



SOJC April Newsletter

April 2011

Dates of Interest—Synagogue

Friday, April 01, 2011

Prospective Rabbi in Residence

Friday—Sunday

6:00 pm Tot Shabbat

7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 02, 2011

Prospective Rabbi in Residence

Through Sunday

9:30 am Shabbat Services

7:30 pm USY/Kadima Ice Cream

Social w/prospective Rabbi

Sunday, April 03, 2011

9:15 am Q&A w/prospective Rabbi

Wednesday, April 06, 2011

5:30 pm Congregational Meeting

New Rabbi Selection

Thursday, April 07, 2011

7:00 pm Adult Ed-Parsha of the Week

with Rabbi Wachsman

Friday, April 08, 2011

7:30 pm 3rd and 4th Grade

Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 09, 2011

9:30 am Shabbat Services

Friday, April 15, 2011

Rabbi David Goldberg in Residence

6:30 pm Family Friday Dinner (prepaid)

7:30 pm Services

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Rabbi David Goldberg in Residence

9:30 am Adult B'nai Mitzvah & Services

1:00 pm Shiur with Rabbi David

2:00 pm Shabbat Basketball

with Rabbi David

7:30 pm USY/Kadima Ice Cream Social

with Rabbi David

Thursday, April 28, 2011

7:00 pm Adult Ed-Parsha of the Week

with Rabbi Wachsman

Saturday, April 30, 2011

9:30 am Jessica Silkes Bat Mitzvah

Cantor's Message by Cantor Doug Ramsay

Pesach is such a compelling story, but we have heard it so many times that we can become numb to some of the profound lessons that are not expressed in depth in the traditional Haggadah. One such lesson is the stepping out of a People. We exposed ourselves as a people apart from our captors in the face of great peril, and with no guarantee of a better future.

The Israelites were enmeshed in Egypt's culture psychologically, intellectually and spiritually. In this state, their identity as a People was incomplete and dependant. As individuals, the Israelites made few decisions for themselves. As a group, they possessed a common ancestry, history, social status (slave), and tradition (in the form of B'rit Milah, or circumcision), but few, if any, outward expressions of distinction from other slaves.

What kind of chutzpah do you think it took for the Israelites to perform this task? My guess is that it took more faith and sheer courage than most of us will ever understand. Some might argue that the Israelites were desperate slaves and needed little enticement to revolt. But this argument does not bear up to scrutiny. First is the fact that the Israelites possessed doorposts and lintels, and could acquire lambs in sufficient numbers to sacrifice. By today's standards, that might sound desperate, but 3,000 years ago, that's not exactly destitute. Second, the Israelites were acting

in spite of a slave mentality built up over generations for 300 years. During that time, as far as we can tell, all of their basic needs were met. The power of the slave mentality should not be taken lightly. For the first generation, it is most painful because autonomy has been taken away. For subsequent generations autonomy of any sort is not an experienced reality. Helplessness and unworthiness becomes reality. Remember, Our Creator deemed it necessary for the Israelites to wander in the desert until the slave generation had died off. Only then, would the generation of free Israelites be ready to fight for their own land as a nation.

Third, the act of sacrificing an animal their captors, the Egyptians, held as holy, was incredibly audacious. There was no turning back for those Israelites who had 'outed' themselves by marking their homes. They had no guarantees of success, they had no home waiting for them in the desert and they were stepping into circumstances that were completely foreign to them.

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

Nisan 5771

Dates of Interest Religious School

Sunday, April 03, 2011

Spring Break

No Religious School

Sunday, April 17, 2011

9:00 am Religious School

Chocolate Seder

with Rabbi David

Dates of Interest—Pesach

Monday, April 18, 2011

Pesach Begins, 1st Seder

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

9:30 am Services

Pesach Day 1

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

9:30 am Services

Pesach Day 2

Monday, April 25, 2011

9:30 am Services

Pesach Day 6

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

9:30 am Services

Pesach Day 7

Newsletter Sponsorship

Your Family dedication will go here!

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Sponsor a Kiddush for \$36

Contact the SOJC Office at office@sojc.org or call 407-239-5444



President's Message by Michele Fischer, SOJC 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 each spent a weekend at SOJC and hopefully enriched our membership with their infectious love of Torah and Judaism. The nominating committee also filtered down a stack of resumes from rabbis currently working in their field. Two of these rabbis have also spent a weekend at SOJC; praying, teaching and getting to know our families. Now for the hard part, choosing the right candidate.

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 very well 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 only come with the addition of a rabbi. Not just a growth in members, but a spiritual growth heightened only by having a seminary educated and ordained spiritual leader.

I hope you took advantage of the many opportunities to meet and interact with the visiting candidates and their families. I also hope you took the time to fill out the surveys that were sent by email to every family after each rabbinic visit. Your input is important! The choice of a rabbinical leader must be that of the entire congregation, not just a select few. 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 candidates' visits, a congregational meeting will be held to discuss, evaluate and hopefully choose our next spiritual leader. Please take an active part in building SOJC's future as we continue our quest for a rabbi.

We recently read from the book of Exodus how the children of Israel, "... whose heart motivated him brought bracelets, nose-rings,

rings, body ornaments— all sorts of gold ornaments..." to help build the Mishkan in the desert. Bezalel was then able to take all of these offerings and fashion them into the components of the Mishkan. After making eleven separate curtains, and attaching five together and six together, he attached fifty gold loops to the edge of the outermost curtain of each set. Finally he created fifty clasps of copper to attach the curtains so it would become one.

The building of the Mishkan required donations from *all* the children of Israel. Yes, some gave gold and some gave silk, yet if it were not for the simplest of donations that were used to make the copper clasps, the separate curtains would not have been able to be connected to form the one tent, the completed Mishkan. If we are to be successful in our goal of hiring a spiritual leader, we will need each and every SOJC congregant to donate what they can from their heart.

Thank you,
Michele



Submitted by Cantor Ramsay

Thank you to all of our wonderful PTA, parent, congregants and teen volunteers who made the Purim Carnival so much fun and successful. A special thanks to Eve Marsel's PTA Chair for organizing the carnival and to all the sponsors who provided fun activities, games and prizes for our rambunctious students. It was truly a team effort and I only saw smiling faces.

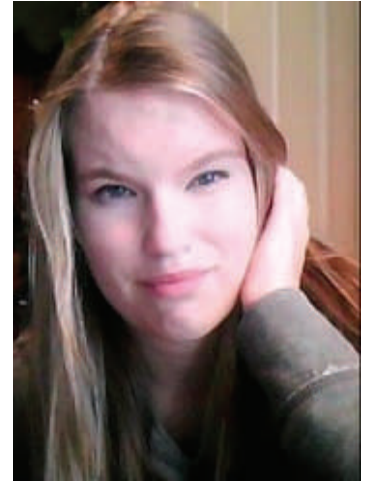
When you ask your child(ren), "What did you learn today?" and you don't get an appropriate answer, follow up with, "What holiday did you talk about?" "You didn't talk about the Torah today?" "What did you learn in Hebrew?" If they know you are really interested, they will be more interested in sharing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

Here is our April school schedule:

4/3/11	9:00 am	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
4/6/11	5:30 pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
4/8/11	7:30 pm	3 rd & 4 th Grade Shabbat
4/10/11	9:00 am	Religious School for Grades K-7
4/13/11	5:30 pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7
4/15/11	6:30 pm	Family Friday Dinner (prepaid)
4/17/11	9:00 am	Religious School for Grades K-7:
4/20/11	5:30 pm	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
4/24/11	9:00 am	Religious School for Grades K-7
4/27/11	5:30 pm	Religious School for Grades 3-7

Bat Mitzvah Profile

Spring Break



Jessica Silkes

Torah Team News

by Cantor Doug Ramsay

This March 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 Haftarat 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!



Jessica Silkes, daughter of Eva Silkes, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 30th. She is currently in 7th grade at Crenshaw Middle School. Jesse's interests include U.S. Swim Team, music, friends, and Justin Bieber. Her favorite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid, her favorite movies are the Twilight Series, favorite TV Station is MTV, favorite musical artist is Justin Bieber and her favorite snack food is chips. Jesse's most memorable quote is "Never".

Sharing in her simcha will be friends and relatives from Israel, California, Colorado, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Missouri and Florida. Any donations to honor Jessica becoming a Bat Mitzvah should be made to the SOJC Clergy Fund.

Cantorial Corps News

by Cantor Doug Ramsay



In March Shana Medel, Alana Fischer, Adam Gerber, Amanda Oskam and Emily Lubin all read Torah with confidence, competence and skill. Joshua Fischer, Shana Medel and Jacob Rubenstein led Shabbat services beautifully.

Mazel Tov to Alexis Oskam on the simcha of her Bat Mitzvah. I look forward to her continuing involvement at SOJC.

Cantorial Corps. Shabbat schedule:
 Saturday, April 2nd
 Saturday, April 23rd

APRIL 2011 BIRTHDAYS



3	Rebecca Priceman	16	Alana Fischer
4	Hannah Feldman	16	Amanda Anetrella
4	Teresa Fishman	18	Margie Brozanski
4	Paul Roth	18	Doug Ramsay
6	Cheryl N. Weiner	18	Mindy Schwartz
6	Mithell Frank	18	Avya Oberman
8	Martin Akerman	19	Rachel Goldman
8	Ben Bolusky	20	Scott Regen
9	Arielle Lipschitz	22	Sadie Klaff
10	Victoria Bruce	23	Gerald Lewis
10	Yale Schwartz	25	Lorrie Levine
10	Elizabeth Wurm	25	Joshua Rosen
12	Rachel bolusky	26	Jessica Silkes
12	Alaina Slovis	29	Freda Kaplan
13	Max Kingstone	29	Michael Weiner
15	Hanna Nelson	30	Susan Meshover
19	Alexis Feldman		

APRIL 2011 ANNIVERSARIES

April Anniversaries

- 10 Peter & Charlotte Moody
- 17 Scott & Teresa Fishman
- 30 Jose & Yesrima Alvarado



April 2011 Donations

Clergy Fund

In loving memory of Goodman Glasser
..... From David Glasser

In loving memory of Philip Krieger
..... From Marion Wolfman

Donation from Jason & Hadas Stagman

Tikkun Olam Fund

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

General Fund

In loving memory of Buddy Granat, brother of Risha
Shaw with Love and gratitude
..... From Alan & Mary Roufa

In loving memory of Abraham Israel

APRIL 2011 YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL



HEBREW DATE	DEPARTED	OBSERVER	2011
2 Nisan	Joseph Kotzin	Gordon Kotzin	April 06
2 Nisan	Richard Schwartz	Jill Schwartz	April 06
4 Nisan	David Seidner	Barbara Siegel	April 08
5 Nisan	Alvin Roufa	Alan Roufa	April 09
6 Nisan	Herman Slass	Alfred Spear	April 10
7 Nisan	Nathan Berwish	Anna Gordon	April 11
7 Nisan	Hyman Zavett	Dennis Zavett	April 11
10 Nisan	Harold Blaweiss	Helen Lewin	April 14
10 Nisan	Morris Wasser	Charlotte Wasser	April 14
11 Nisan	Joseph Ziswasser	Charlotte Wasser	April 15
12 Nisan	Pearl Fitzer	David Fitzer	April 16
12 Nisan	Katherin Gan	Gordon Kotzin	April 16
12 Nisan	Fred Solomon	Maris Ramsay	April 16
14 Nisan	Maria Hauser	Michele Fischer	April 18
14 Nisan	Luci Salomon	Rosanne Monroe	April 18
15 Nisan	Margot Limmer-Fuld	Rosanne Monroe	April 19
16 Nisan	Maurice Kuperman	Yvonne Bleecker	April 20
16 Nisan	Bernard Schonbach	Miriam Lewis	April 20
17 Nisan	Luis Matza	Ellis Matza	April 21
18 Nisan	Henrietta Kain	Flo Sandick	April 22
19 Nisan	Pearl Miller	Flo Sandick	April 23
19 Nisan	Israel Kristal	Rosalind Beltzer	April 23
22 Nisan	David Ostrin	Selma Schifter	April 26
23 Nisan	Amy Keller	Charlotte Wasser	April 27
25 Nisan	Florence Cohen	Susan Meshover	April 29
26 Nisan	Hyman Kleinman	Iris Kleinman	April 30
26 Nisan	Leonard Silkes	Marion Silkes	April 30

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If you know of any unaffiliated Jews in the Southwest Orlando are, 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.



WWW.SOJC.ORG

Come visit our new website, where you can:

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! @



Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation



SOJC April Calendar

April 2011

Adar II/Nisan 5771

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Shabbat

					<p>1 26 Adar II Prospective Rabbi in Residence 7:26pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Services</p>	<p>2 Parshat Tazria Shabbat Chodesh Prospective Rabbi in Residence 9:30am Services 1:00pm Shiur 8:32pm Havdalah</p>
<p>3 28 Adar II 9:15am Q&A with Prospective Rabbi NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>	<p>4 29 Adar II</p>	<p>5 1 Nisan Rosh Chodesh Nisan</p>	<p>6 2 Nisan 5:30pm Religious School 5:30pm Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>7 3Nisan 7pm Weekly Parsha discussion with Rabbi Wachsman</p>	<p>8 4 Nisan 7:29pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm 3rd & 4th Grade-Shabbat Services</p>	<p>9 5 Nisan Parshat Metzora 9:30am Services 8:36pm Havdalah</p>
<p>10 6 Nisan 9:30am Religious School</p>	<p>11 7 Nisan</p>	<p>12 8 Nisan 7pm Board of Directors meeting</p>	<p>13 9 Nisan 5:30pm Religious School</p>	<p>14 10 Nisan 7pm Weekly Parsha discussion with Rabbi Wachsman</p>	<p>15 11 Nisan Rabbi David Goldberg in-Residence 6:30 pm Family Friday Dinner 7:30 pm Services</p>	<p>16 12 Nisan Rabbi Goldberg 9:30 am Shabbat Services-Adult B'nai Mitzvah 8:40pm Havdalah</p>
<p>17 13 Nisan 9:30am Religious School</p>	<p>18 14 Nisan Erev Pesach 7:35 pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>19 15 Nisan 9:30 am Pesach Day I Services</p>	<p>20 16 Nisan 9:30 am Pesach Day II Services Omer: Day One NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>	<p>21 17 Nisan Pesach Day III 7pm Weekly Parsha discussion with Rabbi Wachsman Omer: Day Two</p>	<p>22 18 Nisan Pesach Day IV 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Services 7:37pm Candle Lighting Omer: Day Three</p>	<p>23 19 Nisan Pesach Day V 9:30 am Shabbat Services 8:44pm Havdalah Omer: Day Four</p>
<p>24 20 Nisan Pesach Day VI 9:30am Religious School Omer: Day Five 7:30pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>25 21 Nisan Pesach Day VII Omer: Day Six</p>	<p>26 22 Nisan Pesach Day VIII Omer: Day Seven</p>	<p>27 23 Nisan Omer: Day Eight</p>	<p>28 24 Nisan 7pm Weekly Parsha discussion with Rabbi Wachsman Omer: Day Nine</p>	<p>29 25 Nisan 7:30pm Jessica Silkes Bat Mitzvah 7:41pm Candle Lighting Omer: Day Ten</p>	<p>30 26 Nisan 9:30 am Jessica Silkes Bat Mitzvah 8:48pm Havdalah Omer: Day Eleven</p>