

Temple Hatikvah



Cheshvan/Kislev 5777

Nov/Dec 2016

Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

A rabbi once grew weary of his congregation, and stopped doing his best. Week after week he did less and less until the leaders of the community (in Poland, of course) called him to a meeting. They said, "Rabbi, we see your energy is slipping, your preparation is weak, and you spend little time tending to your members, why?" The rabbi said: "Once we had 300 people in our village and the shul was packed every day; from 300 it went to 200, and then the Cossack's came and it went to 50, and now we are only 10. For 10 people I invest adequate energy! Bring me more people, I will bring you more energy."

The wisemen of the community paused and replied, "Rabbi, once we had 300 horses in our stables, and now we have only 10. Does that mean we should not give them water, or feed them twice a day? After all our stables are practically empty and with only 10 horses why bother doing anything?" The rabbi replied, "You are indeed wise men and your point is well taken."

My friends, we are a hearty, albeit small, membership. We have lay-leaders that do the work that professionals would do in larger synagogues. We have volunteers who shop for supplies, prepare oneg food, place advertisements in newspapers, maintain the finances and maintain the building, oversee capital repairs, raise money, and just as importantly, dedicate their hearts to our Temple so that our "10 horses" will be

nourished.

Indeed our numbers are a fraction of what they once were, but our fervor is no less intense. Whether we are 30 or 300, the building requires the same upkeep. Whether we are 30 or 300 we invest the same preparation in our services. Whether we are 30 or 300 our fund raising must remain constant to keep our finances healthy. The cantor and I both invest our energies as if we were 300, and we do not lament that we are only 30 - because you 30 are worth the effort - and to you, our members, we

are grateful.

Like the wise men above, our lay-leaders understand the effort required to "feed and water" us and they have never slacked in their duties. For that, we all benefit. As in the upcoming holiday of Chanukkah, which is rededication, each year we rededicate ourselves to our community, our synagogue, and our people Israel. May we do so for many decades to come. 30 or 300 you are worth the effort!

Amen

Dr. Jack L. Sparks, Rabbi

We've got a lot going on!

HEBREW YEAR 5777

NOVEMBER 2016

4th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service
8th	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Board Meeting
18th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service

DECEMBER 2016

6th	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Board Meeting
9th	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service
30th	Friday	6:30 PM	Hanukkah Party & Service - Pot Luck

JANUARY 2017

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

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. I'd like to tell you just a few of the things that we have planned for this next year.

By the time this bulletin goes to press, we will have already held our Sukkoth celebration at my house in the Redlands. Our volunteers built and decorated the Sukkah again and it was in place in time for the Sukkoth celebration. The Schmalbach family has really gotten this down pat! 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!

The Hanukkah party is on December 30th this year. Seriously? December 30th? How did that happen? Well, late or not, this is always an exciting event with our huge menorah display. Let me explain that. Everyone brings their menorah. We put them all on one table and light them all at the same time. It's quite impressive. Also the white elephant gift exchange is a lot of fun and the food with our world-famous latkes is, as always, a big hit. If anyone has some ideas of fun ac-

tivities for the Hanukkah party, let me know.

The highlight for January is usually the Installation of Officers and Board of Directors for our Temple. Elections will be at the Hanukkah party in December. In this bulletin you will find nomination forms to nominate either yourself or someone else to serve on the board of directors. 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.

One of our favorite events is the blessing of the animals which will be held on February 11th. We open this up to the community and welcome all sorts of animals to be blessed by Rabbi Sparks. We have had dogs, cats, horses, lizards... all sorts of animals. No snakes as yet. Might have to draw the line on that one!!

Our Purim party, which is scheduled for March 11th is always a big crowd pleaser. I'm not sure if it is the crazy costumes, the annual play (which is rehearsed for about 5 minutes) or the food, which is always great, but we always have a good turnout for Purim. I think it's because we channel our inner child that loves to dress up and party!!

Our annual 2nd night Passover Seder will be on April 11th. This is one of my personal favorite events. Even the long wait for food is not so bad when we're hearing the Passover story presented by Rabbi Sparks and Eilat! And then... the food! We always think we won't have enough, and we end up with enough food for,

I swear, two more Seders! This year we are inviting guests from the community so please plan to attend to welcome our guests and show them how warm and friendly Temple Hatikvah members can be.

As you can see, we may be small, but we're active! In addition to our regular events, we are planning other social and informative events for this next year (with maybe a few pleasant surprises), as well as our always special Friday night Shabbat services and our occasional Saturday Havdalah services (Eilat's specialty!). So, please plan to join us, members and visitors alike! The more, the merrier!! We have a wonderful Rabbi who gives exceptional 9-minute sermons; a very talented and dedicated Cantorial soloist and teacher, Eilat Schmalbach; great Oneg Shabbats; and just the friendliest folks around! What more could you ask for? Well, we could ask for more members, so spread the word and let's try to increase our membership substantially this year!

On a more serious note.... tax time is almost here. If you need a charitable donation for your business or personal return before the end of the year, please consider donating to your Temple. Temple Hatikvah is an I.R.S. designated "501(c)(3)" Charitable Organization and as such, your donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. So, keep us in mind.... we need the help!

Looking forward to a great year!

See you in Temple!

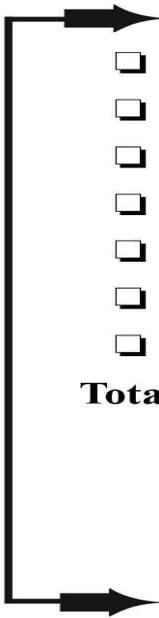
Carol Silver

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.

HIGH HOLY DAYS



Hanukkah Party

**Friday, December 30th
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 Carol Silver, email her at silv5622@bellsouth.net or mail to the Temple address. 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

'Tis the Season to be Thankful!

Eilat Schmalbach

We have just finished a marathon of 51 days on our Hebrew calendar which concentrated on various moods: First, during Elul, the mood of repentance, regrets and promises to change for the better. Then, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, a mood of plea: asking G-d to accept us as we are, humans for better or worse, and to enable us to continue to lead good, healthy, happy and meaningful lives.

The last week, beginning with Sukkot and ending with Simhat Torah (rejoicing at the end of the Torah reading cycle) is all about gratitude. We are aware that it is a new beginning, but it is also a celebration of accomplishments. We are adding Psalms of thanks to services, and we find opportunities to gather as a community to sing and dance.

Judaism is famous for the use of blessings. When we say a blessing, or when we recite Psalms, we are adding a layer of spirituality to our life. We are saying, "Yes, now that this and that happened, let us look forward with anticipation for more blessings". Let us bring our own blessings to those around us. More so – let us share our blessings and spread them around

The real Thanksgiving Holiday (The American one in November) is fast approaching, but we actually celebrated it already, with Succoth. Yes, no Turkeys were sacrificed to bring us joy, but plenty of good food was prepared and brought to our celebration to increase our joy during this time of Happiness. Thank G-d we still have leadership who schedules, hosts and prepares our celebrations. Thank G-d we still have devoted members who come with their tasty foods to participate as a community in those celebra-

tions. Thank G-d we still have our beautiful sanctuary and building, in which we can continue our history and tradition as Jews of Homestead and South Florida. Thank G-d the weather is great and no disasters visited us this year. Thank G-d....I am sure each of us may have a short or a long list to fill in this sentence.

Todah! Thank you! I wish you all a happy and thankful New Year of 5777!

Hodu Ladonai Ki Tov – Praise God for Goodness-
Ki leolam Chasdo- For G-d's grace is forever.

