

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by
Barry Novack and Annie Baum in memory of Barry's
sister, **Batya bat Menachem Mendel a'h**, whose
yahrtzeit is on the 7th of Tishrei

6 Tishrei • Parshat Vayelech • Yom Kippur

September 30-October 1, 2022

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

Nati Bar-Am, Chazan

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

CANDLELIGHTING: 6:20PM

MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT: 6:25PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

GEMARA SHIUR: 8:30AM

SHACHARIT: 9:15AM

SHABBAT SHUVA DRASHA: 5:30pm

MINCHA: 6:20 pm

MAARIV: 7:10pm

SHABBAT ENDS: 7:15pm

WEEKDAY DAVENING TIMES

Shacharit Mincha/Maariv

Sun, Mon 6:50am 6:20pm

Thu, Fri 7:00am 6:20pm

SEE PAGE 2 FOR YOM KIPPUR TIMES

Dear Members & Friends,

One of the best chess players of all time was the son of a German chazzan, a man called Emmanuel Lasker (1868-1941). He was world chess champion from 1894-1921, a genius whose innovative chess moves are studied to this day. Lasker was a good friend of the renowned physicist Albert Einstein (1879-1955), and whenever the two of them met they would play a game or two of chess. On one famous occasion, Lasker played chess with Einstein, and afterwards, everyone wanted to know whether the world's greatest scientist was also a good chess player. Lasker smiled. "He's good, but when it comes to chess, he's no Einstein!"

I have never been a particularly good chess player, although the association between rabbis and chess goes back a long way. The medieval bible commentator Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra (1089-1164) wrote a poem about chess in the twelfth century, and the fifteenth-century Italian rabbi, Yehuda Aryeh di Modena (1571-1648), wrote a book about chess called Ma'adanei Melekh. But chess offers us an interesting insight into Yamim Noraim, and in particular, Kol Nidrei.

Kol Nidrei is without question both the best known and the most controversial of all Jewish prayers. Its haunting melody was made universally famous by the Hollywood star Al Jolson (1886-1950) –and later by the pop singer Neil Diamond (b.1941) – in the movie The Jazz Singer, while at the same time antisemites hold it up as the perfect example of Jewish duplicity. Recited at the most auspicious service of the year, on Yom Kippur night, Kol Nidrei doesn't speak about God and angels or about repentance and forgiveness, nor does it address the beauty of faith – instead, it is essentially a legal declaration:

"All vows, and prohibitions, and oaths, and consecrations, and promises, and pledges, that we may vow, or swear, or consecrate, or prohibit upon ourselves, from this Yom Kippur until next Yom Kippur, regarding them all, we regret them henceforth – they will all be permitted, abandoned, cancelled, null and void, without power and without standing. Our vows shall not be valid vows; our prohibitions shall not be valid prohibitions; and our oaths shall not be valid oaths."

The tune may be sublime, but the words are utterly prosaic and mundane. I guess it's lucky nobody understands Kol Nidrei, or if we do, that we think of Aramaic as a language of dramatic liturgy. I mean, how much would that tune move us if we were to chant the words of Kol Nidrei in English? And how does it even make sense that we begin Yom Kippur with a prayer about nullifying promises? What a strange way to start the holiest day of the year! Couldn't we have found something more fitting for this special moment? And are the antisemites right? Are the vows we make actually invalidated even before we make them?

Which brings me back to chess. I heard this story from a friend of mine a few years ago. At the time he worked at a synagogue in New York as a youth director, and several times a month they had a teen chess club. Over one summer the synagogue managed to secure the services of a chess grandmaster, Dmitri, who instructed the kids how to play chess. My friend was very excited to play chess with Dmitri, and he played against him numerous times during the course of the Summer.

The thing is, he had always thought of himself as a pretty good chess player, but Dmitri demolished him time and again. He tried to help my friend as the games unfolded, while they were playing, and my friend said his game improved as the summer progressed – but he still could never win against Dmitri. He just could not beat the guy.

It was the end of the summer, the last game, and after a few moves Dmitri asked my friend, "It looks like you are trying to capture my queen – why are you doing this?" My friend replied, "it's simple – the queen is the most powerful piece on the board; if I can capture the queen, I will have a better chance of winning." Dmitri smiled. He looked down at his queen, and then looked back up at my friend. Without saying a word, he reached over, took the queen from the board, and handed it to my friend. "Here, take it," he said. "And while we are pausing the game, are there any other impediments on the board that you think are preventing you from winning?"

My friend thought for a moment, and then pointed to the two rooks. Dmitri removed these two critical pieces from the board and handed them to him without a word. "Are there any more impediments?" he asked again, "or are we done?" By this time, my friend was confident that he could demolish Dmitri, now that he had lost his three most powerful pieces. He just shook his head. "No, I'm good." "Great," said Dmitri, "no more impediments." And with the remaining pieces – with no rooks and no queen – he proceeded to destroy my friend in ten easy moves.

As we enter Yom Kippur, we are probably asking ourselves, "what are our impediments?" Last year, I promised I would be a different person by the time I got to this Yom Kippur, but it feels like Groundhog Day. Here I am, again! Same time, same place! Why do I feel just the same as last year? What has held me back from reaching my goals? What has held me back from hitting my targets?

We all have a list of goals each year, and we all struggle to make meaningful changes. Each Yom Kippur we want to reflect on the past year... and think about how much have we grown? Do you know what the great irony is? It is our goals and resolutions that hold us back. They become the excuse for us not growing. They are the queens and the rooks and the knights and the pawns. When what we need is the king.

Do you know why we begin Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, with Kol Nidrei? It's not about the vows and oaths we make to others. That is just the nonsense that antisemites made up. Kol Nidrei is about the vows that we make to ourselves. We are going to get rid of this queen and that rook, and then everything is going to be ok. We make promises, oaths, vows – and then every one of them is an impediment to our growth. We add layer upon layer of obligation, trapping ourselves in a prison of our own creation. After all, if I say that I'll be somewhere at 8 o'clock, it prevents me from doing anything else at 8 o'clock.

And it's not that we make actual oaths – because an oath isn't just something that I say I'll do or that I won't do. My regular routines and my daily commitments are my vows. Our goal in the chess game of life is to capture the king, not to focus on the queen and the rooks. Our goal is to get closer to God. To do more Mitzvot, to be holy, to be kinder to others, more tolerant of others, tougher on ourselves – not just in specific settings and situations, but in every situation and every setting. What gets in the way of capturing the king are all the other impediments – the oaths and the vows. That's why we start off Yom Kippur with Kol Nidrei – to remove all the impediments so that we can reach our ultimate goal of capturing the king.

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



SAVE THE DATES For YINBH Members

Oct 8th—Shabbos
Lunch sponsored by
Rivka & Raphy Nissel
in honor of Rivka's
mother's Yahrtzeit
Oct 17th—Simchat
Torah Dinner

THANK YOU
Shawney & Richard Fine
for sponsoring Rabbi
Dunner's Shabbat Shuva
Drasha in honor of
Richard's 85th Birthday.

After a break of a few years,
and sukkah hop-ing virtually
around the world, we are
looking to once again do a
sukkah hop in person - if you
live within a few blocks of
the shul and would like to
participate please or contact
the shul office.

Sisterhood Corner

September

We hope everyone had an inspiring Rosh Hashana.

Wishing you an easy and meaningful fast.

May all our prayers be answered in 5783!

In an effort to connect and inspire over the Yomim Noraim, the OU Women's Initiative has prepared an inspirational collection of Teshuva-themed essays.

The essay collection booklet did not arrive in time for Rosh Hashana. We are expecting to receive them for Shabbat Shuva. We hope the booklet will enhance your Yom Tov!

We have a lot coming up in the year 5783, we look forward to you joining us, stay tuned!

G'mar Chatima Tova!
Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

YAHRTZEITS

Lynn Zeller
Leah bat Yosef a"h
Wife of
Bob Zeller
Yahrtzeit - 7 Tishrei

Barbara Novack
Batya bat Menachem
Mendel a"h
Sister of
Barry Novack
Yahrtzeit - 7 Tishrei

Rose Schaeffer
Reizel bat Yaakov a"h
Mother of
George Schaeffer
Yahrtzeit - 12 Tishrei

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carly Einfeld
Sammy Shaked
Solomon Yamin
Richard Fine
Harry Finkel
Robert Rosenfeld
Max Halimi

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.

YOM KIPPUR TEFILLAH SERVICE TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 4
EREV YOM KIPPUR

Selichot.....6:50am
Shacharit.....7:00am

Followed by Kapparot
with coins

Mincha.....2:00pm

LIGHT YIZKOR CANDLE
BEFORE YOMTOV

Candlelighting.....6:15pm

we will provide candles

Kol Nidrei.....6:20pm

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5
YOM KIPPUR

Rabbi's Gemara Shiur... 7:45am
Pesukei Dezimra..... 8:30am
HaMelech..... 9:00am
Torah Service..... 10:20am
Sermon..... 11:00am
Yizkor (approx.)11:20am
Musaf..... 11:40am
Break..... 2:00-4:00pm
Mincha..... 4:00pm
Sermon.....5:30pm
Neila..... 5:40pm
Shofar.....7:09pm
Maariv..... 7:09pm
Fast ends..... 7:09pm

Thank you to
RAPHY & RIVKA NISSEL
For sponsoring the Break the Fast

SEAT ASSIGNMENTS

Your seat assignment will be given to you when you arrive at services. There will also be a map and the seats will be labelled. We ask that you please sit in your assigned seat.

SECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Security guards will be checking all bags and coats at the entrance of the shul, as is our standard procedure.

We ask that you please refrain from conversation during services out of respect to the other service attendees and to keep the sanctity of the Holiday.

גמר
חתימה
טובה

LIVE VIRTUAL YIZKOR SERVICE

יזכור

Erev Yom Kippur
Tuesday, October 4th, 2022
11:00am PST via zoom

Zoom Code: 310 276 7650
Password: yinbh



WIZO CALIFORNIA
CHANUKAH CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Honoring
Gina Raphael
WIZO California Chair

Please Join Us As We Celebrate 75 Years of Israel and
40 Years of WIZO USA Helping Women & Children in Israel

Featuring
Dina Ben Tal Ganancia, CEO EL AL Airlines
EL AL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 11:00AM
The Four Seasons Hotel
300 S. Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dietary Laws Observed

Chaired By
LILY ARTENSTEIN • KIMBERLY BROOKS • RUTH DAVIDOV • MALKA FOGEL • SHANA GLASSMAN
AGNES HARRIS • JANICE KAUFER • KARLA LARI • JUDY LEVIN • ORLY MACIBORSKI
KATALIN MANNHEIM • NAVA MARMUR • KAREN MICHELLE • KATHY MORAY • ELEANOR NANKIN
RINAT NEWMAN SOHEILA NEWMAN • JACALYN SHALOM • IRENE SIREBRENIK
LAURA STEIN • RUTH STEINBERGER CANDICE WEINER • SHARI WEINER
SHOSHI WILCHFORT • MIRIAM WIZMAN • SHIRIN YADEGAR

For questions or more information, please contact WIZO California at
(323) 206-6403 or director@wizocalifornia.org

BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE
YOUNG ISRAEL OF NORTH BEVERLY HILLS

Rabbi Dunner's Shabbat Shuva Drasha



Sponsored by **Shawney & Richard Fine** in
honor of Richard's 85th Birthday

THE CONFOUNDING STORY OF JONAH
AND ITS RELEVANCE TO YAMIM NORAIM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST
DRASHA - 5:30PM • MINCHA - 6:20PM

LULAV & ETROG ORDER

We are offering 4 levels of Kosher
Certified Arba Minim Sets that can be
purchased directly through the
Synagogue. Please visit
yinbh.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*

HIGH HOLIDAYS
5783/2022

Youth Activities

**Let's
PLAY!**

ROSH HASHANA AND YOM KIPPUR ITINERARY

ROSH HASHANAH - DAY 1

MONDAY, SEPT 26

AGES 2-6 YEARS OLD

9:00AM - 10:30AM: **FREE PLAY**
YOUTH ROOM



10:30AM-11:30AM: **GAMES AND PLAY TIME LED BY SPORTBALL**
PATIO

11:30AM-12:30PM: **MAGIC SHOW- NAPOLEON THE MAGICIAN**
YOUTH ROOM



AGES 7-13 YEARS OLD

9:00AM - 10:30AM: **FREE PLAY**
ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE FOOSBALL, KNOCK HOCKEY,
BOARD GAMES, BLOCKS, PUZZLES, AND MORE!
BEIT MIDRASH



11:30AM-12:30PM: **SPORTS AND GAMES LED BY SPORTBALL**
PATIO



ROSH HASHANAH - DAY 2

TUESDAY, SEPT 27

AGES 2-6 YEARS OLD

9:00AM - 10:30AM: **FREE PLAY**
YOUTH ROOM

10:30AM-11:30AM: **GAMES AND PLAY TIME LED BY SPORTBALL**
PATIO

11:30AM-12:00PM: **PUPPET SHOW - THE PIRATE AND THE MAGIC FISH**
YOUTH ROOM



THE YOUTH ROOM WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF SERVICES

AGES 7-13 YEARS OLD

9:00AM - 10:30AM: **FREE PLAY**
BEIT MIDRASH

10:30AM-11:30AM: **MAGIC SHOW - THE MAGIC OF RAUL**
BEIT MIDRASH



11:30AM-12:30PM: **SPORTS AND GAMES LED BY SPORTBALL**
PATIO



EREV YOM KIPPUR/KOL NIDRE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

ALL AGES

6:15PM - 8:00PM: **FREE PLAY**
BEIT MIDRASH (AND YOUTH ROOM IF NEEDED)



YOM KIPPUR MORNING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

AGES 2-6 YEARS OLD

9:00AM - 10:00AM: **FREE PLAY**
YOUTH ROOM

10:00AM-12:00PM: **BUBBLE SHOW AND BUBBLE PLAY**
YOUTH ROOM



12:00PM-12:30PM: **BAGEL LUNCH**
BEIT MIDRASH



12:00PM-2:00PM: **'FIELD DAY' ACTIVITIES LED BY SPORTBALL**
PATIO



AGES 7-13 YEARS OLD

9:00AM - 10:00AM: **FREE PLAY**
BEIT MIDRASH

10:00AM-12:00PM: **'FIELD DAY' LED BY SPORTBALL**
PATIO



12:30PM-2:00PM: **LEGO BUILDING PARTY**
BEIT MIDRASH



YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

ALL AGES

4:00PM-5:15PM: **FREE PLAY**
BEIT MIDRASH & YOUTH ROOM



5:15PM-6:00PM: **DINNER**
BEIT MIDRASH



6:00PM- 7:00PM: **MAGIC SHOW - CHRIS T. MAGICIAN**
BEIT MIDRASH