As with almost all Haftoras, the Haftarah of Parshas Bechukosai compliments the Parsha itself. In it, the prophet Jeremiah speaks very harshly as to what will befall the Jewish people if they don’t follow the Torah. This parallels the Tochacha which makes up the bulk of this week’s Parsha. Unfortunately, many times the mess that we find ourselves in is due to our own behavior. Much (not all) of the Tochacha of life many times is self-inflicted. Jeremiah speaks here of someone who steals and cheats because he thinks he will become rich and prosper. However, the prophet tells us otherwise – that one who amasses wealth unjustly will in the end not enjoy the fruit of his labors. There is a midrash which states that when Noach was preparing to enter the ark, all types of creatures came to him for permission to enter. Among them was Shikra (שקר) (power of falsehood).
Noach asked him “but where is your mate? If you have a mate, you may enter! So Shikra went out and met Pachsa (power of depletion) which causes deterioration of one’s monetary resources and causes one to become impoverished. Pachsa agreed to the marriage on condition that whatever Shikra earned, Pachsa would get. Shikra agreed and they boarded the ark. Ever since then when Shikra would earn money (with of course Sheker). Pachsa would take it away from him and this is how it’s been since they got out of the ark. We, many times in life, are our own worst enemy, whether it’s ill-gotten gains, an explosive temper, a meddling and gossip-oriented personality, laziness, jealousy – you name it. As was said before, we very often create our own destiny, for, more often than not, it’s our fault, not G-d’s.

The antidote is

אם בחוקותי תלכו
אם מצוותי תשמרו

Follow the Torah and do what’s right and your life will be a blessing!

Wishing you an inspiring Shabbos!

Rabbi Moshe Gruenstein

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All men and women are invited to celebrate our siyum Tanach which will be held on the second day of Shavuos between Mincha and Maariv we will daven an earlier Mincha on Monday at 7:15PM. The siyum will take place in the social hall and a light meal will be served. If you would like to say a few words about the portion of Tanach you studied, please contact the Rabbi at rabbi@vicbh.org or text to 786-227-2495
Classes and Upcoming Events

- Table Talk will be held in the social hall following Kiddush.
- Ladies Tehillim group will meet Monday 10:30AM at the Young Israel.
- **Men’s Beis Midrash Program:** Thursday Night, 6:45PM-7:45PM in the Beis Midrash.

Congregational Family and Shul News

- Kiddush this week is sponsored by Nick & Tzippi Wigoda in honor of Gabe Wigoda’s Pre-K Graduation, the recent birthday of Nick’s mother, Lisa Crane, and the upcoming birthday of Tzippi’s mother, Tova Gil.
- During Shavuot we will be having a Meat Kiddush on Sunday, June 12th, and a Dairy Kiddush on Monday, June 13th.

Youth Program

- Father and Child Learning will resume this week during a special Shalosh Seudos upstairs. There will be Learning, Ice Cream, and Prizes!!!
- Any parents who would like their young sons to lead parts of davening in shul, please speak to Rabbi Fried.
- High School teens are invited to Learning and Frozen Yogurt every Wednesday night. Please contact Rabbi Fried for timing and location details.
- Next Shabbos, all youth can once again turn in tickets they received for their wonderful participation for great prizes. Those that can't make it shouldn't worry as they can turn in their tickets in future weeks as well.

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 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

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

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-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, 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.