Shabbos Mevarchim Chodesh Iyar – Rosh Chodesh will be Sun & Mon

והל כל החרס אשר יפול מהם אל חך כל החרס כל אשר בתוכו יטמא ואתו תשברו

“All earthen vessels into which something contaminated falls, all that is within it shall be unclean, and it must be destroyed.”

Vayikra (11:33)

The Halacha is that vessels made of wood and metal can become unclean if some contaminated item touches them externally, but an earthen vessel is considered unclean only if the contaminated item is inside the vessel, but not by external contact. The Kotzker Rebbe explained this philosophically as follows: only something of value can become contaminated. Since wood and metal have an intrinsic value, any contact with tumah (impurity) can contaminate them. However, earthenware has no intrinsic value, its value is solely the fact that it can be a receptacle to hold something from within. Therefore, the state of contamination can only come from within the vessel which is its point of value. This law contains within it a moral lesson as well. G-d created man from the dust of the earth and, as with any earthen item, man’s worth is within himself and not his externals. The common expression of how
much is he worth is antithetical to the Torah’s viewpoint of what the true value of a person is. Our society unfortunately values more what a person has than what he is. A person’s true worth is dependent on his character traits and on what he achieves spiritually in life rather than on his external acquisitions, be it fame or fortune. When the external acquisitions are used for the right purposes to enhance the values that we have developed internally, if it’s used to further the Torah’s definition of moral decency and integrity, to enhance true Jewish ideals, then you have the best of both worlds. Then the inside and the outside of a person are truly holy and worthy of G-d’s manifold blessings.

Sefer. Living Each Week

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Father & child learning will take place upstairs during Seudah Shlishit.
- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Thursday April 19, Yom Haazmaut celebration. Showing Rabbi Berel Wein’s movie: History of the Jewish People.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this week is sponsored by Lewis and Lauri Barbanel in memory of their mother Alice’s yahrzeit.

Building Fund

Please pay your Building Fund pledge as soon as possible. We would like to pay off our Building Fund loan obligation to the bank to avoid paying continued loan interest.

Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to: Yakira Navarro, Shlomo Mayer, Allen Packer, Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Minnie Schraga.

Youth Program

- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please check for weekly timing and location details.
- Any teen that would like to get more involved with advocating for Israel by being a part of a weekly Israel Advocacy meeting on Mondays or attend via Skype please email RabbiFried@YICBH.org

Yahrzeit Plaques Now Available

If you are interested in purchasing a permanent satin brass Yahrzeit Plaque for a dearly departed loved one on the newly installed automated Yahrzeit memorial displays in our main sanctuary, space is limited so please fill out the form recently emailed as well as mailed to you and return to our office, or if you have any questions, please speak to David Herman. To order plaque online please use the website www.yiplaques.com

PLANNING A SIMCHA?

In order to avoid any conflicts, please book the social hall well in advance of your simcha.
If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seudah 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.