"The wicked son - what does he say? What is this service to you! Therefore, blunt his teeth" (Shmos 12:26)

The four sons described in the Haggadah seem to represent four different personality types. We would expect their questions and answers to differ widely from each other. Yet, upon further examination, we notice perplexing similarities. First, the wicked son's question closely resembles that of the wise son: “what are the testimonies, decrees, and ordinances which our G-d has commanded you?” Furthermore, the father's response to the wicked son is identical to that of the son who is unable to ask: “It is because of this that G-d did so for me...” Finally, why do we respond at all to the wicked son? Doesn't answering his question lend it credibility by implying it is worthy of a response? These questions can be answered by referring to a Rambam in the Laws of Divorce (Hilchos Gerushin 2:20). The Rambam, while explaining the law of a husband who refuses to give his wife a get גט, says we force him to give it. Even though a forced גט is invalid, explains the Rambam, this is called giving it willingly, because deep down every Jew wants to do what G-d wants, but his evil inclination overpowers him. Therefore in the case of divorce, when we beat him, his evil inclination weakens and allows him to give the divorce willingly. The Rambam is revealing to us a very profound lesson: that every
Jew, even while mired in depravity, still has a subconscious desire to fulfill G-d's will and lead a virtuous life. In fact, this is considered his true desire even when he outwardly rejects it, since it is the Yetzer Hara repressing his true nature. On this basic level, even the wicked son has a deep-seated drive to serve G-d. His very question, in its similarity to the wise son's query, reveals his desire to understand G-d's Torah. However, his choice of words “to you” indicates his arrogant denial is motivated by a desire to justify his self-gratification. His father is therefore obligated to rebuke him harshly (“blunt his teeth”). Now that the son is unencumbered by his evil inclination, he is not very far removed from the son who is unable to ask. This explains the similarity in our responses to them. After our rebuke, the wicked son is receptive to our words. It is now possible for the father to teach him Torah. We are required to appreciate all Jews for their potential greatness. It is forbidden to “write off” any Jew, even if his actions cause him to be labeled “wicked”. The Haggadah’s four sons teach us that we must care for every member of the Jewish nation and do our utmost to illuminate their lives with the light of Torah.

Wishing Shabbat Shalom and an inspiring and sweet Pesach!!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein
**Congregational Family and Shul News**

- Welcome to our new members, AJ & Ricky Shechtel.

**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.

**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

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**SPECIAL BAL HARBOUR**

**SHABBAT CHAZZANUT**

In memory of Alice Barbanel (A”H) On Her Fourth Yahrtzeit

_April 13th & 14th_

_Friday Night Dinner_ with the Chazzanim and Choir featuring Shabbat, Cantorial, Yiddish and Chassidic Songs.

- _Adult (13 and up)_ $75 per person
- _Children (5 to 12)_ $36 per person

To reserve please call the shul office.

**Featuring**

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  The Great Synagogue of Ramat Gan, Israel
- **Chazzan Shimmy Miller**
  Congregation Bais Naftoli, Los Angeles, CA.
- **And Ben Zion Miller’s Young Israel Beth-El Choir**
  Brooklyn, New York

The Chazzanim and choir will lead davening on Friday evening and Saturday morning in the main sanctuary and will also be singing at Shabbat dinner.

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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.

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