



Tefilla Notebook

21 Elul • Parshat Ki Tavo

Sept 20-21, 2019

Stephen Rothman, President • **Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi** • **Nati Bar-Am, Chazan**
 9261 Alden Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310-276-7650 • office@yinh.org

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
 6:35pm CANDLELIGHTING
 6:30pm MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
 8:30am **RABBI'S GEMARA SHIUR**
 9:15am **SHACHARIT**
 5:55pm PRE MINCHA SHIUR
 6:30pm MINCHA
 6:50pm SEUDAH SHLISHT
 7:35pm MA'ARIV
 7:37pm SHABBAT ENDS
10:00pm SELICHOT

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES
 Sun. September 22 8:00am & 6:35pm
 Mon. September 23 6:00am & 6:35pm
 Tues. September 24 6:10am & 6:35pm
 Wed. September 25 6:10am & 6:35pm
 Thu. September 26 6:00am & 6:35pm
 Fri. September 27 6:10am & 6:30pm

YOUTH GROUP SHABBOS SCHEDULE

10:00 Free play, games & books.
 10:40 Snack time, Parsha story & questions
 11:10 Into shul to kiss the Torah
 Circle time - davening, singing, Shabbat songs & games. (Ping pong, foosball, basketball)
 11:30 Kids service ends

WELCOME



Jonathan Davis,
 who will speak
 after Musaf on
 the topic:

What will be the impact of the Israeli Election Results?

Jonathan Davis is Vice-President for External Relations at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel's first private university.

THANK YOU

This week's kiddush is sponsored by **Ezra and Lauren Kest** in memory of Ezra's mother, **Clara Kest, Chaya bat Zvi Halevi a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on 18 Elul.

Dearest Members and Friends,

This week, I published onto my website the unedited memoirs of the late Rabbi Mordechai Elefant, undoubtedly one of the twentieth century's most colorful rabbinic educators. Rabbi Elefant's various institutions in Israel and the United States profoundly influenced thousands of students as well as supporters across the Jewish world. I had the privilege of studying privately with Rabbi Elefant, and spent a tremendous amount of quality time with him during the 1980s and 1990s. His boundless energy and out-of-the-box approach to everything he did deeply impacted me long after he had sadly faded from public view due to manifold health issues. He passed away in 2009, having disappeared into obscurity, and despite his remarkable achievements his death barely registered, and, very sadly, he has been largely forgotten.



Rabbi Elefant's candid memoirs are startling, not just because they reveal much that one would hardly have expected from a top-tier Rosh Yeshiva, but even more because of the very frank revelations he willingly shared regarding the background to his extraordinary life. I distinctly recall his many sardonic observations about life and people; he was a true iconoclast who had clearly never read the memo about how senior public servants should express themselves, and particularly rabbis. At the same time, he was an extraordinary scholar, who could lecture on any Talmudic topic, without prior warning, to discerning peers and students, dazzling them with both his vast knowledge and his keen intellect. Moreover, he had a huge heart and a prodigious talent for creating Torah institutions that churned out scholars and productive rabbis who continue to serve communities across the world – communities that remain oblivious to the fact that it is Rabbi Elefant they should be thanking for the leadership they enjoy.

Of the many Rabbi Elefant aphorisms I can fondly recall, one in particular sticks out: "There is only one thing two Jews can agree upon," he would say, "and that is what the third one should be giving to charity."

Once getting past the initial chuckle, the sad truth of this observation hits home. There is so much that we share in common, and yet we instinctively judge our fellow Jews, generally speaking negatively. No one is ever good enough, and anything bad that there is to say invariably drowns out any of the good that might counteract it. Last week I visited Israel at the invitation of President Reuven Rivlin to participate in an initiative called Our Common Destiny, a "ground-breaking effort to strengthen global Jewry by linking Jewish communities all over the world to a shared set of ethics and values across religious and cultural identities." The idea behind this initiative is wonderful. Rather than grandstanding and lecturing others about what we think they should or should not be doing, Our Common Destiny wants to find the Jewish bonds that unite us all, so that we can work on these shared aspects of our Jewishness together, and face the challenges of the present and future more effectively.

The portion of Ki Tavo contains a fearsome collection of tochachot – literally 'admonitions' or 'warnings' – a shopping list of dreadful consequences for the Jewish nation if they would choose not to adhere to God's directives. According to Nahmanides, the second tochacha relates to the destruction of the second Temple, an event that only took place more than a millennium after this warning was articulated by Moses and recorded in the Torah (Deut. 28:47): תחת אשר לא עבדת את ה' אלקיך בשמחה ובטוב לבב – the Temple will be destroyed because you did not serve God with joy and goodness of heart." Puzzlingly, the Talmud offers a totally different cause for the calamity, informing us that the Temple's destruction was a result of causeless hatred (Yoma 9b).

The late rabbi of Sochaczew, Rabbi Shmuel Bornsztain, offers a compelling resolution to this seeming contradiction. Both these sins share a common denominator, he says. Someone who performs a mitzva reluctantly will do it superficially, just going through the motions but never really engaging with it emotionally. True joy only comes to someone who loves what they are doing. Similarly, the secret to emotionally attaching oneself to every Jew is to ignore the superficial differences that separate us, instead focusing on what we share in common. Anyone who endeavors to be externally observant, and concerns themselves with appearances, is being superficial and not putting any heart into it. Such a person will inevitably judge others by similar criteria, looking at the superficial veneer rather than at a shared love of God and dedication to maintaining and sustaining a meaningful Jewish identity.

The passage at the beginning of Ki Tavo about Bikkurim directs us to be "happy with all the good" – in other words, to use Bikkurim as an opportunity to relish the joy of a good harvest. Why is it that this particular mitzvah requires one to be joyful? Simply put, Bikkurim is not about the paltry basket of fruit, rather it is about the fact that one has had a successful harvest, and the incredible feelings that this should trigger in a farmer who was lucky enough to benefit from the success of this year's crop. Presenting a basket of fruit is in-and-of-itself a superficial act, but in truth, it must be a reflection of deep emotions and true joy that one feels when things go well.

When Moses foresaw that the Second Temple's destruction would result from causeless hatred, he realized that this negative judgment of others would be a symptom of chronic gloom. A society that focuses too heavily on superficial differences that divide one person from another is a society that is miserable and unhappy. People who are happy don't notice these things and connect on a far deeper level to what they share in common with others, allowing these features to underscore their inherent contentment and pleasure in life.

If there is anything that two Jews should agree upon it should be how much they appreciate the third Jew, along with every other Jew. It is the ultimate realization of 'don't worry, be happy!'

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

Sisterhood Corner

The Sisterhood proudly presents the following upcoming events!

September

The High Holidays are approaching...get your spiritual "fix" and join us for our annual **Pre-Rosh Hashanah Shiur, Sponsored by Lee Samson in memory of Anne Samson, Tuesday, September 24th at 7:30pm at YINBH given by**

Rabbi Dunner.

May this New Year be filled with health, happiness, and sweet moments for you and your families.

Shana Tova!

Have a wonderful Shabbat!

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents



*Rabbi Dunner
Simon Elhiani
Nava Evron
Jonas Herskovitz
Dylan Kestenbaum
Avital Louie
Michal Rambod
Naomi Richter
Jessica Samuel
Sara Silkin
Scott Silver*

HIGH HOLIDAY SEATING UPDATE

We have completed the High Holiday Seat Assignments are practically at capacity. Please understand that we did our best to accommodate all specific requests, but are unable to fulfill them all. We give priority seating to Benefactor, founder, and gold members and also make accommodations for handicap and special needs. We will be emailing your seat assignment next week and will also have the seat assignments at the door during the High Holidays. If you are still planning on coming or bringing a guest and did not let the office know, you must let them know by C.O.B on Monday.



Who matters in your life?

Celebrate someone you love or commemorate the Yahrzeit of a departed loved one.

Kiddush.....\$500

Kiddush with Cholent.....\$650

Kiddush w Cholent & Sushi...\$775

Extended Kiddush.....\$1250

Kiddush Luncheon.....\$3000

Seudah Shlishit.....\$360

Tefilla Notebook

Sponsorship.....\$180

Siddur.....\$50

Chumash.....\$75

Yahrzeit Wall Plaque...\$1,800

Seat Dedication

(main floor).....\$5000

Seat Dedication

(risers, balcony).....\$3000

PAUL FEDER Z"l GEMARA SHIUR

Join Rabbi Dunner for his Gemara shiur on Shabbat morning 45 minutes before Shacharit.

לע"נ פנחס אליהו בן שמשון הלוי

EXPLORING HALACHA

Join Nati Baram every Shabbat afternoon 35 minutes before mincha as he explores an interesting topic of Jewish law with the aid of ancient and contemporary texts.

WEEKLY PARSHA SHIUR

Join Rabbi Dunner each Wednesday morning at 8:30am for the weekly ladies Parsha Shiur as he explores the weekly Torah portion through the eyes of the classic commentators.

The class will meet next on Wednesday, September 25th 2019 at 8:30am.



ISRAEL HEADLINES

Each week, YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue produces a weekly bulletin titled "Israel Headlines." You can find them on the tables in shul every Shabbat. The idea behind this is to make us aware of current events in Israel. Sponsorship for Israel Headlines is available for \$100 per issue. If you are interested in sponsoring a weekly bulletin please email israelheadlines@gmail.com



If you would like to join the Mincha/Maariv WhatsApp Group, please send a message to the Rabbi on Whatsapp at 310-499-3407



Families of Lone Soldiers
6505 Wilshire Blvd.
6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90048
844-IDF-FOLS (433-3657)
www.flsid.org



September 2019

Dear Friends of Families of Lone Soldiers,

As the Jewish people around the world prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, we are especially grateful to our lone soldier children who have served and are serving in Israel's Defense Forces. We are particularly aware of the special burden on lone soldier families whose sons and daughters volunteer for army service thousands of miles away, protecting Israel for all of us.

Here at home, we at Families of Lone Soldiers salute these families and our lone soldiers as we advocate for them and help smooth the challenges they experience. From medical and psychological to legal and educational, from navigating bureaucracy outside and within the IDF, to facilitating post army life helping alumni find jobs and housing, FLS works to help families find the right solution to fit the need. With teams of volunteers in Israel and in the US, we provide support, information, resources and vital advocacy.

"...Without Families of Lone Soldiers' intervention, our son would not have received the medical attention that he so desperately needed."

"...FLS went above and beyond helping us to get to the right people... Their help has allowed my son to fulfill his dream of serving in a combat unit in the IDF."

To continue our work, we rely on the generosity of people like you who we reach out to now, ahead of holidays, and ask that you help support the important advocacy work of Families of Lone Soldiers.

Shana Tovah! May the new year 5780 bring peace in Israel and joy to the Jewish people everywhere. May the families whose sons and daughters are lone soldiers enjoy the blessings their children's service bestows.

Thank you!

Stuart Steinberg
Stuart Steinberg
Board Chairman
Families of Lone Soldiers

Joel Bertet
Joel Bertet
Development Chair
Families of Lone Soldiers

LAST CALL!!

LEGOLAND TICKETS SALE

**TO BENEFIT THE YAVNEH
8TH GRADE GRADUATION TRIP!**

Tickets for Oct 16th (first day Chol Hamoed)

All orders must be paid for by September 23
and can be made by calling 323.931.5808
Tickets can be picked up from Yavneh between October 7-11
Adults \$35 (13 up) • Children \$25 (3-12)

For more info please contact Rabbi Levy slevy@gha.org

YINBH SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

Why Saying Sorry is the Key to Teshuva

Featuring Rabbi Pini Dunner

Sponsored by
Lee Samson
in loving memory
of our beloved
Anne Samson a"h

Tuesday, September 24th 7:30pm
at YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue
9261 Alden Drive Beverly Hills

Rabbi Dunner began his rabbinic career in Russia, at the iconic Moscow Choral Synagogue. In the late 90s Rabbi Dunner presided over the launch of the trailblazing Saatchi Synagogue for young Jewish professionals in London's West End. Currently, Rabbi Dunner serves as the Senior Rabbi of YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue in California. Rabbi Dunner is also on the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA), and on the board of the Israel Christian Nexus, an interfaith organization focusing on cross-communal advocacy and support for Israel.

Please RSVP: (310) 276-7650 or rsvp@yinbh.org

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

DAYS OF AWE OR DAYS OF BLAH?

**EXPLORING THE EMOTIONS
OF THE YAMIM NORAIM**

**DELIVERED BY
RABBI PINI DUNNER**

Rosh Hashana, Aseret Yemei Teshuva and Yom Kippur are known collectively in Hebrew as 'Yamim Noraim', translated into English as 'Days of Awe'. What are the origins of this strange name and what does it mean? At this year's Shabbat Shuva drasha, Rabbi Dunner will explore the role of emotions and feelings in the performance of mitzvot, and focus on how Yamim Noraim must include an emotional reconnection with the "awe" of mitzvot that is so often missing from Jewish observance.

Shabbat Shuva October 5, 2019

FOLLOWING KIDDUSH LUNCHEON
(APPROXIMATELY 12:30PM)

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON IS SPONSORED BY
RIVKA AND RAPHY NISSEL
IN MEMORY OF RIVKA'S MOTHER,
ILDIKO LIEBERMAN, PESSL BAT YOEL A"H,
WHOSE YAHRZEIT IS ON 5 TISHREI

RSVP to rsvp@yinbh.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call: 310-276-7650 | E-mail: office@yinbh.org
Visit: www.beverlyhillssynagogue.org
9261 Alden Drive, Beverly Hills 90210



BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

Invites you to a:

Selichot service

Motzei Shabbat
September 21st
10:00P.M.

Selichot speech by



Rabbi
Pini Dunner
"The Journey to Selichot"

followed by a
Selichot service with



Cantor
Netanel Baram

Rinat Shlomo Choir
Conducted by Prof Mark Kligman

9261 Alden Dr Beverly Hills CA 90210

For further details: E-mail: mkramer@yinh.org or call: 310-276-7650