They arose early the next day and offered up Olah offerings and brought Peace offerings. The people sat to eat and drink, and they got up to revel." Shmos 32:6

The Talmud Yerushalmi sees the sin of the golden calf as a classic illustration of the power of the yetzer hara (evil inclination). When it comes to the Mishkan, the Torah says כולם MatTableוכלו וגו, “only those who were generous gave donations.” However, when it came to the golden calf, everyone donated – even those who by nature were not generous. Regarding Mitzvos, only the zealous rise early, as it says ויבחרת בברך רישם, “Avraham rose early in the morning.” However, here by the golden calf, the people rose up early – everyone was eager to be involved in immoral behavior! The evil inclination works with passion while the good inclination is chilled. This is an everyday occurrence. How often do we rush to say things we later regret, or do things we should not do. Later, when we are calmer, we reflect on what happened and think to ourselves, "whatever possessed me to say that? Why in the world did I do that?" The answer is the yetzer hara is very powerful – full of passion and zeal – he gets us discombobulated, and without thinking, we say...
Young Israel Congregation
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or do things which in the end get us into a lot of trouble. What can we do to prevent this from happening? King Solomon said "with strategies make war" (Mishlei 20:8). This refers to our lifelong battle with our evil inclination. To prevail over the yetzer hara, we need effective strategies. The story is told about a great rabbi who was concerned that the trait of anger would get the better of him when he had to deal with his children's misbehavior. So, he had a jacket which he called his "anger jacket", and the rule was he could not get angry till he put on the jacket. Whenever his children would get out of hand and really start to push his buttons, he would say. "OK, I am getting out my anger jacket." During the minute or two, as he would get his jacket, he had time to calm down and, of course, see the ridiculousness of needing a special jacket to get angry, and in this way he would not discipline his children through a knee jerk reaction or in a fit of anger. The point here is not that we should all have anger jackets, but that in order for a person to change bad habits, in order for a person to correct lifelong character flaws, one must come up with strategies that can thwart the yetzer hara. For as we know, it is much easier and pleasurable to make a golden calf than to break the golden calf within us.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

Thank you to all our families who participated in this year's Purim holiday drive! Special gratitude to the many amazing women who joined us to help create Mishloach Manot for our community, decorate and set up our Purim Seuda. We appreciate all the support to help make this happen for our Shul. Special thank you to the chair Tami Benveniste-Plitt and Bianca Senker for all the hard work and logistics that made our Purim amazing. Thank you to the committee members Jessica Courtney, Stefanie Ratzker, Jana Banin, Aaron and Susan Weinberg, Greta Hirmes, Miriam Weiner, Laura Hershman, Stephanie Schwartz, Renee Levine, Tali Berner, and Debbie Newborn.

Thanks to Rabbi Avi Fried for organizing the youth activities for Purim, Joseph Barrington and Yakira Navarro who worked hard to make it all happen, and Florence who made sure everything went well with reservations. We could have not done it without the amazing team effort.

PLANNING A SIMCHA?
In order to avoid any conflicts, please book the social hall well in advance of your simcha.
Congregational Family and Shul News
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Classes and Upcoming Events

- Father & Child learning on Motzei Shabbos starting at 7:15PM with pizza and special prizes.
- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash – Resume Monday March 12, 2018
- 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.
- Thursdays 10:00AM-12:00PM – Women’s class with Rebbetzin Baumann – LAST CLASS

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this week is sponsored by Dr. Ronald and Rachel Benveniste is honor of Ronald’s father, Jack Benveniste’s birthday
- This week’s early minyan Kiddush is sponsored anonymously in honor of the Rabbis, Gabbaim and staff of the shul
- Mazal Tov to Laurie & Bernard Hasten on the birth of their granddaughter and to Linda & Murray Lautlicht on the birth of their great granddaughter, Rae Olivia Jonas. Mazal Tov to parents Samantha & Yoni Jonas, to grandparents Debbie & Howard Jonas, and to all of the members of their extended families.

Building Fund

Please pay your Building Fund pledge as soon as possible. We would like to pay off our Building Fund loan obligation to the bank to avoid paying continued loan interest.

Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to: Allen Packer, Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Minnie Schraga, Shlomo Mayer, Miriam Greenblatt.

Youth Program

- 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
- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please contact Rabbi Fried for timing and location details.
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.