Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Benveniste

(If someone kills a person accidentally, he must be exiled to one of the designated cities of refuge.)

“And he shall remain there until the death of the High Priest.” (Bamidbar 35:25)

What does the High Priest have to do with an individual killing somebody by accident? Rashi explains that if the Kohen Gadol would have prayed more intensely, this never would have happened. By making the term of exile contingent upon the death of the High Priest, the Torah highlights his responsibility.

In what other culture has the leadership ever been held to so demanding a degree of accountability. In our time, loss of life is a daily occurrence due to criminal violence, reckless drunk driving and domestic abuse. What sense of responsibility do our civil leaders feel for such events? If they would feel a fraction of the responsibility which the High Priest was made to feel, not one of them would have a single night’s sleep. They would see to it that our laws were more stringent and their enforcement more strict. The sense of responsibility the High Priest carried was due to the enormous sense of value that the Torah gives to a life. Unfortunately, the attitude about life in our culture reflects our undervaluation of life.
One of the functions of the priesthood was to invoke the name of G-d for peace and tranquility; that function reached its peak with the Kohen Gadol. The intensity of the High Priest’s devotion to peace and the protection of each individual depended upon how he valued each human life. A loss of human life was thus not “just one of those things that can happen in society,” but something which touched the very life of the High Priest himself. How different our society would be if our leaders shared this attitude!

Wishing all of you an inspiring Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

Please Note:
Baby strollers are not allowed in the Sanctuary

The last statements for this fiscal year were mailed. If you have a balance due, please pay it as soon as possible. Membership renewal starts as of August 1, 2016. It is very important to clear the account. Should you have any question regarding your statement, please contact the Young Israel Office.

The Membership Renewal/High Holidays reservation letter was sent out – by both email and US mail. Please respond at your earliest convenience. Should you have any questions please contact the Shul’s office.

Thank you for supporting your Shul!
If you are interested in sponsoring Kiddush or Seuda Shlishis, please contact Stuart Harris or Yakira at (305) 866-0203.

Classes and Upcoming Events

- Table Talk is on hiatus.
- Ladies Tehillim group will meet on Monday at 10:30AM at the Young Israel.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Mazal Tov to Dr. Ronald & Rachel Benveniste on Jacob’s Bar Mitzvah and to the entire family. The Benveniste family is sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbos in honor of their son Jacob’s Bar Mitzvah.

Building Fund

- Important! Please try and remit your building fund pledge commitments at your earliest opportunity. Thank you

Youth Program

- All youth may turn in the tickets they received for their wonderful participation for great prizes.
- Any parents who would like their young sons to lead parts of davening in shul, please speak to Rabbi Fried.
**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

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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

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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, מאיר משה בן בן-ציון הלוי ז”ל

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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.).

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