Mevarchim Chodesh Teves
Rosh Chodesh is Next Shabbos and Sunday

They saw, behold! – a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, their camels bearing spices, balsam and lotus! Bereishis 37:25

Why does the Torah take out the time to tell me what items the caravan was carrying? Rashi explains that these merchants usually carried foul smelling substances, but G-d wanted to protect Yosef from such offensive odors so He sent with them sweet smelling spices. The question is – Yosef is suffering tremendous trauma and agony over what his brothers had done to him. What difference would it make to Yosef whether there is sweet-smelling stuff in his wagon or not? The answer is yes, it will make a difference, because he would realize that G-d is sending him a message, that despite the fact he is going through something so difficult for reasons unfathomable to him, still G-d is sending him a love letter that “I have not abandoned you and I will be with you during this most challenging period of your life and you will see that it will all be for the good.” Who knows, maybe it was this ability that Yosef could see a silver lining in his gloomy cloud that gave him the strength to persevere over all the trials and tribulations of Egypt. To know that G-d was still with him and still loves him – giving him the self-confidence and hope that in the end he
will see salvation and G-d’s master plan revealed. In life, we don’t always get to see the end game, but a Jew has to be able to still see even during times of difficulty that G-d in other ways sends us sweet smelling gifts so that we should not lose hope and realize that he is with us not only in our time of joy but in our time of pain as well.

Have an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

We proudly announce that at this year’s Annual Dinner our Shul will be celebrating our 20th anniversary and our guests of honor will be our

**Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gruenstein**
Together with all of our past presidents.

**Upcoming Scholar-In-Residence Shabbatons – Save the Dates**
December 14-15: Young Professionals Shabbaton with Rabbi Benzion Shafier
January 25-26: Scholar-In-Residence Rabbi Dr. Dovid Katz, Rav of Congregation Beth Abraham, Baltimore.
Shabbaton brochures to follow.

**Upcoming Lectures**
- Wednesday, December 19, 2018 – Rabbi Dovid Orlofsky
- Tuesday, January 8, 2019 – Rabbi Zecharia Walerstein
- Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – Rabbi Eli Mansour

As you do your end-of-year tax planning, this is the perfect opportunity to clear your statement balance and make additional end-of-year donations. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Community Chanukah party, Sunday December 9th, 2018 2:30PM-5:00PM**
2:30-4:00pm: Delicious Food & Chanukah treats catered by Yaakov Mizrachi's Elegant Catering
Special Guest Musician
Children’s Chanukah Character Show
Candle-making Workshop
4:00-5:00pm: Mentalist/Magician/Illusionist show by the famous Coby Elimelech flying in from Toronto, Canada!
Followed by Mincha, Menorah Lighting & Maariv
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Daf Yomi with Rabbi Aryeh Citron Sunday-Friday after Shacharis.
- Talmud Class by Rabbi Gruenstein, Monday-Friday 6:30AM
- Father & Child program will be at 7:00PM Saturday night. This week, Andy & Eti Bales are sponsoring Father and Child Learning Motzei Shabbos.
- Mondays 8:00PM-8:45PM – Community Learning Program with Yeshiva Toras Chaim, Toras Emes and Bais Midrash Zichron Ezra, at Young Israel (through January 14).
- Tuesdays 2:00PM-3:00PM – Weekly Character Development Workshop given by Rabbi Berel Simpser - Women only. Starts December 11th, 2018.
- Wednesdays at 8:00PM – weekly class on the book of Shmuel I for women. This week’s Shiur will be held at the home of Gloria Sterental 1361 97 St., Bay Harbor Island.
- Thursdays at 8:00PM – weekly class in Hilchos Shabbos. A user-friendly shiur in the laws of Shabbos for men and women at the Young Israel upstairs.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this week is sponsored by Aaron & Susan Weinberg in honor of many recent Weinberg family birthdays; and by Martin & Golda Jacobs commemorating the yahrzeit of Martin’s mother Tzippa bas Moshe Yaacov (Celia Jacobs).
- Welcome to Yeshiva Toras Chaim and it’s Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yisroel Yitzchak Niman.
- A warm welcome to our new member, Kim Heyman.

Building Fund

Our deep thanks and gratitude to Jay and Andrea Kestenbaum for their generous donation of $50,000 to our Building Fund. Yasher Koach

Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to: Shlomo Mayer, Allen Packer, Minnie Schraga, Shelly Lisbon, Effry Steinmetz (Ephraim ben Leah).

Youth Program

- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please contact Rabbi Fried for 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. If you have any questions, please speak to David Herman. To order a plaque online, please use the website www.yiplaques.com.
Yahrzeits December 1 – December 7, 2018

24 KISLEV  Steve Schwartz for his father, Jay Schwartz, on Sunday, Dec. 2
28 KISLEV  Martin Jacobs for his mother, Celia Jacobs, on Thursday, Dec. 6
28 KISLEV  Jack Benishai for his mother, Bella Benishai, on Thursday, Dec. 6
29 KISLEV  Jerry Gontownik for his father, Avraham Gontownik, on Friday, Dec. 7

Please report any errors or omissions to the Young Israel office or email stevenbarryschwartz@gmail.com

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A SIMCHA...
Please note that all members or non-members planning to use our social hall for a private lunch on Shabbat or Yom Tov at the Young Israel will be able to have their private affair ONLY after our Congregants have finished their regular Shabbat or Yom Tov Kiddush in the FULL Social Hall. Reservations for a Simcha, by members or non-members, will be on a first come basis and the date will be finalized once the deposit is provided. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

Governor elect Ron DeSantis and Lt. Gov. elect Jeanette Nunez chose to make their first official visit since winning the election with Teach Florida and Brauer Maimonides Academy. In a roundtable discussion after an inspiring tour of BMA, DeSantis stressed his strong support for expanding school choice programs, tax credit scholarships and continued school security funding. Continue to impress our elected officials with our unity by attending Teach Florida’s legislative breakfast January 13th. Register at www.teachadvocacy.org/florida/breakfast or email teachflorida@teachcoalition.org to get involved.

E-mail communication
When you e-mail the office please make sure your e-mail is to yakira@yicbh.org NOT yibh.org
The e-mail for Florence, our receptionist/secretary, is florence@yicbh.org

If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seudah Shlishis, please contact Yakira at (305) 866-0203 or Max Dekelbaum (240) 832-5054

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