

Temple Hatikvah



Nissan/Iyar 5777

March/April 2017

Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

Why do we remain part of a congregation? Are we not Jewish sitting alone in our own homes? Do we need a physical building, the presence of other Jews, or an organized worship service to make us Jewish? Our prayerbook (Gates of Prayer) answers that question with sage insight:

"Each of us enters this sanctuary with a different need.

Some hearts are full of gratitude and joy:

They are overflowing with the happiness of love and the joy of life; they are eager to confront the day, to make the world more fair; they are recovering from illness or have escaped misfortune. And we rejoice with them.

Some hearts ache with sorrow:

Disappointments weigh heavily upon them, and they have tasted despair; families have been broken; loved ones lie on a bed of pain; death has taken those whom they cherished. May our presence and sympathy bring them comfort.

Some hearts are embittered:

They have sought answers in vain; ideals are mocked and betrayed; life has lost its meaning and value. May the knowledge that we

too are searching, restore their hope and give them courage to believe that not all is emptiness.

Some spirits hunger:

They long for friendship; they crave understanding; they yearn for warmth. May we in our common need and striving, gain strength from one another, as we share our joys, lighten each other's burdens and pray for the welfare of our community."

May we, as an organized Jewish community, be there for each other. Each of us come with different needs, and we remain a community for each other. Regardless of our reason, we are there for you.

I am grateful you are part of our Temple Hatikvah community. You bless our lives, as we try to bless yours.

Amen

Dr. Jack L. Sparks, Rabbi

We've got a lot going on!

HEBREW YEAR 5777

MARCH 2017

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

APRIL 2017

1st	Saturday	5:30 PM	Hatikvah Membership Appreciation Dinner! Cocktails at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM
11th	Tuesday	6:30 PM	2nd night Passover Seder. RSVP a must!
21st	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service - (Yom Hashoah Commemoration)

MAY 2017

5th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service - (Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration)
19th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service - (50 year to reunification of Jerusalem)

Message from our President

Carol Silver

The Board of Directors for the year 2017 remains the same as last year. And the year before. And the year before, etc., etc. We do have two new Trustees, Sue Nulman and David Feinberg. I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to those who have consented to continue to serve on the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. It's difficult to find people willing to commit to taking time away from other endeavors to spend time serving on the Board, and we should make sure those who do serve know how much they are appreciated. It's also important that we all have a voice in how our Temple is run, and the more input we have from you, the members of our congregation, the better. So, let us hear from you. Members are encouraged to attend any of the Board meetings and your suggestions and, yes, even criticisms, are welcomed.

We want every member to take part in the activities and services at Temple Hatikvah. When I say "taking part", I mean....taking part! We plan to increase the number of dinners and other special events, and I want to encourage everyone to participate in these events. Even if an event is not particularly your "cup of tea", please try to attend whenever possible as a show of support for your Temple. Nothing pleases us more than to hold

an event and have lots of members attending and having a wonderful time. And, if you can help with the planning or at the event itself, even better! I'm not talking about a lot of work. I'm talking about a lot of people doing a job once in a while as opposed to a few people doing those jobs all of the time. Think about it! Makes sense, doesn't it? The following quote says it all: "I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." -- Helen Keller.

One event that we are really excited about is the "Temple Hatikvah Orchid Gala and Member Appreciation Dinner" on April 1st. This event is to show how much our members are appreciated and valued. The event includes a catered dinner, cocktails, music and door prizes at absolutely no charge for members and only a nominal charge for guests of members. Please clear your calendar and plan to attend this awesome event! Sue Hopkins is in charge of RSVPs and is waiting to hear from each of you. Don't miss this! Let's try for 100% attendance! Hope to see you there!

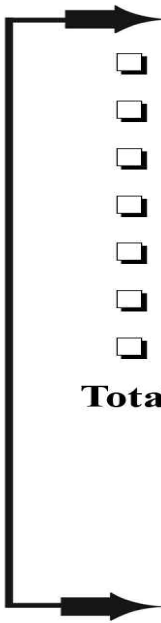
See you in Temple!
Carol Silver

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>	\$ _____
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.

PURIM

Saturday, March 11th
6:30pm at our Temple

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

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



Celebrate Passover/2nd Seder

*"In every generation a person must feel
as if they too came out of Egypt"*

Tuesday, April 11th at 6:30 PM

Cost: Members - \$18 adults, \$10 children (7-17)

Non-members - \$25 adults, \$13 children (4-17)

Children 3 and under are free

Bring a friend and enjoy this special holiday with us.

Donations of food items are welcome!

For more information,
call Temple Hatikvah at 305-454-4944.
Please RSVP at: Homesteadrabbi@aol.com
If you wish to donate food, please contact
Eilat Schmalbach at 305-246-5493
or email: eeschmalbach@bellsouth.net



*Let us experience
Passover together!*

Build for me place to reside in, and I will reside within you

Eilat Schmalbach

While we enjoy our spring-like winter in South Florida, the north is shivering with cold and is covered in an occasional white coat. How beautiful is the world G-d has created! We have to learn to look, enjoy and be grateful for the beauty and the variety in our world. And we need to learn to be positive participants in this world.

At this season throughout the synagogues, we read the Torah portions dealing with the journey of the Israelites in the desert, including their constant complaints, the revelation on Mt Sinai and the building of the portable temple, the Mishkan, in the desert.

Why did the Israelites need a place for G-d to dwell in? Don't we assume that G-d is everywhere, especially in those days, when G-d appeared as a cloud and a pillar of smoke? The

interpretation is that G-d has no need for a place to live in. We need to feel that G-d lives within us. G-d said, "Build me a place to live in, so that I will live within YOU." And an 18 century Rabbi explained that G-d lives wherever we let him/her live. We can shut the divinity in a book, in a temple, or invite it into our daily life and our community.

As explained by the Rabbis (many of them lived during the time when the Temple had already been destroyed), we need a place to commune with G-d, to communicate with each other, and to feel the wholeness and holiness in the world.

Fortunately, we have such a place in our Temple Hatikvah. There are many more synagogues in South Florida, but this one is OUR place. We have been a part of it for many years, seen it

through hard times, and days of glory. We love the fact that simple and modest four walls can become a sanctuary. Parashat Terumah, the anniversary of Mimi Dickson's adult Bat Mitzvah, will be this year during the first week of March. This is when we are reminded that our place of worship is something we create. We build it through material donations, through participation in the life within it, and through the spiritual connection we derive from it.

May we always be able to fill this place with the spirit of wholeness, holiness and love that a house of G-d encompasses.

We are grateful for all those who are leaders and contributors to this community, those who attend regularly, and those who support us from a distance. Todah Rabbah!