

# Temple Hatikvah



Shevat/Adar 5777

January/February 2017

## Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

### Why Jacob?

Britain's former Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks asks the question, "Why is Jacob the father of our people? It was Abraham who began the Jewish journey, Isaac was willing to be sacrificed, Joseph saved his family in the years of famine, Moses led our people out of Egypt and gave us our laws. Joshua took the people into the Promised Land, David became our greatest king, Solomon built the Temple, and the prophets through the ages became the voice of G-d. In comparison, Jacob seems to fall short of these other lives."

Indeed, Jacob has flawed relationships with his family. At times he is full of fear. At times he seems to be less than totally honest. Why did our ancestors name Jacob to be our hero – shouldn't we expect more?

Rabbi Sacks provides an elegant answer, "To be a Jew means to live within the tension between heaven and earth, creation and revelation, the world that is and the world we are called on to make; between exile and home, and between the universality of the human condition and the particularity of Jewish identity. Jews don't stand still except when standing before G-d. The universe, from galaxies to subatomic particles, is in constant motion, and so is the Jewish soul."

Perhaps Jacob is given to us as someone we can understand and identify with. We feel his fear, understand his

pain, relate to the family tensions, and sympathize with his deep longing for a life of peace. In his quest to make peace with his brother, whom he cheated, he wrestles to move forward, he summons the strength to bow down and does it not once, but seven times.

It's not just that Jacob is the most human of the patriarchs but, rather that at the depths of his despair, through his faith, he is lifted to the greatest heights of spirituality. Jacob's message teaches that we are not alone, that G-d, our family, our community and our people are

with us and we summon the strength within.

May this secular New Year, which undoubtedly will present challenges to us all, be a year when we can rise like Jacob, and triumph over the battles that we each face. We must summon the strength of Jacob who wasn't given an easy path in life, and flourish like the cedars in Lebanon.

*Amen*

**Dr. Jack L. Sparks, Rabbi**

## We've got a lot going on!

### HEBREW YEAR 5777

#### JANUARY 2017

10th	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Board Meeting
13th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service
27th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service

#### FEBRUARY 2017

11th	Saturday	4:00 PM	Bless the Animals and Tu Bishvat
14th	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Board Meeting
24th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service

#### MARCH 2017

11th	Saturday	6:00 PM	Purim
14th	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Board Meeting
24th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service

# Message from our President

Carol Silver

I have been asked to clear up some confusion regarding how to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat. So, here goes...

Oneg Shabbat means “enjoyment of Shabbat” and includes the blessing on wine and bread and a social gathering immediately following the Shabbat Services. Temple Hatikvah welcomes and yes, encourages members to share the planning and buying responsibilities associated with the Oneg Shabbat. It is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, to celebrate being a part of Temple Hatikvah, or, just to celebrate being alive! But sometimes there is a little confusion as to what is expected of the sponsor. So, here is a short course in Oneg Shabbat 101, or, “Everything you always wanted to know about s\*\*, oops, I meant Onegs, but were afraid to ask!”

1. Do your own shopping! The Temple will provide coffee, paper goods, and wine. The Oneg sponsor needs to bring a challah (sliced, please), refreshments such as cookies, cake, fruit, or other munchies, soft drinks, bottled water, and/or juices, or, if you wish to really splurge, appetizers, finger sandwiches, bagels and cream cheese, etc. The Oneg can be as simple or as lavish as you like, but remember, this is just a nosh, not a dinner.

2. Bring the food to the Temple at least 15 minutes before services. Carmen will set up the food and drinks and clean up afterwards. If you can't shop,

you can donate \$125 to the Oneg fund and someone will do the shopping for you.

3. The Oneg sponsors are traditionally asked to light the Shabbat candles at the beginning of the services. And that's it! Simple, huh?

So, step up to the plate and sponsor an Oneg Shabbat. I know there are members out there who have never been a sponsor. We can't expect the same people to sponsor over and over. Pick a happy occasion (birthday, anniversary, Miccosukee win, etc.) and commemorate it with an Oneg. If everyone sponsors just one Oneg per year, it would cover almost all of the services.

If you are still confused, contact Salli Haber, our Oneg Shabbat Committee Chairman, for further details. Her contact information is listed in this bulletin.

Also, I've been asked to address the protocol for potluck email RSVP. Rabbi Sparks sends out an email whenever we have a potluck event asking members to respond with how many are coming (or if you're not coming) as well as what dish you are bringing to share. We would appreciate a prompt response if possible so we do not have to ask someone to make phone calls to those who do not respond.

*See you in Temple!*

**Carol Silver**



# 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"/> <i>General Fund</i> .....	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Adopt-A-Bill Fund</i> .....	\$ _____
<b>Total Donation</b> .....	\$ _____


**Inscribed:**

  


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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.*



## HANUKKAH PARTY





# Tu Bishvat and Haudalah Service

Saturday, February 11th at 5:00 pm

We will have a beautiful service honoring nature and the land of Israel, as well as our connection to animals and nature.

The service will be indoors, but please bring your pet's picture for a special "virtual" Blessing.

A special oneg will take place during the service.



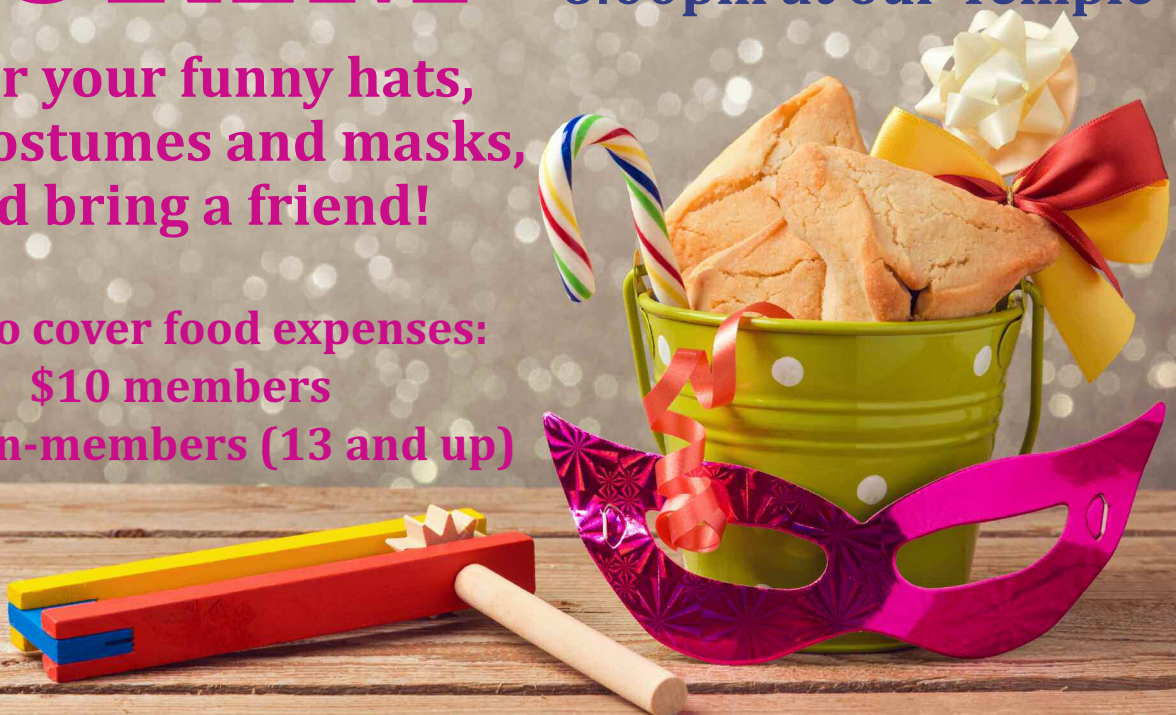
*Come one and all, and bring a friend!*

## PURIM

Saturday, March 11th  
6:00pm at our Temple

Wear your funny hats,  
silly costumes and masks,  
and bring a friend!

Cost to cover food expenses:  
\$10 members  
\$13 non-members (13 and up)





# It's all about the LIGHT

Eilat Schmalbach

As I write these words, we are preparing for Hanukkah while most of our neighbors are stressing and shopping for Christmas. LIGHT is all around us and we notice the beauty it creates everywhere. The connection between these holidays is obviously the light, brought around us to fight the darkness which becomes more dominant during the winter season.

Indeed, the power of LIGHT is in its great effect

even when it is in small measurements; a small candle can drive away darkness for miles. A small act of kindness can brighten the life of many.

We compare Torah to light, we seek enLIGHTenment through education and study. We are taught that the first thing that was created was light. Light is never far from darkness. It highLIGHTs the great diversity in our world.

We enjoy many colors, many voices, many styles, many

faiths – we deLIGHT in the complexity of this life. It is all about the LIGHT. All we need to do is welcome diversity, accept changes in hues and tastes, and be happy.

I want to wish all our members and friends a year of light, healing, happiness and harmony. May the coming 2017 be a year of goodness to all, growth, and great achievements.

Amen

