

Tefilla Notebook

7 Elul • Shoftim

September 2-3, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

CANDLELIGHTING: 6:59PM

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT: 6:30PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

SHACHARIT: 9:15AM

PIRKEI AVOT SHIUR: 6:50pm

MINCHA: 7:15 pm

MAARIV: 8:00pm

SHABBAT ENDS: 8:01pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

	Shacharit	Mincha/Maariv
Sun	8:00am	7:15pm
Mon (Labor Day)	8:00am	7:15pm
Tue-Thurs	7:00am	7:15pm
Friday	7:00am	6:30pm

WELCOME

Rabbi Dr. Ari

Berman,

President of

Yeshiva

University. He will

be speaking at

approximately 11am. Services

will be followed by an extended

kiddush.



Welcome to all those joining for the **TEEN MINYAN** this Shabbat at 10:00am in the beit midrash

Teen-led services and participation followed by a teen-only kiddush

Dear Members & Friends,

One of the most enigmatic sages of the Talmud is undoubtedly Rabbi Yose the Galilean. As a non-Judean, he was considered an outsider when he arrived in Yavneh, where the seat of rabbinic learning and legislation had been set up after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple.

Initially, Rabbi Yose suffered from prejudice endured in that era by all Galileans, whose accents and mispronunciation of Hebrew made them objects of fun and ridicule. On one occasion, even Rabbi Meir's wife Beruriah – who was notorious for her caustic tongue – told Rabbi Yose that he was a "Galilean fool" for having asked her a question using too many words, when less would have sufficed (Eruvin 53b). But Rabbi Yose's erudition and sincerity won him great admiration from his colleagues, particularly Rabbi Akiva – himself an outsider who had managed to rise to the heights of rabbinic leadership, despite his humble origins.

In his first legal tangle with Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Tarfon, on his very first day in Yavneh, Rabbi Yose resolutely battled the two titans of Jewish law – and his view prevailed (Zevachim 57a). Subsequently, on countless occasions, Rabbi Yose's opinion triumphed over Rabbi Akiva's rulings, and despite being much younger than Rabbi Akiva, the elder rabbi held him in very high esteem. Rabbi Yose's gentle and generous personality was legendary; after divorcing his wife – a difficult woman who had often harangued him in front of his colleagues and students – Rabbi Yose heard that his ex-wife's new husband was unable to adequately support her and had also physically abused her, so he stepped in and gave her a home and financial provisions for the rest of her life (Ber. Rabbah 17).

Some of Rabbi Yose's rulings were quite radical in the context of accepted halakhic norms, but he seems to have had an independent streak, as well as a prodigy's confidence to be bold. Most famously, he excluded bird meat from the restrictions of mixing meat with milk (Chullin 113a), which the Talmud claims was the practice in his hometown. But occasionally, Rabbi Yose's rulings appear whimsical and overly idealistic, with one prominent example relevant to a law concerning the list of military exemptions found in Parshat Shoftim.

After enumerating all the potential soldiers whose worldly and family concerns would justifiably exclude them from active combat service, the Torah adds one more (Deut. 20:8): **מִי הָאִישׁ הַיָּרֵא וְיָרֵךְ הַלֵּב יָלֶךְ וְיִשָּׁב לְבֵיתוֹ** - "Is there someone who is afraid and disheartened? He should go back home – in case his fear becomes infectious." Rashi immediately cites an astonishing dispute between Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Yose regarding this exclusion (Sotah 44a). Rabbi Akiva interprets the verse literally, arguing that if a conscript can't take the sight of an unsheathed sword, he won't be much use on the battlefield. But Rabbi Yose disagrees; in his view the exclusion applies to anyone "who is afraid, because of the sins he has committed."

Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk raises an obvious question. Can anyone honestly say that they have never done anything wrong in their life? Of course not! In which case, Rabbi Yose's exclusion is essentially a blanket exclusion – how would there ever be any soldiers to fight?

There is an apocryphal story about a group of irreligious Jews in Poland who wanted to ridicule Jewish law, and they put on a play that used this passage in Shoftim as the script. At first the stage was full of would-be soldiers, but as each condition was read out, more and more of them shuffled off, until this last condition was pronounced and the only people left on stage were a handful of elderly, infirm rabbis with long white beards – all of them barely able to lift up their canes, never mind a gun or a sword. Of course, the audience found it all very amusing. Somehow, news of this production made its way to the celebrated rabbi of Brisk, Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik. But he didn't seem offended; instead, he smiled broadly. "They are absolutely right," he exclaimed, "but they missed out the end of the story – those righteous rabbis were the ones who won the war!"

Rather than quibble about the relative merits of Rabbi Akiva's versus Rabbi Yose's opinions, perhaps the literal interpretation of their views misses the point entirely. Offering those who are fearful of active combat an "out" rather defeats the purpose of building an army and going to war. Which normal person would not be frightened of active combat? And suggesting that those who have sinned are in danger of dying on the battlefield and should therefore avoid going into battle would mean that Israel's enemies would win any war they declared by default, as they would have no opposing army to fight. Crucially, Jewish history informs us that Jewish armies were both fearsome and very successful. Evidently, neither Rabbi Akiva's nor Rabbi Yose's version of this exclusion condition was ever adopted.

But perhaps the Torah never meant this to be an exclusion at all, rather it wanted it to be a wake-up call. Those going into war need to remember that their military service can never be separated from their personal circumstances. Rabbi Akiva expresses it in human terms – you're frightened, which means you're unsuitable to fight and you might affect morale. But Rabbi Yose digs slightly deeper – nobody would ever be frightened of going into battle if they were not in danger of dying. Someone who has a clear conscience has no cause for concern. But if you've sinned – then you do have cause for concern. And suddenly, out of nowhere, rather than this being a mundane military exemption rule, the idea that you might not be able to fight has evolved into a faith growth moment.

This dynamic plays itself out at every crossroad that we face, and is particularly relevant in the leadup to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Are we frightened about what lies ahead? If we are, how does that fear relate to faults we may have failed to address? As it turns out, rather than Rabbi Yose's opinion being the fanciful utterings of an ancient sage about an obscure law regarding military protocols, it is relevant to us in every aspect of our lives, and contains a powerful lesson for us all to take on board.

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



THANK YOU

This weeks Parsha Shiur is sponsored by **Aaron and Lillian Fuchs and Jason Fuchs** in memory of Lillian's mother and Jason's Grandmother, **Sylvia Glatter, Zeld bat Leah a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on 14 Elul

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to help us towards installing banisters on the stairs on the risers and in the balcony. We are still about \$6,000 short and are looking for additional donations.

Exploring Jewish History WITH RABBI PINI DUNNER

Rogues, Rascals & Rapscallions Part 3

NOW LIVE at
youtube.com/c/rabbipinidunner

This series is sponsored by
George & Suzi Fischmann



Sisterhood Corner

September

Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall!

The New Year is almost here.
Come celebrate the Chagim with
our community!

Register today for your High Holidays seats.

Members with voting rights,
mark your calendar!

Annual General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th at 7:15 pm

Information has been sent out and we hope to
see you there so you can have your say!

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 17th at 9:45 pm

Inspiring message by Rabbi Dunner followed
by Selichot service led by Chazzan Nati Baram.

Save the date!

Tashlich

Monday, September 26 at 4:00 pm

Stay tuned, more details to follow!

Happy Labor Day!

Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS



Margarete Rosenfeld

Zipora bat David a"h
Mother

Robert Rosenfeld

Yahrtzeit - 7 Elul

Leo Presser

Arieh Leib ben Yirachmiel
Shlomo Hachohen z"l

Father of

Marilyn Sohacheski

Yahrtzeit - 8 Elul

Yael Hodara

Yael bat Avraham a"h

Mother of

Patrick Hodara

Yahrtzeit - 9 Elul

Anne Samson

Rochel Rivkah Bat Matisyahu

Ha'cohen a"h

Wife of

Lee Samson

Yahrtzeit - 11 Elul

Zahava Mirenberg

Zahava bat Efraim a"h

Mother of

Carmit Baram

Yahrtzeit - 13 Elul

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nilly Shecter Evron

Jaden Silver

Sean Silver

Dana Szafranski

Alex Masket

Mark Herskovitz

Fran Miller

Eva Hogan

Michael Silver

PAUL FEDER Z"l GEMARA SHIUR

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון

הלו"ה

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

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 has been sent via
email and mail. In order to guarantee a quorum for the election,
please RSVP at yinh.org/meeting.

Only full members in good standing are permitted to vote.

Selichot Service

Motzei Shabbat

September 17th at 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@yinhb.org or call 310-276-7650

Rabbi Dunner's Shabbat Shuva Drasha



THE CONFOUNDING STORY OF JONAH
AND ITS RELEVANCE TO YAMIM NORAIM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST

DRASHA - 5:30PM · MINCHA - 6:20PM

Membership Renewal 5783

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

You can also call the office at 310-276-7650 or email office@yinhb.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 (See separate flyer for details)



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

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 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*



3RD ANNUAL LOS ANGELES GALA

The Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, CA
Monday September 19th 2022 • 5:30 PM*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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



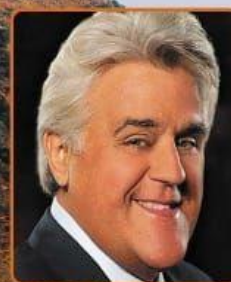
EMCEE AND PERFORMER

LIRAZ CHARHI
Star of Apple TV+ "Tehran"

EVENING HONOREES

**RUTHI & ELLIOTT
KAHN**

**SHANNON & JACOB
ZACKARY**



SPECIAL APPEARANCE

JAY LENO

GALA CHAIR

SUNNY M. SASSOON

SPECIAL GUEST

RICK CARUSO

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

ELI BEER

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.

PAT'S
RESTAURANT AND CATERING

*Cocktail Attire

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