



**Rabbi Hillel's
Message**

January 2012 / Tevet 5772

It was Ecclesiastes who wrote "To everything there is a season" a sentiment that is absolutely true in our world today. Our year is divided into Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter (although let's be honest, in Orlando there is not really a winter). Certainly the Jewish year has seasons as well – *Tishrei*, the first month of the Jewish calendar, is known as the "High Holiday season". Accountants would probably include "tax season". And this year, as we enter 2012, we are once again about to embark on a journey that we take once every four years....primary season.

As citizens of the United States of America, we are tasked, every four years, with electing a citizen to serve the highest office in the land, the office of President of the United States of America. As we all know, in order to be considered for this incredible honor a person must first secure their party's nomination for President through the primaries. It is a long and arduous process which while hard on all of us is surely much, much harder on the candidates themselves not to mention their staffs.

What is fantastic about our country is that not only are we all allowed but encouraged to hold our own opinions in all matters and we have the right to express those opinions in public forums. To be sure, between now and November there will be ample opportunity for each and every one of us to express these opinions in appropriate ways. But between now and then, I want to ask each and every one of you to protect the sanctity of our synagogue by not turning it into a political stomping ground. Let our conversations at SOJC remain about Judaism and our relationships with God and save the politics for another time and place. We will strive to find ways through the Jewish community to express these opinions and show our support for whatever candidate we may choose. But our synagogue, most especially during services, is not the place for that.

Our democracy has set the standard for peaceful transitions of power, a future which may or may not take place one year from now. In the upcoming primary season I hope and pray that we continue to respect each other and our differing opinions. And let us all remember that one of the best ways for us to support our democracy is to participate in it by casting a ballot.

Shabbat Services

January 6 & 7, 2012
Fri. 6:00 pm Tot Shabbat
7:30 pm Services
Sat. 9:30 am Services

January 13 & 14, 2012
Fri. 7:30 pm Services
Sat. 9:30 am Services

January 20 & 21, 2012
Fri. 7:30 pm Services
Sat. 9:30 am Services

January 27 & 28, 2012
Fri. 7:30 pm Services
Sat. 9:30 am Services

January Dates of Interest

Purim Schpeil Rehearsals
Sun. @12:30 pm 1/8, 1/22, 1/29
Sun. @10:00 am 1/15
Mon. @7 pm 1/9, 1/16, 1/23/, 1/30
Wed. @7 pm 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25

Rabbi's Talmud Class
Tuesday 3 & 17 @7:30 pm

Cantorial Corps Meeting
Sunday, 1/8, 12:15-1:30 pm

Chalutzim Meeting
Sun. 1/22, 12:00—1:00 pm



President's Message

Michele Fischer

The SOJC Board of Directors wishes all of our families a happy and prosperous new year.

As we enter the year of 2012, we reflect upon the year that is ending and look forward to what awaits in the upcoming months ahead. At SOJC, we have made great strides in this closing year. We have added 2 Rabbi's and their children to our congregational family, we have grown our membership over 10%, we have come together many times over the year to eat and celebrate simchas, Shabbats, and holidays. We have joined forces and begun to clean and care for the SOJC building (in large part to Brett Spector). We have surpassed expectations in our fundraising efforts and, most importantly, we have bonded as a family. I look forward to keeping up these traditions and adding more successes in the upcoming year.

February 11, 2012 will be Rabbi Skonik's installation dinner and fundraising event. There will be delicious food, dancing, and great auction items as well as a published tribute book to Rabbi Skolnik. Please join us in making this a truly successful event by attending, placing an ad in the tribute book, and gathering items to be used in the silent auction. Forms for donations and tribute book ads were mailed to each family but can also be downloaded from the website at www.sojc.org.

In February we also will be holding board elections. If you are interested in running for the board and truly making a difference at SOJC, notify Jules Gelade, Ellen Regen, or Larry Wolfman. Thank you to those who served in the past. Your dedication and hard work has been greatly appreciated. We have done so much work in creating a family and community. I am proud of those results. When you enter SOJC you can feel the love and warmth that emits from our families who are responsible for creating that kindhearted environment. We will continue to build and strengthen our family, as well as "Restore SOJC" to its splendor. We can take great pride from SOJC members in our community as well as our spiritual leaders. Rabbi Skolnik and Cantor Ramsay have created a Jewish environment enriched with learning opportunities, devout services, and warm outreach.

Be part of the "Restore SOJC" movement and get involved in our committees and fundraising projects. This next year promises to be filled with opportunities and rewards!

Happy New Year



Rabbi Hillel Skolnik's Installation
Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation's
Biggest Fundraising Event of the Year
February 11, 2012
7:30 PM
Rosen Plaza Hotel
Orlando, FL

Don't miss out on this opportunity to celebrate
the installation of Rabbi Hillel Skolnik as
Rabbi of the Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation!
We invite you to eat, dance and rejoice with us!
If you haven't done so already, please RSVP

Send in your personal messages of congratulations to
Rabbi Hillel to be included in the Rabbi's Tribute Book

We also need everyone to solicit ads for the Tribute Book!

Forms are included in this newsletter as well as on our website at
www.sojc.org.



Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation
 11102 S. Apopka Vineland Road
 Orlando, Florida 32836
www.sojc.org 407-239-5444

Rabbi Skolnik's Installation Gala
 February 11, 2012
 Journal Book

<u>SPONSORSHIP LEVELS</u>	
_____ Front Cover + 12 months full page ad on the SOJC website	\$2000.00
_____ Back Cover + 12 months half page ad on the SOJC website	\$1000.00
_____ Inside Front Cover + 12 months quarter page ad on the SOJC website	\$600.00
_____ Inside Back Cover + 12 months quarter page ad on the SOJC website	\$500.00

<u>BUSINESS ADS AND BEST WISHES</u>	
_____ Full Page Ad + 3 months full page ad on the SOJC website	\$250.00
_____ Half Page Ad + 3 months half page ad on the SOJC website	\$150.00
_____ Quarter Page Ad	\$90.00
_____ Business Card Ad	\$54.00
_____ 3 Line Message	\$36.00
Copy/Artwork enclosed	
*Kindly submit camera-ready copy or we can design your ad or best wishes	

Kindly mail form, ad and payment to SOJC,
 11200 South Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando, Florida 32836
 All checks made payable to SOJC

Name of Business _____ Solicited by: _____
 Address _____ Phone Number _____

Thank you for your support



Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation

11200 S. Apopka Vineland Road

Orlando, Florida 32836

2011-2012 Silent Auction Donation Form

Silent Auction to Benefit Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation

We would like to thank you for making a contribution to our silent auction. Please complete this form and fax or mail to SOJC c/o Michele Fischer, Fundraising Chair at 407-239-6742.

DONOR NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please describe the item(s) you are donating (please be as descriptive as possible): _____

Approximate retail value of item: \$ _____

All donation forms should be received by Wednesday January 31, 2012. Please indicate if you will be delivering the item to the SOJC, or if you need to arrange a pick-up.

Delivery _____ Pick-up _____

If a pick up is required, we will contact you shortly to make arrangements.

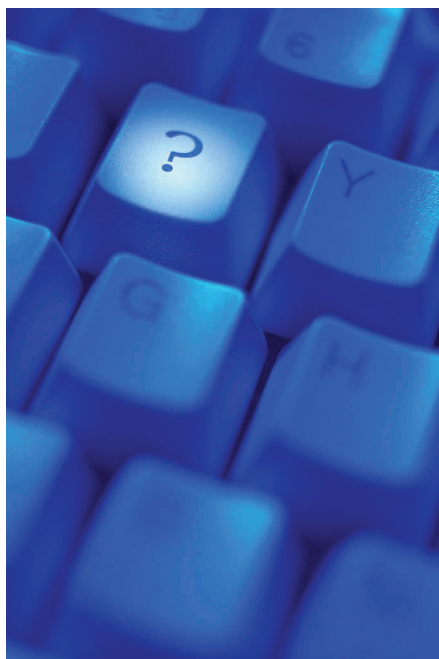
Thank you for your support!!!

Michele Fischer

ASK THE RABBI

**Look for Rabbi Skolnik's new monthly column
coming soon.**

**Please send your questions to Rabbi@sojc.org
and he will answer them here.**





From Cantor Doug Ramsay

Education Station

What a wonderful sight it was to see all of our students laughing and singing at our Chanukah Universe celebration! Thanks to all of our wonderful teachers, teaching assistants, and the outstanding support by all of our PTA volunteers to make this event a Chanukah memory for our students. Special mention must be made to PTA co-president Yeseima Alvarado and her kitchen volunteers for the handmade latkes which received rave reviews; as well as teachers Robert Moszenberg and Joanna Levine for coordinating the events of the day.

I am looking forward to the second half of the year which will be filled with wonderful programs and Grade Shabbatot. If you haven't had the chance, please speak to PTA co-presidents Yeseima Alvarado and Robert Moszenberg for a chance to participate in making your child's Jewish education a more enriching experience. Make it a family affair! You communicate to your child many things when you participate in the PTA: that Judaism is important to you, that Judaic education is a lifelong endeavor, that you are invested in their moral and spiritual development, that you want the best education for them and you are willing to work to make that happen, and perhaps most importantly, that your love for your child is entwined in your love of our G-d.

Remember that you can always download registration forms, volunteer forms, a School Calendar at a Glance page and view the most up-to-date Calendar at our website: www.sojc.org
Here is this month's schedule:

1/4/12	5:30pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
1/6/12	6:00pm	Tot Shabbat
1/8/12	9:00am	Religious School for Grades K-7
1/11/12	5:30pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
1/15/12	9:00am	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL-MLK weekend
1/18/12	5:30pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
1/22/12	9:00am	Religious School for Grades K-7
1/25/12	5:30pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
1/29/12	9:00am	Religious School for Grades K-7
2/1/12	5:30pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
2/3/12	6:00pm	Tot Shabbat
2/5/12	9:00am	Religious School for Grades K-7
2/8/12	5:30pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7 Tu B'Shevat
2/10/12	7:30pm	6 th Grade Shabbat
2/12/12	9:00am	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL- Tu B'Shevat Outing at Little Slice Ranch



Cantorial Corps News by Cantor Doug

In December Emily Lubin, Mason Moncayo, Michael Walters, Adam Gerber, Sam Rossum, Shana Medel, Jacob Alvarado, and Jacob "Cubby" Rubenstein all read Torah beautifully. Shana Medel, Michael Walters, Mason Moncayo, Sam Rossum, and Miranda Rossum led Shabbat services with confidence and skill.

Since 2000, the Cantorial Corps has been a uniquely SOJC youth group for post Bar and Bat Mitzvah students that encourages our teens to practice and keep those skills that they spend so much time and effort to perfect. It also serves as another opportunity for teens to celebrate their Judaic heritage and each other in a safe and fun-filled way. This year the CC will discover Charleston, SC in a uniquely Jewish way. To learn more look us up at: www.sojc.org!

If you missed the SOJC Talent Show, you missed an absolutely great family event. There was talent, there was silliness, and there was tons of fun! All proceeds will help fund the Cantorial Corps trip this summer to Charleston, SC. Thank you to all those who performed in the show, thanks to our judges, Robert Moszenberg, Risa Sikora, and Louis Klapper, thanks to all the CC members to volunteered, and thanks to the Gelade family for producing the finale number, "Mun." You all made it a wonderful experience for the community.

Mazel Tov to Rebecca Lubin on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah last month. We look forward to your future involvement in your Jewish community at SOJC.

Here's our busy schedule:

Sunday, Jan 8th 12:15pm Cantorial Corps Meeting-Bagelicious Bridge to 2012!
 Saturday, Jan 21st 9:30am Cantorial Corps Shabbat

Torah Team News by Cantor Doug

This December Dan Rubenstein, Jules Gelade, Andrew Sagona, Yvonne Bleecker, Cheryl Weiner, Henry Fried, and Abigail Lubin all read Torah with inspiration. Mel Marsel, Jules Gelade, and Mark Silverstein all chanted Haftaratot beautifully. Mel Marsel and Alan Roufa also assisted in leading services on Shabbat mornings.

These adult Laypeople are an inspiration to us all. Some of them have honed their skills all their lives, but most have come to their mastery of these skills during adulthood and continue to practice these skills in service to our synagogue. If you would like to learn, or want to get on the list to read Torah, Haftarah or to lead a service, or if you just want more info, e-mail me at cantor@sojc.org. It's a mitzvah, it's uplifting, and it's a wonderful experience!



Saturday, Jan 21st 9:30am Torah Team Shabbat
 Saturday, Jan 28th 9:30am Torah Team Shabbat



Bagelicious Bridge to 2012!

Cantorial Corps Meeting
Sunday, January 7th at 12:15pm



Bagels (brick / community Law)
Cream Cheese (mortar / Tradition)
Lox (beautification / Knowledge)

Come help your Cantorial Corps friends build a
delicious bridge to 2012
while we plan for our trip to South Carolina and for
our next fun-draising event!

January 2012 BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Marc Gerber
- 2 David Glasser
- 5 Jonathan Laski
- 7 Richard Geller
- 7 Viroshini Gordon
- 8 Ken Essig
- 13 Holly Myerson
- 18 Dianne Zullo
- 19 Jacqueline Siegel
- 22 Gail Cohen
- 25 Jill Schwartz
- 31 Ilisabeth Feldman
- 31 Karin Snitz

Thank you

To the following congregants for their generous donations:

Karen & Larry Goldman for donating the invitations for the Rabbi's Installation Dinner & Auction!

JANUARY 2012 ANNIVERSARIES

2 David & Jacqueline Siegel
4 Scott & Ellen Regen
22 William & Elizabeth Mack



Sponsor a Kiddush for \$36
Contact the SOJC Office at
office@sojc.org
or call
407-239-5444

JANUARY 2012 YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL



Observance	Deceased	Observer
January 01, 2012	Ruth Bleecker	Yvonne Bleecker
January 01, 2012	Patrice Feldman	Michael Feldman
January 01, 2012	Jules Slepian	Roslyn Slepian
January 04, 2012	Morris Goldstein	Judith Marsel
January 04, 2012	Isidore Regen	Scott Regen
January 04, 2012	Sophie Rosenberg	Milvia Oxer
January 04, 2012	Jack Weiner	Michael Weiner
January 05, 2012	Frieda Block	Phyllis Zunk
January 07, 2012	Reuben Snitz	Andrew Snitz
January 09, 2012	Rose Atkin	Scott Regen
January 09, 2012	Leon Rossum	Steven Rossum
January 11, 2012	James Fisher	Harlene Matza
January 11, 2012	Mildred Silverman	Brett Kingstone
January 13, 2012	Gerald Snitz	Andrew Snitz
January 14, 2012	Lillian Marsel	Melvin Marsel
January 15, 2012	Beatrice Selman	Abby Pait
January 15, 2012	Carrie Stephens	Shellie Spear
January 17, 2012	John Hanifan	Scott Fishman
January 18, 2012	Joseph Oxer	Harold Oxe
January 20, 2012	Issac Gordon	Anna Gordon
January 21, 2012	Anne Miller	Mordecai Miller
January 21, 2012	Bertha Newman	Charlotte Wasser
January 21, 2012	Catherine Schlossman	Sara Schlossman
January 25, 2012	Victor Havas	Jeremy Havas
January 25, 2012	Morris Kessler	Mary Roufa
January 26, 2012	Silvia Haber	Rosalind Beltzer
January 27, 2012	Bertha Solomon	Dr. Maris Ramsay
January 28, 2012	Abraham Israel	Carol Hauser
January 29, 2012	Dr Alan Denner	Valerie Denner
January 29, 2012	Donald Gaines	Scott Regen
January 31, 2012	Pauline Oxer	Harold Oxer



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ORLANDO UROLOGY ASSOCIATES
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SOJC Board of Directors



If you know of any unaffiliated Jews in the Southwest Orlando area, please give their name and number to the office at (407) 239-5444. We would like to invite and welcome them to attend our social events throughout the year.

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Doug Ramsay cantor@sojc.org

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Honorary Directors

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www.sojc.org 407-239-5444

11200 South Apopka Vineland Road Orlando, FL 32836



WWW.SOJC.ORG

Come visit our new website:

View the SOJC Calendar including all events and services Youth programs, Religious School dates, Family Programs... get it all!

- View our newsletters
- Download registration and membership forms
- Learn about USY, Kadima and the Cantorial Corps
- Read about our fantastic Religious School
- Contact us directly through the website
- More content and features are being added every week

Thank you to Jacob Weiner and Jeff Sikora for donating their time and efforts to bring our presence back to the web!