G-d spoke to Moshe after the death of Aaron’s two sons

Vayikra 16:1

It is no coincidence that this week’s parsha begins with the death of Aaron’s two sons, Nadav and Avihu, whose demise was a sanctification of G-d’s name. Just this past week, Jews were attacked – one murdered and others wounded – for no reason other than the fact that they are Jews. Lori Gilbert Kaye died a martyr’s death sanctifying G-d’s name. Those who were wounded, including Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, in the heroic effort to save others continue to live sanctifying G-d’s name. But none of this “sanctification” takes away any of the pain, anguish, shock, horror, and deep anger that we Jews feel today. It has only been a week since we were sitting at our Pesach seder reciting the eternal words of the Haggadah – שבע כל דוד ודוד נמצאים עלון לילートנ – that in every generation our enemies rise up against us, but G-d rescues us from their hands. While it is true that collectively, as the Jewish nation, we will always remain and can never be snuffed out, unfortunately that promise does not apply to the individual. So, just six months after the Pittsburgh massacre, we are faced with yet another
tragedy that leaves us wondering “when will it stop?” When anti-Semitism rings loud and clear from the halls of congress and nothing substantive is done about it; when Louis Farrakhan can spew forth words of hate against the Jewish people with no repercussions; and when the New York Times can allow a virulent, bigoted, anti-Semitic cartoon to grace its paper for two days before being removed, we are dealing with a travesty beyond words. We know full well that if any of the aforementioned took place with any other minority group, it would never be tolerated. However, when it comes to the Jews there is a different standard. Let this serve as a stark reminder for Jews everywhere that they should never forget the lessons of history. Yes, it can even happen here in America. As I mentioned in my message during the week, the genie of anti-Semitism has been let out of the bottle, and where it goes from here only G-d knows. However, we the Jewish people possess a reservoir of strength and tenacity that borders on the supernatural. Nothing stops us; nothing deters us. How fitting it is that we are in the period of the sefira, when we mourn the death of the 24,000 disciples of the great Rabbi Akiva. Can we, in our wildest dreams, imagine how Rebbe Akiva must have felt? His sense of despair and hopelessness should have been crippling and overwhelming. Yet Rebbe Akiva did not give up, and with the faith and determination that is the hallmark of Am Yisroel, he ordained five new students and started all over again to disseminate the Torah and be the bearer of the torch for future generations. My friends, Am Yisroel Chai, we shall survive and flourish, and we will continue to show the world that the Jewish people are like no other nation on earth. May G-d bring comfort and strength to those who have endured these tragedies, may He protect us from any further harm, and most of all, may He say “enough already!” to the thousands of years of persecution and to the rivers of blood and tears that have been shed by the Jewish people. Finally, may He once and for all bring us the ultimate redemption we so long for, speedily in our days.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

Dear Friends,
I am sure we are all aware of the measles outbreak in New York and New Jersey and many other states and foreign countries. It goes without saying that according to the law of our land, all children are to be vaccinated for measles and all other diseases mandated by the Pediatric Medical Association. This is the law, and this is also the halacha, as stated unequivocally by the leading rabbinical authorities of our time. Those who fail to do so place themselves and others at great risk and if you did not immunize your children, please do the right thing and do not enter our shul.
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein
This week is Yom Hazikaron, when we remember all those who have fought and made the ultimate sacrifice for the creation of The State of Israel. It is then followed by Yom Haatzma’ut, a day of tremendous gratitude for the miracle we call the State of Israel. Let us pray that Israel will continue to flourish and grow both physically and spiritually and fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah that the Jewish people will be a light onto the nations of the entire world, and in that merit herald the final redemption of our people.

**Congregational Family and Shul News**

- This week’s kiddush is sponsored by Brenda & Isaac Samuel in celebration of their recent marriage. Mazel Tov!
- Mazel Tov to Anne & Jerry Gontownik on the birth of a grandson. Mazel Tov to parents Jordana Gilman & Ranan Gontownik.
- With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Mrs. Lois Zaret z"l, beloved mother of our esteemed member Dr. Larry Zaret.

**Refuah Sheleimah**

- We wish refuah sheleimah to Allen Packer, Minnie Schraga.

**Youth Program**

- Any Public-School student still interested in attending The Israel Independence Day - Yom Ha'atzmaut event at Marlins Park, please email Rabbi Fried.
- All High School Youth are invited to attend an exciting Shabbaton on May 24th, in Orlando, including a Sunday trip to Disney World Magic Kingdom. Please speak to Rabbi Fried for details.
- 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 at 8pm. Please contact Rabbi Fried details.
- Any youth 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 Rabbi Fried.
- A program connecting Youth to spend time with Seniors in our community and learn from them launched a couple of months ago. Any Youth as well as Seniors still interested in signing up or for more information, please email RabbiFried@YICBH.org. All others are encouraged to submit/recommend names via email as well.
**Yahrzeits May 4 – May 10, 2019**

29 NISSAN    Howard Barbanel for his mother, Alice Barbanel, Tova bat Leib, on Shabbos, May 4
29 NISSAN    Cynthia Rosenberg for her father, Herman Stanger, on Shabbos, May 4
29 NISSAN    Annette Sanson-Eichen for her father, Yitzchak ben Binyamin, on Shabbos, May 4
30 NISSAN    Arthur Schwartz for his mother, Asnath Schwartz, on Sunday, May 5
30 NISSAN    Allan Krieger for his father, Avraham Abba ben Moshe Chayim, on Sunday, May 5
30 NISSAN    Joyce Stern for her mother, Estelle Blanks, on Sunday, May 5
1 IYAR       Pessia Frankel for her mother, Golda Leah, on Monday, May 6
3 IYAR       Eli Grossman for his father, Yaakov Grossman, on Wednesday, May 8
4 IYAR       Ricardo Berner for his grandfather, Avraham Tuvie ben Nissan, on Thursday, May 9
5 IYAR       Steven Storch for his mother, Lee Storch, on Friday, May 10

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

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**Yahrzeit Plaques Available**

If you are interested in purchasing a permanent satin brass Yahrzeit Plaque for a dearly departed loved one on our beautiful automated Yahrzeit memorial displays in our main sanctuary, please contact David Herman or the Young Israel office. To order a plaque online, please use the website www.yiplaques.com.

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**HATZALAH: (305) 919-4900**

We did it! Thanks to your vote and support, a major expansion of school choice passed the legislature on Tuesday and is headed to Governor DeSantis for his signature. The Family Empowerment Scholarship will fund an additional 18,000 students from low to middle income families at approximately $7,000 each. Contact teachflorida@teachcoalition.org for more information.

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If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seudah Shlishis, please contact Yakira at (305) 866-0203 or Max Dekelbaum (240) 832-5054

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