Bar Mitzvah of Sammy Courtney

וַיָּקָּח שֶׁם וַיִּפְתֵּה אֶת הַשָּׁמֵלָה.....

And Shem & Yefes took the garment and they placed it on both of their shoulders and walked backward and covered their father’s nakedness..... Bereshis 9:23

Rashi explains that the first word in the verse, וַיָּקָּח, is singular, intimating that Shem initiated the covering of his father, with Yefes later joining him. Our sages tell us that as a reward for covering their father, Shem merited that his offspring would be given the Mitzvah of ציצית (tzitzis), while the reward for Yefes was that his descendent would merit burial.

Rav Yosef B. Soloveichik z”l explains that Shem & Yefes had different motivations for what they did. Shem was motivated by ethics and Yefes was moved by etiquette. Ethics as a value obligates one to do what is right and proper even when no one is watching and appreciating what is being done. Therefore, he was given as a reward the mitzvah of tzitzis because the talis katan should be worn under one’s garment – hidden.
The mitzvah of putting on a garment that is not visible reflects Shem’s emphasis on doing the right thing even in private. Yefes, on the other hand, was motivated by outward appearance and peer pressure. Yefes only helped cover his father after Shem had taken the initiative to do so. Therefore, the reward of burial which is a concept of kavod haberiyos – human dignity – which is certainly a form of etiquette that all people understand. This difference is also reflected in the blessing they received from their father. Noach said to Yefes, יפת אלקים ליפת “may G-d expand Yefes.” The word יפת carries the connotation of beauty. Yefes is all about externals and appearances. However, the blessing to Shem was that the Divine Presence would reside in the tent of Shem. Being concerned with externals is nice but not G-dly. In order to merit the Shechina, (Divine Presence), one must act ethically and morally in public and in private. This was Shem, son of Noach, who would eventually become the progenitor of the greatest nation on earth. Am Yisrael.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

If you haven’t already responded to the request for information for our Aliyah card and yahrzeit databases, please send your response to Steve Schwartz as soon as possible. Copies of the form are available in the information rack in our lobby. Thanks in advance for your kind cooperation.

Classes and Upcoming Events
• Ladies Tehilim Group – Mondays at 10:30AM in the Beis Midrash.
• Wednesday, December 14, 2016 – Lecture by Dr. Hillel Abramson at 8:00PM.
• Wednesday, December 21, 2016 – Lecture by David Nissanov at 8:00PM.
• Father and Child will start next Motzei Shabbos at 7:00PM.
If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.

The flowers in the sanctuary have been donated by Mindy and Shelly Weisel in honor of their grandson Sammy Courtney's Bar Mitzvah.

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by Tova and Stuart Courtney in honor of their grandson Sammy Courtney's Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal tov to Dani and Sarita Smith on the birth of their granddaughter, Michal.

Mazel tov to Louise & Harvey Wolinetz on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Hannah Rothner of Skokie, Illinois. Mazal tov to parents Jennie & Avi Rothner.

Mazal tov to Martin & Susan Packer on the engagement of their grandson, Jonathan Packer, to Sarah Struhl of Boca Raton.

Mazal tov to Brian & Amy Perry on the birth of a baby boy.

Mazal tov to Minnie Schraga on the Bar Mitzvah of her great grandson, Chaim Dov. Mazal Tov to the Great Uncle Shopsie Schraga.

Mazal Tov to Charles & Seryl Kushner on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandsons Benjamin and Max Orbach, Mazal Tov to their parents David & Dara Orbach.

Our deep thanks and gratitude to Alex and Katerina Berkovitch for their generous additional donation of $72,000 to our New Building Fund, bringing their total donation to $158,000. Yasher Koach!

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

Father and Child learning this week during a special Seudah Shlishis upstairs. There will be learning, ice cream, and prizes!!!

All youth can once again turn in their tickets they received for their wonderful participation for great prizes!

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

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, מzionו של משה 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.).

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.