

# Temple Hatikvah



Heshvan/Kislev 5778

November/December 2017

## Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

Think back to 1981. The young actor was Harrison Ford, and Steven Spielberg was rising on the list of successful new Hollywood directors. On the big screen, Indiana Jones was searching for the Ark of the Covenant – the ornate wooden box that held the two tablets of the 10 Commandments. In our tradition, something that holds a sacred object becomes holy by association. The outer casing of a mezuzah is considered holy because the written parchment inside contains G-d's words. The two black boxes known as Tefillin are holy because of the written parchment within. Our own bodies are considered sacred because they contain our soul, which G-d breathed life into. Once the soul exits our bodies, we still treat the now deceased body with respect because it once contained the soul.

During the days of the Holy Temples in Jerusalem, both Temples were built around "The Holy of Holies" and we fashion our local synagogues on that very same model. We deliberately install our holy ark on the east wall; pointing towards Jerusalem, and many other architectural designs are taken from the holy Jerusalem Temples; even the number of steps leading up to the bimah. It is no coincidence that there are 3, 5 or 7 steps leading up to every bimah world-

wide, or the colors of the fabrics used (purple and red) along with the Ner Tamid, the ever-lasting light above the ark.

Every sanctuary is built around an ark. The ark contains the Torah scrolls which are G-d's words, teaching, and history of our people. Torah scrolls are our most sacred possession and are treated accordingly. The ark is considered holy because it holds Torah scrolls. A start up congregation will purchase, as their first acquisition, a Torah scroll, even before buying a building, hiring a rabbi or cantor, or purchasing prayer books. Everything we do in our tradition is based on Torah, and as such,

the scrolls are giving tremendous prominence, respect and protection.

Our congregation is on the eve of dedicating a new ark. Our scrolls have been housed in the very familiar ark which was designed and built after Hurricane Andrew, and has served us well. In a day when we need additional security and protection for our holiest sacred items, a new ark was designed with safeguards in place. No longer can an ark just be beautiful, today it has to withstand vandals, curiosity seekers and unauthorized guests. Our multiple alarm systems and video cameras are surely a deterrent to theft, but we

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## We've got a lot going on!

### HEBREW YEAR 5778

#### NOVEMBER 2017

3rd	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services
18th	Saturday	7:30 PM	Havdalah Service & Program

#### DECEMBER 2017

1st	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services - Need Sponsor
16th	Saturday	6:30 PM	Hanukkah 5th candle - Pot Luck

#### JANUARY 2018

12th	Friday	TBA	Shabbat Services - Need Sponsor
27th	Saturday	7:30 PM	Havdalah Service & Program - Need Sponsor

**PLEASE NOTE - WE ADDED SATURDAY SERVICES**

# Message from our President

Carol Silver

Well, the High Holy Days have come and gone and, once again, we had a full sanctuary. A special thank you for all our guests from the Federation and the friends and relatives of members who attended our services which were ably presented by Rabbi Sparks and Eilat Schmalbach. This was the beginning of our New Year, and we look forward to some exciting events in the coming year. By the time this bulletin goes to press, we will have already held our Sukkoth celebration at my house in the Redlands. Hanoch Schmalbach built and volunteers decorated the Sukkah. Rabbi Sparks and Eilat told the Sukkoth story under the shade of the Sukkah which was built beneath the gumbo limbo trees and then we ate. And, ate. As usual, our members and guests provided massive amounts of food for the pot-luck dinner. A good time was had by all!

Temple elections will be held at the Hanukkah party on Saturday, December 16 @ 6:30pm. In this bulletin you will find nomination forms to nominate either yourself or someone else to serve on the board of directors. We all know people who often say, "I wish I could win the lottery!" And then they admit that they've

never bought a ticket. Or, people who complain about the government and how it's run but never show up to vote on Election Day. Some people even criticize how people parent, yet they either have no kids or their kids are totally out of control. We have something of that same situation at Temple Hatikvah. Everyone seems to have an opinion as to how we should run the Temple, how we should raise money, what we should do with the money that we have or might get, all the way to what subject the Rabbi should or should not base his sermons on. When someone criticizes the board of directors of Temple Hatikvah, my response is usually, "If you have better ideas of how things should be done, how about serving on the Board of Directors yourself?" And then I get the excuses. I work too much, I'm way too busy, I can't commit myself, I'm too shy, I'm too aggressive, I have kids, I have grandkids, I have pets that need attention, I have medical issues, I'm too young, I'm too old.... I've heard them all.

Basically the same people, give or take a few, have served on the board over and over, year after year. We have even heard, "the Board of Directors is just a clique that is closed

to other people because they want to run the Temple their way". That is so not true. If we have the same people serving over and over, it's because no one else will take on the jobs that we have done and in my opinion, done well. However, when you do the same job over and over, year after year, you're in danger of burnout. Especially when you don't feel appreciation for the job that you're doing. If it wasn't for the people who currently serve on our board of directors as well as those who have served in the past, we would've had to close the doors years ago. Not only do they serve in a thankless position, but most of them also support the Temple financially. I know that we have other people in our congregation who are well-qualified to help run our Temple. The challenge is to get those people to step up to the plate and join our endeavor of keeping Temple Hatikvah alive and flourishing in Homestead. Don't be one of those who complain of how things are done but don't want to be involved. Accept the challenge and let's get some new faces for this next year.

*See you in Temple!*

**Carol Silver**

## RABBI'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

needed something much more secure with an eye on the past.

What elements from The Holy Temple in Jerusalem can we expect to see in our ark soon? It will be the exterior, magnificently designed with Jerusalem stone. By Jerusalem city ordinance, every building in The Holy City must be built out of familiar "Jerusalem stone." The precise name is dolomitic limestone. Within the category of limestone, "meleke" stone is what the Western Wall in Jerusalem is made of. It is found in the Judean Hills and has been used since ancient days. The word meleke

comes from Arabic and was the common name given by the master masons of Tyre who built King Solomon's holy Temple in Jerusalem. Today that same word has been incorporated by geologists and architects to refer to the coarse, crystalline stone still found in the Jerusalem hills. We will have a taste of Jerusalem on Campbell Drive.

Soon Steve and Salli Haber, their children and grandchildren, will unveil our new ark, dedicated in loving memory of both their parents, Doris and Jacob Haber, Nathan and Judith Forstein. Both sets of parents were early members of our synagogue going way back, and today, four gen-

erations later, their great-grandchildren are still members. Steve has lovingly designed and built this entire ark by hand, the way it might have been done in King Solomon's time. What a beautiful tribute to their parents, and a lasting legacy to their grandchildren and beyond. When the ark is dedicated, the first thing you will notice will be the magnificent Jerusalem stone. This is just a hint of what's to come.

May we, 2,000 years since King Solomon, 6,600 miles from Jerusalem, always keep our homeland in our heart, and our Torahs secure in our midst.

*May this be G-d's will.*



# 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.*



## SUKKOT AT THE SILVER RANCH



## SHOFAR BLOWERS DURING HIGH HOLY DAYS





# Hanukkah Party

**Saturday, December 16th**  
**7th night of Hanukkah**  
**6:30 pm**

**Bring your favorite Hanukiyah  
 (Menorah) for a special  
 lighting display.**

**Fun and small gifts for the kids!**

**Pot Luck – Bring a dish to share**

**Bring a wrapped gift  
 for gift game- \$5-\$10**



## **“So, you are considering or have been asked to consider being on the Board?”**

This is what Board Members need to bring to the table...”

- a) Every Board member must chair a standing committee, for example, House, Calendar, Ways and Means, Special Event/Holiday, Oneg Shabbat, Publicity, Telephone Squad, Membership, Life-Cycle or other committees to be determined as needs arise.
- b) Being on the Board is an honor and it also takes a commitment of time. In addition to 1 Board Meeting a month, the additional time could be as much as 10 hours per month. Do you have that time to give to fulfill your commitment as a Board Member and a Committee Chair?
- c) Being a Role Model: Board Members are active in the Temple Community; do you have the time to attend most programs, functions, services and events? Will you roll up your sleeves and help when it is clear something needs to be done last minute?

If you can agree to all these things - YOUR TEMPLE NEEDS YOU. We need you if you are willing to roll up your sleeves and work. Being on the Board is not merely coming to monthly meetings and watching other people do the work!

Please return completed nominations slips to **Riva-Jill Sparks**. You can email her at **Reje18@aol.com**, mail to her at **950 SW 138 Ave., #309, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027**, or fax to her at **954-994-0035**. You do not need to sign your name on the slip. Nominations are anonymous.

<u>President</u>	<u>1st Vice President</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Recording Secretary</u>	<u>Corresponding Secretary</u>
<u>Director</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Trustee</u>	

**Note: Nominations are contingent upon the Nominee's willingness to serve**

# Nothing is New Under the Sun

Eilat Schmalbach

As we embark on our mundane days following three weeks of Jewish holidays during the Hebrew month Tishrei, we recall the saying of Kohelet, or older King Solomon:

“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9).

We are tempted to hurry and say – not so! All the smart technology we have acquired during the last 4 decades- new and exciting! The wisdom we have learned from our scholars-amazing. Yes, technology reached new heights, but what happened to us and our world?

In terms of human relationships we feel again and again that not much has changed. We still love or hate; dream and awaken; build and destroy; heal or kill; cry or laugh; just as we read in the same wisdom book but in a later chapter.

During our Sukkot celebration at the Silver Ranch (thank you so much, Carol Silver) we have introduced the beautiful Mishnaic source, The Sayings of our Fathers (Pirkei Avot), as an example that even a two thousand-year-old source is as relevant as anything we read today.

From our sages we learn such wisdom as: Ben Zoma says: “Who is wise? He who learns from everyone. Who is a hero? He who controls his desires. Who is rich? He who is happy with what he has. Who is re-

spectable? The one who respects others.” (from chapter 2).

We are what we do, not what we preach. The sages continue: “Shamai used to say: Make your Torah (study) fixed. Say little and do much, receive every person with pleasant approach (1:15)”. “Be amongst the students of Aaron: Love peace and pursue it. Love people and bring them close to Torah” (1:12).

This fall we hope to sharpen our perception of what is the right thing to do, not say, in order to enrich our community with pleasant relationships, growth and joy. We should follow Rabbi Elazar and Rabbi Yochanan who said, “The best

way to live is to have a good heart, because it leads to having a good eye (positive attitude), good neighbors (friendly approach to others) and optimism for the future.” (2:13)

Nowadays, when modern technology places knowledge at the tips of our fingers anytime and everywhere, let us enjoy the ancient messages of our sages and apply them to our modern times with insight and creativity.

We will continue to visit this and other ancient sources during our upcoming Havdalah services, and we welcome your personal input! Wishing all of us an inspiring, friendly, peaceful and healthy 5778!

