

President's Perspective.....Rubin Resigns in a Huff !

Gotcha! April fool! No, not really? Well, we can dream, can't we? To paraphrase Richard Nixon, "You won't have Howard Rubin to kick around much longer." And you won't be getting these references to a time that most of you don't remember or could not really care about.

So, here's wishing you and yours a happy April 1. And if that bit of sophomoric humor isn't enough, have you ever wondered where the "April Fool" custom came from? Nobody knows for sure. One source (well, Wikipedia) mentions that it is as old as the age of Chaucer (he is supposed to have made reference to it in one of his stories). Another theory is that ancient cultures celebrated the new year around April 1; but when Pope Gregory XIII ordered the calendar switched from the old Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar with the new year to begin on January 1, many people either refused to accept the new date, or did not learn about it. They continued to celebrate New Year's Day around April 1. Other people began to make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them into believing something false. Eventually, the practice spread throughout Europe. This theory has historical holes in it, but my Google search showed that it may be the most accepted explanation.

According to Infoplease.com (maybe the mature uncle to Wikipedia?) many different cultures have had days of foolishness around the beginning of April, give or take a few of weeks. The Romans had a festival named Hilaria. The Hindu calendar has Holi and we have Purim. Obviously there is more to Purim than just acting foolish, but we all know it is a fun celebration. Perhaps there's something about the time of year, with its turn from winter to spring, that lends itself to lighthearted celebrations.

And speaking of celebrations, we have a few things on the schedule to usher us away from winter and into spring. On April 7 we have our Steak and Scotch men's gathering. Aside from the food and drink, our rabbis have promised to teach us some things to make our own Passover seders more meaningful.

And have you heard about the Spring Fair of West Plano scheduled for April 17? If not, where have you been? For the past several years, we have hosted a fun afternoon of family activities, food, shopping and a flower sale; and each year it has grown. This year, barring rain, all activities will be outside. And let's not forget that this is one of our major fundraisers. It allows us to support our excellent education programs for our kids and end the year financially strong. So bring your friends and family. You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy!

And finally, Hazak sponsors the annual trip to Choctaw Casino on May 1 for a little gaming activity. So, we have food, drinks, family fun and gambling. Something for everyone! And then we move into Passover at the end of this month. So allow me wish all of you a C'hag Sameach and a wonderful seder with your family and friends.

Howard Rubin