Mazal Tov to Bennet Szafranski on his Bar Mitzvah

“You shall count for yourselves from the morrow of this festival (Pesach)… Seven complete Shabbosos (weeks); until the morrow after the seventh Shabbos ”week" you shall count fifty days.” Vayikra 23:15-16

The Mitzvah of counting the Omer is observed from the 2nd day of Pesach until Shavuos. We begin by saying, “today is the first day of the Omer” and so on until the 49th day. When we think of the Exodus and all the miracles that took place, we may lose sight of the greatest miracle of all, which was that we left Egypt on the 49th level of tumah (spiritual impurity) and in 49 days we reached the 49th level of tahara (spiritual purity) which is the greatest level a human being can attain. How did that happen? The answer is the secret behind the mitzvah of counting the Omer, where we count one day at a time. We develop spirituality by addressing one’s defects and blemishes one day at a time. The Torah is telling us that greatness can be achieved one step at a time in
manageable morsels. In commanding this mitzvah, the Torah stipulates that this is a mitzvah for all generations because today, no less than it was at the time of the Exodus, the formula for success is taking it one day at a time. The yetzer hara (evil inclination) tries to discourage us from achieving spirituality by magnifying the obstacles we must overcome. Our answer to the yetzer hara must be, “I am not concerned with the challenge of a lifetime. I have only today to worry about today, and just for today I can live up to the high standards of what the Torah demands from me.” While the mitzvah of counting the Omer is restricted to the period between Pesach and Shavuos, the principle of living one day at a time is not. Living one day at a time is a year-round success formula for confronting the challenges of life and achieving spirituality.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

The Refuah Fund, established about a year ago to provide meals for families that are experiencing an illness or sitting shiva, needs a desperate replenishment of funds. Please donate directly to the Young Israel indicating on your check, or alternative payment, that it is specifically for the Refuah Fund. Special thanks to Susan Gluck and Susan Packer for establishing and continuing this very important mitzvah.

Yahrzeit Plaques Now Available
If you are interested in purchasing a permanent satin brass Yahrzeit Plaque for a dearly departed loved one on the newly installed automated Yahrzeit memorial displays in our main sanctuary, space is limited, so please fill out the form recently emailed as well as mailed to you and return to our office. If you have any questions, please speak to David Herman. To order a plaque online, please use the website www.yiplaques.com.
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Father & child learning will take place upstairs during Seudah Shlishit.
- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Elana & Michael Szafranski in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Bennett. Mazal Tov to Bennett, to Elana & Michael, to grandparents Rona & Ira Sturm and Annette & Jacob Szafranski, and to great-grandparents Ida & Phil Fenster.
- With profound sadness we announce the passing of Jacob Hertzberg, (Yaacov ben Freidel z”l) beloved brother of Paula Hertzberg. Contact Number 305 905-9747

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: Yakira Navarro, Shlomo Mayer, Allen Packer, Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Minnie Schraga.

Youth Program

- Any High School Teens that are interested in signing up for an exciting Shabbaton (May 27-29) in Orlando please speak to Rabbi Fried for more details.
- On June 13, there will be a special Middle School trip for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders to Busch Gardens in Tampa. To reserve your spot please email RabbiFried@Yicbh.org
- Father and Child learning will continue this week during a special Shalosh Seudos upstairs. There will be learning, ice cream, and prizes!!!
- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please contact Rabbi Fried for 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

PLANNING A SIMCHA?

In order to avoid any conflicts, please book the social hall well in advance of your simcha.
**Yahrzeits May 5 – May 11, 2018**

- 20 IYAR Howard Cole for his father, Avraham Cole, on Shabbos, May 5
- 21 IYAR Miriam Greenblatt for her father, Shlomo Ben Elchanan Gunzenhauser, on Sunday, May 6
- 21 IYAR Ed Leventhal for his mother, Rivka Rochel Leventhal, on Sunday, May 6
- 21 IYAR Steven Robinson for his father, Levi Ben Dov Ber Robinson, on Sunday, May 6
- 22 IYAR Lois Rosengarten for her mother, Syd Lewis, on Monday, May 7
- 25 IYAR Alex Spira for his mother, Yehudis Spira, on Thursday, May 10
- 25 IYAR Amy Mosery for his father, Yechezkel ben Lev, on Thursday, May 10
- 26 IYAR Deborah Newborn for her mother, Dorothy Feinberg, on Friday, May 11
- 26 IYAR Max Dekelbaum for his wife, Anita Dekelbaum, on Friday, May 11

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

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**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](http://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.

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**E-mail communication**

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 receptionist/secretary, is florence@yicbh.org

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**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.

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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.

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

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