

Temple Hatikvah



Adar I/Adar II/Nisan 5779

March/April 2019

Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

I think there are certain things to which we have become immune. One that I see, almost every day, is the admonition to silence our cell phones in an auditorium. You know the drill - when you are attending a performance, program, service or lecture, and the speaker sternly requests: "Take a moment to silence your cell phones." Invariably most do, but without exception 1 or 2 don't, and it is precisely those phones that will ring during the presentation. Much to the surprise of the cell phone owner, they quickly, and with great embarrassment attempt to silence their phone in haste. There isn't one funeral that I attend where this doesn't happen. In my request, I now add: "One of you thinks this doesn't apply to you, and it precisely your phone that

will interrupt the holiness of this service." And even with this addendum, the phone(s) will ring.

When did we become immune to following requests

that are reasonable or even legal? Why do we think that we are 'above' the request and it doesn't apply to us?

Another common occur-

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We've got a lot going on!

HEBREW YEAR 5779

MARCH 2019

1st	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service
23rd	Saturday	6:00 PM	Purim Party & Play, Pot Luck Dinner Reservations required.

APRIL 2019

5th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service
20th	Saturday	6:30 PM	Passover 2nd Night (Potluck & Caterer)

MAY 2019

10th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service (Yom Ha'atzmaut observed)
25th	Saturday	6:00 PM	Oneg - Sponsor needed

PLEASE NOTE - WE ADDED SATURDAY SERVICES

Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

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rence: “Fire Lane – Do Not Park” but invariably people will park there with the justification: “I’m only here for a moment, while I run into the store.” And perhaps my biggest peeve, when one is able to walk to a proper parking space but has a handicapped placard and uses it with no regard for those who are worse-off, perhaps in a wheelchair, with walker, or a cane. Why, if there is a proper parking spot only 3 feet away, must they take the only handicapped space just because they can? Yes, you are legally able to; but, where is the decency that someone else may need the space way more than you?

The answer: the superego. The part of a person’s mind that acts as a self-critical conscience, reflecting social standards learned from parents and teachers. As a Jewish people, we always walked a thin line in between doing what’s right, and standing up for right.

As with Moses, who slew an Egyptian taskmaster for beating a slave, he defied the law to stand up for right. He made the right choice. He broke the law. He did so with justification.

As we approach Passover, the holiday of our liberation – we defied what was the law of the land to gain freedom, independence and a future for our people. We didn’t follow orders; we did-

n’t go with the flow and we broke from the tradition of Pharaoh’s Egypt. Have we taken those principals, 5,000 years later and expanded them, thinking, we don’t have to follow any rules we don’t agree with? Why do some think that certain rules don’t apply to them? When did we expand moral correctness to disobey any rule we don’t like? Where does that chutzpah come from?

Passover is a time we look at our history, the behavior of our ancestors and their actions to govern our own behavior today. Yes, we are required to follow all rules and laws, unless, under very specific circumstances someone’s life is in jeopardy. Consider this during our holiday of freedom. Consider this next time you park or when you are attending a performance.

Chag Semach



Bless the Animals



Bless the Animals



Baby Naming Ceremony



At the Temple



PURIM

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, March 23rd
6:00pm at our Temple

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

Pot Luck/Covered Dish
Members are FREE
Non-Members are \$10



Celebrate Passover/2nd Seder

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

Saturday, April 20 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: Rabbi@Temple-Hatikvah.org
If you wish to donate food, please contact
Eilat Schmalbach at 305-246-5493
or email: eeschmalbach@bellsouth.net



**Let us experience
Passover together!**

A Few Things You Didn't Know About Purim Eilat Schmalbach

Since we are only a few weeks before Purim - our mini holiday which has become a major fun celebration - here are some pearls from My Jewish Learning - a scholarly site for all of us.

A few things you didn't know about Purim from the website: MY JEWISH LEARNING

With costumes, spiels and lots of drinking, Purim, which this year starts at sundown, on Wednesday March 20, is one of Judaism's most raucous holidays. You might know about beautiful Esther thwarting evil Haman's plans, the custom of getting drunk and what hamantaschen are. But we're guessing there's a few things about this holiday that might surprise you.

1. Esther was a vegetarian (or at least a flexitarian).

According to midrash, while Queen Esther lived in the court of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of legumes so that she would not break the laws of kashrut (dietary laws). For this reason, there is a tradition of eating beans and peas on Purim. (After all, you'll need something healthy after all the booze and hamantaschen.)

2. The Book of Esther is the only biblical book that does not include God's name.

The Book of Esther also makes no references to the Temple, to prayer, or to Jewish practices such as kashrut [keeping kosher].

3. Hamantaschen might have been designed to symbolize Haman's hat — or his ears or pockets. Or something a little more womanly.

Some say these cookies represent Haman's ears (the Hebrew name for them, oznei Haman, means just this), and refer to a custom of cutting

off a criminal's ears before his execution. Another theory is that the three corners represent the three patriarchs whose power weakened Haman and gave strength to Esther to save the Jews. Yet another theory: Because the German word tasche means "pouch" or "pocket," the cookies could signify Haman's pockets and the money he offered the king for permission to kill the Jews. Finally, in recent years, some feminists have suggested the cookies, which after all, are not dissimilar in appearance to female reproductive parts, were meant to be fertility symbols.

4. The Book of Esther, which many scholars theorize is fictional, may be an adaptation of a Babylonian story.

Some scholars argue that the Book of Esther adapted stories about these pagan gods — Marduk becoming Mordecai and Ishtar transformed to Esther — to reflect the realities of its own Jewish authors in exile

5. The Jewish calendar has a regular leap year with two months of Adar (but only one Purim, which falls during the second Adar).

To ensure that the holidays remain in their mandated seasons, the Jewish calendar was ingeniously adjusted to accommodate the 11-day difference between the lunar and solar years. In the 4th century C.E., Hillel scheduled an extra month at the end of the biblical year, as necessary. The biblical year begins in spring with Nisan (Exodus 12:1-2) and ends with Adar. Hillel, in conjunction with the Sanhedrin (Jewish supreme court) chose to repeat Adar (Adar I and Adar II) every 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th year over a 19-year period.

To learn more about Purim please, visit: www.myjewishlearning.com