Shabbos Chazon

As we approach the mournful day of Tisha B’av, there is certainly a lot to mourn about. The destruction of our temple close to 2,000 years ago was a watershed event for all future tragedies of the Jewish people. From there we have gone through many exiles, pogroms, and persecutions culminating with the tragedy of tragedies, the Holocaust. And, unfortunately, it has not abated. So, yes, we are still in mourning. We also mourn and reflect on the total lack of moral clarity that exists in the world today. A world which, shame on them, can say Israel and Hamas in the same breath and hold them both equally culpable. Has the world gone mad? Can’t they see the obvious difference between good and evil, right and wrong, aggression and self-defense, terrorism and self-preservation? This is what happens in a world where G-d’s presence is hidden. No matter how clearly obvious who the villain is, the world is blind. Unfortunately, this is nothing new, for the Jewish people have been experiencing this for the past two thousand years. But with all that, we are eternal optimists – if not, we wouldn’t be here today. We follow in the footsteps of the great sage, Rabbi Akiva. The holy Rabbi Akiva, who died a martyr’s death, always had a positive outlook on life no matter how grim it appeared. The greatest example of this is a famous story in the Talmud at the end of tractate Makkos where Rabbi Akiva,
Rabbi Gamliel, Rabbi Azarya and Rabbi Yehoshua were once walking towards Jerusalem. When they came to the Temple Mount they saw a fox emerging from what used to be the Holy of Holies. All the Rabbis started to weep except Rabbi Akiva, who laughed. They said to him, "Rabbi Akiva, why are you laughing?" And he responded, "why are you crying?" They said to him a fox is walking around in what was once the holiest place on earth (I am paraphrasing) and we shouldn’t cry? Said Rabbi Akiva, "this is exactly why I am smiling, for now that I see that the prophecy of destruction has been fulfilled, there is no question that the prophecy of redemption will be fulfilled." Thereupon they said to him “Akiva, Nechamtanu (you have comforted us).” So we the Jewish people echo the feeling of Rabbi Akiva, that as painful and tragic as things are today we know that one day the joy and redemption will be so great as to overshadow all the tragedies of the past 2,000 years. Please, G-d, we don’t know how much more we can take. Nachamu Nachamu Ami – may You bring comfort to your children, may You soon wipe away the tears from the faces of the Jewish people and bring us the redemption we so long for, speedily in our days.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SHABBOS KIDDUSH SPONSORS
We are now in the “slower summer season” for getting Kiddush sponsors. We are therefore asking our members and friends to sponsor a Kiddush over the summer months in commemoration of special family occasions (anniversaries, birthdays, yahrzeits, etc.) or just as a gesture of support to our shul. We thank all for your support of this wonderful Young Israel tradition.

Search for Young Israel of Bal Harbour
Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this week is sponsored anonymously.
- Seudah Shlishis this week is sponsored by Susan and Aaron Weinberg, commemorating the yahrzeit of Susan's father, Morris Fischer, Moshe Ben Aryeh z"l.
- Mazal Tov to Miriam & Morty Kriger on the birth of a great grandson, Chaim Yisroel, born to Etti and Zevi Goldstein
- Mazal Tov to Rabbi Moshe & Rena Gruenstein on the engagement of their daughter Rivki Bracha to Baruch Shlomo Rodkin from Far Rockaway, New York.

Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to:
- Allen Packer, Alexander ben Esther Raizel.
- Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Shimon ben Blima.

We ask everyone to please review the statements that have been sent out recently, including the notices for membership renewal and High Holiday seat reservations. We ask all those with balances due, to please clear your accounts as soon as possible, while also renewing membership and ordering High Holiday seats. Please note that membership rates for High Holiday Seats are only available to members who have cleared their accounts for the shul fiscal year ending July 31. If you have any questions, please contact the office at your earliest convenience. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yizkor Book

We recently mailed the forms for our Yizkor Book. Please send us the names of your loved ones to be listed in the Yizkor Book as soon as possible. You can pay through our website via PayPal, call the office with a credit card or send a check.
Support our Shul with AmazonSmile
When you shop on Amazon through the program called AmazonSmile, 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). AmazonSmile 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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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 new receptionist/secretary, is florence@yicbh.org

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.

If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda 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.