

Tefilla Notebook

This week's Tefilla Notebook is sponsored by **Cecile and Ed Gromis** in memory of Cecile's brother, **Arthur Silberspitz, Avraham Aba ben Yitzchak z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 17th of Adar.

11 Adar • Parshat Tetzaveh • Parshat Zachor

March 3-4, 2023

Steven Dorfman, President

Rabbi Pini Dunner, Senior Rabbi

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Dear Members and Friends,

It's early March in Los Angeles, and Oscars excitement is well-and-truly upon us. Particularly after last year's "slap" debacle, all eyes are on this year's event – not just to see which movie wins the coveted best picture category, but also to gauge how the Academy Awards ceremony recovers following that disturbing episode.

And... it's taken almost a year, but comedian Chris Rock has finally broken his silence regarding the slap, joking about it at a South Carolina gig in January. "The thing people want to know [is this]: did it hurt? Hell yeah, it hurt," Rock said, according to the The Wall Street Journal.

The buildup to the Oscars is always very dramatic, and then, on the day itself – there's the movie stars on the red carpet, speculation about who the winners will be, camera crews everywhere, and excitement in the air as roads close in Hollywood and Beverly Hills to accommodate the after-parties. For one day, if only for that one day, Los Angeles seems to be at the center of the universe.

Some years ago, I discovered a group of people for whom the Academy Awards is an extremely important event – even though almost no one has ever heard of them. Known as "seat fillers," they have the curious role of filling empty seats during the drawn-out awards ceremony, when actors, directors, producers, and other invited guests have to slip out for a bathroom break, so that when panoramic shots of the audience are broadcast around the world, none of the seats in the Dolby Theater™ are empty.

Dressed in tuxedos and evening gowns, "seat fillers" line the walls of the theater, conveniently placed to fill a seat as and when they are required. According to Refinery 29, the sea of glittery gowned and suited folk you see on your TV screens at home is classic Hollywood: an illusion created for your viewing pleasure. There are roughly 300 "seat fillers" each year, chosen out of thousands who apply for the opportunity to be in close proximity to the stars. And those who make it through the selection process must be at the venue by 10:15am, fully made-up and dressed in their best, for an event that only begins at 5pm.

I was astounded at the apparent enthusiasm for the "seat filler" role – at first glance, being a mere "filler" does not seem like such an attractive prospect. And yet, "seat fillers" all seem to love it. One seat filler at the 94th Academy Awards even wrote that she'd "do it again in a heartbeat." Go figure, as they say. And then again, maybe there's something to it.

Perhaps it is serendipity that the Oscars always occur at around the same time as the Torah portions describing the Mishkan construction project – which include instructions for the use of precious stones in the ephod and breastplate worn by the High Priest. These stones are initially referred to in the text (Ex. 25:7) as – אֲבִנֵי מְלִיִּים - "filler stones." It is only several chapters later (Ex. 28:17-20) that we discover these gems include, among others, emerald, sapphire, chrysolite, and amethyst. Surely referring to

these gems as "fillers" seems rather odd, and somewhat misplaced.

The most compelling explanation is that true value only comes from being able to make something, or someone, whole. It doesn't matter how beautiful something is – it has zero value if it is not actively filling a gap somehow, somewhere. Intriguingly, in Israel, annual IDF reserve duty for those who have gone back to civilian life is called "miluim." Elsewhere in the Torah, the word "miluim" means "consecration" or "ordination." For example, at the end of Parshat Tzav (Lev. 8:33) the Torah refers to the priests' period of ordination as "yemei miluim" – "days of miluim."

The act of "miluim" – when a person becomes a "filler" – clearly involves much more than merely plugging a gap. Rather than meaning "to fill," it might better be translated as "to fulfil." Which explains perfectly why annual IDF reserve duty is referred to as "miluim" – the word "miluim" perfectly connotes the IDF reservists' dedication to a sacred duty. Instead of them dismissing their "miluim" month as a waste of time, as some of them tend to do, they should celebrate this opportunity to be "fillers" who ensure the safety and security of Israel.

The legendary New York Jewish educator, Rabbi Yaakov Bender, expands on this idea with a beautiful explanation he heard from his teacher, the Mir rosh yeshiva Rabbi Shmuel Berenbaum (1920-2008). As individuals, we all have unique qualities that make us valuable members of society. Whether it is our talents and skills, or whether it is our unique personality traits, these attributes allow us to contribute to the world around us in meaningful ways. But what truly sets us apart is our ability to "hold space" for others. Everything else pales by comparison. When we provide support, comfort, and guidance to those around us, we are fulfilling our ultimate purpose in life. And that is what being a "filler" really means.

The concept of holding space is not just about being there for others; it's about creating a safe and nurturing environment where they can feel heard, understood, and validated. It requires empathy, compassion, and a deep understanding of the human experience. When we hold space for others, we help them navigate through life's challenges and find meaning and purpose in their personal struggles.

This idea of holding space is exemplified in the "avnei miluim," the precious gems worn over the heart of the High Priest in the sanctuary. These gems symbolize the importance of taking responsibility for the well-being of others and filling the gaps in their lives with love, compassion, and understanding. By embodying these qualities, we become the most precious of gems by making a positive impact on the world that far outweighs the value of any other quality or attribute we may possess.

And while being a "seat filler" at the Oscars may not quite match this ideal, it can certainly act as a reminder to us that being a "filler" is probably far more important than being a Hollywood star.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 3



5:33pm CANDLELIGHTING
5:35pm SERVICES

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

8:30am GEMARA SHIUR
9:15 am SHACHARIT
10:30am PPARSHAT ZACHOR
5:35 pm MINCHA
6:25 pm MAARIV
6:30 pm SHABBAT ENDS

Second reading of Zachor following services and at Mincha

WEEKDAY DAVENING

Sun 8:00am 5:35pm
Mon & Tues *TAANIT ESTHER & PURIM
Wed & Thurs 7:00am 5:35pm
Fri 7:00am 5:40pm

*SEE THE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 3

WELCOME

New Members

Arik & Marita Casden and their children **Miriam and Yarden**

Sisterhood Corner

March/ April

Wishing you and your families a joyous Purim!

Thank you to all of you who participated in our very successful Mishloach Manot fundraiser and helped us to fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot Le'evyonim!

Let's celebrate Purim together !

Wild West Purim Seudah

Tuesday, March 7th at 4:00 pm

Buffet, Games, Arts & Crafts and more...

Lots of fun for adults and kids!

Our next YINBH Book Group read!

We will be reading *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi

Chosen by The Royal Institution of Great Britain as the best science book ever written.

Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30 pm

Private home address will be provided upon RSVP

RSVP at yinbh.org/bookgroup

Get ready for an insightful discussion!

First Night Seder

Wednesday, April 5th 7:30 pm

Seder led by Rabbi Pini Dunner

Accompanied by gourmet glatt kosher international wine

Chag Purim Sameach & Shabbat Shalom,

Cecile & Ruthie

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Thank you to our Purim Seudah sponsors

The YINBH Sisterhood

Emma and Paul Almond in memory of Emma's mother, **Joan Joseph, Yehudit bat Yitzchak a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 26th of Adar.

YAHRTZEITS



Fania Fontak

Fania Tzipporah bat Yenta a"h
Mother of

Janet Sasson

Yahrtzeit - 12 Adar

Moritz Rosenfeld

Moshe ben Naftali Zeev z"l
Father of

Robert Rosenfeld

Yahrtzeit - 13 Adar

Esther Samuel

Esther bat Dovid a"h
Mother of

Joseph Samuel

Yahrtzeit - 16 Adar

Benzi Dunner

Benzion ben Avraham Moshe
HaLevi z"l

Brother of

Rabbi Pini Dunner

Yahrtzeit - 16 Adar

Ebrahim Salih

Avraham ben Chochum z"l
Father of

Flora Yamin

Yahrtzeit - 16 Adar

Arthur Silberspitz

Avraham Aba ben Yitzchak a"l
Brother of

Cecile Gromis

Yahrtzeit - 17 Adar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jason Fuchs

Michal Czucker

Jamie Spencer

Sean Cohen

Rena Perl

Raphy Nissel

Howie Fialkov

Jonathan Hazani

Janice Levy

Jennifer Halimi

Happy Anniversary

Marty & Eva Feldberg

MAZAL TOV

Meir Dunner on his engagement to **Ronia Blum!** Mazal Tov to parents **Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner, Baruch & Rebecca Blum**, and **Malka Ita & Aaron Rubenstein**. Mazal Tov to Grandparents **Pinna Graff, Frank and Hertzlia Blum** and **Josl & Esther Ackerman**



A MESSAGE FROM RABBI DUNNER

Matanot La'Evyonim is one of the four designated mitzvot on Purim, along with hearing the **Megilla, Mishloach Manot** and **Seudat Purim**.

As part of the unifying theme of the Purim festival, it is a mitzvah to give money to needy families in the community, so that they too can afford to celebrate this festival properly, and have some welcome respite from their difficult financial circumstances, both on Purim, and after Purim.

This year, as in past years, I will be distributing the money raised from our membership for *Matanot La'evyonim* to needy families here in Los Angeles and in Israel.

Checks can be made payable to "YINBH" (please write on the memo of the checks "Purim Appeal").

PURIM SCHEDULE

Monday, March 6th Taanit Esther

Fast Begins 5:02pm

Shacharit 7:00am

Mincha 5:35pm

Maariv 6:20pm

Fast Ends 6:22pm

Megilla Reading by Daniel Kramer 6:25pm

Followed by a break the fast

Tuesday, March 7th Purim Day

Shacharit 7:00am

Megilla Reading by Daniel Kramer 7:30am

Second Megilla Reading by Daniel Kramer 10:00am

Purim Seudah Doors Open 4:00pm

Last Chance Megilla Reading 4:15pm

Mincha/Maariv 5:45pm

Purim Seudah Concludes 8:00pm

Thank you to Joseph & Galina Samuel for sponsoring the break the fast following the Megilla in memory of Joe's Mother, **Esther Samuel, Esther bat Dovid a"h**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 16th of Adar; and in memory of Joe's brother, **Victor Samuel, Yitzchak ben Yaakov z"l**, whose yahrtzeit is on the 18th of Adar.

Thank you to our Mishloach Manot packers



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO ORDERED MISHLOACH MANOT

Harry Finkel & Shirley Aizenstein

Susan & Michael Baum

Michael & Margaret Bayer

Barbara Bernstein

Jonathan & Julie Boyer

Ruth Brandt

William & June Brenner

Robin & Elliott Broidy

Hart & Debbie Cohen

Victor & Jacqueline Cohenca

Steven & Vivian Dorfman

Rabbi Pini & Sabine Dunner

Marty & Eva Feldberg

Adam & Debby Fenner

Shawney & Richard Fine

George & Suzi Fischmann

Karen Fisher

John & Sherri Fogelman

David & Gloria Frankel

Jerry & Jean Friedman

Aaron & Lillian Fuchs

Jason Fuchs

Larry & Judith Garshofsky

Ernie & Regina Goldberger

Susan Grayson

Evan & Liz Greenspan

Edwin & Cecile Gromis

Mark & Janelle Herskovitz

Chavi Hertz

Diana Hirt

Patrick & Ginette Hodara

Eva Hogan

Shirin Azizzadehn & Vahid Javaherian

Elliott & Ruth Kahn

Philip & Janice Kaufler

Hillel & Ruth Kellerman

Jonathan & Faye Kellerman

Mark & Amy Kestenbaum

Jeffrey Golden & Allyson Kimmel

David & Roberta Kimmel

Igor & Lisa Korbatov

Hillel Laks

William Levin

Simon Elhiani & Rita Lewkowicz

William & Joan Lopatin

Vera Markowitz

Isaac & Sarah Meier

Stuart & Fran Miller

Raphy & Rivka Nissel

Annie Baum & Barry Novack

Michael & Ariella Novack

Mark & Marlene Perl

Jeff Gross & Gina Raphael

Howard & Judy Raykoff

Denise & Weston Richter

Rosalyn Rothman

Simon & Susy Rubinstein

Franck & Evelina Ruimy

Joanne Sacks & Tuvia Ganz

Faramarz & Sheilagh Sadeghi

Lee Samson

Joseph & Galina Samuel

Stephen & Jessica Samuel

Moshe & Helen Sassoover

George & Irina Schaeffer

Arnold & Sheri Schlesinger

Stephen Schloss

Avrumie & Maryjo Schnitzer

Jesse & Adam Shaked

David & Michele Silver

Jaime & Marilyn Sohacheski

Norman & Virginia Solomon

Seymour & Grace Stoll

Bella & Daniel Strum

Barton & Arleen Tanenbaum

Karynne Tencer & Robert Tencer

JJ & Wendy Wallack

Michael & Sharon Weiner

Jacques & Natalie Wizman

Nadine Gerson & Bob Zeller

First Night SEDER

Wednesday, April 5th 2023

Gourmet glatt kosher
International wine
selection

SEDER LED BY
RABBI
PINI
DUNNER

DETAILS

COMING SOON



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

CALL (310) 276-7650 OR EMAIL OFFICE@YINBH.ORG

YINBH
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE

YINBH
SISTERHOOD

Book Group

The
Periodic
Table
PRIMO LEVI

MARCH 14TH, 2023
7:30PM

ORDER
NOW
amazon

Primo Levi

The
Periodic Table

The Periodic Table is largely a memoir of the years before and after Primo Levi's transportation from his native Italy to Auschwitz as an anti-Facist partisan and a Jew.

RSVP at
yinbh.org/bookgroup
LOCATION GIVEN UPON RSVP

Thank you to all of you who participated in our very successful Mishloach Manot fundraiser and helped us to fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot L'evyonim!

Thank you to Rabbi Dunner for his inspiring Purim message.

Kudos to June Brenner who spearheaded this year's Mishloach Manot campaign.

Many thanks to this year's packers: Vivian Dorfman, Eva Feldberg, Karen Fisher, Linda Morrow, Maryjo Schnitzer, Jesse Shaked, Arlene & Bart Tanenbaum, Fran Miller, Ruthie Kellerman, Galina Samuel, Judy Raykoff, June Brenner and Cecile Gromis

Many thanks to our behind the scenes dynamic duo, Madeline Kramer and Carly Einfeld, and to Darryl Kam for making Mishloach Manot happen seamlessly each and every year!

A portion of the proceeds raised will be donated to support Yeshivat Hesder Kiryat Shemona's Bar Mitzvah project.

Find out more about the organization at <https://yk8.org.il/en/bar-mitzvah-project/>

YINBH
BEVERLY HILLS SYNAGOGUE



Bnai Zion
Foundation

NEXT SHABBAT
WELCOMES



Yaakov
Katz

Editor in Chief,
Jerusalem Post

Shabbat 11th March 2023

Yaakov will address the community at 11:00am

Services will be followed by a Kiddush Luncheon

Yaakov Katz is Editor-in-Chief of The Jerusalem Post and author of "Shadow Strike - Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power", which tells the inside story behind Israel's bombing of a nuclear reactor in Syria in 2007. Katz is also the co-author of "Weapon Wizards - How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower" and "Israel vs. Iran: The Shadow War". "Weapon Wizards" has been published in English, Hebrew, Czech, Polish and Chinese.

Katz served for close to a decade as the paper's military reporter and defense analyst and was a faculty member and lecturer at Harvard University where he taught an advanced course in journalism. He also served as correspondent for Jane's Defence Weekly in Israel for five years.

Prior to taking up the role of Editor-in-Chief, Katz served for two years as a senior policy adviser to Israel's Minister of Economy and Minister of Diaspora Affairs.