



Tefilla Notebook

19 Tishrei • Shabbat Chol Hamoed • Simchat Torah

September 24-25, 2021

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

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SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

CANDLELIGHTING 6:28pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES 6:30pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

GEMARA SHIUR 8:15AM

SHACHARIT 9:00AM

MINCHA 6:35PM

MAARIV: 7:25PM

SHABBAT ENDS: 7:30PM

CHOL HAMOED/HOSHANAH RABBAH/SEMINI ATZERET/SIMCHAT TORAH SCHEDULE

CHOL HAMOED

SUNDAY, September 26th

8:00 am SHACHARIT

6:30 pm MINCHA/MAARIV

HOSHANAH RABBAH

MONDAY, September 27

6:30 am SHACHARIT

SEMINI ATZERET

MONDAY, September 27

6:24 pm CANDLELIGHTING

DON'T FORGET TO LIGHT YIZKOR CANDLE

6:25 pm MINCHA/KABBALAT YOMTOV

SEMINI ATZERET

TUESDAY, September 28

8:15 am GEMARA SHIUR

9:00 am SHACHARIT

10:30 am YIZKOR

6:35 pm MINCHA

7:20 pm MAARIV

CANDLE LIGHTING NOT BEFORE 7:26 pm

7:30 pm HAKAFOT

SIMCHAT TORAH

WEDNESDAY, September 29

9:00 am SHACHARIT

10:00 am HAKAFOT

FROM 10:15 am KIDDUSH

6:35 pm MINCHA

7:15 pm MAARIV

7:25 pm YOM TOV ENDS

MAZAL TOV



Ella Belzberg & Benjamin Stuart Thompson on the birth of a new grandson, born to **Tziporah Orah and Thomas Reuvein Brown.**

THANK YOU

Sabine & The Dunner Children for sponsoring kiddush on Shabbat Chol Hamoed in honor of **Rabbi Dunner's Birthday**

Dear Members & Friends,

With each passing year, the sukkah companies endeavor to make it easier and easier to build your sukkah. All you need to do is buy a kit from a sukkah store. And now you can find all the construction instructions online – probably because they know you lost the paper instructions before you got home from the store.

"Don't worry!" the YouTube video promises, "even a novice can put up the sukkah in less than 15 minutes." This declaration is accompanied by a speeded-up video of a white-shirted yeshiva guy putting up his sukkah in 32 seconds, while klezmer music plays in the background.

The Talmud devotes a dense and lengthy tractate to the construction of a sukkah. Those familiar with it will tell you that the rules are complex and complicated. Actually, they sound like something out of a Jackie Mason routine. The sukkah can't be too short, but it can't be too tall. It doesn't need four walls, but it needs more than two. That doesn't mean it needs three – two-and-a-half is good, but not two-and-a-quarter. You can't have too much sun coming in through the roof, but too much shade is also no good. You get the drift.

Which makes the Talmud's assertion (Aboda Zara 3a) that building a sukkah is a Mitzvah Kalla – a simple commandment – all the more intriguing.

The passage there is discussing what will happen when the Messiah arrives, and the nations of the world come face-to-face with their long and bitter history of mistreatment of the Jews, along with their refusal to acknowledge God's designated religion. Each nation will present its case as to why they should be included in the Messianic redemption, but their excuses will all be dismissed. The nations will then request that God gives them one last chance to start afresh and make amends:

"Offer us the Torah anew and we shall obey it." God will say to them, "Oh, foolish ones, he who took trouble to prepare for the Sabbath can eat on Sabbath. But he who has not troubled to prepare for Sabbath, what shall he eat on Sabbath?"

"Nevertheless, I have an easy commandment called Sukkah; go and carry it out."

"Immediately, all of them will go and construct a sukkah on their rooftops. But God will cause the sun to burn over them like the height of summer, and they will all trample down their sukkahs and depart..."

This passage is extremely bizarre. Building a sukkah properly is not "easy", as the passage suggests it is. It is complicated and challenging. Besides, if it gets too hot, observing the mitzvah becomes impossible, and is no longer mandated. Why does God ask the nations to observe Sukkot, only to make it uncomfortable for them by raising the temperature? And why tell them it is an easy commandment?

Rabbi Abraham Hayyim Schor (d.1632) offers a remarkable insight into this curious Talmudic tale. He points out that although there are certainly simpler Jewish observances than sukkah, none of them have the one crucial quality that only a sukkah has.

When you are sitting in a sukkah, it is as though you are observing everything else that is written in the Torah. And while there are other ways one can do this, they are either more costly, or they require more commitment, or they require greater expertise. Making and then wearing tzitzit at all times is one example; another example is observing Shabbat.

When the Talmud refers to sukkah as an "easy mitzvah", the suggestion is not that building a sukkah is easy. Rather, it means that a Sukkah can provide those who use it with an expedited route to God. In the end-of-days scenario depicted in the narrative, the nations are looking for exactly such an opportunity, to make up for lost time, so that they can participate in the Messianic redemption.

While this explanation is compelling, how exactly does a sukkah encapsulate the essence of that which God seeks from humanity, and what is the narrative actually trying to teach us? Clearly none of this has actually happened, and it may never happen, so what is the underlying message?

Ultimately, the purpose of creation is for material things to recognize God despite the handicap of being physical, and thereby detached from the Divine. The Midrash describes the process as follows: "God covered himself up and created the world", which means that God shields the physical world from His light.

As we advance through life and develop spiritually, rather than reveal His light to us all in one go, God exposes us to it little by little, so that we are not blinded.

Sukkot occurs immediately after the High Holidays, when we go through a spiritual detox. But while that might prepare us for God's light, we are still not quite ready to be subjected to blinding, burning sunshine. We need a little more shade than light as we emerge from utter darkness. Shifting from physical to spiritual is a process. We may get there in the end, but it cannot be rushed.

Even emerging from the house is unwise if we are not properly prepared. As God says to the nations in the Talmudic narrative, "he who has not troubled to prepare for Sabbath, what shall he eat on Sabbath?" But the nations are impatient; they have no time for process. They want it all, and they want it all now.

This Talmudic passage is an eye opener for spiritual seekers. Too much, too fast, and you will crash and burn. If you demand instant results, you are guaranteed disappointment, and the opportunity will be lost. Sukkot is there to remind us that God created us to be marathon runners, not sprinters. It is all about the process. We are on our way, and we will get there. But it has to happen in carefully managed stages.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom, Chag Sameach, and a great week ahead,

Rabbi Pini Dunner



Sisterhood Corner

SEPTEMBER

Moadim L' Simcha!

We hope you are enjoying the happiness of gathering with family and friends in your beautiful Sukkot.

As we approach the last days of Sukkot – Hoshana Raba, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah - let's celebrate the possibility of new beginnings.

We hope to see you on Shabbat Chol Hamoed to celebrate Rabbi Dunner's 51st birthday at kiddush in our resplendent Sukkah.

Make sure to tune into the World's Biggest Succah Hop

Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 9:00

www.TheUS.tv/succah2

OCTOBER

Keep calm and read on.....

SIGN UP NOW!

Join our next book group meeting on

Tuesday evening, October 12th

READING RUTH is an extraordinary book!

Email: Offoffice@yinh.org to register

See the flyer for more details

Chag Sameach and Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Rabbi Pini Dunner

Lief Rosenblatt

Lila Perl

Janie Herskovitz

Hannah Fogelman

YAHRTZEITS



Otto Schloss

Moshe ben Pinchas z"l

Father of

Stephen Schloss

Yahrtzeit - 22 Tishrei

David Theuer

David ben Yosef Baruch z"l

Father of

Nora Holtz

Yahrtzeit - 24 Tishrei

Bernat Fixler

Baruch ben Noach z"l

Father of

Susan Varon

Yahrtzeit - 25 Tishrei

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SUCCA HOP²
A GLOBAL COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY! **LIVE**

Sunday 26 September 2021
LA 09:00 | NYC 12:00 | Argentina 13:00
UK 17:00 | Israel 19:00 | India 21:30

www.TheUS.tv/succah2

Logos for participating organizations: Hampstead Synagogue, Celebrating 150 Years The US, YINBH BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE, Commonwealth Jewish Council, THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL, JEWISH NEWS.

REMINDER:



Pay any outstanding pledges. Log into your shulcloud account at beverlyhillssynagogue.org

COVID UPDATES:

As a result of the dramatic rise in infections in LA County due to the Delta variant we are not going to be allowing **children under 12 at the shul for the time being. We have cancelled babysitting during services.**



Stay Connected on Social Media

LIVE VIRTUAL YIZKOR SERVICE

יזכור



Monday
September 27th, 2021
11:00am PST via zoom

Zoom Code: 310 276 7650
Password: yinbh

*Nora Holtz invites members to a
Simchat Torah Dinner
in memory of her parents
Agnes Berger Holtz,
Chaya Feibe Roize bat Avraham Eliyahu a "h,
whose yahrtzeit is on 17th of Tishrei;
and David Theuer Holtz,
David ben Yosef Baruch z"l,
whose yahrtzeit is on 24th of Tishrei*

Simchat Torah
Tuesday, September 28th
Mincha 6:35pm, Maariv 7:20pm
Candle Lighting not before 7:26pm
Hakafot 7:30pm, Followed by Dinner

SAVE THE DATES



**Shabbat Chol Hamoed -
Kiddush for Rabbi Dunner's
51st Birthday**
Sat, September 25th

Virtual Succah Hop 2
Sunday, September 26th 9:00am

**Stand with Us Interfaith
Concert**
Sunday, September 26th 6:00pm

**Hoshana Raba/Shemini
Atzeret/Simchat Torah**
Mon, Sep 27th - Wed, Sept 29th

Book Group - "Reading Ruth"
Tuesday, October 12th at 8:30pm

**World Wide Day of Learning in
Memory of Rabbi Sacks z"l**
Tuesday, October 26th, 6:30-9pm

BIRTH, REDEMPTION,
AND THE WAY OF ISRAEL



READING RUTH

LEON KASS
HANNAH MANDELBAUM

Available
at
amazon

NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
TUESDAY OCTOBER 12TH | 7:30PM

MEETING LOCATION PROVIDED UPON RSVP

EMAIL OFFICE@YINBH.ORG TO REGISTER