7650

# TREASURES FROM THE RABBI'S LIBRARY



NEXT EPISODE  
MONDAY  
AUGUST  
23RD  
5pm PST

FINAL EPISODE - OCTOBER 14TH

Join the zoom at

[beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/zoom)

*The YINBH Sisterhood presents*

A Pre-Rosh Hashanah Shiur featuring

**Rabbi Arye Sufrin**

**WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 1st  
8PM**



Rabbi Arye Sufrin has served on the staff of YULA since 2008 and is currently Head of School. Rabbi Sufrin graduated with honors from Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business, holds a Master's Degree in Jewish Education and Administration from the Azrieli Graduate School for Education, served as a Legacy Heritage Fellow for at the Yeshiva University office of School Partnership, and completed the YU Lead future Jewish Leaders professional development program. Rabbi Sufrin and his wife Tamar are blessed with five children.

Sponsored by

**Lee Samson**

in loving memory of  
our beloved

**Anne Samson A"H**



**ADDRESS TO BE PROVIDED UPON RSVP**

**BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE**  
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

# **Rabbi Dunner's Shabbat Shuva Drasha**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

DRASHA - 6:15PM

MINCHA - 7:00PM



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ARBA MINIM  
THROUGH  
YINBH  
BEVERLY HILLS  
SYNAGOGUE**

Orders due by August 30th

[www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/arbaminim](http://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/arbaminim)

**YINBH DUBAI MISSION**  
**OCTOBER 21-31, 2021**



Optional extension to  
Jerusalem for Shabbat  
at the King David Hotel

- 5-STAR GOURMET CUISINE
- LUXURY ROOM & SUITE
- FANTASTIC PROGRAM
- HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

Special Guest  
David Freidman



**SPACE IS LIMITED - RESERVE NOW**

For more info goto  
[www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/dubai](http://www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org/dubai)

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