

# SOJC

March  
2011



# NEWS

Adar I & Adar II  
5771

Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation

## DATES OF INTEREST

**Thursday, March 03, 2011**

7:00pm Adult Ed- Parsha of the Week- Rabbi Wachsmann

**Friday, March 04, 2011**

Prospective Rabbi in residence for Shabbat

6:00pm Tot Shabbat

7:30pm Erev Shabbat Services

**Thursday, March 10, 2011**

7:00pm Adult Ed- Parsha of the Week- Rabbi Wachsmann

**Friday, March 11, 2011**

Prospective Rabbi in residence for Shabbat

**Thursday, March 17, 2011**

7:00pm Adult Ed- Parsha of the Week- Rabbi Wachsmann

**Friday, March 18, 2011**

Prospective Rabbi in residence for Shabbat

**Saturday, March 19, 2011**

8:00pm Family Purim Service-Ice Cream Social to follow

**Sunday, March 20, 2011**

11:00am Purim Carnival

**Thursday, March 24, 2011**

7:00pm Adult Ed- Parsha of the Week- Rabbi Wachsmann

## RABBI DAVID'S COLUMN

Rabbi  
David Goldberg



Around this time of year, I often think back to childhood memories of Purim. I specifically remember how my family would celebrate the custom of mishloach manot: giving tasty food packages to friends and family. Since my siblings and I had a day off from school, my grandparents would drive us around the entire city, distributing hundreds of mishloach manot to all their friends. And it was our job to run out of the car, up the sidewalk, and deliver the package. We often received small tips from the families, a quarter or so for making the delivery. But more important than the few dollars that we earned that day, we learned the critical value of spreading the joy of Jewish holidays with others.

We learn in the Book of Esther (Chapter 9), and later in rabbinic tradition, that there are four commandments that must be observed during Purim: reading the Megillah (story of Purim), sending portions of food to one another, giving gifts to the poor, and having a feast. One rabbi, in interpreting this practice, commented that the megillah specifically says that people are supposed to give gifts to their friends. The rabbi continues and asks, how is it possible for someone to know if someone really appreciates them as a friend? Therefore, one can-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Saturday, March 26, 2011**

9:30am Alexis Oskam Bat Mitzvah

**Sunday, March 27, 2011**

No Religious School-Spring Break

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

No Religious School-Spring Break

**Thursday, March 31, 2011**

7:00pm Adult Ed- Parsha of the Week- Rabbi Wachsmann

**Sunday, April 03, 2011**

No Religious School-Spring Break

**Monday, April 18, 2011**

Pesach Begins, 1st Seder

**Saturday, April 30, 2011**

9:30am Jessica Silkes Bat Mitzvah

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*"The mission of the Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation is to create a community for Jewish spiritual enrichment, values, education, social and cultural events by welcoming and encouraging participation of the community."*

## RABBI'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

not say a blessing on this practice. But the rabbi comments that the whole point of this practice is *leharbot hashalom*, to increase peace in our world. While I did not know some of the people to whom I delivered *mishloach manot* all those years ago, I do know that by sharing *mishloach manot*, my family and I certainly created a stronger sense of community, of peace. This community in SOJC is already a tight-knit and welcoming community. But I hope that, in efforts to continue reaching out to more people, both those already members of SOJC and those beyond, that we will all work to spread a sense of community and peace, particularly through the custom of *mishloach manot*. ☆

## FROM THE CANTOR

*Cantor Ramsay*



What is at stake when the action or inaction of a few people decides the fate of future generations? Tomorrow's history is decided today. We will not be judged well by our children if we shirk that responsibility. This month in Megillat Ester we read the story of Purim. What better illustration of how great that responsibility really is! Had Ester succumbed to her fear and not confronted the king, a significant portion of our people would have been snuffed out in a day. Ester did not ask for the responsibility, but because of her circumstances in place and time, she was able to intervene in the destruction of her people.

We, too, must find our footing and our responsibility in our own age. Do we confer the religious education to others, or do we actively participate in whatever way we can? Do we allow the future of our Jewish community to wallow in mere survival of the present? Or do we communicate with our feet, our tongues, and our money to support now that which we and future generations will require us to bequeath to them? If we truly believe in our obligation to the future the answers should be clear and unambiguous.

Our personal part of history probably will not be as dramatic or as far reaching in our time as Queen Ester's part. But, we each have a very direct impact on those closest to us: our children, our spouses, our friends, and our community. We need not be Jewish scholars, or strict adherents to *halachah*, or even be particularly observant. There is no indication in the Megillah that Ester was any of those things. That did not keep her from asserting her influence as her talents and opportunities allowed. Had Mordecai not persuaded Ester to act as she did, she surely would have failed to avert the ensuing death and destruction to Judaism. Perhaps her place in history would be as infamous as Haman himself.

Will Judaism die in our families because we failed to act? Will future generations minimize Judaism in their lives because of the example we fail to demonstrate? Or will we assert our values and our hopes and our responsibility in deeds which support Judaism in our homes and in our Jewish communities. This month we have numerous opportunities to assert our stake in our SOJC family. Support the Purim activities you see advertised in the following pages. Create lasting memories for your family and community that demonstrate that overwhelming power and persistence that has been the hallmark of Judaism throughout the ages. And may we, banding together, broker a legacy so rich in its gifts to the future, that our children will marvel at our foresight and the depth of our love. ☆

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Michele Fischer, President*

Over two days in February, I had the privilege of meeting thirteen rabbinic students perched on the brink of making a major impact on thirteen lucky congregations. Each and every rabbinic candidate was poised, articulate, passionate and confident. The nominating committee was then charged with taking this list of thirteen and narrowing it down to two. These two candidates will each spend a weekend at SOJC and hopefully enrich SOJC and its membership with their infectious love of Torah and Judaism. The nominating committee will also filter down a stack of resumes from rabbi's currently working in their field.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
CONTINUED**

Two of these rabbis will also spend a weekend at SOJC, praying, teaching, and getting to know our families. What a daunting task! Not only does the choice of the rabbinic candidate affect the life of the candidate, but it will have an enormous impact on our entire SOJC family and the entire Southwest Orlando Jewish community. One of these candidates may eventually become the new rabbi of SOJC!

The BOD, nominating committee, and the seasoned members of SOJC understand the importance and difficulty of choosing a spiritual leader. While Cantor Ramsay has done a wonderful job leading our congregation, we look forward to the growth of SOJC that can come with the addition of a Rabbi. Not just a growth in members, but a spiritual growth that can only be heightened by having a seminary educated and ordained spiritual leader.

I encourage you take advantage of the many opportunities to meet and interact with the visiting candidates and their families. The choice of a rabbinical leader must be that of the entire congregation, not just a select few. If we are to be successful in our search, it is imperative that our congregational families come to meet and experience what each candidate has to offer. Every candidate has a unique blend of talents, strengths, and, yes, weaknesses that we must accept and embrace, remembering all the while that none of us are perfect, and no rabbi can excel in every aspect of spiritual leadership. When we are finished with the rabbinic candidate's visits, a congregational meeting will be held to discuss, evaluate, and hopefully choose our next spiritual leader. Details of this next step will follow shortly.

Please take an active part in building SOJC's future as we begin our quest for a rabbi. ☆

**LIFELONG LEARNING  
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*SOJC Adult Education*

**Hillel for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** On Sunday, March 27, at 10 AM, Sara Schlossman will lead a discussion which takes as its departure point Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's concise book, Hillel: If not now, when? We hope you will join us! ☆



*Submitted by Cantor Ramsay*

This month we look forward to our annual Purim Carnival during Religious School on the 20<sup>th</sup>. While school begins at the usual 9:00am that day, the Purim Carnival begins at 11:00am and continues through 1:00pm. Please ensure that you have purchased a wrist band and some tickets for your child in advance from the PTA through Eve Marsel or any PTA representative. Come and join the PTA in volunteering to make the Purim Carnival a fun event for your child and a successful fundraiser for less fortunate Jewish students.

Thank you to our wonderful staff of teachers and the PTA for ensuring that our fantastic school operated at full strength and without a hitch while I was out of the country. It is an inspiration to me that our community possesses such educational strength.

Here is our March school schedule:

- 3/2/11 ..... 5:30pm Religious School for Grades 3-7
- 3/6/11 ..... 9:00am Religious School for Grades 3-7
- 3/9/11 ..... 5:30pm Religious School for Grades 3-7
- 3/13/11 ..... 9:00am Religious School for Grades K-7
- 3/16/11 ..... 5:30pm Religious School for Grades 3-7
- 3/20/11 ..... 9:00am Religious School for Grades K-7
- ..... 11:00am Purim Carnival
- 3/23/11 ..... 5:30pm Religious School for Grades 3-7
- 3/27/11 ..... 9:00am No Religious School - Spring Break
- 3/30/11 ..... 5:30pm No Religious School - Spring Break
- 4/1/11 ..... 6:00pm Tot Shabbat
- 4/3/11 ..... 9:00am No Religious School - Spring Break
- 4/6/11 ..... 5:30pm Religious School for Grades 3-7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## EDUCATION STATION CONTINUED

When you ask your child(ren), "What did you learn today?" and you don't get an appropriate answer, follow up with, "What holiday did you talk about?" "You didn't talk about the Torah today?" "What did you learn in Hebrew?" If they know you are really interested, they will be more interested. They want to share with you what they know... let them show off to you! ☆

## TORAH TEAM NEWS



*Cantor Doug Ramsay*

This February Rich Waldor, Henry Fried, Ed Bromberg, Yvonne Bleecker, Cheryl Weiner, and Jules Gelade all read Torah with inspiration. Mel Marsel, Alan Roufa, Jules Gelade, and Bella Katz all chanted Haftarah beautifully. Mel Marsel, Dan Rubenstein, Ed Bromberg, 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, Mar 6<sup>th</sup> Torah Team reads Torah

Saturday, Mar 12<sup>th</sup> Torah Team reads Torah

Saturday, Mar 19<sup>th</sup> Torah Team reads Torah

*L'shalom v'shira,  
Cantor Doug Ramsay ☆*

## CANTORIAL CORPS NEWS

In February Shana Medel and Emily Lubin read Torah with confidence, competence, and skill. Joshua Fischer, Shana Medel, and Jacob Rubenstein led Shabbat services beautifully.

It was gratifying to see our teens step up to serve our SOJC family by leading services and reading Torah. Our young people will be active participants in the synagogues of the future. What better promise can we provide for that future?

Here's our schedule:

Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Cantorial Corps Shabbat

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> Cantorial Corps Shabbat

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> Cantorial Corps Shabbat

*L'shalom v'shira,  
Cantor Doug Ramsay ☆*

## 3RD ANNUAL PARTY EXPO AT THE JCC

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

The JCC is hosting our 3rd annual Party Expo on Sunday, March 6, 2011, from 9am-2pm featuring all sorts of vendors from venues, musicians, caterers, rental companies, balloon artists, entertainers, DJ's, etc. This event is FREE to the public and is geared towards every party theme from Birthday Parties, Bar or Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Retirements, or any other special occasions. We would appreciate very much if you could forward along our event information to your congregation and members of your community since many of them can be in the planning stages of their children's Bar or Bat Mitzvahs or any other occasions. Plus, those who attend will be entered in a drawing to win 1 FREE week of 2011 summer camp at the JCC's Jack & Lee Rosen Southwest Orlando Campus with no strings attached! ☆

# BAT MITZVAH PROFILE



Lexi, daughter of Kim and JC Oskam will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 26, 2011. Lexi is currently in 7th grade at SouthWest Middle School.

Her interests include Crew and Baking. Her favorite book is The Maximum Ride Series, her favorite movie is

Date Night, favorite TV Show is NCIS and Cake Boss, and her favorite snackfood is Peanut Butter and Neutella. Lexi's most memorable quote is, "I will be back shorty."

Sharing in her family's simcha will be Kim, JC, Amanda, Dodi Gould, and the Issokson Family. Lexi's Tikkun Olam project is collecting newspapers for the SPCA.

Any donations in honor of Lexi becoming Bat Mitzvah should be made to SPCA Animal Shelter. ✡

## GET CONNECTED TO YOUR SOJC FAMILY... FROM YOUR CELL PHONE!

Wouldn't you like to have us tell you when the next Tot Shabbat is? Family Friday? when Rabbi Goldberg will be teaching? or even when your child's Grade Shabbat is? or the next SOJUSY event?



It's easy to get connected: just text on your cell phone to the number 90210, the letters "SOJC" and your cell number will automatically be added to receive notices for exciting events that your friends will be attending. You have total control. You can stop the notices and start them again at your whim. But try it, you'll like knowing what's going on in real time. Tell your friends so they will know as well.

Any questions can be directed to Cantor Doug Ramsay at [cantor@sojc.org](mailto:cantor@sojc.org) or Oren Brockman at [obrockmanusa@gmail.com](mailto:obrockmanusa@gmail.com).

March 2011



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR CONGREGANTS

- |          |                  |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|----------|------------------|
| 2 .....  | Jaime Sagona     | 14 ..... | Rosalind Beltzer |
| 4 .....  | Stan Sujka       | 14 ..... | Lance Levine     |
| 5 .....  | Marissa Goldberg | 15 ..... | Edward Bromberg  |
| 6 .....  | Leon Finkler     | 15 ..... | Marc Feldman     |
| 6 .....  | Michael Gerber   | 15 ..... | Mary Roufa       |
| 6 .....  | Shelley Roth     | 17 ..... | Hunter Magen     |
| 6 .....  | Andrei Sujka     | 19 ..... | Benjamin Schulte |
| 8 .....  | Joseph Mico      | 19 ..... | Alana Zavett     |
| 9 .....  | Anna Cohen       | 20 ..... | Lucy Davila      |
| 9 .....  | Joshua Gonzales  | 21 ..... | Sarah Aronow     |
| 9 .....  | Kim Siegel       | 23 ..... | Alexis Oskam     |
| 10 ..... | Tom Goodman      | 23 ..... | Ruby Yablon      |
| 10 ..... | Sara Schlossman  | 24 ..... | Tammi Denner     |
| 11 ..... | Michael Goodman  | 28 ..... | Michele Fischer  |
| 12 ..... | Marian Bromberg  | 30 ..... | Evan Rayman      |
| 12 ..... | Allison Fishman  | 31 ..... | Marissa Kotzin   |
| 12 ..... | Jason Ramsay     | 31 ..... | Olivia Solomon   |
| 13 ..... | Doug Essig       | 31 ..... | Lexi Walters     |
| 13 ..... | Charlotte Moody  |          |                  |



March 2011

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CONGREGANTS

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11 ..... | Isadore & Ruby Yablon                    |
| 13 ..... | Bonnie & Bonnie Rayman                   |
| 24 ..... | Max & Bella Katz                         |
| 25 ..... | Mitchell & Serena Frank                  |
| 28 ..... | Marvin & Shelly Blatt                    |
| 30 ..... | Richard Geller & Gabriela Roitman-Geller |

March  
2011




Adar I &  
Adar II


## Yahrzeit Memorial

Hebrew Date	Departed	Member Observer	This Year
26 ADAR I	..... Jaime Regen	..... Scott Regen	..... March 02
27 ADAR I	..... Matilda Frankfort	..... Holly Myerson	..... March 03
	..... Fanny Ginsburg	..... Scott Regen	
	..... Goodman Glasser	..... David Glasser	
29 ADAR I	..... Leon Ackerman	..... Charlotte Moody	..... March 05
	..... Daisy Seidner	..... Barbara Siegel	
4 ADAR II	..... Evelyn Nathan	..... Cheryl Weiner	..... March 10
6 ADAR II	..... Robert Allen	..... Amy Karr	..... March 12
8 ADAR II	..... Phillip Krieger	..... Marion Wolfman	..... March 14
9 ADAR II	..... Joseph Koffler	..... Merrille Koffler	..... March 15
11 ADAR II	..... Moses Sambol	..... Iris Kleinman	..... March 17
12 ADAR II	..... Jean Roufa	..... Alan Roufa	..... March 18
14 ADAR II	..... Leonard Frankfort	..... Holly Myerson	..... March 20*
15 ADAR II	..... Sayde Zavett	..... Dennis Zavett	..... March 21
18 ADAR II	..... Ralph Nathan	..... Cheryl Weiner	..... March 24

\*—Yahrzeit is being observed on the Gregorian Date



*If you know any unaffiliated Jews in the Southwest Orlando area, please give their name and number to the office at (407) 239-5444. We will be having a number of fun, social events and want to invite and welcome them to attend.*



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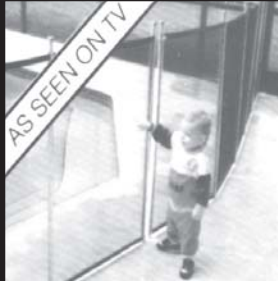


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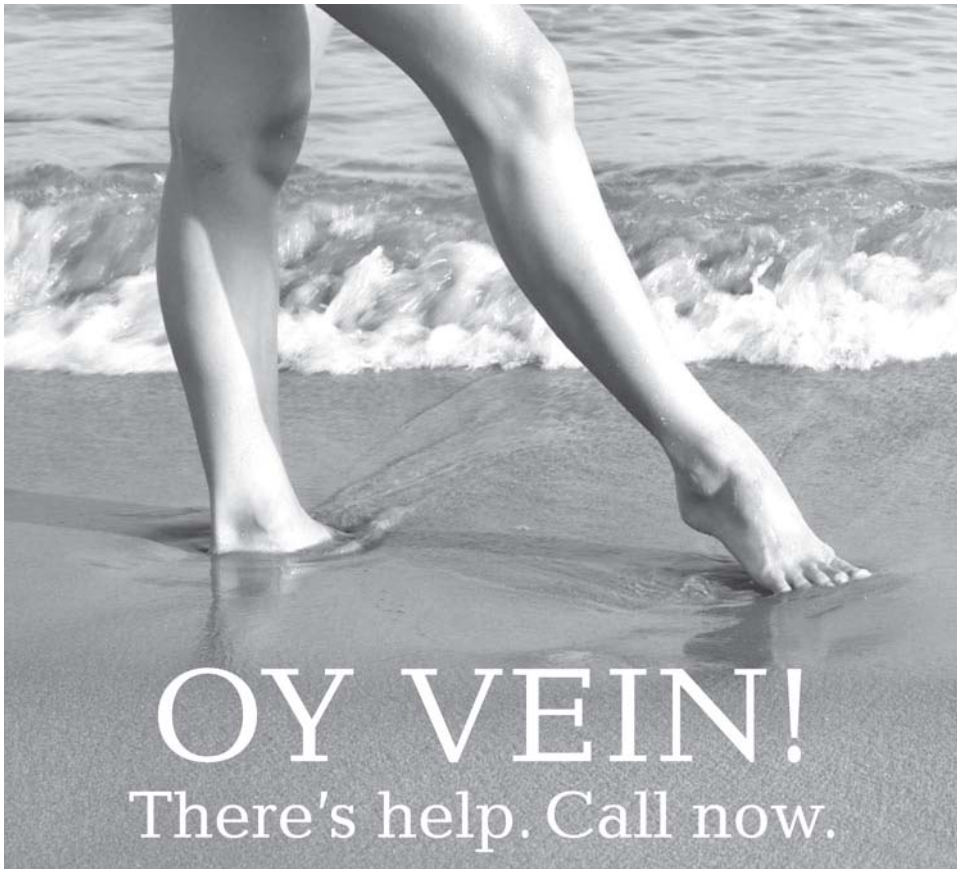
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2011

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for getting an award at  
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for being the best  
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Orange County this year."  
From Lucille Ackerman*

### **TIKKUN OLAM FUND**

*In loving memory of Stuart  
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From David & Paula Fitzer*

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Come visit our new website, where you can:

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- View the latest newsletter before it hits your mailbox... view past newsletters, too!
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- Contact us directly through the website!
- Read insightful lessons regarding this week's Torah reading in our "Weekly Torah" links!
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- Thank you to Jeff Sikora for donating his time and efforts to bring our presence back to the web! ✨





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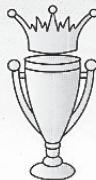
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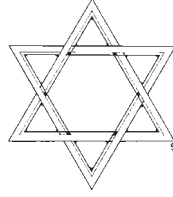
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Cheryl Weiner .. [cheryl.nathanweiner@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.nathanweiner@gmail.com)

**3rd Vice President**

Brian Gordon ..... [gordonbbg1@aol.com](mailto:gordonbbg1@aol.com)

**Treasurer**

Rena Ballot ..... [rballot@aol.com](mailto:rballot@aol.com)

**Assistant Treasurer**

Jeff Rosen ..... [jsrosenkiss@aol.com](mailto:jsrosenkiss@aol.com)

**Financial Secretary**

Harlene Matza ..... [orlandoafac@yahoo.com](mailto:orlandoafac@yahoo.com)

**Recording Secretary**

Ben Bolusky ..... [bbolusky@fn gla.org](mailto:bbolusky@fn gla.org)

**Directors**

Shelly Blatt ..... [mshelly@aol.com](mailto:mshelly@aol.com)

Jules Gelade ..... [sumyum@rhody.ws](mailto:sumyum@rhody.ws)

Holly Myerson ..... [hollylenn856@aol.com](mailto:hollylenn856@aol.com)

Ellen Regen ..... [eregen@cfl.r.com](mailto:eregen@cfl.r.com)

Jeff Sikora ..... [jgsikora@gmail.com](mailto:jgsikora@gmail.com)

Charlotte Moody ..... [moody52@gmail.com](mailto:moody52@gmail.com)

Larry E. Wolfman ..... [tmiwolf@aol.com](mailto:tmiwolf@aol.com)

Joe Jamoom .. [cruiseconsultant@embarqmail.com](mailto:cruiseconsultant@embarqmail.com)

**Honorary Directors**

Elias Friedman • Valerie Denner Kane

[www.sojc.org](http://www.sojc.org) • 407-239-5444

11200 South Apopka Vineland Road • Orlando, FL 32836

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For More Information, please Contact:  
**Karin Snitz, Co-Chair Marketing/Fundraising**  
e-mail: [tzedakah@sojc.org](mailto:tzedakah@sojc.org)  
phone: 321.331.6196



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The SOJC Newsletter is published monthly by The Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation, 11200 S. Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, Florida 32836. Postage paid at Orlando, FL. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation, 11200 S. Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando, Florida 32836

## MARCH 2011

## ADAR I & ADAR II 5771

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		ADAR 25 1	ADAR 26 2	ADAR 27 3	ADAR 28 4	ADAR 29 5 PARASHAT PEKUDEI SHABBAT SHEKALIM
			5:30-7:30PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	7PM WEEKLY PARSHA DISCUSSION	6PM TOT SHABBAT 6:10P CANDLES 7:30PM SHABBAT SERVICE	9:30AM SHABBAT SERVICE 7:16P ..HAVDALAH
ADAR 30 6 9AM-NOON RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	ADAR II-1 7	ADAR II-2 8	ADAR II-3 9	ADAR II-4 10	ADAR II-5 11	ADAR II-6 12 PARASHAT VAVIKRA
		7P ..... BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING	5:30-7:30PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	7PM WEEKLY PARSHA DISCUSSION	6:14P CANDLES 7:30PM SHABBAT SERVICE	9:30AM SHABBAT SERVICE 7:20P ..HAVDALAH
ADAR II-7 13 9AM-NOON RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	ADAR II-8 14	ADAR II-9 15	ADAR II-10 16	ADAR II-11 17	ADAR II-12 18	ADAR II-13 19 PARASHAT KI TZAV SHABBAT ZACHOR
			5:30-7:30PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	7PM WEEKLY PARSHA DISCUSSION	7:18P CANDLES 7:30PM SHABBAT SERVICE	9:30AM SHABBAT SERVICE 8PM FAMILY PURIM 8:24P ..HAVDALAH
ADAR II-14 20 PURIM 9AM-NOON RELIGIOUS SCHOOL I I AM PURIM CARNIVAL	ADAR II-15 21	ADAR II-16 22	ADAR II-17 23	ADAR II-18 24	ADAR II-19 25	ADAR II-20 26 PARASHAT SHMINI SHABBAT PARAH ALEXIS OSKAM'S BAT MITZVAH 9:30AM SHABBAT SERVICE 8:28P ..HAVDALAH
ADAR II-21 27 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	ADAR II-22 28	ADAR II-23 29	ADAR II-24 30 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	ADAR II-25 31 7PM WEEKLY PARSHA DISCUSSION	<i>The on-line calendar at www.sojc.org is updated weekly.</i>	