

Temple Hatikvah



Shevat/Adar 5779

January/February 2019

From family to Peoplehood

Eilat Schmalbach

Our Torah has five books. The first is Bereshit- Genesis. This is a collection of stories about the creation of the world and our human and Jewish family. It relates the narrative of a unique dependence between G-d and humans, especially the Hebrew family. In these stories the heroes are often misguided, suffering from tragedies and dysfunctional family. Our heroes succeed, only after they learn from their mistakes, after they dare to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.

The next four books of the Torah, beginning with Shemot, Exodus, are all about the children of Israel and the creation of the Jewish people. (It) THE story leads us from slavery to freedom, and to understanding of the moral responsibility we have. It begins in Egypt, and continues

in the Sinai desert- a wilderness of dependency, hardship and struggle

There is almost no scientific (archeologic) proof that any of these stories ever hap-

pened, however, the moral message of these stories is clear: Life is complicated, follow your G-d's instructions, have faith, learn from

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We've got a lot going on!

HEBREW YEAR 5778

JANUARY 2019

11th Friday 7:30 PM Shabbat Service

26th Saturday 6:00 PM Oneg

FEBRUARY 2019

8th Friday 7:30 PM Shabbat Service

23rd Saturday 4:00 PM Bless the Animals

MARCH 2019

1st Friday 7:30 PM Shabbat Service

23rd Saturday 6:00 PM Purim Party & Play, Pot Luck Dinner

Reservations required.

PLEASE NOTE - WE ADDED SATURDAY SERVICES

From family to Peoplehood

Eilat Schmalbach

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your mistakes - and you may grow and advance in life. You may even reach your desired or promised destination.

In Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks' Torah study from 2016 we find beautiful description of the transition from Genesis to Exodus: "Genesis ends on an almost serene note. Jacob has found his long lost son. The family has been reunited. Joseph has forgiven his brothers. Under his protection and influence the family has settled in Goshen, one of the most prosperous regions of Egypt. They now have homes, property, food, the protection of Joseph and the favour of Pharaoh. It must have seemed one of the golden moments of Abraham's family's history.

Then, as has happened so often since, "There arose a new Pharaoh who did not know Joseph." There was a political climate change. The family fell out of favour. Pharaoh told his advisers: "Look, the Israelite people are becoming too numerous and strong for us"[1] – the first time the word "people" is used in the Torah with reference to the children of Israel. "Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase." And so the whole mechanism of oppression moves into operation: forced labour that turns into slavery that becomes attempted genocide.

The story is engraved in our memory. We tell it every year, and in summary-form in our prayers, every day. It is part of what it is to be a Jew. Yet there is one phrase that shines out from the narrative: "*But the more they were oppressed, the more they increased and the more they spread.*" That, no less than oppression itself, is part of what it means to be a Jew. The worse things get, the stronger we become. Jews are the people who not only survive but thrive in adversity. Jewish history is not merely a story of Jews enduring catastrophes that might have spelled the end to less tenacious groups. It is that after every disaster, Jews renewed themselves. They discovered some hitherto hidden reservoir of spirit that fueled new forms of collective self-expression as the carriers of God's message to the world."

(<http://rabbisacks.org/turning-curses-into-blessings-shemot-5776/>)

His article is called: **turning curses into blessings**. He teaches us to find the strength to learn from our challenges and to grow, bring a positive outlook and outcome to it. Find creative and brave solution and fight to survive.

These days, as anti-semitism is on the rise in most western countries, we need to remember the lessons of our Torah: Yes, we may not be popular, but we have a special mission, to bring ethical life to the world. Thus we have to find the way to increase our footprint, to bring goodness and light to our community and our world, and to do it with faith in our future and G-D's love.

I hope this coming 2019 will bring more good news than last year, and increase our blessings.

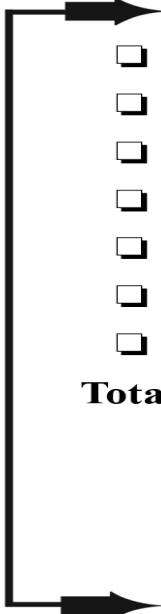
Amen

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"/> General Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Bill Fund	\$ _____
Total Donation	\$ _____



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*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.*

Chanukah Celebration



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

Bless the Animals and Nature

Saturday, February 23rd at 4:00 pm

Bring your pets
(the well-behaved
ones)
and stories
to share.



PURIM

SAVE THE DATE

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

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

\$10 members
\$13 non-members (13 and up)



Message from the Rabbi

Dr. Jack L. Sparks

For those of us who grew up with Yiddish speaking parents or grandparents, we may have heard the expression, “Sh’ver zu sein a yid”. (It’s hard to be a Jew) The expression actually was also the title of a famous Yiddish play written by Sholom Aleichem in 1920. I had the honor of seeing this play at The Folksbiene Playhouse, the only remaining Yiddish theatre in Manhattan, in the 80’s. The female lead, Holocaust survivor Tzipora Speisman happened to be a neighbor of mine on the Upper West Side. She and I would take the bus together each morning as her theatre troupe rented practice space at Central Synagogue. The years of riding the bus together (sometimes morning and evening) taught me much.

Tzipora shared memories of her performing on the great stages of pre-war Eastern Europe as a teenage actress. She shared stories of the war and how she survived the camps, although most of her family perished in the gas chambers. She shared stories of her passage to America, Ellis Island, and performing in the Lower East side Yiddish theatres of which there were dozens. The theme was usually the same: It is hard to be a Jew.

the globe, every day, the phrase: Sh’ver zu sein a yid words ring in my mind. May it be G-d’s will, the lyrics of another well known Yiddish phrase: “Do Not Worry Jews – this dream will come true.” From the well known song:

A nice dream did I see.

The 3rd Temple will be built;

Moses will be there, learning with the patriarchs and teaching all.

Aaron is lighting the menorah, but another wonderful face appears.

The Messiah enters, and all stand in awe,

He reveals the secrets of Torah. Suddenly I awake from this dream.

Don’t worry Jews, it will soon no longer be a dream

We will receive and welcome the Messiah.

Elated with happiness, with well being and health we will be.

All of us will be going home (to heaven) and will sit with Moses himself.

My friends, I pray for this, in the depths of my heart, every day.

May the Messiah come speedily in our day – when all illness, war and suffering will end.

In peace,

Rabbi Jack L. Sparks

Daily as we read the news from across