The central theme of Parshas Chayei Sarah is the shidduch of Yitzchak & Rivka. The question arises why did Avraham not make a shidduch with his loyal followers Aner, Eshkol & Mamre? Why didn’t he consider Eliezer himself, who was one of his closest disciples? What was wrong with choosing from the many converts he had attracted to the belief in one G-d? The Malbim explains that Middos, (character traits), are in one’s DNA. They are passed down from parent to child while beliefs and philosophies are the product of one’s mind. So even though Aner, Eshkol, Mamre and Eliezer identified with Avraham in his monotheistic beliefs, they were unsuitable to marry into Avraham’s family. This was because their character traits were inherited from their forefathers, the children of the accursed Canaan, son of Cham. Avraham’s family, although non-believers, were nevertheless endowed with exceptional character traits which Avraham exemplified. First and foremost, the kallah of Yitzchak must personify these magnificent character traits because they must build a home where the divine presence resides. G-d is only comfortable in a home where peace reigns and husband and wife deal with each other in a loving, respectful and considerate matter. Only under such conditions can G-d’s manifold blessings be found.

Sefer – Darcei Noam

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.

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.

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 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 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 12:00PM at Young Israel, honoring Moj Khaghan, 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.
If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.

### Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Ricardo & Talia Berner in honor of the birth of their baby boy.
- Mazal tov to Linda & Murray Laulicht on the recent marriage of their granddaughter Samantha Hasten to Yoni Jonas.
- Mazal Tov to Ricardo & Talia Berner on the birth of their baby boy.
- Mazal tov to Amy & Jack Benishai whose children Isaac & Amanda Benishai received the AMIT Young Visionary Award in New York this past week.
- Mazal Tov to Debbie & Alan Kestenbaum and to Anita & Hal Beretz on the engagement of their son/grandson Jacob Kestenbaum to Jordana Alpert.
- Mazal Tov to Ann Bicky on the Bar Mitzvah of her Grandson, Dov Jakob, and to the parents Steven and Mattie Bicky.
- We regret to inform you of the passing of Yaakov ben Yehuda z”l, brother of Rhoda Lipton. May the family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

### Building Fund

- Our thanks and deep gratitude to Judy and Monroe Milstein for their additional donation of $36,000 to our building fund, bringing their total donation to $54,000. Yasher Koach
- 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!
- December 2nd-3rd there will be an out of town Middle School Shabbaton. Flyer to be posted and emailed.
- 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.

### Upcoming Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton

- Rabbi Zecharia Walerstein: December 16-17- Friday night dinner for young couples
- Rabbi Shmuel Goldin: January 21-22
- Rabbi Yitzchak Shochet February 17-18

We will have Shabbat dinner for both programs.
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!

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 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, מאיר משה בן בן-ציון הלוי ז”ל

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.