Yaakov was left alone and a man fought with him…. Bereishis 32:35

Our sages tell us that this fight was actually a battle of good against evil. It was Yaakov, the father of the 12 tribes, against the angel of Eisav, which in reality represents the Yetzer Horah – the evil inclination that is sent to push our buttons, causing us to sin, to fall, and to stumble spiritually. However, hidden in the words of this verse is a keen insight into how the Yetzer Horah works. The verse says Yaakov was left alone. When a person feels that he or she is alone, when they feel no one cares, no one to connect with, that creates a state of vulnerability, a sense of sadness and depression which is the most fertile ground for the angel of Eisav to do his dirty work. When a person feels alone, when they don’t feel loved, they are most susceptible to transgression, to negative behavior and just plain sadness. And when a person is not happy in life, that is the root cause of most of his issues. Sadness and the feeling of abandonment is the gateway to all sin. This concept is especially true in family life when dealing with our children. Of course, all parents love their children but sometimes that love does not register on their radar, and perception is reality. If a child feels alone, not understood and not happy, he or she will seek so-called...
“happiness” in greener pastures – i.e. bad friends, alcohol or drugs. This is an oversimplification of the problem but there is no question when a child feels loved and supported at home, that equals happiness and contentment and they are much less likely to get into trouble. Being or feeling alone is a very painful existence. Whatever we can do as parents, grandparents and as people in our community to lighten the burden of those who feel alone – whether it’s with a helping hand, a phone call or a good word – this goes a long way in helping someone feel that they are a somebody and that they matter. Giving someone a sense of self-worth and encouragement is giving them life and what greater gift can there be than that.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

Please join us for a Siyum commemorating the Shloshim for Ethelyn Lieblich a’h
A woman who connected to everyone, inspired all and lived life with simcha.
Siyum Thursday, December 7, 7:30pm
Young Israel of Bal Harbour

SAVETHE DATES

- December 17 at 4pm: Festive Chanukah party for ONE and ALL – children, parents and grandparents. Great food and music, and entertainment by a world class hypnotist.
- 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.

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

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

Search for Young Israel of Bal Harbour
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.
- Starting Wednesday December 6, 8:00PM-9:00PM, Class with Rabbi Eli Reisel, every other Wednesday. Intellectual conversation on topics of the Talmud.
- Shabbos December 8-9 – Young Couples Shabbaton. Guest lecturer Rabbi Jonathan Rieti. Please make your reservations for the Shabbat dinner ASAP.
- Lunch and Learn will begin December 18, 2017, 11:30AM
- NCSY Shabbaton, December 22-23 2017

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush is sponsored by the Stefanie & Jeff Ratzker in honor of their son Kyle’s Bar Mitzvah. Mazel Tov to Stefanie & Jeff Ratzker. Mazel Tov to the grandparents Menno & Helen Ratzker, Norman & Jane Schwartz and Sam & Jill Capon.
- This week’s Early Minyan kiddush is sponsored by Ari and Cheryl Pearl to commemorate the yahrzeit of Harry E. Pearl אליישר בồng זכרו
- Welcome to our new members Rodrigo & Rachel Slelatt.

Building Fund

Our deep thanks and gratitude to The Packer Family Foundation for their additional donation to our new building fund of $18,000 bringing their total donation to $205,000. 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

- Father & Child learning will take place on Motzei Shabbos at 7pm with Pizza and special Prizes! A special thank you goes out to Max Dekelbaum as well as to the last three weeks of sponsors The Lowensohn Family, Citron Family and Benveniste Family.
- 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

YOUNG ISRAEL 2018 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 2017 Young Israel Membership Directory and send any corrections to Steve Schwartz at stevenbarrystewart@gmail.com or call him at 973-493-1209 by Dec 12, 2017. Thank you to all those who have already responded.
**Yahrzeits Dec. 2-Dec. 8, 2017**

15 Kislev  
Lois Rosengarten for her father, Jack Fishman, on Sunday, Dec. 3

15 Kislev  
Roselyn Weitzner for her mother, Lilly Heller, on Sunday, Dec. 3

16 Kislev  
Paul Bermanski for his father, Yisrael Yitzchak Bermanski, on Monday, Dec. 4

16 Kislev  
Robert Geula for her father, Jack Kono, on Monday, Dec. 4

16 Kislev  
Rhoda Lipton for her father, Eli Zukerman, on Monday, Dec. 4

17 Kislev  
Murray Laulicht for his father, Abraham Chaskell Goldwasser, on Tuesday, Dec. 5

18 Kislev  
Carol Strickoff for her mother, Rochel bat Yehuda Yitzchak, on Wednesday, Dec. 6

18 Kislev  
Jeff Weiss for his mother, Magdalina Weiss, on Wednesday, Dec. 6

19 Kislev  
Oded Ben-Arie for his mother, Rivka Yaakov, on Thursday, Dec. 7

20 Kislev  
Alfredo Frohlich for his mother, Elli Frohlich, on Friday, Dec. 8

20 Kislev  
Lois Rosengarten for her grandmother, Sarah Leah Dworkin, on Friday, Dec. 8

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

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**Support our Shul with Amazon Smile**

When you shop on Amazon through the program called Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchases can be donated to the Shul. Please visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and sign up your amazon account with Young Israel Congregation (National Council of Young Israel – Surfside). Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Young Israel every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Shul. Click here to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and begin supporting the shul.

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**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

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**Community notice**

Motion activated lights were installed in the pedestrian crosswalk at Collins Avenue and 99th Street. Use of this crosswalk should be avoided on Shabbos and Yom Tov as the lights are motion activated and are turned on as pedestrians cross Collins Avenue.

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**ATTENTION ALL MEN!**

Please do not walk behind the 2 ladies’ sections during services.
Please use side doors to enter and exit Sanctuary after 10:00 AM.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seudah Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.

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