The Talmud interprets the word לכם (unto you) as meaning that the Sanhedrin (Great Rabbinical Court) has the authority to establish and regulate the calendar, to vary the length of the months or declare an extra month to make a leap year as it sees fit. Some commentators interpret “unto you” to mean that this mitzvah gives man mastery over time. This concept has never been as relevant as in our era: Man’s technological genius has had interesting consequences. On the one hand, we have more time-saving devices than ever before, such as jet aircraft, instant foods, microwave cooking, email, instant messaging and smart phones, etc. But rather than man becoming master over time, he has actually become its slave. The ability to get things done fast has resulted in the expectation that everything should have been done yesterday, and the pressure to get things done fast has greatly increased. Many people fall into the category of “type A personality” which describes the person who is dominated by time, deadlines and exacting schedules. This enslavement by time may well be the single greatest factor in the increase of heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke. There is, obviously, great significance in the fact that the very first mitzvah
given to the Jewish people at the time of their emancipation was to be masters over time. There are many things that we do in the interest of time rather than truly in our own best interest. We may take risks in traffic to save seconds which are really not that important, we may stress ourselves in running to catch elevators or buses, and we may push ourselves more than our bodies can tolerate. A person, if not careful, may be guilty of selling himself into slavery by the ring of every email. While some constraints of time are unavoidable, we often allow ourselves to be unnecessarily dominated by time. Therefore, the mitzvah of establishing a calendar or regulating your time should be לְךָ, for your own best interest.

(Sefer - Living each week Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski)

Have a sweet and Kosher Pesach!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein
Classes and Upcoming Events

The Young Israel 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.

Join us for Yom Haatzmaut, Thursday May 12, 2016 at 8:00PM. We will show the movie “ABOVE AND BEYOND” - PRODUCED BY NANCY SPIELBERG. We will have the honor to have one of the pilots, Giddy Lichtman, present to answer your questions. Dessert will be served!

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Mazel Tov to Allan & Deena Roness on the engagement of their granddaughter Kayla Berkowitz to Eliezer Fried of Edison New Jersey.

If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.
Our Siyum on the Tanach is being postponed till Shavuos, when we will have a community wide celebration. Although most of the Neviim and Kesuvim have been taken, the majority of the Chumash has not. Please click below to view what was taken and what is still available.


Please coordinate with the office prior to setting up a meeting at our shul. The office will coordinate and make sure the building is open at the appropriate time and that there is no conflict in scheduling.

Thank You

Please note when writing a check to our Young Israel, the check should be payable to “Young Israel of Bal Harbour” - (not Young Israel Congregation).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We can now accept on-line donations via our shul website directly through PayPal. Please use this link http://www.yicbh.org/payment.php, or first go the website, 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.).

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