

# Tefilla Notebook

16 Av • Va'Etchanan • Shabbat Nachamu

August 12-13, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12th**

CANDLELIGHTING: 7:25PM

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT: 6:30PM

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13th**

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

SHACHARIT: 9:15AM

PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR: 7:05PM

MINCHA: 7:35pm

MAARIV: 8:25pm

SHABBAT ENDS: 8:27pm

## WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

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

## WELCOME

**Rabbi Natan Slifkin, who will be speaking this Shabbat.**



*Thank you to an anonymous member who contributed towards this week's kiddush in the merit that Elazar ben Yaffa gets married to the right woman.*

## THANK YOU

Jay and Karine Kaplan for sponsoring next week's Parsha Shiur on memory of Jay's father, Victor E. Kaplan, Yitzchok Avigdor ben Binyomin HaCohen z"l, whose yahrtzeit is on the 26th of Av.

## THANK YOU

Dr. Susan Graysen for sponsoring the Friday D'var Torah video next week in memory of her late husband, William Graysen, Beil ben Moshe z"l, whose yahrtzeit is on the 25th of Av.

Dear Members & Friends,

The Seven Years War of 1756-1763 was a brutal international military conflict that saw a total realignment of European strategic alliances, creating the foundation for the Napoleonic wars that followed, and even – according to some military historians – the two world wars of the twentieth century. Sir Winston Churchill called the Seven Years War “the real first world war.”

Early on during the conflict, in 1757, the French army suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the Prussians. To add insult to injury, the military encounter, which later came to be known as the Battle of Rossbach, saw over 41,000 soldiers loyal to France routed by just 22,000 Prussians serving under King Frederick the Great (1712-1786). The king of France was Louis XV (1710-1774), one of the longest serving monarchs in history. Louis XV was also the last reigning monarch of the House of Bourbon whose rule over France extended until he died; his grandson and successor, Louis XVI (1754-1793), was removed from his royal position by the French Revolution, and executed soon afterwards.

The French defeat at Rossbach came just a few months after a shocking assassination attempt on Louis XV by Robert-François Damiens, a disgruntled domestic servant, who had attempted to stab the king to death as he entered his carriage at Versailles. In the wake of these two jarring events, the king – sensing impending doom for his monarchy and an end to the existing order – wryly commented to one of his courtiers, “après moi, le deluge” (“after me, the flood”). His prediction proved prescient. Republicanism, which had gained momentum during his reign, gripped France after his death, and the “flood” – when it came in 1789 – ravaged France for decades.

Historians have tried in vain to establish whether the French monarchy was unpreventably doomed, or whether, had he behaved differently, Louis XV could have ensured the survival of the Ancien Régime – the French political and social system that had dominated France from the Middle Ages. Either way, his dismissive attitude, perfectly epitomized by his nihilistic “flood” remark, was a critical component of the culture that ultimately led to the unravelling of the French monarchy. His abiding concern appeared to have been for his own circumstances to be preserved until his demise – and whatever happened afterward didn't matter, at least not to him.

There is a remarkable parallel to Louis XV's remark in Jewish history, with a twist. Every year, on the Shabbat after Tisha B'Av, the Haftara we read is from Isaiah, and begins with the verse (Isa. 40:1): נְחֻם נְחֻם יֹאמֶר אֱלֹהִים - “comfort, oh comfort my people, says your God.” This verse opens a scriptural reading that is the first of seven weekly extracts from the prophets aimed at pacifying us with words of hope and encouragement after the annual period of mourning that culminates with a fast commemorating the destruction of not one, but two Temples in Jerusalem. And in this first verse of the seven readings, God promises to personally comfort and console us, even in the midst of the most horrific circumstances.

But there is something missing from this picture-perfect Divine promise – namely, that it comes on the heel of one of the most devastating leadership let-downs in Jewish history. In the previous chapter, Isaiah informs King Hezekiah how he had been told by God that in the future “everything in your palace, which your ancestors have stored up to this day, will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left behind.” And, as if that's not enough, Isaiah adds: “and some of your sons, your own issue, whom you will have fathered, will be taken to serve as eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

Hezekiah's response to this shocking prophecy is nothing short of stunning: “The word of God is good,” he told Isaiah כִּי יְהִי שְׁלוֹם וְאַמֶּת בְּיָמֵי - “as long as there's peace and security in my lifetime.” He might as well have said “après moi, le deluge.” For that's exactly what happened. Manasseh, Hezekiah's son and successor, murdered Isaiah – who was his maternal grandfather – soon after inheriting the kingdom, and he also initiated a century of decay and disintegration that eventually led to the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 586 B.C.E., as well as the humiliating Jewish exile to Babylon predicted by Isaiah.

In his seminal Malbim commentary, the nineteenth-century rabbinic scholar, Rabbi Meir Leibush Weiser (1809-1879), attempts to mitigate Hezekiah's seemingly callous disregard for his subjects, and even for his own family, by suggesting that Hezekiah hoped and believed things would change for the better, and that the nation would repent. Even the most dire prophecy can be overruled via the medium of repentance. But this interpretation feels overly apologetic, and the most generous-spirited translation of the text falls far short of this analysis. Hezekiah's smug egocentricity is exactly what it seems – highlighting the dangers of a leadership which is rotten at its very core.

The medieval French biblical commentator, Rabbi Joseph Kara (1065-1135), is utterly scathing. “Hezekiah should have sought mercy for Israel – who had been condemned to exile in Babylon – but he didn't.” Instead, the king expediently abandoned his duties as a responsible and caring leader, and can justifiably be judged harshly for unsympathetically disregarding those who were relying on him for a secure future.

But here comes the twist: the Jewish nation is not confined to the leadership of mortals –because we have God. And to make that exact point, the next chapter launches with the words “nachamu nachamu ami” – “comfort, oh comfort my people, says God.” Even when your most trusted leaders abandon you, God is telling us, I will still be here for you.

Times might get tough, but God's presence is constant. It is not only unrelenting, it is also never tied to personal interest or political considerations. For God there is no such thing as “après moi, le deluge” – because there is no such thing as “après moi.” What greater consolation could there ever be.

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



## Sisterhood Corner

August/September

Wishing you a happy Tu B'Av!

We hope you have a wonderful day with your loved ones!

Calling all music lovers!

Do good while enjoying Tikvah Slifkin's amazing musical performance along with Chazzan Nati Baram and Colin Schachat

### Shaare Zedek Benefit Concert

Monday, August 22nd at 7:00 pm

Get your tickets at [beverlyhillssynagogue.org/concert](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/concert)

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](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org)

Location TBD

Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

## 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](http://beverlyhillssynagogue.org/keilim).

## YAHRTZEITS

**Eugene Nissel**  
Yecheil ben HaRav Chaim  
Menachem z"l  
Father of  
**Raphy Nissel**  
Yahrtzeit - 18 Av

**Frances Fay Cohen**  
Faygie bat Zev Wolf a"h  
Mother of  
**Hart Cohen**  
Yahrtzeit - 19 Av

**David Kellerman**  
David ben Ephraim HaLevi z"l  
Father of  
**Hillel Kellerman**  
**Jonathan Kellerman**  
Yahrtzeit - 21 Av

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Sam Richter*

*Josh Ruimy*

*Ruth Kellerman*

*Barry Novack*

*Harold Schloss*

*Lillian Fuchs*

*Samantha Zucker*

*Max Fogelman*

## Happy Anniversary

*David & Michele Silver*  
*Solomon & Flora Yamin*

### PAUL FEDER Z"l GEMARA SHIUR

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי  
Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara shiur on Shabbat and Yom Tov 45 minutes before Shacharit.

## Membership Renewal 5783

All current members are invited to renew your membership for the upcoming year 5783. Please visit [yinbh.org/renewal](http://yinbh.org/renewal)

You can also call the office at 310-276-7650 or email [office@yinbh.org](mailto:office@yinbh.org).

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



Reserve your **High Holiday Seats!** Once you renew your membership, please reserve your High Holiday seats.



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



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



Sign up your children or grandchildren for **Youth Groups** during High Holiday Services

### THANK YOU

To everyone who has already renewed their membership.

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

## 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](http://yinbh.org/meeting). *Only full members in good standing are permitted to vote.*



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](http://Beverlyhillssynagogue.org)  
email office@yinhb.org/call 310-276-7650

## MAZAL TOV

Mazal tov to **Danielle**  
(Morrow) & Barak Kamelgard  
on the birth of their son, **Logan**  
**Knox (Gal Nachum)**. Mazal  
Tov to big brother, **Oliver** and  
grandfather, **Dr. Joseph**  
**Kamelgard** and the entire  
Kamelgard and Morrow  
families.



## MAZAL TOV

**Ernie and Regina Goldberger**  
on the birth of a great-  
grandson, born to **Adina and**  
**Andy Kern-Goldberger**. Mazal  
Tov to Grandparents **Dr. Yossie**  
**and Sharon Goldberger**.



## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL LOS ANGELES GALA

*The Beverly Hilton*, Beverly Hills, CA  
Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 • 5:30 PM\*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**DAVID FRIEDMAN**  
US AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL  
AUTHOR OF BEST SELLING  
BOOK "SLEDGEHAMMER"

SPECIAL GUEST: **RICK CARUSO**



EMCEE AND PERFORMER  
**LIRAZ CHARHI**  
Star of Apple TV+ "Tehran"

GALA CHAIR  
**SUNNY M. SASSOON**  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
**ELI BEER**

EVENING HONOREES  
**RUTHI & ELLIOTT**  
**KAHN**  
**SHANNON & JACOB**  
**ZACKARY**



UNITED HATZALAH has 6,200+ volunteer EMS first responders saving lives  
in Israel in 3 minutes or less. Available free to all people regardless of race,  
religion or national origin. Join us in our life saving mission.

\*Cocktail Attire

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## LULAV & ETROG ORDER

We are offering 4 levels of Kosher  
Certified Arba Minim Sets that can be  
purchased directly through the  
Synagogue. Please visit  
[yinhb.org/arbaminim](http://yinhb.org/arbaminim) to order your  
set(s) or call the office at 310-276-7650  
*Please order by Monday, October 3rd*

Children Set \$35

\*Standard \$50

\*Mehudar \$80

\*Mehudar Deluxe \$125

*\*With or without Pitom Options  
available*





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**CHAZZAN  
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**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

[yinhb.org/concert](http://yinhb.org/concert)

310-276-7650

YINBH | Beverly Hills Synagogue  
9261 Alden Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The community thanks YINBH for hosting this event