

Temple Hatikvah



Av/Elul 5778/Tishrei 5779

August/September/October 2018

Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

Our High Holy Day prayerbook repeats a theme often, “who shall live and who shall die”? The mortality, or even brevity, of life, is often read throughout our prayerbook pages. The tradition suggests that G-d metaphorically sits at a big ledger or spreadsheet, and carefully adds names into the Book of Life; with quill to paper. It is a child’s legend, for we know that death isn’t the decision of G-d, but rather it is life and health choices, it is the randomness of disease, or the sudden occurrence of fatal accidents which change lives permanently. If only it was G-d who determined the length of one’s life, we’d have a chance to supplicate and perhaps alter the outcome.

So why use the life and death metaphor? It is, each

year, the opportunity to “change our ways” without the massive heart-attack that often causes people to do such. It is the opportunity to

be a more forgiving person without the heartbreak of families dividing over petty squabbles. It is the wake up call to fix something that is

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We’ve got a lot going on!

HEBREW YEAR 5778

AUGUST 2018

10th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service
25th	Saturday	6:00 PM	Havdalah Service

SEPTEMBER 2018

9th	Sunday	7:30 PM	Erev Rosh Hashana
10th	Monday	10:00 AM	Shabbat Service
18th	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Kol Nidrei Service
19th	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Yom Kippur and Yizkor Service
		6:00 PM	Neilah Service & Break The Fast Meal
29th	Saturday	5:00 PM	Sukkot Party (See ad on page 7)

OCTOBER 2018

13th	Saturday	6:00 PM	Shabbat Service
26th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service

PLEASE NOTE - WE ADDED SATURDAY SERVICES

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broken; sadly, most of us don't hear that wake up call. I include myself on this list.

Imagine if G-d suddenly appeared before you and said: "At 2:36 this afternoon an inattentive driver is going to cross into your lane and kill you instantly in a massive head-on collision." Given this warning, you would have the opportunity to take a different route or perhaps just to stay home all together. Most of the time, we aren't given fair-warning of an impending disaster. But what if we were notified with ample time to prevent it?

That is what Rosh Hashana is for us, the opportunity to heed a last minute clarion call and make a change which hopefully will avoid a dreadful outcome. It is the message that, "this may be your last day (or week, or month) on earth, make a change, because you can manipulate the outcome with some advanced planning. It won't be easy but it can be done."

These holy days are a softer, kinder and gentler last-call, to make sure we are maximizing life to the fullest. We all know the

grossly overweight middle age (balding) male who does nothing about his weight and only after a massive heart-attack makes a serious effort to cure the problem. Let us not wait for the heart-attack my friends, let's see if we can muster the strength from within, without having to dodge the bullet. The rare determined and tenacious do achieve it, most of us don't.

While on his death bed Rabbi Zuzyia wept. His young scholars surrounded him and asked why he wept, for his life had been exemplary. Zuzyia answered: "I knew I would never be as good as Moses, or Abraham, but that isn't why I weep. I weep because I wasn't the best Zuzyia I could have been."

The words found in our High Holy Day prayerbook are there to help us become the best we can become, and hit the magical reset-button of our lives. Won't you join me, as I try to reset mine?

May we be the best we can be.

Shana Tova





DONATIONS

“All Israel is responsible for one another”

Talmud Shavout 39a

Temple Hatikvah, Homestead Jewish Center is an I.R.S. designated “501(c)(3)” Charitable Organization, chartered as a Florida Non-Profit Corporation. As such, your donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. As with any good synagogue/temple, donations are the mainstay of the temple.

Donation	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree of Life Rock - \$150 small; \$300 medium; \$500 large	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree of Life Leaf	\$ \$54.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Memorial.....	\$ \$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Yahrzeit Plaque	
<input type="checkbox"/> Seats in the Sanctuary.....	\$ \$54.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Chai (General Fund).....	\$ \$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund.....	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund.....	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund.....	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Bill Fund	\$ _____
Total Donation	\$ _____


Inscribed:


Donor's Name _____

Cellular(s) _____

Daytime Phone _____ Nighttime Phone _____

Address _____

*Please complete the above and return this page with your check made payable to:
Temple Hatikvah. All donations are acknowledged in the following month's Newsletter.*



June 29, 2018

Dear Friends,

We invite you to place an ad in our Memorial Book for this year's High Holy Days. If you placed an ad last year, you may simply request the same ad, or, if you wish, you may change it. The annual Memorial Book is presented in a beautiful and respectful format and is available during the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur morning. If you are unable to attend the Yizkor service, a copy will be mailed to you.

Ad prices are as follows:

\$40 - Quarter page - (approx. size 4 1/2" x 1 7/8") – maximum four names

\$75 - Half page (approx. size 4 1/2" x 3 5/8")

\$145 - Full page (approx. size 4 1/2" x 7 1/4")

We can help design and format the ad, if needed. The deadline for submission is August 26 2018 (The Holidays come early this year). You are encouraged to approach businesses and friends and ask for advertisement in the form of a business or memorial ad to help defray the cost of the book.

To place an ad, please return the following with your desired wording and payment to the mailing address above. For questions, please contact Eilat Schmalbach at 786-5168 or email her at eeschmalbach@bellsouth.net

Thank you, and may your new year be sweet and healthy.

Eilat Schmalbach

Ad size: _____ New ad [☐] Renew ad [☐] Change [☐]

Amount _____ Check # _____

Remembered by _____

Desired text: _____

HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES



Please join us for our uplifting and inspiring High Holiday services led by Rabbi Sparks and Eilat Schmalbach.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH:

Sunday, September 9 at 7:30 PM

ROSH HASHANAH AND SHOFAR SERVICE:

Monday, September 10 at 10:00 AM

YOM KIPPUR:

Kol Nidrei Service:

Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 PM

YOM KIPPUR AND YIZKOR SERVICE:

Wednesday, September 19 at 10:00 AM

NEILAH SERVICE:

Wednesday, September 19 at 6:00 PM

Break the Fast (Sponsored by the Temple.)

No cost for members. Non-members \$54 per service
Guest of members: \$25 for each service or \$100 for all services



Sukkot

**Saturday,
September 29th
5:00 pm**

We will celebrate the end of Sukkot, shake the lulav and enjoy schmoozing together. How good it is to be sitting in Chevruta together.

RSVP to
Rabbi@Temple-Hatikvah.org
or call 305.454.4944

Journeys to a new beginning

Eilat Schmalbach

Summer is winding down. The days are not cooling off, but they are getting a bit shorter, and we are counting the weeks till our High Holidays return.

Did you have a chance to travel, go on a journey, leave your routine behind? I hope you did.

This is the time when we read in the Torah the end of the book Numbers (in the desert), detailing the 42 places the Israelites journeyed through till they reached the last place, ready to conquer the Land of Canaan. As many writers said- life is a journey. There is no set destination that we can plan for or set up ahead of time- we just go on our journey, with our best foot first, praying for protection and providence. Much of the formative journey of the Israelites was a journey in the wilderness with danger all around, lacking many basic needs, and completely dependent on God and the leadership.

Rabbi Sacks, a great rabbi in England, wrote in his words about the last portion in Bamidbar: *"...history and destiny had combined to make Jews aware of the temporariness of any dwelling outside the Holy Land. To be a Jew is to be on a journey. That is how the Jewish story began when Abraham first heard the words "Lech Lecha", with their call to leave where he was and travel "to the land I will show you." That is how it began again in the days of Moses, when the family had become a people. And that is the point almost endlessly repeated in parshat Masei: "They set out from X and camped at Y.*

They set out from Y and camped at Z" – 42 stages in a journey of forty years. We are the people who travel. We are the people who do not stand still. We are the people for whom time itself is a journey through the wilderness in search of the Promised Land."

Many times we may feel we are in the wilderness - no clear view of the future, no rest - just a constant search for a promised future. We have the option to be weary, complacent and angry. Or - we have the option to be positive in our search for a better future and our dreams.

Now is the season to look ahead for a new beginning. Renewal is a journey to search for a future based on the lessons of the past. We know that we must meditate on what has passed, forgive the misdeeds and march on. To make our journey more meaningful we need family, friends, and a community. We need to look for different venues, to be innovative and involved, to contribute.

This is our annual call to remind you, our Hatikvah members and friends that our holy place will always be your home, as long as you treat it as such. We hope we can celebrate the journey through the new year of 5779 and many more as one big family, united and involved.

L'Shanah Tovah- may you be inscribed for a good year, and may our journey together will lead us to many inspiring and happy times together.

Amen!