She [Rachel] conceived and bore a son, and said “G-d has taken away my disgrace.” Bereishis 30:23

What kind of disgrace is Rachel referring to? Rashi, the great biblical commentator, gives two interpretations. The first explanation of the “disgrace” Rachel is talking about is the fact that if she remained childless, she would eventually wind up as the wife of Esav. Then Rashi adds another interpretation based on a midrash which is hard to understand. The disgrace she will be saved from is that now that she has a child, she could blame the mishaps in the home on her son. Really! The great matriarch Rachel is overjoyed that she finally is blessed with a child so she can have someone to blame!? This seems preposterous but therein lies a fundamental principal of life which is that deep down the propensity to blame others and not take personal responsibility is a very powerful force in the human being. Of course, Rachel’s greatness is beyond our comprehension, but the Torah’s way is to magnify what might be a subconscious thought of Rachel, to teach us how much a part of the human dynamic it is to blame others for our own mistakes and how hard and difficult it is to own up to our shortcomings and say the buck stops with me. For in the end, the only way to better...
oneself and start a process of self-transformation is to realize that we alone are the masters of our own destiny and blaming our problems on others is not only an exercise in futility, but it is counterproductive to any type of personal growth.

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein
Young Israel Congregation
Shmooze News
Parshas Vayetze, November 25, 2017

Classes and Upcoming Events
- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Father & Child learning on Motzei Shabbos starting at 7:00PM with Pizza and special Prizes!
- Mondays 8:00-9:00PM – Beis midrash learning with Yeshivah Toras Chaim. 30 young Talmudic scholars will be available to learn with anyone in our community.
- Shabbos December 8-9 – Young Couples Shabbaton. Guest lecturer Rabbi Jonathan Rietti. Please make your reservations for the Shabbat dinner ASAP.

Congregational Family and Shul News
- Kiddush is co-sponsored by Mark Lewison & Sarah Cook in honor of Olivia’s Bat Mitzvah. Mazel tov to Olivia and to the entire family!
- Kiddush is co-sponsored by Shelly Rindner in honor of her son Alexander’s aufruf and upcoming marriage to Rachel Sussman. Mazel tov to Alexander and Rachel and to parents Shelly Rindner and Marsha & Ira Sussman and to the entire extended family!
- 8 AM Minyan Kiddush is sponsored by Helen and Menno Ratzker in honor of Kyle Ratzker’s forthcoming Bar Mitzvah.
- This week’s Seuda Shlishit is sponsored by Shelley Rindner in honor of Alexander’s aufruf and upcoming marriage to Rachel Sussman.

Refuah Sheleimah
We wish refuah sheleimah to: Allen Packer, Alexander ben Esther Raizel; Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Shimon ben Blima; Minnie Schraga.

Youth Program
- On November 26th from 1:30pm until 3:30pm there will be a unique Medical Clowning training for all youth. Please contact Rabbi Fried for more details about this fascinating, fun and important event that will help train you for the beautiful Mitzvah of cheering up those who are sick or have special needs.
- 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
Yahrzeits Nov. 25-Dec. 1, 2017

- 8 KISLEV  Reine Fiss for her relative, Steven Adelman, on Sunday, Nov. 26
- 8 KISLEV  Eleazer Hirmes for his father, Rabbi Abraham P. Hirmes, on Sunday, Nov. 26
- 8 KISLEV  Harvey Wolinetz for his father, Leonard Wolinetz, on Sunday, Nov. 26
- 9 KISLEV  Greta Hirmes for her sister, Meris Rindner, on Monday, Nov. 27
- 9 KISLEV  Lazer & Ziporah Milstein for their son, Betzalel Binyamin Milstein, on Monday, Nov. 27
- 9 KISLEV  Charlotte Roth for her mother, Doris Amster, on Monday, Nov. 27
- 10 KISLEV  Charlotte Roth for her father, Arthur Amster, on Tuesday, Nov. 28
- 10 KISLEV  Gerald Wolf for his father, Samuel Wolf, on Tuesday, Nov. 28
- 11 KISLEV  Sam Eltes for his son, Moshe Nissan Eltes, on Wednesday, Nov. 29
- 11 KISLEV  Vivian Naimer for her son, Moshe Nissan Eltes, on Wednesday, Nov. 29
- 12 KISLEV  David Herman for his father, Chaim Henoch Herman, on Thursday, Nov. 30
- 13 KISLEV  Leon Brum for his mother, Elka Brum, on Friday, Dec. 1
- 13 KISLEV  Stanley Reiter for his brother, Nathaniel Reiter, on Friday, Dec. 1
- 13 KISLEV  Stanley Reiter for his mother, Katherine Reiter, on Friday, Dec. 1

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

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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