Our sages tell us (Tos. Bava Basra 88b) that the Parshos of Nitzavim-Vayelech are always read after Parshas Ki Savo which contains the Tochacha (reproof). The reason this is so is that we don’t want to end the year with Klalot (Curses). We want to have a buffer zone between the Parsha of Ki Savo and Rosh Hashana. Therefore, Nitzavim-Vayelech are always read on the Shabbos before Rosh Hashana as if to say “Tichlei Shana Ve’kileloseha” (may any curses of the previous year come to an end.) If there was ever a time that we needed a buffer from Klalos it was now. Thank Hashem right after the Shabbos of Parshas Ki Savo where all the curses are mentioned, G-d Almighty himself became the buffer to protect us from the curse of Hurricane Irma. The Ksav Sofer (Rav Binyamin Sofer Rav of Pressberg 1815-1871) mentions a beautiful insight on a verse in Parshas Nitzavim which is applicable to our situation.

והיה כי יבואו עליך כל הדברים האלה הברכה וקללה....ויתבש אל לבבך

“And there will come a time when all these things come upon you the blessings and the curse then you will take it to heart...Devarim 30:1
How does the combination of blessings and curse cause one to come closer to G-d? Says Rav Sofer, it is only through the proverbial curses of life that the blessings and chesed of G-d can be seen and felt more acutely. Through the curse of a hurricane and its after effects one can really appreciate what it means to have electricity, a hot cooked meal, a cool air-conditioned home and the ability to get gas for your car at any time. The so-called small blessings of life take on new meaning in the backdrop of the Klala of Hurricane Irma. This idea is true in all aspects of life. Light is much more appreciated when there is darkness, health is much more appreciated after one is sick, G-d forbid. One can go on and on with many examples, but the point is that the difficulties and challenges of life help us in the end to recognize its blessings. The truth is we shouldn’t have to wait for a hurricane to be grateful for the brachos we have. But rather each day we should count our manifold blessings, for the more one appreciates the more G-d gives. Let us hope and pray that this Rosh Hashana the Almighty should bless us with good health, abundant parnassa, much nachas from our children and grandchildren, and oh yes, good weather as well.

Wishing everyone a Kesiva Vachasima Tova!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

On Shabbos Shuva at 6:00PM all women are invited to our Young Israel for a discussion/shiur with Rebbetzin Rena Gruenstein on the effects and life lessons of Hurricane Irma. The program will take place upstairs in the Youth Lounge.

Upcoming classes
The Young Israel Congregation presents:

A Yomim Tovim Class Series for Young Adult Women 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

1. Tuesday, 09/26 hosted by Yael Delgado 9065 Byron Avenue, Surfside
"What can Amazon teach us about Yom Kippur?" presented by Rabbi Avi Bossewitch, Hebrew Academy (RASG) Dean of Academics and Innovation.
2. Tuesday, 10/10 in the Young Israel Congregation Sukkah, 9580 Abbott Avenue, Surfside
To be announced
3. Due to Hurricane Irma the original class of September 12 will take place after the Yomim Tovim.

Succos Club
We have a wonderful annual tradition in our Young Israel of having a Kiddush each day of Sukkos in our beautiful Sukkah. To support this Sukkos Kiddush Club tradition we look forward to having contributions from as many members and friends as possible, so that this is truly a community sponsorship. Toward this end, we are soliciting a $100 contribution per family, and names of sponsors will be inserted into the Shmooze News prior to Sukkos. If you are interested in being part of our Sukkos Kiddush Club, please contact the office or Stuart Harris. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Search for Young Israel of Bal Harbour
Congregational Family and Shul News

- This week’s Kiddush is co-sponsored: by Aaron & Susan Weinberg, commemorating the yahrzeit of Aaron’s mother, Helen Weinberg, Yenta bas Baruch Chaim z”l; and by Larry and Rozy Jaffe in honor of Rozy’s special birthday.
- Seuda Shishit this week is sponsored by Rabbi Moshe & Rena Gruenstein commemorating the first yahrzeit of the Rabbi’s father Yitzchak Yehuda ben Moshe Yaakov z”l.
- Shabbat Shuva lavish Kiddush is co-sponsored by the Sussman family… and by Jonathan Gerszberg commemorating the yahrzeit of his grandmother Baila Molly bas Chaim v’Raizel
- Mazel Tov to Judy and Fred Farbman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Izak Stern. Mazel Tov to the parents Dr. Josh and Stephanie Stern and to the whole family.
- Mazel Tov to Ann Bicky on the engagement of her granddaughter, Sarah Bicky.
- A very warm welcome to our new members, Eitan and Juliana Goldman, and Harvey & Shelli Dachs

Refuah Sheleimah

We wish refuah sheleimah to: Allen Packer, Alexander ben Esther Raizel, Rabbi Simeon Schreiber, Shimon ben Blima, Dani Smith-Daniel ben Mindel.

Youth Program

- Any parents of youth who would like for their children to volunteer as part of our Rosh Hashana program please speak to Rabbi Fried.
- Father & Child learning will take place upstairs during Seuda Shlishit with treats & prizes!
- Any teen that would like to get more involved with advocating for Israel by being a part of a weekly Israel Advocacy meeting or attend via Skype please email RabbiFried@YICBH.org

High Holiday Seating

We are in the process of finalizing High Holiday seating, so if you plan to be here you must inform the shul office immediately, if you have not done so already.

As was done last year, the High Holiday seating plan will be posted in two places: 1) Downstairs on the wall at the entrance to the Main Sanctuary; 2) Upstairs, near the entrance to the Balcony. The posting in each location will be in two forms -- to assist everyone in locating their seats as quickly and efficiently as possible: a) by shul layout and b) alphabetically. Every effort was made to accommodate individual and family requests. Your understanding, cooperation, and support are greatly appreciated. May we all look forward to a year of health, happiness, safety, nachas from our families, and peace and security in Israel.

Yizkor Book

We recently mailed the forms for our Yizkor Book. Please send us the names of your loved ones to be listed in the Yizkor Book as soon as possible. You can pay through our website via PayPal, call the office with a credit card or send a check.
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.

Young Israel Congregation
Shmooze News
Parshas Nitzavim-Vayelech September 16, 2017

Yahrzeits Sep 16-29
25 ELUL, 5777  David Herman for his Mother, Aliza Herman, on Shabbos, September 16, 2017
26 ELUL, 5777  Hal Beretz for his Father, Eliezer ben Shmuel Beretz, on Sunday, September 17, 2017
26 ELUL, 5777  Jacob Schorr for his Mother, Peril Eliyahu, on Sunday, September 17, 2017
27 ELUL, 5777  Aaron Weinberg for his Mother, Helen Weinberg, on Monday, September 18, 2017
28 ELUL, 5777  Julianne Schorr for his Father, Alexander Bohm, on Tuesday, September 19, 2017
28 ELUL, 5777  Shelley Rindner for her Father, Nachum Tzvi, on Tuesday, September 19, 2017
28 ELUL, 5777  Zohara Weiss for her Mother, Violet Sivern, on Tuesday, September 19, 2017
28 ELUL, 5777  Joseph Gontownik for her Mother, Zissel Gontownik, on Tuesday, September 19, 2017
29 ELUL, 5777  Paul Rosenberg for his Mother, Gussie Rosenberg, on Wednesday, September 20, 2017
29 ELUL, 5777  Joel Wiener for his Father, Shraga Feivel Wiener, on Wednesday, September 20, 2017
1 TISHREI, 5778  Steve Schwartz for his Mother, Milly Schwartz, on Thursday, September 21, 2017
4 TISHREI, 5778  Iris Hesser for her Father, Shmuel ben Yaakov, on Sunday, September 24, 2017
7 TISHREI, 5778  Sheldon Lisbon for his Mother, Sarah Rachel Lisbon, on Wed, September 27, 2017

Support our Shul with AmazonSmile
When you shop on Amazon through the program called AmazonSmile, 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). AmazonSmile 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 new 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.