Make the work much harder for the men and get them not to speak falsities (saying words of vanity and nonsense) Shmos 5:9

Rav Moshe Chaim Luzzato, the Ramchal, writes in his famous work Mesilas Yesharim (Path of the Just) that there was a devious plan behind Paroh’s decree – to keep the Jewish people so busy making bricks that they wouldn’t have time to think about anything else including, of course, thoughts of emancipation. In the writings of our sages, Paroh represents the Yetzer Hara (evil inclination). Paroh is a contraction of two words פה רע (evil mouth). That evil mouth and mind is always devising ways and methods to keep us busy and preoccupied with everything under the sun so we shouldn’t have time to think about the one thing in the word that really counts – that is, am I doing what G-d wants me to do in this world? Am I fulfilling my potential and mission in life, or am I just busy day and night on my smart phone, iPhone, e-mail, Facebooking (if there is such a word) and texting? The Yetzer Hara just wants us to be busy with everything in the world except what’s really important: my spouse, my children, and my spirituality. Do I need to reevaluate and see where I need correction and guidance in life? For the Yetzer Hara knows that even a small amount of reflection and a little contemplation can cause a person to make significant positive changes in his or her life.
life. We learn from Paroh the tricks of the evil inclination of how he ensnares us into our own personal slavery and we must learn from our Rabbis and great sages how to combat his devious ways and bring true freedom and emancipation to our lives. As our Rabbis tell us in Pirkei Avos the verse in Exodus 32:16 states “The tablets are G-d’s handwriting and the script was charus (engraved) on the tablets.” Says Pirkei Avos, do not read “Charus” (engraved) but rather read it as “Cherus” (freedom) for you can have no freer man than the one who is attached to Torah.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

Lectures
- 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 Zechariah Walerstein.
- Monday February 19, 2018 8:00PM – Lecture by Dr. David Pelkowitz.

Upcoming Scholar-in-Residence Shabbatons
- January 12-13: Community-wide Shabbaton with dinner Friday night. Scholar-in-Residence Mr. Richard Joel, former President of Yeshiva University 2003-2017 and former President and International Director of the Hillel Foundation. Flyer with program and dinner reservation information has been sent out. Please reserve by Mon Jan 8.
- February 2-3: Community-wide Shabbaton – save the date! More info to follow…

SPONSORS WELCOME FOR BOTH SHABBATONS.

This Year's Annual Young Israel Gala Dinner will be on
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2018
at 6:00PM in our beautiful social hall.
Our Distinguished Honorees are
HELEN AND MENNO RATZKER
Invitations have been mailed!
This is our major fundraiser of the year – please respond generously by becoming a Sponsor or Benefactor!
Congregational Family and Shul News

Kiddush this Shabbos is co-sponsored: by Aaron & Susan Weinberg in honor of their new grandson and new granddaughter; and by Jacob & Julie Schorr commemorating the yahrzeit of Julie’s mother, Renée Bohm, וְרֶנֶּぇָ וֹתֶָּו מְשֶָָעִוָּאוּל. Early Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by Rabbi Aryeh & Channy Citron in memory of Channy’s grandmother, Rosa bas Shmuel Menachem Mendel z”l; and Aryeh’s grandmother Esther Bas Aryeh z”l.

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

Classes and Upcoming Events

- Father & Child learning on Motzei Shabbos starting at 7:00PM with pizza and special prizes.
- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Mondays at 11:30AM – Lunch & Learn by Rabbi Gruenstein. This week’s Lunch & Learn is sponsored by Miriam & Heshie Greenblatt in memory of Miriam’s mother Pola bas Yosef z”l.
- Mondays 8:00PM-9:00PM – Beis Midrash learning with Yeshivah Torahos Chaim. 30 young Talmudic scholars will be available to learn with anyone in our community.
- Wednesday January 17, 8:00-9:00PM, class with Rabbi Eli Reisel, every other Wednesday. Intellectual conversation on topics of the Talmud.
- Thursdays 10:00AM-12:00PM – women’s class with Rebbetzin Baumann.

The 2018 Young Israel Membership Directory is available for pickup from the Young Israel office. Or you can email the office and request a pdf version.

PLANNING A SIMCHA?

In order to avoid any conflicts, and if possible, please book the social hall well in advance of your simcha.

The Refuah Fund of The Young Israel Congregation has been established and is in need of additional contributions. The purpose of the Refuah Fund is to assist members with meals during their stressful period of recovery. For more information please contact Susan Gluck or Susan Packer.
If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seudah Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.

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.

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

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 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, 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 and begin supporting the shul.

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

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.

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