Shabbos Mevarchim Chodesh Elul
Rosh Chodesh, Tuesday-Wednesday

"You shall open up your hand to him and provide whatever is lacking to him." Devarim 15.8

As the descendants of Abraham, the pillar of chesed, Jews are generous and kind. It's in our DNA. The myriad of tzedaka and chesed organizations abound amongst us. Jews constantly look for opportunities to help one another and ease the burdens borne by their fellow Jews. For example, there are scores of different kinds of gemachs (free lending institutions). These gemachs lend anything from money without interest to tables and chairs for a simcha. There are gemachs that lend gowns for a bride and her siblings, and bris outfits for babies. There are CD and book gemachs. There are gemachs that lend power tools for short term use. There are organizations that lend a sefer torah, siddurim and low chairs for a house of mourning. There are gemachs for expensive medical equipment, and the list goes on and on. The common denominator of all this is the ingenious ways the Jews conceive of doing acts of kindness for one another. An important act of chesed is that it not be administered in a "one size fits all" manner. Every person is unique and has their own specific needs. The Torah stresses this when it addresses the topic of tzedakah and chesed in this week's parsha:
"You shall open your hand...and provide whatever is lacking to him." The word “him” is emphasized to underline the importance of dealing with each individual as the special person he or she is. Many times, we can offer an invaluable chesed without spending money or even lifting a finger. The verse in Mishlei states "when there is worry in a man's heart, he should suppress it." The Talmud explains one of the ways to suppress your worry is to unburden yourself to someone else and just talk about it. By offering a sympathetic ear to a person who is burdened with a problem, one can perform a tremendous act of chesed. Often the only relief for certain problems is that they be verbalized. The listener sometimes cannot resolve the problem or even offer advice. All he can do is listen and many times this can be therapeutic. The ability to listen can be a great chesed and at times a lifesaver. As we begin the month of Elul, we are all looking for special merits to ensure that G-d should inscribe us in the Book of Life. The Talmud tells us that heaven responds to us vis-a-vis our relationships with people. If we perform acts of chesed for others, then the Al-mighty will reciprocate in the same way and judge us with kindness and compassion as opposed to strict justice. But it's all up to us. Therefore, as the verse says, "You shall open up your hand to him and provide whatever is lacking to him." Let us hope and pray that if we open our hands and hearts to others, then the Al-mighty will open his hand and bring us the redemption of our people and the coming of Moshiach – may he come speedily in our days.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein
Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this week is sponsored by David & Stephanie Schwartz in honor of their son Matan’s 8th birthday and in honor of the birth of their niece, Gabrielle Sienna. Mazel Tov to Gabrielle’s parents, Jackie and Sael Abecassis, and grandparents, Mali and Steve Schwartz.
- This week’s Seuda Shlishis is sponsored in honor of David and Devorah Leah Bender by their friends and by members of the kiddush club, wishing them farewell and success in their upcoming move to Memphis, Tennessee.
- Mazal Tov to the proud parents Deborah & Alan Kestenbaum and the grandparents Anita & Hal Beretz on the forthcoming marriage of Jacob Kestenbaum to Jordana Alpert.

Building Fund: Our deep thank and gratitude to Dr. Walter Molofsky and Dr. Brenda Kohn for their generous additional donation of $36,000 to our Building Fund, bringing the total donation to $72,000. Yasher Koach Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to:
- Allen Packer, Alexander ben Esther Raizel.
- Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Shimon ben Blima.
- Dani Smith, Doniel ben Mindel.

Community notice

Motion activated lights were installed in the pedestrian crosswalk at Collins Avenue and 99th Street. Use of this crosswalk should be avoided on Shabbos and Yom Tov as the lights are motion activated and are turned on as pedestrians cross Collins Avenue.

Yizkor Book

We recently mailed the forms for our Yizkor Book. Please send us the names of your loved ones to be listed in the Yizkor Book as soon as possible. You can pay through our website via PayPal, call the office with a credit card or send a check.

We ask everyone to please review the statements that have been sent out recently, including the notices for membership renewal and High Holiday seat reservations. We ask all those with balances due to please clear your accounts as soon as possible, while also renewing membership and ordering High Holiday seats. Please note that membership rates for High Holiday Seats are only available to members who have cleared their accounts for the shul fiscal year ending July 31. If you have any questions, please contact the office at your earliest convenience. Your support is greatly appreciated.
Support our Shul with AmazonSmile

When you shop on Amazon through the program called AmazonSmile, a portion of your purchases can be donated to the Shul. Please visit www.smile.amazon.com and sign up your amazon account with Young Israel Congregation (National Council of Young Israel – Surfside). AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Young Israel every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Shul. Click here to go to smile.amazon.com and begin supporting the shul.

E-mail communication

When you e-mail the office please make sure your e-mail is to yakira@yicbh.org
NOT yibh.org
The e-mail for Florence is florence@yicbh.org

ATTENTION ALL MEN!

Please do not walk behind the 2 ladies’ sections during services.
Please use side doors to enter and exit Sanctuary after 10:00 AM.
Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.

Please submit all insertions for the Shmooze News to yakira@yicbh.org by noon on Thursday.