Shabbos Chanukah / Shabbos Mevarchim
Rosh Chodesh Teves Monday & Tuesday

ויען את פרעה לאמר בלעדי אלוקים יענה את שלום פרעה

“Yosef Answered Pharaoh saying, it is beyond me; it is G-d who will respond to Pharaoh’s welfare.” Bereishis 41:16

The Torah is telling us that before Yosef answered Pharaoh’s question about his dream, he asserted that he deserved no credit for giving an interpretation. “It is beyond me (said Yosef), it is G-d who will respond to Pharaoh’s welfare.” The Midrash comments that he gave credit to the true master. It has always been the practice of righteous Jews not to attribute their accomplishments to themselves. This behavior is found in the miracle of Chanukah itself. The Chashmonaim are portrayed as mighty warriors who fearlessly fought the Syrian Greek armies and led the Jewish people to victory. They displayed great courage and heroism. Yet in the wording of the Al Hanisim prayer, a different picture emerges. “You, G-d, delivered the mighty into the hands of the weak.” Chashmonaim openly admitted that they were weak people, Kohanim who weren’t experienced in the ways of war.

SHMOOZE NEWS
Parshas Miketz, December 16, 2017
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein – rabbi@yicbh.org
President Menno Ratzker

The weekly Shmooze News is dedicated by:
Jack and Susan Gluck in memory of Milton & Edith Gluck z”l and Nicholas Brecher z”l;
Stuart Harris in honor of Penny Harris; and
Aaron and Susan Weinberg in memory of Jack & Helen Weinberg z”l and
Morris & Nellie Fischer z”l.
Their great heroics are downplayed by the phrase, “You delivered the mighty into the hands of the weak.” The righteous Chashmonaim honestly gave credit where it was due -- to G-d. It was not their strength or mighty tactics that brought about victory, but it was the hand of G-d that orchestrated the miracle; they were merely the players chosen to bring about the salvation of the Jewish people. This idea is also mentioned in the words of Zechariah, the prophet in the Haftorah for Shabbos Chanukah: “Not through armies and not through might, but through my spirit, says G-d master of legions.”

Sefer- Ateres Avraham

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

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.

This Year's Annual Young Israel Gala Dinner...

We are proud to announce that our Distinguished Honorees for this year's Annual Dinner will be:

HELEN AND MENNO RATZKER

and that our dinner chairman will be Meir Cosiol

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2018
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Father & Child learning on Motzei Shabbos starting at 7:00PM with pizza and special prizes!
- Mondays 8:00PM-9:00PM – Beis Midrash learning with Yeshivah Toras Chaim. 30 young Talmudic scholars will be available to learn with anyone in our community.
- Sunday, December 17, 4pm – Festive Chanukah party for ONE and ALL – children, parents and grandparents. Great food and music, and entertainment by a world class hypnotist.
- Wednesday December 20, 8:00-9:00PM, class with Rabbi Eli Reisel, every other Wednesday. Intellectual conversation on topics of the Talmud.
- Lunch & Learn by Rabbi Gruenstein will begin Monday, December 25, 2017, 11:30AM.
- Shabbos, December 22-23, 2017 – NCSY Shabbaton and Young Israel Acapella Shabbos.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Martin & Golda Jacobs commemorating the yahrzeit of Martin’s mother, Celia Jacobs z”l.
- Early Minyan Kiddush sponsored by Marvin Rubner commemorating the yahrzeit of his father-in-law, Pinchas Aryeh ben Yaakov Krakovitz z”l.
- Seudah Shlishis last Shabbos was cosponsored by Jeff & Cathy Weiss, commemorating the yahrzeit of his mother, Magdalina Weiss z”l; and by Leon Brum, commemorating the yahrzeit of his mother Elka Bat Aryea z”l.

Building Fund

Our deep thanks and gratitude to Steven and Linda Storch for their generous donation to our new Building Fund of $61,000. Yasher Koach.

Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to: Allen Packer, Alexander ben Esther Raizel; Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Shimon ben Blima; Minnie Schraga; Shlomo Mayer, Shlomo Yisroel ben Sarah.

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
SAVE THE DATES

- January 12-13: Our first community-wide Shabbaton with dinner Friday night. Scholar-in-Residence Mr. Richard Joel, President of Yeshiva University 2003-2017 and former President and International Director of the Hillel Foundation.
- February 2-3: Community-wide Shabbaton with Rabbi Zev Goldberg.

SPONSORS WELCOME FOR BOTH SHABBATONS.
PROGRAM & RESERVATION INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Lectures

- Wednesday January 3, 8:00PM we will be hosting a special guest speaker, the noted Rabbi Aaron Rakeffet-Rothkoff from Gruss Kollel in Jerusalem. His topic will be “Words in Conflict: Liberalism versus Tradition on the Contemporary Israeli Scene.” Please join us for a most inspiring evening.
- Tuesday January 9, 2018, 8:00PM – Lecture by Michal Horowitz.
- Wednesday January 17, 2018, 8:00PM – Lecture by Rabbi Eli Mansour.
- Wednesday January 24, 2018, 8:00PM – Lecture by Rabbi Zecharya Walzerstein.
- Monday February 19, 2018 8:00PM – Lecture by Dr. David Pelkowitz.

Lighting Chanukah Candles on Erev Shabbos

On Erev Shabbos one lights the Chanukah candles before Shabbos candles, and then it has to burn for a half hour after ו니다ו נא וידוי נא (when three medium stars appear). Therefore, one must make sure that there is enough oil to burn for about 1½ hours. If you are using candles, then they should be large candles (like Shabbos candles) that can burn the required amount of time. As long as at least one candle stays lit the required amount of time, you have fulfilled your obligation. On Saturday night, there are different opinions as to whether you do Havdalah first or Chanukah lights. The reason to do Havdalah first is the principle of הידוי והידוי והידוי (that means, in selecting the sequence of two Mitzvos, the more frequent is performed first.) Others say Chanukah lights come first because of הנן הנן הנן (publicizing the miracle). Whatever your custom is, that’s fine. However, if one does not have a specific minhag (custom), then one should perform Havdalah first and then Chanukah lights.

Let us remember that the Mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah Menorah is so great that even a poor person who is dependent on charity in order to survive is still required to borrow money or sell the shirt off his back in order to fulfill this mitzvah. This is something one would not be required to do for most other positive commands even if it is biblical – so great is the mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah Menorah.
Next Shabbos, Dec 22-23, will be a special Young Israel Acapella Shabbos. Steve Schwartz and the Miami Shabbat-Tones will lead a Carlebach-style Kabbalas Shabbos after the 5:20pm Mincha, and will also lead a ruach and song-filled Shacharis and Mussaf on Shabbos morning starting at 9:00AM. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the singing and ruach! The Miami Shabbat-Tones will also sing during Kiddush.

Miami Shabbat-Tones and Kiddush sponsored by Stephanie & David Schwartz and Mali & Steve Schwartz.

Don’t worry – the davening won’t take so long...
Cordially invites all Women to

A Chanukah Rosh Chodesh Luncheon

Monday, December 18
11:30AM
At Young Israel
9580 Abbott Ave.
Surfside, FL 33154

Surprise Guest Speaker

Lavish lunch will be served!
Young Israel Congregation invites all women to a special in-depth weekly learning program beginning Thursday December 28, 2017

Time: Every Thursday morning 10:00am-12:00pm (break in between) at YIBH 9580 Abbott Avenue.

Lecturer: Rebbetzin Rucha Baumann

**Topic Shiur I**
Anticipating the Redemption through the Words of Yeshaya HaNavi

**Shiur II:**
How to Power Up Our Prayers in a Meaningful Way.
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.