This verse is not just giving the Jewish people a blessing but it’s giving a message as how one should live life. The “head” is what directs and controls the body. The Torah is teaching us that we should live a life of higher purpose. We should be a cut above the crowd. The head, which is the repository of wisdom, should be the one in control directing the body, not the tail. One of the main impediments to spiritual growth is the desire to follow the latest fads and fashions of society. There is a “must have” mentality that pervades our world. Must one blindly follow every passing trend and current popular craze knowing full well that in a short period of time they will be obsolete and there will be another new gadget? All the “must-haves” that people toil to acquire only give temporary satisfaction until the next must-have comes on the market. The need to buy and accumulate is a panacea to fill the emptiness people feel in their lives.
A person who lives a life “above” — a more spiritual life whose values are eternal rather than temporal — lives on a completely different planet. He has a sense of fulfillment, satisfaction and inner happiness. It is no coincidence that we learn this concept in the last weeks of Elul as we approach Rosh Hashanah. It is a time of year when we strive to make improvements in our spiritual lives. May the realization that a Jew’s task is to live a life “above”, a life of purpose and meaning, make us worthy to be blessed with good health and many simchas for the coming new year.

(Sefer – Emrei Kohen)

Wishing all of you an inspiring Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

New Year Greeting

Now that the month of ELUL is here, the Yamim Noraim are not far behind. This year, our congregation is sponsoring a community New Year greeting. Congregants have the opportunity to participate in this tradition by having their names inscribed in our special edition of Shmooze News for $18 per family, wishing everyone a Kesivah Vachasimah Tovah. Please submit your name and remittance to the Shul’s office by September 27.

Sukkot Club

As many of you know, we have a long-standing, beautiful Young Israel tradition of having a kiddush each Yom Tov day of Sukkot -- through Shmini Atzeret and including Shabbos Chol Hamoed -- in our shul Sukkah. This year is extra special, since this will be our first year of having our new Sukkah on our new shul premises. What has always made this such a wonderful tradition is that many members and friends each contribute $100 towards these kiddushim, thereby making this a truly community-wide collaboration. As such, we are once again asking all those interested to contribute $100 per family to sustaining this beautiful tradition, with the additional excitement of this being our first year in our new building’s Sukkah. Over Sukkot, the names of all contributors will be included in our Shmooze News and announced in shul.

Reminder! Rules regarding seat owners.

- **Men’s Section:** Until 9:30AM, the seats with names are reserved; if the seat remains vacant by 9:30AM, it is then open to anyone.
- **Women’s Section:** Until 10:30AM, the seats with names are reserved; if the seat remains vacant by 10:30AM, it is then open to anyone.

Sukkot Hashkama Minyan

Please let the Shul office know if you are interested in attending a Hashkama Minyan during Sukkot.

High Holiday Seating

We are in the process of finalizing High Holiday seating, so if you need seat reservations, please contact the office immediately, if you have not yet done so. As you enter the Shul on Rosh Hashanah, seating charts will be posted at the downstairs and upstairs Sanctuary entrances, to straightforwardly guide you to your seat. More information to follow during the coming week. Your support and understanding are greatly appreciated, and best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.
If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.
New Mailing Address: 9580 Abbott Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154
P.O. Box 545985, Surfside, FL 33154-5985

Shabbos/Holiday Schedule: To view the schedule, please go to our website, [www.yicbh.org](http://www.yicbh.org) and click on Holidays/Shabbos Info.

Email Addresses: To contact Rabbi, Office, Youth Director or Gabbaim, please email Rabbi@yicbh.org; yakira@yicbh.org; Rabbifried@yicbh.org; gabbai@yicbh.org

We now have photo gallery available online. Please go to [www.yicbh.org](http://www.yicbh.org) and click photo gallery on the left bar. Enjoy!

The Young Israel Congregation of Bal Harbour has an extensive Torah Library both in Hebrew and English. Our English Torah lending Library is located in the conference room and will be open Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM. The Torah library has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of Andrew and Basya Lowinger in memory of Maurice Lowinger z”l, מאייר מיסחה בן בן-ציון הלוי ז”ל

We can now accept on-line donations via our shul website directly through PayPal. Please use this link [http://www.yicbh.org/payment.php](http://www.yicbh.org/payment.php), or first go the website, [www.yicbh.org](http://www.yicbh.org), and click on Membership & Donation and press Donate.

Please note it is very important you indicate in the “Payment Notes” the specific donation that is being paid for (membership, kiddush, aliyah, etc.).

Search for Young Israel of Bal Harbour

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