Parshas Parah

The Torah at this point is discussing one of the most tragic events in Jewish history: the sin of the golden calf. It’s beyond human comprehension how the Jewish people could fall so precipitously from the highest of spiritual heights -- after seeing so many miracles and hearing the voice of G-d -- to the lowest of lows and sinning with the golden calf. The answer as to how this can happen can be found in the Midrash which Rashi brings. The Midrash states that when Moshe did not return at the moment they expected, the Jewish people started to worry that something happened to their great leader. Then Satan fooled them and conjured up a vision of the body of Moshe Rabbeinu floating in the air, seemingly dead. The Jewish people panicked, became confused and depressed. In this emotional state, a person can be vulnerable to radical degeneration. This may be over-simplified but it is the answer to our question. How could the Jewish people fall from such greatness so quickly? When a person is in a state...
of sadness and despondency, anything can happen, and at such a time a person would be well advised not to make any important decisions until the somber mood has been lifted. The credo of living life b’simcha (joy) is not only a healthy one, but it is the only way a person can make proper life decisions, for in state of melancholy one’s perspective is so altered that it can lead to dangerous situations very quickly. It is not a coincidence that Parashas Ki Sisa follows Purim, our greatest day of simcha. For it is through joy, a positive and confident attitude in life, that we get the strength to navigate the challenges we all face. We hope and pray that the Almighty infuse us with this elixir of life called simcha. As we say in Havdalah every Saturday night (which is taken from Megilas Esther) ליהודים היתה אורה ושמחה וששון ויקר, "for the Jews there was light, happiness, joy and honor." So may it be for us.

Wishing you an inspirational Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

Thank you – Purim

Our beautiful annual Purim traditions – Mishloach Manot and Purim Seuda – were wonderfully successful, thanks to the effort of many, many people who graciously gave of their time: Joseph and our incredible security team, Stefanie Ratzker and family (co-chair), Jana Banin and family (co-chair), Jerome Hoyes, Belinda Zaret and family, Jessica Courtney, Shelly and Eddie Senker, Laura Hershman and family, Sarah Cook and family, Tammi Benveniste Plitt, Ianna and Jack Sterenfeld and family, Miriam Greenblatt, Joey Senker and family, Shir and family, Dovie and Tracy Spitz, Elana Szafranski, Max and Ginette Dekelbaum, Stephanie and David Schwartz, Tammi Attias, Greta Hirmes, Weinberg Family, Jane Sabet, Mimi Rose, Herssein family, Jade Lustig.

Friday night Dinner (Shabbos Hagadol)
Friday April 7 after davening
Cost: Member adult $75, Child $36
Non-Member adult $85, Child $40
Please RSVP to the Shul’s office

Pesach First Seder
Monday night, April 10 after davening
Cost: Member adult: $150, Child $75
Non-Member adult: $175, Child $90
Rabbi Gruenstein will be leading the Seder
Please RSVP to the Shul’s office
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Thursdays at 8:00PM – Beis Midrash Night.
- Wednesday, March 22 at 8:00PM – Lecture by Alan M. Dershowitz.
- Sunday, March 26 at 3:00PM – Hachnasat Sefer Torah by Yoram & Yleana Izhak in memory of Yoram’s father Chezkel ben Moshe Izhak z”l.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Jacobo & Tammy Wengrowsky in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Sofia Wengrowsky.
- This week’s Hashkama minyan Kiddush is sponsored by Rabbi Aryeh & Chani Citron in memory of their grandparents.
- Seuda Shlishit is sponsored by Menno & Helen Ratzker commemorating the yahrzeit of Menno’s father Shimon Zev ben Hagoan Harav Moshe Chaim z”l.
- Mazal Tov to Rabbi Simeon and Rose Schreiber on the engagement of Rabbi Schreiber’s grandson Alex Lev to Daniela Fishoff of California.
- Welcome New Members: Jeffrey & Gabriella Gut, Nachum & Dena Aber, David & Sharon Rauch, Sam & Debra Newborn, Steven & Linda Storch.

Youth Program - rabbifried@yicbh.org

- Father and Child learning will take place during Seuda Shlishit with delicious treats and prizes!
- Any teen that would like to get more involved with advocating for Israel by being a part of a weekly Skype session and or attend a Shabbaton and the AIPAC conference in Washington DC please email RabbiFried@YICBH.org
- Pre-Pesach scavenger hunt for all Middle School Students (6th, 7th and 8th graders) on April 2nd. Please see flyer for details.
- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please contact Rabbi Fried for timing and location details.
- There will be a Middle School Shabbaton for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders April 28-29. Please see flyer for details.
- End of the school year High School Shabbaton May 12-13. Please see flyer for details.
ATTENTION ALL MEN!

Please do not walk behind the 2 ladies’ sections during services.
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.