My friends, the world has gone mad. First Hurricane Harvey, then Irma, then Maria, then the earthquake in Mexico, and now 59 people murdered and hundreds wounded by a madman. What’s the message, and how do we come to grips with all these catastrophic events? We just recently concluded with the holy and awesome day of Yom Kippur. At Mincha, we read from the book of Yonah, and in that holy book I believe is the answer as to how a believing Jew looks at life. At one point in the conversation between Yonah and the sailors, Yonah the prophet says כי יודע אני כי בשלי הסער הגדול הזה “For I know that this great storm in the ocean is all because of me.” The Kuzar i כי ישראל לברע המור הזה “The Jewish people are the heart of the world.” The heart is the lifeline of a person which pumps blood throughout the body. So, too, the lifeline of the world and the entire cosmos is the Jewish people. When the Jewish nation falls spiritually it manifests itself in all creation. The storms which are brewing in the world has a message for us כי בשלי הסער הגדול הזה: so what are we supposed to do? I am not a prophet but collectively we have to respond to what the captain said to Yonah when he found him sleeping in the bowels of the ship. וייסור המר לברע קום קרא אל את אלוהים: How can you sleep in such a storm! Rise up and call out to your G-d!! The clarion call to us, the Jewish people, G-d’s chosen, is wake up, change, grow, realize life.
is serious business. It’s about becoming a little more spiritual, a little more concerned about our commitment and allegiance to G-d. It’s the message of Succah: leave your permanent dwelling, it’s all a mirage anyway. Life can change in an instant whether it’s through a hurricane or a bullet, G-d forbid. Come into the Succah, G-d’s shelter, and realize that He is the One Who ultimately gives us everything. Let us hope and pray as we celebrate this Yom Tov of Succos – Zman Simchasenu – that we rejoice in our renewed connection with G-d and his Torah. May we the Jewish people only share Simchas together and may the storms of the world subside as we the Jewish people take G-d’s message to heart.

Wishing you Chag Sameach and an inspiring Yom Tov and Shabbos!
Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

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**Succos Halachos**

**Q:** Is there any problem using bamboo sechach mats for the roof of a Succah?

A: Most opinions permit it, however the threads that tie the bamboo rods together must be made from material which is for sechach. The acceptable mats are woven with unprocessed substances such as flax strands or reeds.

**Q:** Is it permissible to place the sechach on the frame of the Succah before its walls are erected?

A: No – the Succah walls must be up before the Sechach is placed on them. The reason being that Sechach must be placed on the Succah for the sake of providing shade. If the walls are not up, there is no structure, and then the sechach does not create shade. Therefore, if sechach was placed on a frame before the walls were put up, you must remove the sechach and then put it back on, L’sheim tzeil (for the sake of shade).

**Q:** Is anyone halachically allowed to put up the sechach on the succah?

A: Any person, male or female, Jew or non-Jew, is allowed to put up the sechach as long as it is placed on the succah for the sake of shade.

**Q:** Is there any problem using a succah with a metal frame?

A: Yes! Although it is permissible to use a metal frame to support the walls of the succah, placing the sechach directly on the metal frame is a problem because any object that directly supports the sechach must also be made from materials that are Kosher for sechach. Since Kosher sechach cannot be made from metal, one should not place sechach directly on top of a metal frame succah. (However, if one did so, the succah is still Kosher.)

**Q:** If one has a metal frame succah, but you put wood strips over the metal frame and the sechach is placed on the wood, would that take care of the previously mentioned problem?

A: Some opinions permit using a metal frame succah if the sechach is no longer touching the metal. Other opinions do not allow this leniency since the sechach is being supported by the metal frame, and the wood is merely a barrier between the metal and the sechach. According to these opinions, the only way to use a metal frame succah is to use the wood strips in a way that they become the main support for the sechach. For example, by placing heavier wooden strips diagonally across the top of the frame and putting the sechach on top of the wooden strips, the wooden strips become the support for the sechach rather than the metal frame.
Succos Club Sponsors

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush on Thursday October 5th is sponsored by Stuart & Penny Harris commemorating the yahrzeit of Stuart’s mother Bess Harris z”l
- Kiddush on Friday October 6th is sponsored by the Kiddush club
- Kiddush on Saturday October 7th is sponsored by Izhak family.
- Welcome to our new members: David & Bren Schwartz, Howard Abarbanel, Moshe & Audry Rubner

Q: If a storm is coming, is it permitted to nail or tie down the sechach to the walls or the frame of the succah?
A: It is permitted to tie down the sechach to the walls or the frame of the succah with any string or rope. Although we mentioned before that optimally the sechach has to be supported from materials that are Kosher for sechach, in this case the rope or string is not considered a support since under normal weather conditions the sechach will remain intact without being tied down. However, to nail the sechach down is not permitted because a succah is supposed to be a temporary dwelling. When the sechach is nailed down, the succah takes on the character of a diras keva, a permanent structure, in which case it is not valid.

- Mondays at 10:30AM – Ladies Tehillim Group in the Beis Midrash.
- Tuesday, 10/10, 8-10pm – Art in the Succah for women all ages. Come paint with Art Party Studio. Listen to Rebbetzin Rena Gruenstein on “Succos the key to happiness.”

Refuah Sheleimah
We wish refua sheleimah to: Allen Packer, Alexander ben Esther Raizel, Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Shimon ben Blima, Dani Smith, Doniel ben Mindel.

In the Kol Nidrei drosha on Yom Kippur night, we spoke about the power of words and the seriousness of Loshon Hora (negative-derogatory-conversation). We discussed the special Shabbos table program initiated by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation. You can contact them in three ways to join up for this amazing program and do it as zechus for your family, or a refuah sheleimah for those in our community that are not well. Text: Shabbos to 313131. Call 845 352-2305 ext 104, E-Mail shabbostable@powerofspeech.org

Succos and Shabbos Chol Hamoed Oct 5-7, 2017

Young Israel Congregation
Shmooze News

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If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda 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.