“And may G-d give you the dew of heavens and the fatness of earth…” (27:28)
“Behold, the fatness of the earth shall be your dwelling and of the dew of heavens from above.” (27:39)

Although the blessings to Yaakov and Esav appear similar, there are two major differences between them. To Yaakov, Yitzchak said “May G-d give you,” whereas in Esav’s blessings he does not mention G-d’s name. Secondly, in Yaakov’s blessing, the bracha of “the dew of the heavens” is mentioned first and then the “fatness of the earth,” whereas in Esav’s blessings the order is reversed. Although Yitzchak thought he was blessing Esav, the divine spirit motivated him to give Yaakov the blessing appropriate for him. Yaakov was to know that everything he possesses, even if it appears to be the result of his own efforts, is a gift from G-d. Moshe Rabbeinu warned the Jewish people that when they inherit the land of Israel and become wealthy and powerful, they should not think that it was their skill, prowess, and hard work that produced their success, but that it was G-d who gave them the ability to do so. Yaakov’s descendants have this faith, but to Esav’s descendants this is an alien concept. For they live by the sword and feel that it is their might and power which brings them their success.
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 Sunday, February 26, 2017.

Meir Cosiol
Reuven and 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.

The blessings also show that Yaakov will be the one that will understand that the purpose of life is spirituality. “The dew of the heavens.” Of course, one cannot fulfill the mitzvos without the physical means to do so, therefore, the “fatness of the earth” are a necessity, but it is only a means, not the ultimate goal. Esav, on the other hand, lives for this world, he lives for the moment. The “fatness of the land” is primary. The two nuances are related. We can live spiritual lives only if we are aware that all our physical possessions are divine gifts to be used in the service of G-d. If we lose sight of our dependence on the Almighty, then we can degenerate into creatures that seek only physical pleasures and we thereby lose the dignity of spirituality that elevates us above all other living things.

Sefer Twerski on Chumash,
Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

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. Last week’s father & Child was sponsored by Ronald & Rachel Benveniste.
- Special series of 3 classes about Shabbat for Young Adult Women:
  1. Tuesday, December 6, 8-10PM at Tzippy Wigoda's home – “How to Make Shabbat Relevant for Your Children” presented by Debbie Hamburg;
  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 Korlansky. 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.
- Special women’s Rosh Chodesh luncheon, Monday December 5, 12:00PM. Speaker: Rebbetzin Tzippi Yachnes.
- Monday, December 12 at 11:30AM – Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Gruenstein.
- Tuesday, December 13 – Shaare Zedek Luncheon 11:30AM at Young Israel, honoring Moj Khaghan Danial, Abraham A. Galbut, and Marcos Lapciuc.
- Wednesday, December 14 at 8:00PM – Lecture by Dr. Hillel Abramson – “The Surprising History Behind Chanukah: More than Dreidels and Latkes.”
- Wednesday, December 21 at 8:00PM – Lecture by David Nissanov – “A Funny Thing Happened to Me at The White House.”
- Thursday December 22, 10:00AM-12:00PM – Rebbetzin Rucha Bauman.
- Save the Date: Monday, January 9, 2017 – Breakfast with Erika Brown.
- Save the Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – Sisterhood event: Fashion & Beauty Day. Raffles, gifts and prizes.
Congregational Family and Shul News

• Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Susan and Aaron Weinberg in honor of several recent Weinberg family birthdays.
• Mazal tov to Salomon & Raquel Jurovieski on the birth of their grandson.
• Very special thanks and yasher koach to Menno and Helen Ratzker on their presentation of a Sefer Torah to our Young Israel. The Sefer Torah is dedicated to the memory of Helen's brother, Martin Moses, Meir Ben Avrohom z"l.

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.

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.

Upcoming Scholar-in-Residence Shabbatons

• Rabbi Zecharia Walerstein: December 16-17 – Friday Night Dinner for Young Couples.
• Rabbi Yitzchak Shochet - February 17-18, 2017 – Friday Night Dinner.

Search for Young Israel of Bal Harbour

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

LAST CALL FOR YOUNG ISRAEL 2017 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE
We want to ensure that all of your contact information is up to date and correct. Please review your listing in the 2016 Young Israel Membership Directory and send any corrections to Steve Schwartz at stevenbarryschwartz@gmail.com or call him at 973-493-1209 by Mon Dec 5, 2016. Thank you to all those who have already responded.

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 Lowinger z"l.

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.).

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.