Esav said “I have a lot… Yaakov said … G-d was gracious to me and I have everything.” Bereishis 33:9-11

In these verses the Torah is teaching us the fundamental difference between Yaakov and Esav. Both are very rich but Esav, although he has much, he would love to have more. He is never satisfied with the physical pleasures of life. As our sages tell us, if one has one hundred dollars, then he wants two hundred dollars, a person is never satisfied. On the other hand, Yaakov personifies what our sages tell us in Pirkei Avos, that a truly wealthy person is someone who is satisfied with their lot in life. Therefore, Yaakov said, I have all that I could ever want. For whatever it is that G-d has not given me, his attitude was, I obviously don’t need it.
However, when it came to spiritual acquisitions, Yaakov was never satisfied for he wanted more and more. The lesson we must learn from here is that when it comes to physical possessions one really should look at those who have less than they do and be thankful and satisfied with what they do have. But when it comes to spiritual matters, it should be just the opposite. One should look to those who have accomplished more and yes, be somewhat jealous in the sense that I am not satisfied where I am now and would like to raise my spiritual level. Our time in this world is rather brief. We can either spend our time pursuing a mirage, an unattainable goal of satisfying our physical desires or we can have the wisdom to be satisfied with what we do have and spend more of our time in spiritual pursuits which last for eternity.

(Thoughts of Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski)

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL DINNER AND HONOREES

We are very pleased to announce our Honorees for this year's Annual Dinner, which will take place in our beautiful social hall on February 26, 2017.

Batya & Meir Cosiol
Reuven & Iris Herssein

Our Honorees have devoted countless time and effort on behalf of our Young Israel, and certainly deserve our thanks. The Dinner will be chaired by Mali Schwartz, and we look forward to everyone's participation in the most important annual fund raising event of our Young Israel Congregation.
Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this Shabbos is co-sponsored by Murray and Linda Laulicht, commemorating the yahrzeits of Murray’s father, Chaskel Goldwasser z”l, and his grandmother, Leah Grunfeld z”l; and by Aaron & Tammy Attias in honor of Yakira Navarro and Joseph Barrington in appreciation and gratitude for everything that they do for our Shul.

- Seudah Shlishit this Shabbos is being co-sponsored by Leon Brum commemorating the yahrzeit of Leon’s mother Elka bat Aryeh z”l; and by Jeff Weiss, commemorating the yahrzeit of his mother, Zehava bat Chaim Dov z”l.

- We regret to inform you of the passing of Malina Lebovitz z”l, beloved mother of our esteemed member Etella Marcovici. May the family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

- We regret to inform you of the passing of Abraham ben Yitzchak, the father of our esteemed member Bella Brenner. May the family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Building Fund

- Important! Please pay your building fund pledge at your earliest opportunity. Thank you.

Youth Program

- Father and Child learning on Motzei Shabbos starting at 7pm with pizza and prizes!

- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please contact Rabbi Fried for timing and location details.

- We are looking forward to our annual YI/NCSY Partnership Shabbaton, which will take place on Friday & Saturday, December 23-24, 2016. In order to accommodate our NCSY guests, their advisors, staff and families, we are looking for homes that can each accommodate a few sleeping guests. Please specify how many males or females you can host for sleeping by contacting NCSY’s Board Chair Tammy Attias as soon as possible at 786-566-2102 or tammyattias@gmail.com.

If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.
This year the Young Israel Congregation serving the communities of Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Surfside and Indian Creek will be celebrating its 18th or Chai anniversary. Our shul was founded in 1999 and some of you may remember when minyanim were held in the Coronado Hotel which was located where the Grand Beach Hotel is today.

Bernie Lack z’l, a retired war veteran, Stephen Opert, and Allen Schloss all played a role in the founding of the Young Israel Congregation when they decided to join efforts to create a Modern Orthodox synagogue with nusach Ashkenaz. Although they had to overcome many hurdles that included zoning restrictions, getting town permits, and finding a place in which to hold services, they forged ahead.

We look forward to having the entire congregation attend the upcoming Young Israel Congregation Annual Dinner on Sunday, February 26, 2017 to pay tribute to dinner honorees Batya & Meir Cosiol and Iris & Reuven Herssein. Join us in celebrating our 18th anniversary!

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**Melave Malka**

**At the home of**

**Ianna and Jacks Sterenfeld**

9881 E. Broadview Drive

**Saturday Night, December 17, 2016 at 8:00PM**

**Featured Speaker**

**World Famous**

**Rabbi Zecharya Wallerstein**

**Join us for an evening of great inspiration, camaraderie and some really good food!**
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Ladies Tehillim Group – Mondays at 10:30AM in the Beis Midrash.
- Beis Midrash Night – Thursdays at 7:00PM.
- Father and Child – Motzei Shabbos at 7:00PM.
- Special series of classes about Shabbat for Young Adult Women, parts 2 & 3:
  2. Tuesday, December 20, 8-10PM at Batya Cosiol's home – “How to Create a Beautiful Shabbat Table” presented by Gloria Sterental;
  3. Tuesday, January 3, 8-10PM at Tammy Attias's home – “How to Prepare a Shabbat Menu with Tam (Flavor)” presented by Chef Shaike Koralansky. This class is open to all women, but space is limited, so please RSVP to Tammy Attias at 786-566-2102 or tammyattias@gmail.com.
- Monday, December 19 at 11:30AM - Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gruenstein.
- Wednesday, December 21 at 8:00PM - Lecture by Rabbi Dr. David Nesenoff – “A Funny Thing Happened to Me at The White House.”
- Thursday, December 22, 10:00AM-12:00PM - Rebbetzin Rucha Bauman.
- Wednesday, December 28 at 6:30PM - Chanukah Extravaganza
- Monday, January 9, 2017 – Breakfast with Dr. Erika Brown.

Upcoming Scholar-in-Residence Shabbatons

- Rabbi Shmuel Goldin: January 20-21, 2017 – Friday Night Dinner
- Rabbi Yitzchak Shochet: February 17-18, 2017 – Friday Night Dinner
Young Israel Congregation
Invites the Entire Community
To Our
Chanukah Extravaganza!
Wednesday, December 28th at 6:30pm
Food, music and entertainment!

Rosh Chodesh Teves
Lunch and Learn for Men & Women
Presenting:
Natalie Sopinsky
Living the Dream
From Delaware to Susya
Monday, January 2nd at 11:30AM
End of Year Statements and Tax Planning

Just a reminder that we are rapidly approaching the end of the calendar and tax year, and as such, account statements have been mailed. Given the approaching year end, this is an excellent time to clear your account, while simultaneously supporting our shul.

Also, given the news that tax reform may take place in the coming year, the current tax year may be an especially good opportunity to donate before year end, depending on your personal situation. In addition, Young Israel now offers the opportunity for families to directly donate appreciated stock, which may offer additional tax benefits; if you are interested, please contact the office. In all cases, of course, please check with your tax adviser.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Young Israel Congregation of Bal Harbour has an extensive Torah Library both in Hebrew and English. Our English Torah lending Library is located in the conference room and will be open Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM. The Torah library has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of Andrew and Basya Lowinger in memory of Maurice Lownger z”l מאריווLowinger ז”ל ומשה בן בן-

We can now accept on-line donations via our shul website directly through PayPal. Please use this link http://www.yicbh.org/payment.php, or first go the website, www.yicbh.org, and click on Membership & Donation and press Donate.

Please note it is very important you indicate in the “Payment Notes” the specific donation that is being paid for (membership, kiddush, aliyah, etc.).
New Mailing Address: 9580 Abbott Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154
P.O. Box 545985, Surfside, FL 33154-5985

Shabbos/Holiday Schedule:
To view the schedule, please go to our website, www.yicbh.org and click on Holidays/Shabbos Info.

Email Addresses:
To contact Rabbi, Office, Youth Director or Gabbaim, please email

   Rabbi@yicbh.org;
   yakira@yicbh.org;
   Rabbifried@yicbh.org;
   gabbai@yicbh.org

We now have photo gallery available online. Please go to www.yicbh.org and click photo gallery on the left bar. Enjoy!

We ask everyone's cooperation and understanding in not leaving personal handbags or knapsacks unattended anywhere in our synagogue building.

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