

Temple Hatikvah



Iyar/Sivan 5779

May/June 2019

Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

Every now and then Eilat will tease me and say: “Remember rabbi, today is Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the new lunar month. I know it is your favorite!” It is an on-going joke, as I typically pay little attention to Rosh Chodesh and each time Eilat suggests it, there are a few more prayers added into the Shabbat Service. I, on the other hand, don’t want to extend our services any longer for the required Rosh Chodesh prayers, so I smile politely and remark, “Indeed it is. How wonderful.”

In ancient days, the process of determining a new month, prior to the invention of calendars, was rather involved. As soon as someone saw the tiniest sliver of a new moon, they would run to the Jerusalem High Court. Two

witnesses were needed to testify that the moon was actually seen. They would then convene the court, declare the new month and send messengers across the land to tell

everyone that the new month had begun on this certain day. They, in turn, would pass on the news and place torches on mountains and high spots to

Continued on page 2

We've got a lot going on!

HEBREW YEAR 5779

MAY 2019

10th Friday 7:30 PM Shabbat Service

25th Saturday 6:00 PM Oneg

JUNE 2019

8th Saturday 6:00 PM Erev Shavuoth
Pot luck dinner, RSVP required.

28th Friday 7:30 PM Shabbat Services

JULY 2019

No Services. Clergy are available.

PLEASE NOTE - WE ADDED SATURDAY SERVICES

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Continued from front page

spread the news faster. Sometimes it took two weeks for people to receive confirmation of the day the court had declared as the beginning of the month. (This, by the way, is the root reason why the Jews outside of Israel keep two days of the holidays, just in case they were wrong about which day was *Rosh Chodesh* if the information didn't arrive on time.)

It would be then, from the first day of that month, that our sages would start counting. By having our own system of measuring time and creating our own calendar, we are taking charge of shaping reality. We are given a certain area of control over nature. Whereas time is steadily moving ahead, never-stopping, marching on in a cyclical, repetitive spiral, we are given the power to stop or start time at will, allowing us to share with God and humans our best selves. That is our purpose in life – to share the best we have with others.

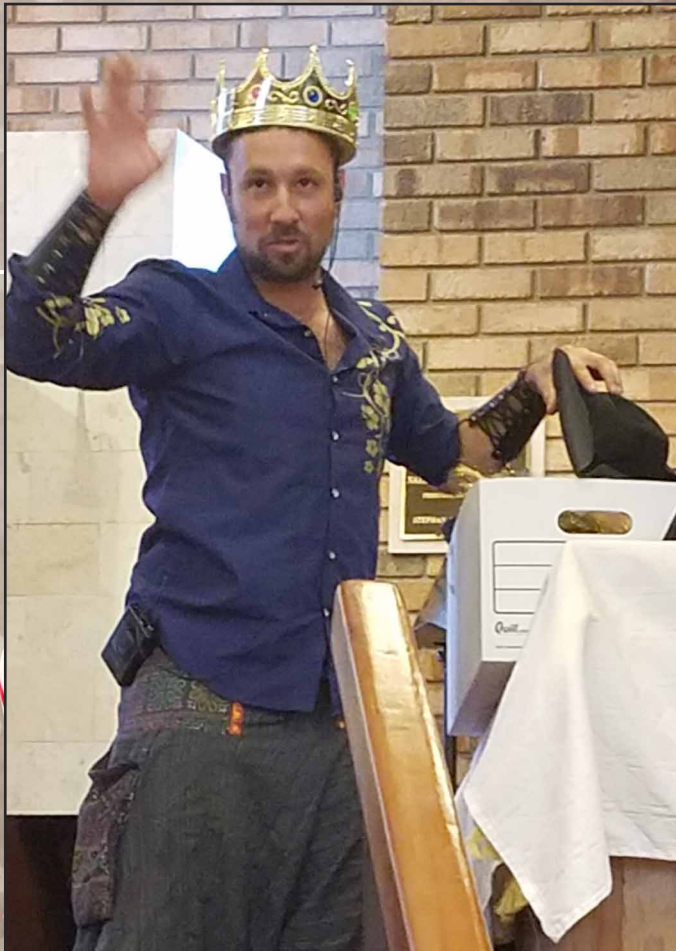
As we approach the summer months our last pilgrimage festival, Shavout occurs, and we mark the days, weeks and months until Rosh Hashana and the Jewish New Year

approaches. This year we marked happy occasions and we mourn, as a Temple family together. The years pass and what changes the most, are ourselves. Let us count the weeks and months, the seasons and the years carefully as they slip away from us so quickly. We often ask: “Where have the years gone?” “How did the children grow so quickly?” May we be ever so cognizant of the fleeting time and cherish the time we have.

A well known passage by Jean Turbeville Sanders equates life with a train ride. We share the train with our loved ones. Some exit the train sooner, whereas some stay on the journey longer. We never know which station we ourselves will step off, so we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. The time will come, without warning, that our station is next, and although our seat on the train will be empty, hopefully there will be beautiful memories left behind.

*May we come together in peace.
Amen*

Purim



Passover



Erev Shavuoth

Saturday, June 8th
6:00 PM

Pot Luck Dinner — Please RSVP!



Jewish Community Services of South Florida has a FREE program to assist the elderly (60+) or disabled in the South Dade community which is very similar to the previous program. We offer minor home repairs and home security installations and/or deterrents. A home visit will be made by a case manager to assess and evaluate the client and his/her situation to determine client needs as well as what types of repairs are needed. Case management services will also be provided and appropriate referrals will be made.

Services are available for low to moderate income individuals, couples, or families.

Jewish Community Services South Office
 7875 SW 104th Street, Suite 101, Miami, FL 33156
 305-670-1911 | 305-740-8998 | www.jcsfl.org

Celebrating Judaism and Israel.

Eilat Schmalbach

The good news is that spring is all around. The truth is- here we hardly had any winter. Spring ushers in Passover celebrations, and is followed by modern Jewish markers such as the Holocaust day (Yom Hashoah) and Israel's independence day (Yom Ha'atzmaut).

Ancient and modern- we celebrate our survival as the Jewish people. As our Passover Hagadah tells us- "Not one alone came to destroy us- but in every generation we are faced with enemies who are intent on destroying us, but the Holy one Blessed be He saves us". It is not easy to be a Jew- it is even dangerous- but it has its perks. We belong to a group of people who value life, ethical life, over dogmas and ideology. Our people love learning. We are commanded to teach our children to follow a set of Command-

ments: Not to enrich ourselves but to repair the world. We see human justice as taking care of the weak, helping the needy- and striving to bring joy to the world.

What more could we ask for?

As we approach the Jewish national celebrations, and after just witnessing crazy and very painful elections in Israel, we must remind ourselves that our strength has always been in a community that cares and in our convictions. Wishing all around us a pleasant spring and a mild summer- with friends and adventures to share and to enjoy.

Eilat

